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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Two Devils take state track titles

By THE DAILY HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE
Staff Writer

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The Northampton boys and girls indoor track and field squads combined for two first-place individual finishes, one winning relay team and six school records at the Division 3 state championships Friday at the Reggie Lewis Center in Roxbury.

Senior Diego Irizarry-Gerould won the boys long jump by leaping 20 feet, 8 inches, despite being the 11th seed coming into the event.

"I didn't expect to do that well," he said. "It felt great. I didn't think I was going to jump 13 inches better than last personal best."

Junior Natalia Paine proved why she was the top seed in the girls 600 meter race with her first-place time of 1:35:18, which set a school record.

"I did the same as I normally do and just focused a little more," she said. "I was happy with my time."

Paine also helped break another Blue Devils record as part of the 4x400-meter relay team with junior Maddie Brennan and sophomores Phoebe Hopkins and Emma Larson which ran a 4:09:21.

"I was just surprised and so happy because we were seeded fourth and we didn't expect to do as well as we did," Paine said.

The boys placed tied for third overall with J.D. O'Bryant at 30 points, one point behind second place Oliver Ames. Nashoba won with 42 points.

Blue Devils senior Erik Dunn-Gaudet placed third in the two-mile run with a time of 9:45:12. Dunn-Gaudet broke the school record he set last year.

Tyler Keith finished third in the 1,000-meter run with a 2:38:74, setting another school record.

"It felt good to leave a mark on the school," said Keith, a senior.

A fifth-place finish by junior Michael Mailloux in the 600-meter race set another school record of 1:25:47.

Mailloux joined Dunn-Gaudet, senior Alex Gilbert and junior Steve Mailloux for a fifth-place finish and another school record in the 4x400 meter relay with a time of 3:36:71.

The Blue Devils placed sixth in the 4X800-meter relay with a time of 8:39:21, run by seniors Keith, Chris Clayton, Harry Wanar and freshman Alex Sullivan.

The girls were sixth with 21 points, after not scoring any points in last year's competition.

"I'm not sure what we expected overall but we're pretty happy with how we scored," Paine said.

"I'm really happy with how we did," said girls coach Nate Kraft. "Everyone ran either a personal best or close to it."

Junior Molly Brooks placed sixth in the shot put with a throw of 30 feet, six inches.

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