

# Willow Glen wins a squeaker; Lo

By David Woods  
Staff Writer

**BELMONT** — Greg Martin was incredulous.

The Willow Glen coach was waiting for the points to be added in the Central Coast Section cross-country meet, and he couldn't believe that the Rams were so close to prerace favorite Leigh.

"I thought they were untouchable," he said. "My kids said all along, 'We can run with 'em.'"

The Rams were right. When the mud settled (there was no dust on this rainy Tuesday), they had repeated as boys team champions by the closest of margins.

Willow Glen and Bellarmine each had 105 points, with the championship decided on the basis of best finish by the sixth runner. Ian Jensen was 56th for Willow Glen, and Alex Miroschenenko 84th for Bellarmine.

## Cross-Country

Leigh finished third with 115.

Los Gatos ended St. Francis' three-year reign as girls champion and in doing so became the first school ever to win CCS titles in both boys and girls divisions. Los Gatos won the boys title in 1980. The first CCS girls race was in 1977.

The victory was an emphatic one for Los Gatos, which put all seven runners ahead of St. Francis' fifth and defeated the Lancers 68-88. Menlo-Atherton was third with 143.

Last year's individual winners both repeated as champions.

San Mateo senior Matt Giusto covered the slippery 2.93-mile course at Crystal Springs in 15:04.1 to beat runner-up Chris Craig of Leigh by 24½ seconds in the boys race. Troy Curran of York (Monterey) was

third, and CCS mile champion Tom Legan of Del Mar moved up at the end to finish fourth.

Mountain View sophomore Shannon Clark won the girls race even more decisively, clocking 17:44.8 to finish 37 seconds ahead of another sophomore, surprise runner-up Monica Daley of Los Gatos. Daley, a hurdler in track, had never run cross-country until this year.

Silver Creek junior Nanette Garcia, who was expected to be Clark's main challenger, finished 1½ minutes behind in 16th.

The top three teams, plus six individuals who are not members of those teams, qualified for Saturday's Northern California meet at Sierra College in Rocklin.

Willow Glen's boys had to start from square one this year. Orbin Jones retired after coaching Willow Glen to three CCS titles, and Martin took over. But besides losing its coach, Willow Glen also lost all but two of its top seven runners. It didn't

# s Gatos girls take title

matter.

"The kids know how to win at Willow Glen in cross-country," Martin said.

"Our kids are mudders. If their names were on the racing form, they'd have an asterisk by them."

Greg Rivera, who was 15th last year, led Willow Glen by finishing sixth. No one other Ram finished in the top 25, but the next four finished in a bunch — Vic Santa Maria (27th), Hector Barron (34th), sophomore Dave Rivera (41st) and Aurelio Mendoza (42nd).

Martin conceded that the rain "helped neutralize things for us," and Willow Glen made the most of its advantage. The Rams had gone to Crystal Springs last Saturday, another rainy day, to inspect the course and identify the slippery spots.

"I was slipping all over the place," said Craig, who lost contact with Giusto after 1½ miles and fell steadily farther behind. "The harder I tried, the more I slipped.

I've run in the mud the last three years, and this is the worst."

But Craig was quick to credit Giusto, who had hoped to run in the 14:30s but didn't mind the rain. "Last year my league meet was like this, and I won," Giusto said. "For some reason, I run well in the rain."

Both Giusto and Craig hope to be among the eight runners to qualify for the West team that will run in the national meet Dec. 10 at San Diego. The Western Regional is Dec. 3 at Woodward Park in Fresno.

Los Gatos had four girls in the top 30. Besides Daley, they were Therese Fisher (15th), Ann Wimmer (25th) and Laura Henry (26th). Melissa Foster was 32nd, Debbie Taylor 43rd and Livia Peras 44th.

Although conditions of the course made it difficult to make up ground, that is what Daley had to do after falling in a puddle while making the first turn.

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