

Locals run for places in nationals

Mountain View's Clark, San Mateo's Giusto contend

FRESNO — Mountain View's Shannon Clark and San Mateo's Matt Giusto are not expected to win the girls' and boys' races, respectively, in Saturday's Kinney Western Region high school cross country meet — but they are given a good chance of placing among the top eight finishers.

Four races will be held in the meet at Woodward Park.

The girls' unseeded race starts at 11 a.m., followed by the boys' unseeded race at 11:30. The girls' seeded race begins at noon, followed by the boys' seeded race at 12:30.

The Western Regional includes runners from 12 states — Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New

Prep cross country

Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

It is one of four regional meets being held in the country. The top 64 runners — the top eight boys and the top eight girls from each regional — earn a trip to Kinney's national meet next Saturday at San Diego's Balboa Park.

Clark and Giusto won their second consecutive Central Coast Section titles Nov. 22, and both finished second in last week's Northern California finals at Sierra College in Rocklin.

Clark finished five seconds behind Davis' Sally Pinkner. Giusto finished two seconds behind Castro Valley junior Calvin Gaziano, although Gaziano presumably would have won by a greater margin had he not taken a wrong turn.

Aside from Pinkner, Clark is expected to be challenged by at least five other runners — Palos Verdes' Kirsten O'Hara, Vacaville's Joni Mooney, San Gabriel's Silvia Mosqueda, Arroyo Grande's Chantal Plante and Orange Glen's Pauline Steehley.

O'Hara is undefeated this season and looks like the favorite. Her twin sister, Stacy, also could finish among the top eight.

The boys' favorite looks like Tracy Garrison of Klamath Falls, Ore. Garrison won the 1,500- and 3,000-meter races in Oregon's state track finals last spring, then won the state cross country title last month.

Gaziano, Pasadena's Jesus Guterrez, Barstow's Jim Ortiz and Pat Goodlake of San Diego's Fallbrook High also are top contenders.

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Cross country

Two-time CCS champions Shannon Clark of Mountain View and Matt Giusto of San Mateo are among those competing in today's Kinney Western Regional meet at Fresno's Woodward Park.

Clark, a sophomore, will run in the seeded girls' race at noon. Giusto, a senior, will compete in the seeded boys' race at 12:30.

The top eight girls' and boys' finishers earn berths in Kinney's national finals next Saturday at San Diego's Balboa Park.

Clark and Giusto both finished second in last Saturday's NorCal finals at Sierra College in Rocklin.

Giusto third in regional cross country — Los Altos fourth in state volleyball

Special to the Times Tribune

FRESNO — The cross country season still hasn't ended for San Mateo High School's Matt Giusto and Mountain View's Shannon Clark.

Both two-time Central Coast Section champions ran well enough Saturday to qualify for next week's Kinney National Championships.

Giusto finished third in the boys' race and Clark placed sixth in the girls' race in Kinney's Western Regional meet at Woodward Park. The top eight boys and top eight girls earned berths in the national meet next Saturday at San Diego's Balboa Park.

The national meet will include 64 runners — 32 boys and 32 girls. Three other regional meets were held in the country and the top eight boys and top eight girls from each regional qualified for the nationals.

Gusts of wind blew during Saturday's meet, but the course was in good, dry condition, despite early morning rainfall.

Giusto still had a shot at winning with 300 yards left in the 5,000-meter race, but he was outkicked by Tracy Garrison of Klamath Falls, Ore., and Calvin Gaziano of Castro Valley.

In a dramatic finish, Garrison won in 14:54.0, beating Gaziano by only two-tenths of a second.

Giusto's third-place time was 15:01, one second faster than fourth-place Simon Gutierrez of Albuquerque, N.M.

"I think he's ready for it," San Mateo coach Don Dooley said of Giusto's chances in the nationals. "I think he'll do very well.

"It will be a clean run, too. With only 32 runners, the field won't be overcrowded."

Nine other CCS runners placed in the top 75 in the boys' race, led by 24th-place finisher Chris Craig of Leigh.

Craig finished second to Giusto in last month's CCS finals at Belmont's Crystal Springs course.

Prep roundup

Three Peninsula boys were among the top 64, including two from Santa Clara Valley Athletic League champion Mountain View.

