

January 13, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

In my junior and senior year I participated in the New England Track Competition as part of the Falmouth High School 4x400 relay team. For me it was a great experience; I would not have qualified for New Englands on my own. During each regular track season I earned points for my team in the 400 and 200. My times usually qualified me to run at States, but as an individual I was never able to score in such a large meet. I came to love the relay, because there my times were good enough that, when combined with those of three other girls, I could be competitive. In my senior year I experienced a frustrating track season; despite my hard work at practices, I consistently ran the same time at meets. New Englands provided me one last opportunity to compete with my team and during my leg of the relay I ran a personal best for the season. It was the perfect end to a sometimes disappointing season.

The meet also allowed me the opportunity to witness the accomplishments of other students who, like me, loved track and field. Falmouth High School sent individual competitors and relay teams both years that I competed in the New England meet. While I chose to end my running career after high school, many of those runners are now competing in college track and field. For them the meet became something to aspire to throughout the track season; while they might regularly win races during the regular season and place at the State meet, they understood that New Englands would afford a level of competition to which they were not yet accustomed. The meet served as a reward for their talent and their dedication to their craft.

Please continue to allow Maine runners to compete in New Englands. The meet offers all competitors an unforgettable experience that should not be taken away.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Alice Bennett