

NEWS
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ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

CHICO STATE COLLEGE

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Coach Larry Burleson and his top seven harriers will leave Thursday for the National Cross Country Championships in Wheaton, Ill. next Saturday.

Making the trip are Mike Dailey, Bob Darling, Jim Estes, Rob Lanson, Howard Miller, Jim Moyle, and Ralph Patton.

This is the finest group of cross country runners in the school's history.

Dailey, Darling and Estes have shared the first place spotlight this season with the rest right behind.

The Wildcats finished undefeated in dual meet competition with a 20-38 victory over Cal State Hayward on Saturday.

One very encouraging factor in favor of the local harriers is that the course in Davis is very similar to the one they will run in Wheaton. Although there wasn't snow in Davis to complicate matters, the Wildcats behind the tremendous running of Estes, (who broke the course record by 51 seconds), and Darling, Dailey, Lanson, and Patton (who also shattered the existing mark) left little doubt that a strong and healthy 'Cat contingent could surprise some people in the East and place high at Wheaton.

Coach Burleson can't predict anything because he knows very little about the schools in the East where cross country is a more highly regarded sport than on the West Coast. Last year, the University of Nevada won the Nationals but was disqualified, as it was in the Far Western Conference championships, because of ineligible runners. Thus the national crown went to Eastern Illinois with MIT second.

It is encouraging to note that U.C. Davis finished 5th last year and according to Burleson are an improved team this year. The Wildcats out raced the Aggies 20-36 just two weeks ago.

So much depends on the weather conditions and the physical health of the runners on the run day that it's tough to know how the local hopefuls might do, but the potential is there and they are at full strength for one of the few times this season.

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