

# NATIONALS

## Kinney Cross Country Championships

December 12, Orlando, Florida, 5,000 meters.

It was a long way to go for a cross country meet, but this was the High School National Championships. The best preps in the USA would be meeting here, so it was well worth the efforts of a long trip and long season. After some sterling performances in the Western Qualifying meet the week before, the hopes of the 16 Western representatives were high.

After a day of getting to know each other, the girls elected Lori Lopez of Los Angeles as Team Captain. The boys elected Co-Captains in Harold Kuphaldt of Fair Oaks and Bryan Carroll of Carson City, Nevada.

The girls ran first and it only took a half mile for the eventual winners to put 50 yards between themselves and the pack. Connie Robinson of Ohio and Lois Brommer of Pennsylvania ran neck and neck all alone with Robinson having the stronger finish sprint. After the first mile and a half loop the Western girls were way out of the running, and deserve a lot of credit for pressing hard the second time around and making up many, many places.

The boys race was just the opposite with a giant pack, including most of the Western runners, all the way. California's Harold Kuphaldt and Virginia's Charles Alexander surged ahead with a half mile to go, Alexander outspurring Kuphaldt in the final 100 yards.

A look at the adjacent results will reveal some obvious disappointments, like a 13th and 14th place finish for the Western champions. Even though the Western athletes ran very tough in the nation's toughest high school competition, and even though the boys were a solid first place team and the girls a solid second, im-

mediately after the race there was a feeling of disappointment among the runners — until everyone had time to reflect on the performance and how well everyone really did. Of the 30 All Americans named (15 boys and 15 girls), 14 of them were from the West. In the combined scoring the West was again the National champ.

I couldn't help but wonder, too, if one week of rest between the regionals and the nationals was enough for this time of season. The other regions all had two weeks between their qualifying meet and the national meet. Most of the Western runners had to run their hearts out one week after another for six weeks: League, Section Qualifying, Section, Nor Cal or TAC, Kinney West, Kinney National. What a haul! Not to complain, but another week of rest would have made a world of difference for some.

In addition to a few disappointments, there were also the come-throughs, like Harold Kuphaldt, Eric Reynolds and Keith Morrison going 2-3-4. Reynolds is just a junior made great improvement after a disappointing seventh in his CIF Section Championship. Eric's coach, Herb Potter, went to Florida for the race and predicted before that Eric would do well - he proved a prophet, but did he know how well? It was no easy task for Herb to get to Florida. He, Eric, and Eric's parents sold hot dogs at a high school football game to raise the funds for the ol' coach.

The Kinney Nationals is a great experience for the athletes. They are treated first class all the way, just as if they were on a US team: travel, room and board, side trips to Disney World, running suits, sweats, travel bags, etc. The Kinney people are to be commended for a job well done in providing an exceptional experience for high school runners.

The only real complaint from the athletes was the course - completely flat and bad footing over bunches of grass and patches of

sand. A comparison of times from the Western Regional (a moderately hilly course) with those of Nationals (perfectly flat) will reveal the handicap of the footing. Maybe we're spoiled in California where we have courses like Mt. SAC, Crystal Springs, and Woodward Park.

**Girls:**

1	Connie Robinson(Cincinnati)	16:40.4
2	Lois Brommer(Mechanicsburg,PA)	16:43.2
3	Lynne Strauss(State College,PA)	16:59.9
4	Laura Craven(Columbus,OH)	17:01.0
5	Janet Smith(Edison,NJ)	17:11.7
6	Vickie Cook(Northridge,CA)	17:17.6
7	Tania Fischer(CanogaPark,CA)	17:21.8
8	Marilyn Morreale(Glen Ellen,IL)	17:23.2
9	Inga Thompson(Reno,NV)	17:24.8
10	Kim Roth(Salem,OR)	17:26.6
11	Kathleen Ebner(W.Covina,CA)	17:29.2
12	Theresa Gschwind(Summit,NJ)	17:31.5
13	Laura Whitney(StonyBrook,NY)	17:33.2
14	Marilyn Davis(Orinda,CA)	17:34.9
15	Lori Lopez(LosAngeles,CA)	17:35.5
16	Patti Fredrick(Neeneh,OH)	17:40.1
17	Denise Ball(NewburyPark,CA)	17:43.5
18	Andrea Volpe(Springfield,VA)	17:45.7
19	Cathy Schiro(Dover,NH)	17:51.1
20	Karen Harris(Madison,WI)	18:05.0
21	Cecile Gaines(Blacksburg,VA)	18:11.4
22	Meg Waldron(Bernardsville,NJ)	18:20.2
23	Diane Terry(Richmond,VA)	18:35.3
24	Maria Large(Bristol,VA)	18:38.3
25	Valerie Roback(Blacksburg,VA)	18:40.9
26	Greta Belke(WestBend,WI)	18:42.3
27	Kristy Walker(FtWayne,IN)	18:46.9
28	Jill Kingsbury(Washington,MO)	18:48.7
29	Sandra Braasch(OrangePark,FL)	18:49.0
30	Alena Palmquist(Marietta,GA)	18:53.6
31	Deahn Hendrixson(Northglenn,CO)	18:58.7
32	Elizabeth Hester(Bristol,VA)	19:12.1

**Team Scores:** 1 Northeast 26, 2 Western 43, 3 Midwest 71, 4 Southern 111.

**Boys:**

1	Charles Alexander(Richmond,VA)	14:51.9
2	Harold Kuphaldt(FairOaks,CA)	14:55.9
3	Eric Reynolds(Somis,CA)	14:58.3
4	Keith Morrison(Peoria,AZ)	15:00.8
5	Mike Connelly(GreenLane,PA)	15:01.2
6	Bryan Carroll(CarsonCity,NV)	15:04.5
7	Steve Taylor(St.Marys,WV)	15:05.1
8	Brian Jaeger(WinterPark,FL)	15:05.4
9	Matthew McGuirk(Eugene,OR)	15:05.7
10	Gary Lewis(SanJose,CA)	15:06.1
11	Kevin Thatcher(Edmond,OK)	15:06.4
12	Keith Hanson(StevensPt,WI)	15:06.7
13	Jeff Holyfield(LaCrescenta,CA)	15:08.6
14	Jeff Grove(Bloomington,IN)	15:09.3
15	Victor Treat(CollegeStn,TX)	15:09.6
16	Carlos Hanze(Bayville,NJ)	15:11.3
17	Curt Corvin(Tacoma,WA)	15:12.3
18	Chris Gorman(S.Weymouth,MA)	15:15.3
19	Kevin Ambrose(Manassas,VA)	15:16.7
20	Stephen Spillar(GreatBend,KS)	15:24.3
21	Bob Mau(RockyRiver,OH)	15:26.7
22	Huron Jackson(Richmond,VA)	15:28.8
23	Jim Knudsen(Lockport,IL)	15:35.0
24	Tom Fischer(Englishtown,NJ)	15:36.6
25	Ken Costello(Columbia,SC)	15:39.9
26	Robert Hipwood(LosAlamos,NM)	15:40.9
27	Shawn Coghlan(Brockton,MA)	15:45.8
28	Jeff Hyman(Avon,CT)	15:50.4
29	Mark Rusciolo(Manassas,VA)	15:51.4
30	Richard Trimmer(Austin,TX)	16:11.1
31	Marty Bassett(Bloomington,IN)	16:19.1

**Team Scores:** 1 Western 24, 2 Southern 65, 3 Northeast 67, 4 Midwest 80.



THE WEST IS BEST