

HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

THOM HUMT(34) Undefeated. Beat Hulst at Mt. SAC Invitational.

Others: Eric Hulst(14), Tim Holmes (11), Hal Schultz(8), Don Moses(7), Chris Hughes(2), David Pascal(1), Brian Blue(1), George Aguirre(1). Last year's selection: Ralph Serna.

With the lack of a high school cross country state meet the selection of the California high school cross country athlete of the year is somewhat subjective. Top vote getters in 1975 were Hal Schultz from the Bay Area, Eric Hulst and Don Moses from Southern California, Tim Holmes from the San Joaquin Valley, and Thom Hunt from San Diego. One prep harrier, however, was thought to be most outstanding and received the most votes, and that was Thom Hunt from Patrick Henry High School in San Diego. Thom won everything in San Diego and beat Eric Hulst at the Mt. SAC Invitational (Hulst ran faster than Moses in the CIF Finals). Schultz didn't go undefeated and, in fact, lost to Holmes in the post season PAAAU Junior Championships. It sure would have been fun to have seen all of these athletes go at it in a state meet; but without such an animal Thom Hunt is the one considered the Outstanding California High School Cross Country Runner for 1975.

Seventeen year old Thom Hunt is quite a remarkable track and road racer as well as a super harrier. The 5-8, 120 pound senior has good times from the mile (4:07.9) on up to the marathon (2:24:04). He has also recorded a fantastic double with 4:08 and 9:02 just 55 minutes apart. Other track times are a 14:18.4 for 5,000 meters and a 29:46.0 for 10,000.

California Track News San Diego Area correspondent, Noel Montrucchio, talked with Thom several days after his speedy 2:24:04 marathon at the recent AAU Nationals. Thom possesses a fresh, mature approach to distance running.