Rich Clark, Shannon's older brother, finished 58th and teammate Craig Blockhus, a sophomore, placed 64th. Capuchino's Paul Ghidossi finished 48th.

Other CCS boys among the top 75 were Gunderson's James Green (34th), Willow Glen's Greg Rivera (51st), Soquel's Marc Goulet (61st), Overfelt's Sean Crowley (71st) and York's Troy Curran (75th).

In the girls' race, the 85-pound Clark completed the course in 18:01, one second behind fifth-place runner Chantal Plante of Grover City.

Kirsten O'Hara of Palos Verdes ran away from the girls' field in 17:25, beating runner-up Sally Pinkner of Davis by 26 seconds.

Pinkner and Clark finished one-two in last week's Northern California finals at Sierra College in Rocklin.

Aside from Clark, eight other CCS girls finished among the top 56 — Gunderson's Laurie Chapman (14th), Silver Creek's Nanette Garcia (23rd), Leigh's Rebecca Chamberlain (24th), Los Gatos' Monica Daley (25th), Westmoor sophomore Sabrina Han (29th), Terra Nova's Lori Wilson (32nd), Harbor freshman Kelly Ilnicki (39th) and Burlingame's Silvia Aguirre (56th).

Cross country

KINNEY WESTERN REGIONAL MEET
At Woodward Park, Fresno
(5,000 meters)

For the top eight boys' and top eight girls' finishers, home towns are listed in parentheses, not their high schools.

Boys

Top eight qualified for Kinney's national meet in San Diego:

Individual leaders — 1, Tracy Garrison (Klamath Falls, Ore.) 14:54.0; 2, Calvin Gaziano (Castro Valley) 14:54.2; 3, Matt Giusto (Foster City) 15:01; 4, Simon Gutierrez (Albuquerque, N.M.) 15:02; 5, Glenn Morgan (Albuquerque, N.M.) 15:10; 6, Pat Watson (Palos Verdes) 15:12; 7, Jody Fischer (Gillette, Wyo.) 15:15; 8, Pete Vicencio (Auburn) 15:16.

Other CCS runners among top 75 — 24, Craig Leigh (Leigh) 15:41; 34, Green (Gunderson) 15:49; 48, Ghidossi (Capuchino) 15:57; 51, Rivera (Willow Glen) 15:58; 58, Clark (Mountain View) 16:02; 61, Goulet (Soquel) 16:04; 64, Blockhus (Mountain View) 16:05; 71, Crowley (Overfelt) 16:11; 75, Curran (York, Salinas) 16:14.

Girls

Top eight qualified for Kinney's national meet in San Diego:

Individual leaders — 1, Kirsten O'Hara (Palos Verdes) 17:25; 2, Sally Pinkner (Davis) 17:51; 3, Silvia Mosqueda (Rosemead) 17:56; 4, Christine Sientz (Spokane, Wash.) 17:59; 5, Chantal Plante (Grover City) 18:00; 6, Shannon Clark (Mountain View) 18:01; 7, Marnie Mason (Klamath Falls, Ore.) 18:02; 8, Kathy Jarvis (Havre, Mont.) 18:07.

Other CCS runners among top 75 — 14, Chapman (Gunderson) 18:26; 23, Garcia (Silver Creek) 18:40; 24, Chamberlain (Leigh) 18:40; 25, Daley (Los Gatos) 18:42; 29, Han (Westmoor) 18:48; 32, Wilson (Terra

Nova) 18:50; 39, Ilnicki (Harbor) 18:58; 56, Aguirre (Burlingame) 19:18.5.

12/9

12/10

Cross country

Mountain View sophomore Shannon Clark and San Mateo senior Matt Giusto will run in the girls' and boys' races, respectively, in Kinney's national high school meet Saturday at San Diego's Balboa Park.

Clark and Giusto, both two-time CCS champions, are among 32 girls and 32 boys who earned national-meet berths by placing among the top eight runners in four regional meets last week. Clark finished sixth and Giusto third in Fresno's Western Regional.

Cross country

Local runners Matt Giusto and Shannon Clark are entered in today's Kinney cross country championships at San Diego's Balboa Park.

Clark, who won two consecutive Central Coast Section championships while competing for Mountain View, and Giusto, who did likewise for San Mateo, are expected to finish among the top runners.