



**PREP**  
*Views and News*  
 by Mike Nolan

## All the Best in CCS *5-25*

When the Central Coast Section track and field finals are held Saturday night at San Jose City College, the section's best athletes won't necessarily be represented.

There's an inherent problem in the qualifying method — one that should be tackled by the CCS track people in the interest of providing the fairest competition for all concerned.

Perhaps the problem only seems magnified this season. But when a kid leaps 13-7 in the pole vault, which is darn good, and doesn't make the CCS finals, something's wrong.

Jack Lennen, one of four superb pole vaulters at Carlmont High, did just that in the Region II finals, yet failed to qualify (except as an alternate) because he finished sixth. Only the first five Region II finishers advance to the CCS finals.

That would be fine, except that Lennen's mark was some six inches better than any of the Region I, III or IV qualifiers.

In fact, although Lennen himself has a best of 14-1, only eight others, including his three teammates, have hit 13-7 in the CCS this season!

Obviously, Lennen is being shortchanged because most of the good pole vaulters are in Region II.

The same, to a lesser degree, holds true for Carlmont's Chuck Oliver and Sequoia's Mark Daniel, who ran 4:20.5 and 4:20.9 miles for third and fourth in the SPAL finals.

Those marks are among the top dozen in the CCS, yet Oliver and Daniel won't make the CCS meet either. A week later, they were victims of an extremely strong Region II mile field.

The entire SPAL is somewhat short-changed in region action because it has to compete against the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League, a 13-school powerhouse generally regarded as the section's top all-around circuit.

If trackmen from the SPAL, itself one of the top two or three CCS loops, competed against other sections, especially I or IV, their lot would be better and more SPAL athletes would qualify for the section finals.

The SPAL is stuck with the SCVAL and can't do much about it. For that matter, most other leagues would be so clobbered by the SCVAL that it probably would be even more unfair.

But something CAN be done about individual injustices, which probably occur in every section in one event or another.

What would be wrong with establishing stiff qualifying standards — stiff but realistic — to allow that extra "top-notch" boy in each event through the region?

This way, the top four or five finishers would still be entitled to move on to the CCS, along with the others who meet the qualifying standards. There wouldn't be many more.

These standards also could be met only in league or region finals, or other designated big meet or invitational competition. This would encourage



hard work all the way and eliminate the doubts often surrounding dual meet marks.

The standards would be tough — 13-6 in the pole vault, for example, or 6-2 in the high jump, 21-6 in the long jump, 160 feet in the discus, and so forth.

Only the really good athletes — like Lennen — would be added to the regular qualifiers. But at least a blue-chipper wouldn't have his entire season ruined because of one lousy day (13-7 is lousy??) in the regionals.

Maybe this seems like a lot of trouble for just a handful of boys. But isn't the happiness and hard work of even one athlete worth our full consideration?



Speaking of regional strengths, our CCS dope sheet projects a victory for Region III, which is loaded with tremendous sprinters and middle-distance runners, over the field-event talented Region II.

We see Region III (the Mount Hamilton, West Valley and Santa Teresa leagues of San Jose) scoring 105 points to 93 for Region II (SCVAL and SPAL). Then 35 for Region IV (Monterey Bay and Mission Trail) and 23 for Region I (Mid and North Peninsula and West Catholic).

League-wise, we score SCVAL with 61 points, the MHAL with 57, the WVVAL with 38, the SPAL with 34 and the MBAL with 31. The others have 10 or less.

Mount Pleasant of the MHAL looks like the team champ with 25 points, followed by Los Altos with 23 and Carlmont and another MHAL power, Silver Creek, with 21 each.