

Giusto, Clark favored to repeat as champs in CCS cross country

By Paul Salvoni
Times Tribune staff

San Mateo High School's Matt Giusto and Mountain View's Shannon Clark are favored to repeat as champions in Tuesday's Central Coast Section cross country finals, but both will face tough challenges.

The girls' race starts at 3 p.m. at Belmont's three-mile Crystal Springs course, followed by the boys' race at 3:30. The top three teams, along with the top six individuals on non-qualifying teams, qualify for the Northern California finals.

Giusto, whose winning time in last year's CCS meet at Crystal Springs was 15:04.8, ran 14:40.3 in the Peninsula Athletic League finals Nov. 3. That mark, achieved in ideal weather conditions, is believed among the top half-dozen in course history.

But the course will not be in ideal condition following weekend rain.

Giusto's stiffest competition is expected to come from Leigh's Chris Craig, an easy winner in the Region III final, and Del Mar's Tom Legan, who finished ninth in Region III after recovering from an early fall.

Legan and Craig finished sixth and 11th, respectively, in last year's CCS meet.

Realistically, only two other runners are given a shot at dethroning

Prep roundup

Giusto — Region II champion James Green of Gunderson and Region III titlist Sean Crowley of Overfelt. Crowley ran 14:54 in the Crystal Springs Invitational early last month.

Even if Craig fails to win the individual title, Leigh looks like the favorite to capture the team title. The Longhorns' chief competition is expected to come from Region I champion Bellarmine and Region III runner-up Del Mar.

Willow Glen, Peninsula Athletic League champion Carlmont, Santa Clara Valley Athletic League titlist Mountain View and PAL runner-up Menlo-Atherton are given only an outside chance to challenge for one of the three NorCal team berths.

In the girls' race, Mountain View's Clark, a sophomore, looks like a slim favorite over Silver Creek's Nanette Garcia, the Region III champion.

Garcia beat Clark at the Artichoke Invitational Oct. 1, but Clark prevailed at the Stanford Invitational Oct. 10.

St. Francis, the defending NorCal champion, and Los Gatos look like the only threats to win the girls' team title. St. Francis, led by twins



Shannon Clark
... won CCS title as a freshman.

Kim and Karen Himines, beat runner-up Gunderson by 61 points in the Region II finals.

Volleyball

Fremont opens defense of its NorCal championship Tuesday at 8:15 p.m. at Sunnyvale Junior High against Sac-Joaquin Section runner-up Elk Grove.

In other first-round matches Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., at-large entry Los Altos visits North Coast Section champion Ygnacio Valley in Concord, Mountain View plays at the San Francisco Section champion, and North Coast Section runner-up Amador meets Sac-Joaquin Section champion Davis.

The winners will meet in the semifinals Nov. 29.

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