

# The Anonymous Harriers

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Jogging has become something of a national fad in recent years, but how many people know what cross country is?

Ask the average person what a harrier (the term for cross country runners) is, and he'll look at you as if you just escaped from the local funny farm.

Oh, sure, a few friends and relatives and perhaps the most fanatic of track nuts might show up at a race, but who else would bother?

One reason is that it's nearly impossible to follow the

happenings of a four-mile race unless you're competing in it. Another is that very few people get excitement about a group of young men running up, down and around hills for 20 minutes.

But, nonetheless, the athletes have to be in great condition to even finish a race, let alone win one. The sport is physically demanding as much as it is unrewarding from a standpoint of publicity and fanfare.

Ironically, runners who grab

headlines during track season go virtually unnoticed in cross country simply because of the anonymity of the sport.

It should be noted that several local prep harriers are now making big strides, if not headlines, on the college level.

Two of the best from the Peninsula in recent years, Chris Carey of Carlmont and Bob McCarty of St. Francis, are running for ex-College of San Mateo coach Berny Wagner at Oregon State. Carey, a sophomore at OSU, was the

Northern California perp runner of the year in '68, while McCarty, a freshman, won the same honor last year.

Mike Dailey, a former standout at Sequoia High and CSM, is the ace of Chico State's cross country squad. Daily, a senior, won All-America mention last year and finished second last week to pace Chico to victory over UC Davis and Hayward State.

Donn Wells of Woodside High has been running well for Davis this year, according to coach Bill Adams.

Another ex-St. Francis ace, Bernie Lahde, placed sixth in Stanford's win at the Sacramento State Invitational last week but missed the USC meet with a sore tendon.