

MSTCA DIVISION 2 RELAYS

Hand it to Hopkinton: Boys and girls sweep Division 2 Relays with scintillating finishes

By **Julianna Schwindt** Globe Correspondent, Updated January 18, 2026, 6:06 p.m.



Bella Walkiewicz and Hopkinton soared in the 4x50 shuttle hurdles, and her anchor leg in the 4x200 helped clinch the Division 2 title for the Hillers. JOSH REYNOLDS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE/JOSH REYNOLDS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

The Hopkinton girls thought a first-place finish was out of reach at the MSTCA Division 2 Relays after a bad handoff in the 4x200.

“[Bella Walkiewicz] has never done a blind handoff before in a meet,” said senior Abby Burke, who also ran a leg on the 4x200.

“But she was so smart, she stopped at the end zone. She didn’t DQ us. She just grabbed [the baton], literally planted her feet, and then just kept on running around a great last leg.”

Burke, Clara Bransfield, Callie Owens, and Walkiewicz teamed up for a season-best time of 1:49.00 for the victory at the Reggie Lewis Center.

And while Algonquin stayed close, the Titans were unable to make up ground in the final event, the 4x400. Hopkinton (40 points) secured its first relays win since 2020, when the Hillers also won the state championship, ahead of Algonquin (37) and Wellesley (36), which had won eight years in a row.

“I remember Frank Mooney, who’s a legend in coaching in Massachusetts, saying that if you can win the relay meet, it shows great depth and a good chance to be in contention at the state level,” said Hopkinton girls’ coach Jean Cann.

The Hopkinton boys also claimed a relays title, their first crown since 2009.

“The girls would win a lot more than us, and the boys would be happy for the girls, but it almost feels like something’s lacking,” said 25-year Hopkinton coach Mike Donahue. “We all cheer for each other. We’re basically one big team that happens to get scored separately.”

Like the girls, the boys’ win hinged on the oval. With a narrow 46.48-44 lead over defending champion North Andover entering the 4x400, the Hillers (3:31.74) legged out a critical runner-up finish behind Bridgewater-Raynham (3:30.22), pocketing 8 points to secure the championship.

Hopkinton (54.48) was followed by North Andover (45) and Woburn (34).

“It was just fighting to keep my form,” said Iago Ferreira, the anchor of the 4x400, teaming up with Jason O’Connell, Ian Weilding, and John Knutson.

“I knew with the performance my team had, we would beat North Andover. So I was ecstatic.”

Although the Billerica girls finished fourth with 31 points, they set a new meet record in the 4x800. Evie Wesling, Maya Niles, Caitlyn Donahue, and Kylie Donahue ran a 9:18.58, the best time in the nation this season.



Hopkinton's Kyle Carson finishes his leg in the 4x50 relay at the Reggie Lewis Center. JOSH REYNOLDS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE/JOSH REYNOLDS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE