



Amazing Day for Tarello, Lincoln-Sudbury

Reuben Frank Blog

What an unforgettable day for 1992 Shawnee High School graduate Chris Tarello, who now coaches cross country and track at Lincoln-Sudbury High School outside Boston. Lincoln-Sudbury this morning won the Nike Team Nationals Northeast Regional Cross Country Championship, beating a loaded field to earn an automatic berth in the fourth annual Nike Team Nationals next Saturday in Portland, Ore.

"I just can't believe it," said Tarello, who coached the Cherokee girls XC team to the 2003 South Jersey Group 4 championship. "I'm absolutely in another world right now."

Lincoln-Sudbury - competing as Wicked Track Club - outscored the nation's No. 5-ranked team - New Jersey Meet of Champions winner Voorhees, 69-73 - over the muddy, slippery, hilly 5,000-meter course at Bowdoin Park in Wappinger's Falls, N.Y., along the eastern banks of the Hudson River about 100 miles north of Manhattan. Because meet management likes to inject drama into the proceedings, nobody knew who won - or which two teams locked up the two automatic berths for nationals - until a ceremony long after the race, in which the fourth-place team was announced, then the third-place team, then second ... then first.

This is just the latest chapter in a brilliant season for Lincoln-Sudbury, which last Saturday routed the field to win the MIAA state championship in Gardner, Mass. Tarello, who never ran cross country in high school, is turning out to be one of the finest HS cross country coaches in the nation. Cherokee's loss is clearly Boston's gain.

The Cherokee boys, coached by Steve Shaklee and Chris Callinan, also had a very good day, placing ninth overall in the boys race and beating several New Jersey schools that topped Cherokee in the Meet of Champions - including its biggest rival, Christian Brothers Academy of Lincroft.

"It meant so much to me to have Shak and Cal there, running around the course, cheering for us," Tarello said. "There's no way any of this would have happened without Shak."