

Stephens Paces Viking Harriers To 1953 PAL Title

Long-striding Roger Stephens paced Palo Alto to the Peninsula Athletic League cross country championship yesterday, touring a 1.72 mile Stanford course in the record time of 8:34.9.

The Vikings had 41.5 points to annex the team crown with Jefferson taking second place. Lincoln's Marv Gross was second and Willow Glen's Walt Swarthout fourth. Eight of the 65 finishers were clocked under the 9-minute mark.

An expected duel between Stephens and Don Bowden, state half-mile king from Lincoln, did not materialize. Bowden was ordered to bed early in the week because of a cold.

Bill Wilson, Santa Clara ace not eligible to compete in the PAL meet, won a special race in 8:40, a new course mark until Stephens lowered the boom with his sterling performance.

Top eight finishers:

Stephens 8:34.9; Gross 8:44; Ronald Larrieu (Palo Alto) 8:47; Walt Swarthout (Willow Glen) 8:48; Jim Rector (Jefferson) 8:53; Craig Stillman (Carmont) 8:55; Bill Hillyard (Capuchino) 8:56; and Allan Richter (Capuchino) 8:57.

Team scores:

Palo Alto 41.5; Jefferson 92; Carmont 107; Sequoia 108.5; Capuchino 122; Burlingame 148; Willow Glen 174; Lincoln 183; Menlo-Atherton 191; and San Jose 196.