

# Nanuet's boys, girls teams are golden at home meet

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NANUET — The boys and girls and their coaches gathered on the infield near the finish line late Saturday afternoon, holding shiny trophies, raising index fingers and flashing winning grins for the cameras.

The sun was setting on a golden day for the Golden Knights of Nanuet at the

47th Nanuet Relays.

These track and field teams claimed the combined title for the first time. The girls turned in their highest finish ever, placing second behind Suffern. And the boys won for the first time since 1977.

"It's amazing," said Kyle Chesterman, the senior who anchored the victorious 6,400-meter relay. "Nanuet Relays has

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Pole vaulter Erica Doran helped Nanuet's boys and girls teams claim the combined title at the Nanuet Relays for the first time in the meet's 47th running. PETER CARR/THE JOURNAL NEWS

# NANUET RELAYS: Host school golden

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been such a big part of Nanuet school history for 46 years. The fact that we can come here and win it after so long is unbelievable.”

The Nanuet Sports Hall of Fame and the Black and Gold Club bought 55 pizzas for an event at the high school Friday night, a gathering for the Golden Knights and the Oldham County Colonels, the team that drove the farthest for the meet, all the way from Kentucky.

The girls from that team finished right behind Nanuet.

Britany Maragh and Silpa Radhakrishnan helped the home cause, earning the Nanuet girls' lone win, taking the high jump relay at 9 feet, 2 inches.

“There was a lot of pressure to do very, very good at this meet, especially since it's our home meet,” Maragh said.

Suffern got a meet record of 14 minutes, 59.4 seconds from Rachel Ludwowski and Elina Breton in the nonscored steeplechase relay. The Mounties also won the 1,600 relay thanks largely to a big finishing sprint by Kamryn McIntosh. Plus, they won the 400, distance medley, 300 shuttle hurdle and 1,200 intermediate hurdle relays.

“We tried to attack every hurdle,” Kyra Greenbaum said after leading



Hackley's Mustafaa Dais runs the anchor leg of the winning 400-meter relay at the Nanuet Relays on Saturday. PETER CARR/THE JOURNAL NEWS

off in that 1,200 event. “It's a really hard race, but once the gun goes off, you start to have fun.”

Mustafaa Dais anchored the winning 400 and 800 relays for Hackley. The senior from Pomona has high hopes for the 400 relay after winning in 42.5, No. 4 in meet history.

“We're looking to win just states in general,” Dais said. “And we might take a trip to nationals this year in North Carolina, and maybe we can come in top-eight if we go to nationals.”

The girls version of Hackley's 800 relay placed first at this meet for the first time, and the same girls — Julia Baker, Raechelle Emanuel, Gabriella Zak and Sabina Thomas — ran on the

third-place 400 relay. The leadoff leg is thinking NY-SAISAA title for that 400 relay.

“Already this season we've seen tremendous improvement,” Baker said. “It looks like we're going to have a great year.”

Clarkstown North's Lac Van contributed to wins in the long jump and triple jump relays after doing the same a week prior at the New Rochelle Invitational.

“It's going great,” Van said.

His partner in the long jump relay, Harvin Bhandal, flew 18-4 3/4, but he wants to fly 20 feet.

“I'm just going to keep working hard in practice and definitely keep lifting in the weight room, just keep staying focused,”

Bhandal said.

Kelly Hayes was the accomplished old-timer on Pearl River's winning 6,400 relay, running with seventh-grader Mary Borkoski, eighth-grader Erin Clinton and ninth-grader Ailish Durcan. The senior praised the kids and said, “It's just so weird to be older.”

Her teammates, Emma Burnett and Kaitlyn Lavan, threw 161-5 between them, good for first in the discus relay. Burnett is after the Class B crown in her final high school season.

“I've just got to keep throwing a lot during practice,” Burnett said, “because practice makes perfect in this event.”

## Green Dragon Relays:

North Rockland took the boys team title in the meet at Cornwall High, earning victories in the 1,600, distance medley, pole vault, shot put and discus relays. Eric Favors posted the best throw in the shot put at 60-8 and the discus at a personal-best 152-9. Asaad Jeffrey won the 2,000 steeplechase, running a personal-best 6:21.

Hen Hud's Mike Gabrielsen threw a personal-best 176-3 and teamed with Jack O'Brien to set the meet record of 344-1 in the javelin relay.

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