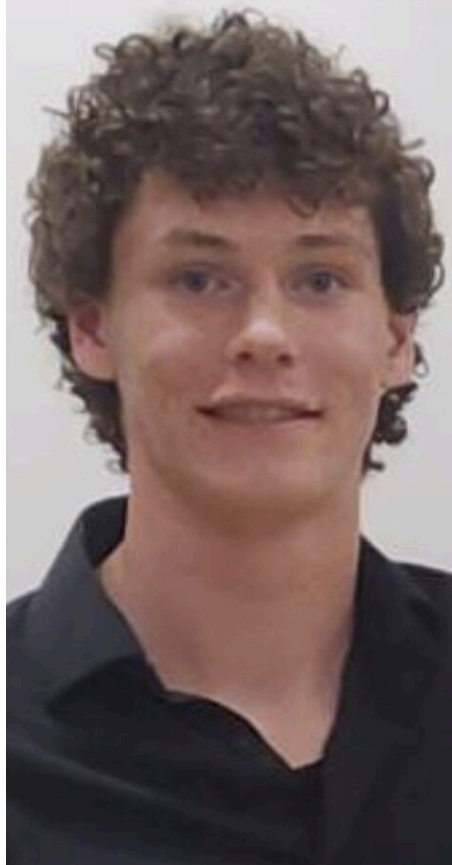


NH Boys Cross Country Preview: Pinkerton 'Dream Team' eyes Meet of Champs repeat and beyond

By David Willis | dwillis@eagletribune.com
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Elliot Chisholm

1 of 2





Now in year No. 35 as Pinkerton Academy's boys cross country coach, **Mike Clark** knows something about the greatest on the trail.

And he believes he has a truly special squad for 2026.

"This is a dream team!" said Clark. "And I don't use that term often because it loses its meaning. I have called three of my teams, 'Dream teams' over the years — 1993 with Matt Downin, who would win a national title, 2015 with nationally-ranked Nico Sevilla, and this team. This is my third dream team. We have two guys that can win a New England title, and a third that could place in the top-10."

This year's group is led by three-sport Eagle-Tribune All-Star **Jason Robie**. Last week, the senior broke a 30-year-old record on the Astros' home course with a 15:20 at the team's alumni meet. He's coming off a brilliant spring track season when he won the 1,600-meter at Meet of Champions (4:14.61) and took the 1,600 (4:20.42) and 3,200 (9:31.30) at Division Is, a feat he also accomplished in the winter. Last fall he was eighth at Meet of Champions (15:39.52) and fifth at Division Is (16:33.88) — leading the Astros to the team title at both meets.

Right behind him is classmate and fellow Eagle-Tribune All-Star **Oscar D'Amelio** in the No. 2 spot, and at No. 3 is reigning Eagle-Tribune spring track MVP **Joe Gustavson**, who won the New England title in the 800-meter (area-record 1:52.23).

Last fall, he was eighth at Division Is (16:51.50) and 12th at Meet of Champions (15:53.70). No. 4 is fellow senior **Owen Boucher**.

“We have eight runners that can excel in our top-seven,” said Clark. “When you have elite runners like Jason, Joe and Oscar, you don’t want to race them all the time. We have a lot of versatility to get them ready for championship season.”

Chisholm leads Salem

Salem is looking to build off a strong 2025 that saw the Blue Devils place seventh at Division Is and 10th at Meet of Champions.

The return their top finisher at Division Is, senior Eagle-Tribune All-Star **Elliot Chisholm**, who finished ninth in 16:53.76.

They face the challenge of replacing Eagle-Tribune All-Star **Lucas Gomes**, but featuring a promising group including seniors **Jack Wier** and **Alex St.Laurent**.

Veterans lead Windham

With a roster stacked with battle-tested racers, Windham feels ready to open eyes in 2026.

“I believe this team will outperform expectations,” said assistant coach **Tim Stapp**. “We have one of our largest senior classes ever, and I believe their collective experience will propel our team to a surprisingly strong finish this season. This will be a year of massive growth for our program.”

Leading the way are senior **Blake Hollingshead**, who the Jags coach said is primed for a huge year, along with junior **Gabriel Spera**, a key contributor since freshman season.

Woodworth takes over Timberlane

Track coach **Mike Woodworth** is the new cross country coach for Timberlane, and he likes what he has seen so far.

The Owls are led by returnees senior **Emery Pitman** and junior **Jacob Tiney**.

“Both Emery and Jacob are returning starters are looking strong and motivated to improve over last year,” said Woodworth. “**Joey Wheeler** is a returning senior that works hard, shows a lot of team spirit, and is excited to race. Freshman **Brayden Woodworth**, so far, is also showing promise and has been keeping up with the upperclassmen, and another freshman, **Nick Tiney**, is a determined runner and pushes himself in every workout.”

Pelham looks to impress

Coach **Steve Hammer** believes his Pelham team can compete this fall, led by seniors **Sunay Patel** and **Hunter Demers**.

“The team’s looking really good,” said Hammer. “Our top five have run between 18 flat and 19:30, and Nos. 2-5 are all within 17 seconds of each other. Hoping to move this pack up as the season progresses.

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Sizing 'Em Up

DIVISION I

PINKERTON ACADEMY

Head Coach: Mike Clark

2025 Record: Won Meet of Champions, Division I titles

Returning Starters/Lettermen

Jason Robie, Sr.

Oscar D'Amelio, Sr.

Joe Gustavson, Sr.

Owen Boucher, Sr.

Demitri Rufo, Soph.