

Track from page 37

against a field of eight that contained both middle school cross country state champions and many of the girls in the top 10. It was Sophia's best 1600 of the year, running 5:47 and finishing fourth.

After April vacation, the team went to Merrimack Valley for a special practice conducted by the MVHS track team. It was a great way to hit the ground running after a week off and especially helpful for our hurdlers and long jumpers.

The team returned to MV the following Wednesday for a meet with MV, Epsom, Kearsarge, and Hopkinton. The girls' team got off to a fast start in the 100 meter with Sophia taking third. The highlight of the day on the girls' side was the 4 x 100 meter. They ran a blazing race with smooth handoffs to win in a time of 1:01.8 to become eligible for our championship meet.

This same group of ladies took to the track for the 800 meter, all matching or improving personal bests. Sophia took second, Brynne sixth, followed by Maura and Sasha.

On the boys' side, Cyrus started things off with a solid run in the 100-meter hurdles. Cyrus followed that up with a throw of 21' 9" in the shot put and a run of 2:58.8 in the 800 meter. In the discus, Dillan Reed had his best throw of the season at 66' 9". In the high jump, Will Furtkamp had a season's best 4' 4".

The last week of the season is excit-

ing for everyone. The team splits up, with the seventh and eighth graders going to Alton and the sixth graders going to a meet with only fifth and sixth graders in Gilford.

The seventh and eighth graders traveled to Alton hoping to get their best marks of the year and become eligible for our championship meet. The team focused on the field events, with Liam Donovan setting a personal best in the discus at 49' 0" and setting a team season's best in the javelin at 49' 3". Riley Keezer jumped into third on the team in javelin with a throw of 45' 3".

In the shot put, Cyrus set season's and team best with a throw of 25' 9.5". He was followed closely by Will with a throw of 24' 1". Will wrapped up the meet matching his season's best in the high jump, clearing 4' 4" but just missing the eligibility mark for championships.

The next day the sixth graders went to Gilford for their last regular season meet. It's a great day competing with other sixth graders instead of seventh and eighth graders.

There was a focus on the field events but also some new running events. Sophia ran 1:12 in the 400 meter and 31.2 in the 200 meter to be eligible for the championship. Sasha and Maura also ran their first 200 meter. Alexis Plante ran her best 100 meter of the year. In the long jump, Sophia and Morganne both had season's bests.

It was a great season for the AMS

track team. The athletes tried many events and were improving throughout the season, with most of the team members having their best performances in the last meet. There were two school records set and some other records being approached. Sophia improved her record in the 800 meter to 2:44.9 and set a new school record in the 1600 meter with a time of 5:47.8.

The final meet of the year was the championship at Belmont on May 23. It was a big goal for the team, since it requires athletes to achieve certain times to be eligible for the meet. This season the team had six athletes eligible for the championship meet.

Championship Meet

On May 23, the Andover Middle School track team finished its track season at the Small School Championship Meet. It's a special meet that athletes have to qualify for with top marks during the season. Andover qualified 5 girls and 1 boy. One of the most impressive things about the qualifiers was that they are all in sixth grade.

On the boys' team, Jesse Niemeyer was eligible in the long jump. There were five girls eligible for the championship. Brynne Makechnie was eligible in the 100-meter hurdles, the 800 meter, the 4 x 100 meter, and the 4 x 400 meter. Maura Kelly was eligible in the 800 meter, the 4 x 100 meter, and the 4 x 400 meter.

Sophia Reynolds was eligible in the 100 meter, 200 meter, 400 meter, 800 meter, 1600 meter, the 4 x 100 meter, the 4 x 400 meter, the high jump, and the long jump. Sasha MacKenzie was eligible in the 4 x 100 meter and the 4 x 400 meter, and Lily Menard was eligible in the 4 x 400 meter.

Brynne and Jesse were up first, Brynne in the hurdles and Jesse in

the long jump. Brynne ran her best time of the year at 19.4, second best in Andover track history. Jesse was the only non-eighth grader in the long jump. He finished sixth with a jump of 13' 9".

Sophia got started in the high jump, then took a break from jumping to run the 1600 meter. She ran a smart, smooth race and finished third. She went back to the high jump and eventually cleared a season's best 4' 4", good for fourth place.

Lily, Maura, Sasha, and Brynne got on the track for the 4 x 100 meter relay after the 1600 meter. They ran a brilliant relay, with great baton passes, to run their best time of the season and finish eighth.

Sophia got back on the track for the second part of her middle distance triple in the 400 meters. She ran 1:12, good enough for fifth in the meet and tied for third best in Andover.

Sophia followed that up by joining Brynne and Maura in the 800 meter. The start of the race was a little slow and crowded, with all the runners staying close together. The second lap sped up, and Sophia took the lead with 150 meters to go and won the race with a time of 2:49. The leaders ran the second lap 10 seconds faster than the first. Brynne finished with a blazing kick in ninth place at 2:58, and Maura finished in a solid time of 3:03.

The meet wrapped up with Lily, Maura, Sasha, and Brynne running in the 4 x 400 meter relay. They again ran a great race, with fast passes. Brynne pulled the team into eighth place with a fabulous sprint finish and pass on the inside of the home straight.

Overall, the girls team was eighth out of 15 teams, which is quite a feat for a team of five!

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