

State H.S. Meet

November 29: Fresno. Unofficial California High School State Cross Country Championships.

Camarillo High School and Costa Mesa High School are the California State High School Cross Country team champions. Of course, it's unofficial as the California Interscholastic Federation (C.I.F.) - the governing body of prep sports in California - does not host such an event. Can you believe California is the only state in the Union that doesn't have a state prep cross country championship? Well, it does have one now!

The Kinney Western Cross Country Championships held November 29th are the closest thing to a State competition. As we advertised, even though runners could not represent their high schools or wear their school uniforms, we would have people at the meet who would be scoring it as the "Unofficial" State Meet. We had 3 of the best California prep experts on hand to do that - Keith Conning, Doug Speck and Howard Willman. You can't get better than the combination of these three - between them they knew where just about everybody from California was from.

The Fresno Track Club worked hard to get the best runners and teams in the state here for this important meet. Every school received a Kinney announcement. We passed out flyers at major meets, advertised in Track & Field News, Runners World, the Harrier, Nor Cal Running Review as well as our own California Track & Running News. On top of that the Fresno Track Club provided free housing in members homes.

A State Meet has to start somewhere. We feel this is the start. California Track & Running News has for years pressed for a State Prep Cross Country Championships. Between C.I.F. red tape, individual section (there are 10 of them) differences and many coaches squabbles about distance/divisions/awards/etc. it has been an uphill struggle. We believe we have a start with this Kinney meet and will continue to work toward that day when C.I.F. has their own "Official" State Cross Country Meet.

As far as California Track & Running News is concerned Camarillo and Costa Mesa are the STATE CHAMPIONS.

NOTES FROM HOWARD WILLMAN

Camarillo, which finished only 9th in Southern Section 4A meet (without its top runner), didn't compete very often this season due to injuries and illnesses to some of its members. Winning by 1:01

over Southern Section champ Thousand Oaks, however, gives them strong enough claim to the California title. Thousand Oaks, which had a time span from its first to fifth runner of just 12 seconds, didn't come on strong until the end of the season. They were fourth at Mt. SAC and fourth at the Palos Verdes Invitational, where Los Gatos finished second. Los Gatos, Northern California and Central Coast Section champ, suffered their worst finish of the year here (third) after winning every invitational their team entered except Palos Verdes (second by three seconds to Mira Costa) and the 2-mile postals (second by 37 seconds to Mission San Jose). Bellarmine, although located just seven miles from Los Gatos, met Los Gatos for only the second time this year, the first being the Central Coast Section Finals where a sub-par performance put them in fourth place and one berth from a slot at the NorCal meet. Their top five, which includes the NorCal sophomore and freshman of the year, loses but one runner to graduation. Costa Mesa, second in the Southern Section by three points to Thousand Oaks, won the prestigious Mt. SAC meet by 15 seconds over Valhalla of El Cajon (after tying on points). Among the notable no-shows were Valhalla; Corcoran, third at Mt. SAC; University (Irvine), fifth at Mt. SAC and third in the Southern Section; Bella Vista (Fair Oaks), second NorCAL and Sac-Joaquin Section champ; Monte Vista (Cupertino), second in the Central Coast Section and third NorCal; and Castro Valley, North Coast Section champ.

In the girls' race, Costa Mesa won by almost 10 minutes, although missing was University (Irvine), which beat them in the Southern Section meet and at Mt. SAC (by over 3 minutes in the latter). Runaway NorCal winner Miramonte (Orinda) was also absent, although, they would have been very hard pressed to keep up with University.

California High School Team Scores

Boys:

1	Camarillo (Camarillo)	79:33
2	Thousand Oaks (Thousand Oaks)	80:34
3	Los Gatos (Los Gatos)	82:02
4	Bellarmino (San Jose)	82:19
5	Costa Mesa (Costa Mesa)	82:28
6	Righetti (Santa Maria)	94:54

Girls:

1	Costa Mesa (Costa Mesa)	94:04
2	Merced (Merced)	104:50
3	Righetti (Santa Maria)	117:06