



Tom Williams — Mercury

Ayer's Maria King, left, and Lynbrook's Tracy Weber are among the entrants in the state track meet

CCS group armed with hope

By Kristin Huckshorn
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The rotating California high school track and field championships return to Berkeley's Edwards Stadium Friday and Saturday and the Central Coast Section contingent, though stocked with no Bill Greens this year, has in its ranks potential winners and top finishers.

The 62nd meet promises to end earlier than usual since there's no night lighting. Trials in field events begin at 11:30 a.m. Friday with 1:15 p.m. running trials. Saturday's field event finals start at 12:30 p.m. and the track finals are set for 1:30.

A meet first will be metric distances and Berkeley's eight-lane track has forced another switch. Usually nine runners and nine field-event entrants qualify for each final, but this year only eight will move on.

Last week's nine section meets advanced athletes on to the state championships. The top five finishers in each event in the formidable Southern Section qualified while Los Angeles and the North Coast sent their top four and the CCS is amoung four sections advancing the top three.

Cubberley's Green and Camden's Ann Regan gave the CCS two state titles last year — Green ripping to a victory in the clamorous 100 dash and then winning the 40, only to be disqualified for running out of his lane.

Regan was already a two-time state 880 champion and in winning her third she gave San Jose Cindergals coach Augie Argabright his ninth state title in four years.

Four of Argabright's Cindergals quali-

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fied last week for state events as team members won the 800, 1,600 and 3,200. None is expected to win a state title but Maria King (Ayer) and Tracy Weber (Lynbrook) both have the ability to give their club team another state championship.

King, a sophomore, placed fifth in last year's state meet and took the CCS 800 run in a lifetime-best 2:09.9. That time ranks fourth on the state entry sheet. However, the owners of those top three times were pushed in their section meets while King had no one on her heels — Los Altos' Kerry Brogan was second at 2:13.72 and Presentation freshman Sharon Yaninek (another Cindergal) third in 2:14.34.

"I think Maria might feel a little more pressure on her," said Argabright. "Regan won the event three times in a row and she'd like to keep it among our girls. Maria beat Louise Romo (the state's top seed) in Los Angeles in February and Romo said something that Maria overheard about how that girl was lucky to win. That should give Maria a little extra incentive."

Weber led a 1-2-3 Cindergal finish in the 1,600, her time of 4:56.85 topping King and Roxanne Bier of Independence. Weber placed third in last year's state mile and, based on entry times, the junior is slated to finish fourth Saturday.

Bier won her fourth consecutive two-mile/3,200 championship in the section

meet. The senior won that event at the state meet as a freshman in 1977 and placed third last year. Bier is seeded 10th.

"Each one has her own competitive edge," said Argabright. "I would like to hope we could win all three events. I think Maria will win. I think Yaninek will make the finals. They all have a lot of pride."

Running the 800 and 1,600 in trials and finals shouldn't bother the Cindergals.

"They are running three days in a row," said Argabright. "They are all entered in the state AAU championships at Stanford Sunday. But that will be more for fun. The state meet is the important one."

The other CCS girls with viable chances to place well are Fremont's Sherrill Miller in the 400 and Menlo-Atherton's Trish King in the high jump. Miller, a sophomore, won a second straight CCS title last week — turning in a season best of 54.99 without being rushed. She may be the section entrant with the most untapped potential and is ranked third in the state. Moving up will be a challenge though; the state leaders are Denean Howard (one of the Howard sisters) in 53.26 and Faye Paige of Long Beach Poly in 54.02.

King placed third in the state meet last year and won last week's section title with a meet-record 5-9¼. After breaking an ankle in February, the senior's improvement has been continuous, and the bar has climbed an inch at nearly every meet.

Friday: Vaulters Greg Ellis, D.J. Bahl and Ben Mahoney, hurdler Ronnie Seanez lead the CCS boys in the state meet.