

# AE/MS Track Hampered By Weather

By Mike Silverstein  
AE/MS Track Coach

The Andover Track Team is looking forward to getting onto a real track and competing. As you know, it's been a difficult start to the sports season. The first two meets were cancelled because of the weather. Most of the students join the team for the fun and excitement of the meets, so we hope to get at least one rescheduled.

With about 30 athletes on the Track and field team, Andover has its smallest team in the last three years. This is probably a good thing, since it provides the athletes involved the opportunity to do more events. Despite the smaller numbers, we believe the team can do big things.

We have a good group of sixth grade students who mainly will use this year to gain experience and technique to prepare for the following years. The coaches are really impressed with the work ethic of many of the sixth grade athletes.

Many of these athletes have a great attitude and seem to really listen to what the coaches are saying. It's important for these athletes to realize that this year they will set benchmarks for themselves, which they will use to measure their future success.

The sixth graders on the team are: Jason Ashburn, Cameron Wood, Shrief Elmasary, Stephanie Croteau, Ricky Dansereau, Marissa Laro, Meaghan Reid, Charles Barry, Madison Powers, Amelia Gilchrist, and Tim Grover.

## Seventh Grade Track Members

With one year behind them, the seventh grade athletes are likely to settle into events in which they can score points for their team. They know they are no longer the youngest athletes at the track and that they have great potential to help the team.

This seventh grade group is really gearing up to make things happen. Look out for the powerful Derrick Nowell – he is an up-and-coming shot putter and discus thrower. He may also compete in the javelin.

Andrew Young has been a very strong competitor in the longer runs, and we expect he will only get stronger. We may need to try him in some shorter events because of our smaller team size, but we believe he will be a factor in any running event.

We are missing Kyle Wiley, who is out for medical reasons. Kyle had some great results last year in some of the longer runs, and he was an excellent running partner for Andrew.

Fortunately, Brendan Coll has joined the team. Although Brendan was not on the track team last year, he has experience running long distances. Brendan has run a couple of 5k road races in the past and looks to be a strong competitor.

Maddy Pfeifer returns to the team. Maddy is a very strong middle distance runner. Maddy will also compete

in the 4x100 relay this year. Maddy is so strong and determined that she was scoring team points last year as a sixth grader. Who knows what she will do this year!

Breanna Davis will start off running the 1600 for the girls, but expect to see her in many events as she is a very versatile and strong athlete.

Siobhan Reid looks to be a very tough competitor. She has been working on her hurdling technique and can run any distance.

Ashleigh Fife will run the 400, long jump, and possibly throw the javelin. We expect to see Ashleigh really come into her own.

D.J. Hawes has been struggling to find his distance, probably because he could run the 100 and 200, or he could do well in the 1600. Once he focuses on an event, he should really improve.

Caleb Frantz returns to the team. Caleb was very successful last year in the 4x100, 100, 200, and 400. This year he may try some of the other events such as the long jump, the high jump, and the hurdles. No matter the event, expect to see Caleb do well – he has great natural talent.

## Eighth Grade Track Members

The eighth graders are the kings and queens of the meets. This is their year to show off their stuff. As usual, we have some exciting athletes to watch.

Keep an eye out for Henry Bendel. He could break a few school records. He has been tearing up the track ever since we started the track team here in Andover. He competes in the 4x100, 100, long jump, the 200, and the javelin. He looks especially strong in the long jump. We may also use him in the hurdles or high jump – some people can do anything!

Watch for Meredith Cline in the 4x100, 100, high jump, and a middle or long distance run. Meredith has a lot of experience as a long distance runner, but is also one of the fastest runners on the team.

Norbu Dickinson will compete in the 4x100 and the hurdles and probably the 4x400. Norbu has great potential. He just needs more experience and time to figure out where he will fit best.

With his great size, Josh Bennett is built to be a thrower. Look for Josh in the shot put and the discus, but don't be surprised to see him in the long jump, too.

Emily Laro will be in the 4x100, long jump, 100 or 200, and maybe the 400. Emily was a solid performer last year in several events. This should be her year, but she is struggling with foot and knee injuries. Her season will depend on her ability to get healthy.

Sookie Vercelloti will probably do some throwing events and some triple jumping. Finding the right event for him has been tricky, but his willingness to try different events has been very helpful. Keep an eye on him, because

you never know what event he will try next.

Kassie Lamper will do the 4x100, high jump, 100, and probably a 400 or hurdles. Kassie is a very strong runner and a tough competitor. She also jumps well, and we hope to see her break the school high jump record by the end of the season.

Canon Brownell returns to the team this year. Canon is best in the shot put and discus.

Look out for Zach St. Jacques. Zach doesn't own the school shot put record, but that is only a matter of time. During practice, Zach regularly throws over 35 feet! We just recently realized that Zach can throw the javelin pretty far, too. Even though Zach is a big guy, we believe he can compete in the 100 meters also. So, if we ever get to have a meet this year (if the weather cooperates) come see Zach in action.

Elizabeth Daneault returns to the team. Elizabeth will do the long jump and possibly the javelin or discus.

Emily Bentley returns to the team. Emily holds the school record for the javelin, the discus, and is very strong in the hurdles. Look for Emily to improve upon some of those records this year.

If you get the chance, come see the team in action. On Friday, May 4, we have a meet at Kearsarge Regional High School starting at 3:30 PM.

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