

**NEWS  
release**

MEL SLOCUM  
Communications Director  
345-5192

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

# CHICO STATE COLLEGE

First and Normal Streets, Chico, California

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The nation's third best collegiate cross country team, Larry Burleson's Chico State Wildcats, heads for Davis this Saturday to face the fifth and seventh best teams in the nation as well as the rest of the league in the Far Western Conference Championships at 11 a.m.

The Wildcats, who were paced by Mike Dailey who finished 10th at the Nationals and Bob Darling who captured 14th, must be considered the favorite, but the showing that Humboldt, Davis and Sacramento State may have narrowed the odds markedly.

Humboldt State led by standout Bill Scooby who placed eighth in Madison, Illinois last Saturday only lost to the Wildcats by four points earlier in the season. Burleson was very impressed with their performances at the National's stating that the Lumberjacks were a much improved team over the one his squad raced back on October 18.

Being the host school, the U.C. Davis Aggies will be even more of a threat than they were at the NCAA Championships.

Chico ran exceptionally well on the Davis course three weeks ago with their first five runners Dailey, Darling, Jim Estes, Ralph Patten and Rob Laxson all clipping the existing course record while winning 20-36. Davis like the Wildcats is extremely well balanced with any one of their top three runners capable of leading them on a particular day.

Sacramento State sent only two harriers to Wheaton, but Bob Jamison and Steve Dean placed impressively 17th and 23rd. If there were a dark horse, it is the Hornets.

Hayward and San Francisco State are stronger than last season but neither made the jump that the other four accomplished. The way that their top runners place will, however, have an effect on the final standings of the others.

The top five finishers from each school are counted and the stronger Hayward and San Francisco run the more it will spread out the rest of the pack.

The Davis course is the best in the Conference and much like the Wheaton run that many of these harriers made last weekend.

Coach Burleson praised Davis' Coach Bill Adams for setting up "one of the toughest, yet most interesting and challenging courses I have seen."

With such a fine field of teams which have shown the nation the strength of the Far Western Conference and such an excellent race facility, this Saturday's FWC race should be the most exciting league championship ever.

Burleson has also selected Gene Meyers and Bob Wear to compliment Dailey, Darling, Estes, Laxson and Patten. Estes holds the course record which he broke by 51 seconds three weeks ago.