

The Boston Globe

Warriors Earn 2nd Consecutive DCL Title Break Franklin Park All Time Team Average

On Friday (10-27), the Lincoln-Sudbury girls cross country team won its second consecutive Dual County League Championship Meet, scoring only 22 points. Second-place was Newton South (42 outstanding and inspiring performance).

As usual, the JV team got the day started off well. Jess Griffin took the lead right from the gun and cruised to victory in 19:54. After Griffin a total of nine L-S runners broke 21 minutes as the Warriors took ten of the top eleven spots in the JV race. In previous years, the entire Warrior varsity squad ran times comparable to what the athletes in the JV race ran.

In the freshmen race Kathryn Coletti ran a race nearly identical to Griffin's, taking the lead from the beginning and winning in 12:24. Ann McCallum and Tori Kohler continued their season-long practice of racing together and ended up taking fourth and fifth. Kate Ruh ran exceptional race, shaving significant time off her previous personal record.

In The Championship event all seven girls got out fast, racing as a pack through the first mile. From there, Andrea Keklak and Newton South's Kelsey Karys opened up a gap on the rest of the field. Keklak and Karys raced neck and neck until the last 200 meters, when Keklak pulled ahead to claim the individual DCL title in an incredible time of 18:16.

While Keklak and Karys were locked in their fight, Dana Jamieson and Madeleine Reed (NS) waged a battle of their own. Jamieson would prevail here using her speed to take third overall in 18:51.

After Jamieson and Reed came the L-S pack, as the Warriors' next five runners claimed the next five spots overall. Ellie Hylton ran a terrific race to take fourth in 19:01, and she was closely followed by Claire Arthur (19:09), Holly Clarke (19:10), Rachael Potter (19:22) and Emily Mephram (19:27).

The Warriors did an excellent job of racing with each other putting all seven runners within the first nine spots. This was more than enough to give L-S a very impressive victory.

It is easy to lose sight of the significance of the runners' accomplishments. Keklak's time was the 15th fastest ever in the history of the Franklin Park high school races. Lincoln Sudbury broke the All Time Team Average at Franklin Park. 1. LS (DCL 07) 18:54 - 2. NS (98) 19:11 - 3. Lexington (01) - 19:15 - 4. NS (DCL 07) 19:20 - 5. Bromfield (06) 19:26. 6. Amherst (02) 19:39.

All seven of the Warriors would have been ahead of the third place finisher at last year's Eastern Mass Class A championship race, and Keklak would have won by over 30 seconds.

The JV team's success was also unprecedented, as last year only four Warriors ran sub 20 minutes over the course of the whole season, and this year Griffin did to win the JV race yet had the 8th fastest time for the Warriors. At least 12 runners ran lifetime PRs for the 5000 meter distance.

Although the Warriors are excited about their success, they know they have their toughest meets ahead of them. Many harriers will have their last race of the season next Saturday at the MSTCA Coaches Invitational. The top seven will compete at the Class A Championships on November 10. If the team finishes in fifth place or better, it will move on to the All State meet on November 17.