

Costello lea

Vike girl ties national record in low hurdles

By BRIAN HOEY

DEFENDING champion Kris Costello of Lynbrook set a state record and tied the national standard while winning the 110 low hurdles at the 60th annual CIF State Track and Field Championships Saturday in Bakersfield.

Costello's performance highlighted De Anza League efforts, which saw nine of 14 area athletes qualify during Friday's preliminaries for the next day's finals.

The senior Viking, third at CCS while favoring torn cartilage in one knee, blazed an electronically timed 13.83 in a race that produced the three top clockings in the nation for 1978. The mark was rounded off to equal the national record of 13.8.

"I WAS REALLY nervous at the start of the race," said Costello, who has accepted a full-ride scholarship to the University of Oregon in Eugene and plans to major in pre-med.

"Kim (Costello of El Camino, South San Francisco) had a faster time going into it, and I was never really sure whether my knee would hold up or start ripping. Plus, the fact that I put pressure on myself, since I was the defending champion."

Lynbrook also entered freshmen CCS queens Tracy Weber in the mile and Kristy Campbell in the long jump. Neither made the finals as Weber ran 5:03.3 for eighth in her heat while Campbell leaped 17-2½ for 19th overall.

CUPERTINO TOOK down its largest group of individuals ever and had Steve Guthrie place fifth in the 120 high hurdles and first-ever female Pioneer qualifier Karen Woodbeck take sixth in the discus.

Guthrie, the DAL, Region II and CCS gold medalist, brought the crowd to its feet with his second-place finish in Friday's heats. Hitting all 10 hurdles and knocking down eight, he slammed into the last barrier badly, forcing him to remain on two feet by pushing off the all-weather Tartan surface with one hand.

Staggering toward the tape, he threw himself across the finish line sideways, landing in a heap just over the stripe.

"I caught my trail leg on the last one and just tried to stay up," explained Guthrie, who stopped the watches at 14.46. "I didn't even know how far away the finish was. I just tried to stay up."

The Pioneer senior came back the next day to place fifth in 14.64, becoming one of a small handful of CCS hurdlers ever to make the state finals.

WOODBEEK, ONLY a junior, has been surprising coaches and competitors alike ever since the league meet, where she broke her foot after a winning toss. Since then, she has limped through the region and section meets on crutches, throwing with her foot heavily taped.

She was also on crutches during the state meet where she qualified eighth in Friday's prelims at 123-2, then came back the next day to place sixth with a 122-9 effort.

"The pain is not really a factor," said the 5-10 blonde, who gutted out the post-season meets this year after a disappointing sophomore campaign in which she placed sixth in the CCS after entering with the second-ranked throw, thus missing the state meet.

"It only hurts just when I release it. The doctors say it'll take about six weeks to heal."

Cupertino girls' coach Chuck Bean added, "Karen's key was her consistency, even if it was on a bad foot. She kept getting out to the same distance when everyone around her was choking because of the pressure."

PIONEER SENIOR Steve Finley, CCS runner-up in the long jump, placed 19th overall with a leap of 22-2¾ in the prelims. Junior miler Dave Avila, also a second-placer in the section, did not run due to personal problems.

Probably the toughest event DAL representatives entered was the pole vault.

The names and heights were awesome; Steve Tully from Millikan, brother of UCLA's world recordholder Mike, and phenomena Anthony Curran of Crespi-Encino, who set the national high school record of 17-4¼ this year.

COMPETING IN this, one of the finest high school vault fields ever assembled, were Homestead's Mitch Preciado and Monta Mista's Ross McAlexander.

Both had trouble with a fluctuating wind in the stadium, to the extent that Preciado barely made his opening height of 13-9 with a third attempt clearance. The duo qualified with efforts of 14-3, however, to advance it into the 12-man finals.

On Saturday the wind conditions were the same, constantly alternating between a headwind and tailwind. McAlexander had a moderate clearance at 14-8, then popped a screamer over 15-2 with a 15-inch clearance, and it appeared that a 16-footer might be on the way.

The gusting wind, though, had other ideas, forcing him to pull short on his first trial at 15-6, then run under the bar on his second attempt. On his final try, McAlexander planted and was in the air, but the pair of aborted attempts had taken their toll and dulled his technique enough to miss. He placed seventh behind Tully.

PRECIADO, in the meantime, was "giving me ulcers," according to Mustang mentor Rick Milam. Of the 15 possible attempts the Homestead senior had at five different heights, he used 12, clearing three heights on his third and final trial.

The result of this hair-tearing effort culminated when Preciado writhed over 15-6 for a lifetime best by half a foot and fifth place.

"The biggest problem was the wind," he remarked. "It was circular. On every other vault it'd be a headwind, and every other vault would be a tailwind. That killed a lot of attempts."

"At the beginning of this year I wanted to place in the top 10 in the state. I didn't have the trouble I had with my back this season like I did last year, and that made a big difference."

The pair then sat back and watched Curran set another national record at 17-5¼, adding the senior class mark to his other class records of 14-8¾ as a freshman, 15-9¼ as a soph and 16-4¼ as a junior. The record may be disallowed for the UCLA-bound Curran, however, as the bar flipped up off one peg and onto the top of the standard.

THE DAL ALSO sent Steve Struble of Sunnyvale in the discus. The senior qualified fourth in the prelims at 175-11, but threw three straight fouls in the finals to finish unplaced. His Friday mark would have tied him for second place overall.