

Coach objects, athlete barred at track finals

By ALAN ARAKELIAN

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APTOS — No one can accuse Sonny Stupek, a North Monterey County track and field coach, of not being "studious." He's one to keep up with "homework."

Because of a technicality, Stupek all but forced Kevin Surber, San Lorenzo Valley's top weightman, to withdraw from the Santa Cruz Coast Athletic League track and field finals at Cabrillo College Saturday.

"We did our homework and found out he was not on the eligibility list," said Stupek.

"We didn't declare him ineligible," said Stupek of the situation. "We just told him (SLV Coach Marty Kruger) we were going to protest and take it to the league commissioner."

Stupek didn't have to take it to Charles R. Smith, the league commissioner. Kruger withdrew Surber from the meet. However, in a vote of league coaches, Surber, one of the better shot putters and discus throwers in the SCCAL, will be allowed to compete in this week's Region IV meet at Hartnell College in Salinas on Saturday.

Kruger was not too vocal about the Surber incident. "The thing with Surber is history," said Kruger. He also said of North Monterey County, "That's just the way they operate. That's the way they've operated for years."

"It's hard to say how much emotionally it upset our team and how much point-wise it hurt our team," said Kruger.

However, Kruger has nothing but respect for North Monterey County's athletes. "North Monterey's athletes sure showed a lot of class and came through in a lot of events where they weren't expected to get any points in," said Kruger. "They have one hell of a track program out there."

SEE PAGE D2

D-2—Santa Cruz Sentinel — Sunday, May 8, 1983



Sequel's Johnny Cleveland soars to winning long jump of 23-4

SCCAL track and field:

FROM PAGE D1

Regardless, North Monterey County convincingly won the boys' division. Stipek's Condors racked up 162 points, while Sequel's Knights were next at 115. The "Surber-less" SLV Coagars were third at 84, followed by the Harbor Pirates at 64, Aptos' Mariners at 39, the Marelllo Prep Panthers with 16 and the Santa Cruz Cardinals with 10.

In the girls' division, Soquel walked away with the crown with 123 points, followed by surprising Aptos at 100. Harbor was third with 90, followed by SLV at 50, Marelo Prep at 44, Santa Cruz at 20 and North Monterey County with 18.

The top five in each event in both the boys' and girls' competition qualified for the Region IV meet.

In the boys' division, North Monterey County controlled three events — the 110-meter high hurdles, the 330-yard low hurdles and the triple jump. In those three events, North Monterey County racked up 70 points.

"We felt very, very confident going in," said Stupek. "It's not that we knew we were going to win or anything. We just knew other people were going to have to be superior against us."

"The Condors are pretty tough people," said Stupek. "We really prepared big-time for this meet. We prepared both mentally and physically."

Late in the season, a bit of a "feud" developed in Santa Cruz County newspapers between Stupek and Kruger. North Monterey County and SLV did not meet in league in dual-meet competition because of two rainouts. Coaches accused one other of evading a showdown.

"There's no feuding," said Stupek. "How can it be feuding when there's not that close of a rivalry. It may be something that has to do with cross-country. I'm not sure."

"There can't be a rivalry," said Stupek. "I just don't think we're close, competitively."

Surber's absence hurt SLV, but it really made little difference in the overall team standings. "There was never any doubt," said Stupek.

SLV does have bragging rights in one facet, however — it won the most events of anyone in the boys' competition. SLV's was led by Jeff Thorbs, who won the 100 meters (it was actually less than 100 meters because of an official's error) in

Bill Leveisy/Sentinel

John Klabius of Harbor bent over backwards taking the high jump with an effort of 6-feet even.

10.3, the 200 in 22.0 and the 400 in 49.4

SLV's Mike Rome was a double winner. He captured the mile in 4:37.4 and the two-mile in 10:05.4. Soquel's Johnny Cleveland was a double winner, too. He won the long jump at 23-4 — just under the state-best season mark of 23-7½; he recorded a little more than a week ago — and the triple jump (45-1¼).

Soquel Coach Mark McConnell was not surprised by the Knights' second-place finish in the boys' division. "I was not surprised," said McConnell. "I actually thought we were going to be a little closer to them. But, North Monterey got off to a quick lead and we weren't able to catch

up.†

North Monterey County's Juan Quintero was also a double winner. He won the 110-meter highs in 15.2 and the 330 lows in 39.5. Meanwhile, Aptos' John Kaitz was a double winner, taking the shot put at 44-9 and the discus at 154-6. Soquel's Ken Kiff pressed Kaitz, who threw on Thursday (he had to take a college entrance examination Saturday, but his marks reverted to the final competition), with a 44-7 in the shot.

Soquel's mile relay foursome of John VanNess, Rod Brower, David Locke and Duane Woodlief clocked a winning time of 3:30.0, some 16 seconds better than sec-

ood-place North Monterey County. North Monterey County won the hotly contested 440-yard relay with a time of 44.9, while Soquel was next at 44.3.

Other first-place boys' finishers were Harbor's John Klabinus in the high jump (6-0), Soquel's Rod Brower in the 800 (1:57.7) and North Monterey County's Nestor Cabatu in the pole vault (12-0).

There were several surprises in the girls' competition. First, SLV's Jackie Hale, who has not lost to a league opponent in nearly two seasons in four events, finally lost an event. Hale was first in the discus (116-0), long jump (15-3) and shot put (36-3). However, Hale was topped in the triple jump by Soquel's Heidi Skewia, who recorded a personal-best 34-8½. Hale was second at 33-7½.

Another surprise was the second-place finish of Aptos. Aptos was led by triple winner Jessica Johnson, a freshman Johnson won the 100 in 12.5, the 200 in 26.2 and the 400 in 1:15.0.

Harbor was led by double winner Kelly Blaffield, a sophomore, who won the 400 in 1:03.0 and the 800 in 2:24.0. There was a chance for Harbor to tie the Aptos — but Harbor was disqualified in the 400 relay (upon taking second place) for passing before the zone. "We got disqualified in the 400 relay and that cost us the difference between probably second place and third place right there," said Harbor Coach Gary Grellmann. "That was a 10-point difference there. That would have put us at 98 and Aptos at 98."



Kaitz
counted as
finals

	Cantoni	Mile				
	Johnson	Article				
	Jill Thomas	HJ				
No Silver Bronze INFO						

No Silver Bronze INFO



The real thing

Bill Longenecker/Entine

APTOS — Aptos High shotputter John Kaitz was the only athlete at Thursday's SOCAL track and field championship trials who was competing for real. While the rest of the league will be battling Saturday at Cabrillo College, Kaitz will be taking a college entrance test, and was allowed to participate Thursday. See story on page C2.