

Ms. Artaiz, Mr. Pascale, and Members of the Board

With the championship season in full swing, I thought it would be appropriate to start forward-planning for upcoming regional meets that our athletes may be eligible to attend this indoor track season.

New England Championships (February 28-Boston, MA)

The top six finishers in each event at the Connecticut State Open Championships (February 20) advance to the New England Championships (February 28). Since I started coaching at Derby High School in the 2008-2009, three athletes have qualified for this meet. Each time it was an extremely rewarding experience.

Heading into the Open, we have three athletes seeded in the top seven: Ricky Bartone (3rd Shot Put), Gabriella Prizio (5th 1000 meters), and Josh Vega (7th 55 meter hurdles). This could be the first time in school history that we have multiple athletes qualify for New England's in the same season.

Parents will provide transportation for this event. Transportation waiver forms will be filled out and turned in to Ms. Artaiz prior to leaving for the trip. I will also submit a trip itinerary with names of drivers and athletes attending prior to our departure.

Since this event is part of the CIAC Championship progression, the school should cover the meet fee of \$20 per athlete. Our booster club will cover all other costs associated with this trip.

Eastern States Championships (March 1- Manhattan, NY)

The Eastern States Championship is a prestigious, regional high school meet. East coast high school athletes from Maine to Virginia are eligible to attend. This is a qualification only event, meaning that athletes must meet a difficult performance standard to be eligible. As of today, six of our athletes have qualified for this meet: Gabriella Prizio (800 meters), Ricky Bartone (Shot Put), Kiley Rodriguez (2 mile), Rachel Fleischer (Triple Jump), Alex Perez (Triple Jump), and Josh Vega (55 hurdles). This is a high profile meet that will help our talented athletes get exposure to college coaches, as many of them have serious aspirations to compete collegiately.

Once again, parents will provide athlete transportation for this event. Transportation waiver forms will be filled out and turned in to Ms. Artaiz prior to leaving for the trip. I will also submit a trip itinerary with names of drivers and athletes attending prior to our departure.

This meet is sanctioned by the state of Connecticut, but is not part of its' championship series; therefore, our booster club will cover all expenses associated with this meet.

New Balance Indoor National Championships (Manhattan, NY)

The New Balance Indoor National Championship is the most prestigious high school competition in the United States. Performance standards for entry into this event are extremely difficult to achieve. As of today, we have three individual athletes that are very close to qualifying for this meet: Gabriella Prizio (1000 meters), Rachel Fleischer (Triple Jump), and Ricky Bartone (Shot Put). Our Girls Sprint Medley Relay is also very close to qualifying.

Once again, parents will provide athlete transportation for this event. Transportation waiver forms will be filled out and turned in to Ms. Artaiz prior to leaving for the trip. I will also submit a trip itinerary with names of drivers and athletes attending prior to our departure.

This meet is sanctioned by the state of Connecticut, but is not part of its' championship series; therefore, our booster club will cover all expenses associated with this meet.

Thanks again for your support. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 203-598-4839 or ndiluggo@derbyps.org

Nick DiLuggo
Head Coach
Derby High School Indoor Track