

Swampscott foursome rules Relay

LYNN — OK, all you running gurus, you've had over two weeks to study the results of the Pickering Wharf and Heritage 10Ks along with last Friday's 8-mile race in Hamilton. So let's enter a team in Wednesday's 20th Lynn Woods Relay.

You'd probably want East Boston's Lou Ristaino, who destroyed the Hamilton field, to take the opening leg, and you'd have to slot Heritage winner, Swampscott speed merchant Billy Harrington, in the anchor position. W.F. Newhall and Paul Croft, two stand-outs in their own right, can take the middle positions and run with any opponent. Call the team Swampscott 'A' and watch them outrun 54 teams with an impressive time of 51:59 over some of the roughest 2.5-mile terrain Mother Nature has to offer.

Swampscott 'A', however, had to be at its very best because of a sensational final leg (12:21) run by another former Big Blue star, Mike LaVallee. LaVallee's 'No Name' team of Bill Nichols, Mark Behan, and Gary Leavitt finished five seconds behind Swampscott with a 52:04 clocking.

The North Shore Connection was an easy winner (56:20) in the Master division as the best master on the North Shore, Salem's Paul Ducey, gave his team a full minute lead over a very solid second place Lynn AC team (59:15). Ducey (13:38) was in good company with Swampscott's Jack Norton (13:54, Lynn's Earl McGilvery (14:26), and Peabody's Ken White (14:22).

The Purple Cow, made up of three Beverly runners, Matt Crean, Brian Foley, and Carl Clarizia along with H-W's Darin Shearer, won the boys high school division in 56:12, while Peabody's No. 1 team of Lori Romano, Debbie Russo, Rhonda Rosenthal, and Darlene Lane (79:59) took the girls high school. The North Shore Striders won the Co-Ed race with Gary Freedman, Angela Merryman, Carol and

Peter Malinowski.

"This cross-country course is not easy," said Ristaino, who was a mere eight seconds ahead of Nichols in the first leg. "I'm glad I came here last Wednesday to get used to the course. It's certainly a lot different from running on the track. I'll tell you, though, I love the team concept in relay racing. It's nice to share the victory with three other runners."

Croft, who ran for St. Mary's of Lynn, had the second fastest time for his team. "Basically, I just tried to maintain a good pace," he said. "I know I ran better here this year than last."

McGilvery took credit for putting the North Shore Connection team together.

"Paul (Ducey) has been running so well I just wanted to let him go," said McGilvery. "I hurt my leg a few weeks ago in Salem, N.H. when I won a cross-country 10K, and Jack (Norton) hasn't been running very well, either. I just wanted Paul to get us a big lead."

"I've never run here before but Earl just told me to run like hell," joked Ducey, who was the top Heritage master and placed 15th (master) at Falmouth last Sunday in 38:18. "I felt tired today but my time was good. I thought I'd be wiped out after Falmouth."

The race was expertly organized by veteran director Bill Mullen, who somehow found the time to run a strong 15:04 leg for the Lynn AC. Durable Al Peterson had the top time for the AC at 14:39, while Beverly's Carl Clarizia was 14:40, and Roger "The Captain" Perham clocked a 14:52.

Peabody track coach Phil Sheridan ran with some Tanner alumni but liked the times run by some of his future harriers. Beverly boys' coach John Norris was also an interested spectator. "I can tell three of my kids (Foley, Clarizia, Crean) have put in the miles,"

he said. "We're going to have to find a front-runner this year if we want to challenge for the title. It should be the strongest league I've seen in seven years."

The regular confusion at the finish line was minimized by the work of Brian McDorman, Ron Lees and John Robertson.

MEN'S DIVISION

- 1. Swampscott 'A' (51:59): Lou Ristaino 12:50; W.F. Newhall 13:53; Paul Croft 12:42; Bill Harrington 12:34.
- 2. No Name (52:04): Bill Nichols 12:58; Mark Behan 13:01; Gary Leavitt 12:44; Mike LaVallee 12:21.
- 3. North Shore Strider 'A' (53:20): Mike Toomey 13:07; Bill Green 13:20; Mike Mudge 13:22; Rick Dawe 13:31.
- 4. North Shore Strider 'B' (55:18): Mike Page 27:55; Rich Tabbutt 13:52; Paul Duppen 13:31; Tom McDermott 0.
- 5. Irie Racing Team (55:43): Phil McNulty 13:32; Kevin Connor 13:42; Mike O'Malley 14:40; Paul Neves 13:42.

BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

- 1. The Purple Cow (56:12): Darin Shearer 13:16; Matt Crean 14:18; Carl Clarizia 14:19; Brian Foley 14:19.
- 2. Big Blue's Best (58:31): Bill Madden 13:39; John Butterworth 15:15; Matt Cobbett 29:37; Chris Bonner 0.
- 3. The Underdogs (58:54): Joe Harrington 13:25; Dan Sweeney 14:57; Alex Souppa 16:05; Paul DeFelice 14:27.

GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

- 1. Peabody I (79:59): Lori Romano 18:03; Debbie Russo 19:42; Rhonda Rosenthal 19:54; Darlene Lane 22:20.
- 2. Peabody II (83:06): Beth Brennan 17:34; Amy Crocker 24:34; Maureen Lyons 21:37.
- 3. Swampscott (91:27): Alison Atkins 22:28; Tara McHugh 19:42; Nicole Higgins 29:30; Chris Koughan 19:47.

MASTERS MEN

- 1. North Shore Connection (56:20): Paul Ducey 13:38; Jack Norton 13:54; Earl McGilvery 14:26; Ken White 14:22.
- 2. LYNN AC Masters (59:15): Bob Clarizia 14:40; Al Peterson 14:39; Bill Mullen 15:04; Rogor Perham 14:52.
- 3. North Shore Strider Master (67:38): Steve Flint 15:50; Rich Murray 18:30; Mike Pelletier 16:28; Dick Buchanan 16:50.

CO-ED

- 1. North Shore Strider Mixed (64:38): Gary Freedman 14:49; Angela Merryman 14:43; Carol Malinowski 16:36; Peter Malinowski 18:30.
- 2. Les Electriques (65:21): Shirley Merkert 18:47; Erin O'Connell 16:50; Jeff Willett 16:22; Chris Spinney 13:22.
- 3. Puddle Jumpers (66:00): Sharon Cuthbert 18:48; Paul Hennessey 14:23; Colleen Honohan 18:20; Phil Monson 14:29.