

Mt. SAC Invitational

From DOUG SPECK

October 30-31. Mt. San Antonio College.

On Friday, October 30th, and Saturday, Halloween, high schools gathered at Mt. SAC for the thirty-third annual top-quality invitational. A change in this year's meet was to go with smaller school boys and girls races on Friday afternoon, and the larger schools running on Saturday. Past years featured girls on Friday and boys on Saturday, which made for some interesting bus rides for outlying schools two straight days. School sizing for races was a bit of a change, with schools able to request competition in Sweepstakes Races with top squads from all sizes. With Southern Section schools broken down into four divisions for their Sectional competition, this was a chance to see some top teams and individuals head to head for the only time. This is the first year at three miles for the ladies, and the Sweepstakes match-up would appear to give us an idea as to what a good girls time over this hilly course would be. The only regret was that in keeping with its last Saturday in October date the meet was held less than a week prior to most League Finals races -- many in a tough League competition were late cancellations or never entered.

Friday's Division I match-ups of smaller schools featured La Canada's boys and Laguna Beach's girls in big Sweepstakes wins. 3A schools for Sectional competition due to the past successes of their League Coach Pat Logan's and Jim Toomey's squads showed their power when against schools of their own size.

On Saturday the large schools came to SAC, with some of Friday's individuals and squads choosing to wait until Saturday to face the Big Boys (and Girls). Saturday got to be pretty hot around noon when the best races came (84 degrees officially), and definitely slowed times a touch when compared to Friday's near-perfect cool conditions.

The coming together of a super crop of girls individuals in the Sweepstakes was Saturday's highlight. Vickie Cook (Alemany), Polly Plumer and Theresa Barrios (University, Irvine), Tanya Fisher (Chaminade, Canoga Park), Denise Ball (Newbury Park), and Lori Lopez (Sacred Heart, LA) had all been winning races in times that looked like typographical errors or else they had super credentials.

