



## **Mass. Teams Put Big Chill on NE Regional Rivals**

Lead Report By Matt Soja – Dyestat

The first NTN Northeast Regional meet was a far cry from the dog days of summer, when most of the top teams were putting in thousands of miles of collective mileage in hopes of winning the ticket to Oregon for the NTN Nationals. The temperatures hovered just above freezing and the chilly breeze flowed over the Hudson and up the banks of Bowdoin Park. Double-world champion Bernard Lagat's presence and hot noodles at the concessions truck were among the few things to warm up the contenders and the fans at the inaugural regional meet, which featured both the Northeast and then New York qualifying races.

On the ladies' side, it was a wicked surprise as the Wicked TC Team from Massachusetts (made up of girls from Lincoln-Sudbury HS) pulled a stunning upset, winning the team title with 69 points. They edged out the Hunterdon Hawks (girls attending Voorhees HS in NJ) by a mere 4 points. Wicked put five girls in the top 23 in the meet, led by Andrea Keklak's 4th place finish. The state champions of Massachusetts and New Jersey will go to nationals while the favorites from Hanover NH (3rd with 83 points) as well as the Andover MA team (4th with 106 points) will have to await Sunday's wild-card decision.

On the individual front, heavy favorite Georgia Griffin from Hanover led wire to wire, winning comfortably in 18:53. The New Jersey champion Melanie Thompson from Hunterdon Hawks was second throughout the race to claim silver in 19:06.