

Run fast, fly high



DAN LITTLE AND MIKE MORAN PHOTOS

Clockwise, from top left: Frontier's Jamie Blinder competes in the pole vault at the West/Central Division 2 championships at Westfield State University, Saturday, in Westfield; Northampton's Tim Foldy-Porto, left, Aidan Gilson, Liam Sullivan and Amherst's Connor Evans compete in the 1-mile, Saturday, at the West/Central Division 1 Track championships at Fitchburg State University; Alex Dibrindisi, left, of Northampton, crosses the finish line ahead of Juliana Brissette, of Amherst Regional, to win the 4x400-meter relay at the Div. 1 meet; Frontier's Katherine Miner establishes a school and Div. 2 meet record by clearing 5 feet, 7 inches in the high jump; Frontier's Kimmi Logan competes in the triple jump at the Div. 2 meet.

WEST/CENTRAL BOYS DIVISION 1 TRACK CHAMPIONSHIP

Hurricanes' run ends

By MIKE MORAN
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FITCHBURG – The expressions on the faces of the Amherst Regional boys track & field athletes said it all – shock.

Entering the 4x400-meter relay, the final event at the West/Central Division 1 Championship on Saturday, the Hurricanes were confident a win would seal a third straight title.

Amherst had individual wins in the 100, 200 and 800, as well as a relay win in the 4x800, in addition to numerous other places scattered throughout the events.

After winning the 4x400, the team gathered in a group next to the awards tent at Fitchburg State University. The announcer first

called fourth-place Northampton with 60 points. Then Shrewsbury with 63.5.

What the Hurricanes heard next made their jaws drop: Runner-up Amherst Regional, 89 points.

St. John's of Shrewsbury won the championship with 92 points.

"It's pretty shocking," Amherst coach David Thompson said. "It's tough when everyone puts out and you come to find out that you lose by three points. It does hurt to not have some of your guys run when you need them."

It turned out that entering the final event, St. John's held a 92-79 lead on Amherst. Amherst won in 3 minutes, 24.24 seconds, but it didn't matter. The 10 points weren't

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WEST/CENTRAL GIRLS DIVISION 1 TRACK CHAMPIONSHIP

Brissette leads 'Canes to third

By FRAN SYPEK
Gazette Contributing Writer

FITCHBURG – For most of the race, Juliana Brissette played follow the leader.

When she crossed the finish line following the mile run, Brissette left the rest of the field behind her.

Brissette won two events, including the 800-meter run, to help Amherst to a third-place finish Saturday at the West/Central Division 1 Track & Field Championship at Fitchburg State University.

For most of the mile run, Leominster's Kelsey Bedard was the leader. But Brissette made her move late in the race to overtake Bedard, who finished fourth.

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WEST/CENTRAL DIVISION 2 TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS

Red Hawks fall short

By MICHAEL WILKINSON
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WESTFIELD – Despite earning only five points in running events, the Frontier Regional girls track & field team's dominance of field events nearly carried the Red Hawks to another title Saturday.

The District F&G champions claimed three individual victories and finished as the runner-up at the West/Central Division 2 championships at Westfield State University.

"We had quite a good day at a big meet. I just hoped we'd finish in the top five, because we simply don't have much in the running," Frontier coach Bob Smith said. "But we received contributions in field events from many different girls."

The Red Hawks totaled 49 points, 38 of them in field events. They led for much of the meet, but Bromfield (56) took hold of the title in the final relays.

"I'm very proud of how the team performed today, especially on such a hot day," junior Kat Miner said. "Everyone's done really well all season and it's a big accomplishment to finish as well as we did."

Junior Katherine Conlisk added, "Our coaches stress that we complete in both running and field events, so those are a real strong suit for us."

South Hadley (20.5 points) came in 15th and Hampshire Regional (13.5) finished 20th, while Holyoke Catholic did not score.

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GIRLS ULTIMATE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

PVPA girls win 2nd state title

By SARAH MOOMAW
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PVPA's Sophie Lewis-Nash has a knack for quickly getting open on the ultimate field, which led to the game-winning goal, 6-5, over Northampton in the championship game of Massachusetts Girls State Tournament in Devens on Saturday.

"Sophie's a very quick girl and she finds space really well," PVPA coach Tom Barry said. "We have a lot of very talented throwers, which allows (Lewis-Nash) to get even more open."

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Texas Rangers' Hanser Alberto, right, stands nearby as Hanley Ramirez of the Boston Red Sox, left, waits for the umpire to call time before taking his hands off second after a steal during the sixth inning of their game Sunday in Arlington, Texas.

TEXAS 4 / BOSTON 3

Sox falter in 9th to end road trip

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas – Boston Red Sox manager John Farrell was taking no chances with Prince Fielder, intentionally walking the AL batting leader and potential winning run even though the Rangers still had Josh Hamilton available off the bench.

Fielder was then doing a belly-flop onto home plate, scoring on Hamilton's pinch-hit, two-run double with two outs in the ninth to give Texas a 4-3 win over the struggling Red Sox.

"We'll take the chance of a guy coming off the bench versus a guy that's in the game and in the rhythm of the game probably more times than not, especially a guy as hot as Prince has been and what he's meant to that offense all year," manager John Farrell said. "We're one pitch away from sealing a win."

Tough way to lose one."

The Red Sox lost for the sixth time to wrap up a seven-game trip, the latest loss coming only hours after Farrell's pregame meeting with a group of five veteran players about the team playing more smart and aggressive.

FIRST PITCH

Twins (Pelfrey 4-1) at Red Sox (Buchholz 2-6)
Time: 7:10 p.m. Monday
TV/Radio: NESN, WWEL-FM (105.5)

Boston didn't trail until Hamilton, wrapping up his first week back with the Rangers in the first game he didn't start, lined a 1-1 splitter from Koji Uehara (2-2) into the left-center field gap.

"It feels like old times," said Hamilton, the 2010 AL MVP who rejoined the team Monday in Cleveland. "It really does. It's a lot of fun. Coming back home and having some good games against Bos-

ton and then having a game like today reminds you of some good times for the Rangers."

Texas got started in the ninth when rookie Hanser Alberto reached on third baseman Pablo Sandoval's second error of the game. Delino DeShields then a sacrifice bunt and Shin-Soo Choo grounded out before Fielder, batting .359 and already with a hit, came to the plate.

Hamilton pinch-hit for Adam Rosales, who had earlier replaced Adrian Beltre after the third baseman sprained and cut his left thumb sliding in the fifth inning. Beltre is out at least two weeks.

The Rangers won their fourth consecutive series, but first at home this season. They won three in a row against Boston after losing the opener 5-1 in Hamilton's first home game for the Rangers since 2012.

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