

## **MORRIS COUNTY BOYS REWIND-WEEK 8**

Mendham, which has only suffered one loss this season, continued its remarkable season with a repeat victory, Hanover Park, a program that always seems to come up with its best performances when the stakes are highest, did it again, and Josiah Hanco of Trinity Christian was the only runner in the state to pull off the distance triple at the state sectional championships last weekend.

The top two teams in each sectional meet plus any athletes from those teams that placed in the top 12, along with the top six individual finishers in each event advanced to the state group championships this Friday and Saturday. More on that later.

First, let's look back at all the sensational performances by Morris County's finest at the sectional championships.

### **SECTIONAL FLASHBACK**

#### **BACK TO BACK**

Hanover Park and Mendham both stayed on top in North Jersey, Section 2 with several clutch performances to repeat as champions at Millburn High. In one of the best team battles in the state, Hanover Park edged Ridgefield Park, 67-64 as five teams were separated by just 16 points.

It was the ninth sectional title for Hanover Park, and seventh since 2000.

Matt Santangelo won the shot put for Hanover Park with a personal best 56-3 ½ and was fourth in the javelin, Dan Barreira won the 110 HH in 14.90, and was second in the 400 hurdles in 56.78, and Jaquill Scott won the javelin with a 164-9.

In Group 3, Justin Naselli picked up three gold medals by winning the 1,600 in a PR of 4:20.37, the 3,200 in 9:35.63, and running on the winning 4x800 (8:10.10) to help Mendham run away with the team title, 120-74 over runner-up Irvington.

“Some guys really stepped up for us at Millburn,” said Mendham coach Dave Quinn. “Malcolm Montilus had a PR in the high jump of 5-8 in the

rain to place third and also ran a career-best 51.5 split in the 4x400 as a sub to help us win the gold in that event.

Matt Flanagan threw a PR of 50-4 on his last throw in the shot put to place third. Cory Pressl got a PR of 15.64 in the 110 HH to place sixth.”

Quinn said the new scoring format at the state group meet will provide his team with a great opportunity to capture its first state title.

“We have a good chance, I think,” said Quinn, whose team is seeded first in the 4x800 and second in the 4x400. “I need to figure out a lineup, but we’ll be in the hunt. It’s a great opportunity and the kids are excited for it.”

In other highlights in North Jersey, Section 2, Daniel Iskander of Madison won the Group 1 800 in 2:01.33, Max Maroney of West Morris won the Group 3 pole vault with a 13-6, and Whippany Park won the Group 1 400 relay on its way to a fourth-place finish.

### **WHAT A TRIPLE!!!!**

There are a lot of great distance runners in this state, but junior Josiah Hanko of Trinity Christian was the only one who managed to pull off the 800, 1,600, 3,200 triple.

But that’s not all.

Not only did Hanko win all three races at the North Jersey, Non Public B Championships at Msgr. Donovan, but his times of 1:57.80, 4:24.70 and 9:39.73 were all meet records!!!

### **SO CLOSE**

Mountain Lakes, the 2012 state Group 1 champions, came up just two points short of qualifying for the state Group 3 meet when it placed third at the North Jersey, Section 1 Group 2 meet at Mahwah. River Dell won with 109. Ramsey was second with 82 and Mountain Lakes took third with 80.

The Lakers received several great performances, led by double winners Adam Franklin and Ben DeVenezia.

Franklin won the 100 and 200 while DeVenezia crossed first in the 1,600 and 3,200 and was second in the 800.

### **BAD BREAK**

Morris Hills felt it had a great shot at repeating as champion at the North Jersey, Section 1 Group 3 meet at Mahwah, but it's chances took a huge hit after it was disqualified in the 4x800 on Friday night after it had crossed first.

Officials disqualified Morris Hills for pacing, claiming that anchor man Travis Ellis, who crossed first by a wide margin, was paced on the infield by a teammate over the final straightaway.

Morris Hills, which lost 10 points on the DQ, wound up third in the final team standings, 17 behind the champion, Demarest, and just seven points behind Old Tappan, which earned the second and final team berth into the Group 3 meet.

Morris Hills filed a protest over what they felt was an incorrect call, but the DQ was upheld.

I can't recall ever seeing or hearing about a DQ being called for pacing before. I have seen warnings issued, but never a DQ. This one is a big of head scratcher.

Although Morris Hills left Mahwah feeling like it got a raw deal, it did receive great performances from Travis Ellis and Greg Leeper.

Ellis won the 800 (1:56.96) and the 1,600 (4:24.36), and Leeper was first in the long jump (22-6 ¼) and third in the triple jump (42-7).

Also in North Jersey, Section 1, Andrew Tedeschi of Montville won the Group 3 3,200 in 9:34.23, and Isaac Spann of Boonton captured the Group 1 pole vault with a 12-6.

## **NEXT UP**

The NJSIAA State Group Championships will be held this Friday and Saturday, and there will be one major change involving the team scoring. For the first time ever, only the top two teams from each public school sectional meet are eligible to win a group team championship.

The eight teams that advanced can use all their athletes that placed in the top 12 in the sectional meet. The individuals that advanced from all the teams that didn't finish in the top 10, will not count in the team scoring. This new system will allow for a truer team champion to be crowned as opposed to the past when a couple superstars from one team could win a group team title by themselves.

Note-There is no team qualifying system for the Non Public teams. The top 8 finishers from all the Non Public teams advance to the state group meet.

**Here are the Morris County public school teams that advanced to the state Group Championships**

Group 3-**Mendham** (first in North Jersey, Section 2).

Group 2-**Hanover Park** (first in North Jersey, Section 2)

## **GROUP CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Dates-Friday, May 31 at 3:30 p.m.. Saturday, June 1 at 11 a.m.

Frank Jost Field in South Plainfield-Groups 2-3 and Non Public A

Silver Eagle Stadium in Egg Harbor-Groups 1-4 and Non-Public B

### **AT STAKE**

The top six finishers in each event in each group meet plus six wild cards per event from the six group meets combined will advance to the Meet of Champions next Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at Frank Jost Field in South Plainfield. The Meet of Champions starts at 3 p.m.