

HIGH SCHOOL STATE X-C MEET

Dennis DeWitt, coach at Madera High and Chairman of California Coaches Association for Cross Country, has sent out the following letter and proposal for a much needed and long overdue High School Cross Country State Championship. In the past there has been much bickering between cross country coaches on the details of such a meet, its date, divisions, etc. Dennis wants to emphasize the importance of all coaches unifying to first of all get CIF to approve the meet, then iron out the differences over the next few years. If the coaches can't initially agree that a meet is important and unify their efforts it will never become a reality.

Here's the letter and Proposal:

Dear Coach,

As you can see, we are attempting to hold a State Cross Country Meet in 1980, in Fresno. We need your help. We must convince each C.I.F. Board (of each section) that this would be the easiest sport to add to the State Meet Championships. (And at no cost to C.I.F.)

This proposal has a few problems, but they could be solved by each section. Example - L.A. City Finals were on Dec. 8th last year and need to be moved to the week before Dec. 6th, 1980.

A better way of qualifying from the L.A., Southern, and San Diego Sections would be to hold a Southern California Championship and have the top 7 teams and 14 individuals qualify from that meet. But, if we wait for this to happen, the State Meet might never be held!!! Let's get a State Meet now and then improve the qualifying methods.

Date: Saturday, December 6, 1980 (rain or shine). **Time** 1:00 pm. **Sponsor:** The Central Section, the North Yosemite League with Co-Meet Directors being Dee DeWitt of Madera High, Mike DeCarli of Clovis High, and Tim Belcher of Fresno High. **Place:** Woodward Park in Fresno. **Races:** There will be one 3 mile race for boys, and one 2 mile race for girls.

Qualifying: The following sections will compete at the Northern California Championships on November 29, 1980: Central, Central Coast, Northern, North Coast, Oakland, Sac Joaquin, San Francisco. Seven teams and fourteen individuals would advance. The Los Angeles City would qualify two teams and 4 individuals. The Southern Section would qualify 1 team and 2 individuals from 1-A & 2-A, and 2 teams and 4 individuals from 3-A & 4-A. The San Diego Section would qualify 1 team and 2 individuals from each of their three divisions.

Totals: 18 teams and 36 individuals for both boys and girls. **Entry fee:** \$2.00 per individual and \$14.00 per team. **Expenses** would be met by entry fees. **Course:** Woodward Park in Fresno - mostly hard pack dirt with some grass and some asphalt. Mild ups and downs over rolling hills. This location (in Fresno) is centrally located in the state and is within 4 to 7 hours away from the farthest competing school. The course is wide enough to host approximately 170 runners and has been the site of many recent State Junior College meets and NCAA meets.

Dennis DeWitt would like to hear from interested coaches and would appreciate any help you can offer toward making this meet a reality: Dee DeWitt, Madera High School, 200 South "L" St., Madera 93637.

Another note for high school coaches: Fresno is being considered as the site for the Kinney Western Regional Cross Country Qualifier for 1980. This same December 6 date is being considered, too. If there is a state meet it could work in conjunction with the Kinney meet - probably two races- the state meet and another race for out of state. Anyway mark December 6 on your calendar now and hope to be in Fresno on that day.