

St. Francis girls keep alive bid to win fourth CCS title in row

11/16

By Paul Salvoni
Times Tribune staff

BELMONT — St. Francis High School's girls Tuesday kept alive their bid for a fourth consecutive Central Coast Section cross country title, while Gunn's girls lost their chance for a fifth straight berth in the Northern California finals.

St. Francis, led by twins Kim and Karen Himenes, won the CCS Region II title at Crystal Springs' three-mile course with 69 points to 130 for Gunderson, followed by Santa Clara Valley Athletic League members Mountain View (133), Palo Alto (135) and Gunn (144).

The top four teams (as well as runners among the top 10 percent who were on non-qualifying teams) qualified for next week's CCS meet, so Gunn narrowly missed out. The CCS girls' race is scheduled Tuesday at 3 p.m., followed by the boys' race at 3:30.

Gunn's girls had won six consecutive SCVAL titles before being outscored by Palo Alto and Mountain View in last week's league finals.

In the boys' race, fourth-place runner Rich Clark of Mountain View was the Peninsula's top finish-

Region II cross country

er. Teammate Craig Blockhus placed fifth.

Gunderson's Jim Green won in 15:07, beating Willow Glen's Vic Santa Maria by 34 seconds. Willow Glen took the team title, however, with 44 points to 67 for Mountain View.

The meet included schools from the SCVAL and De Anza and Santa Teresa athletic leagues.

On an individual basis, neither race was close. Mountain View sophomore Shannon Clark, the defending CCS champion, easily won in 17:44 to beat Gunderson's Laurie Chapman by 34 seconds. Lynbrook's Michelle Seck was third and Gunderson's Deena Adams fourth.

Boys' coach Mike Sesich and girls' coach Brendan Leary of Mountain View were happy after their teams had qualified for the CCS meet.

"Two years ago, we had two girls

on the team, and now we're going to the CCS finals," Leary said.

"Instead of running an individual race, we had her (Clark) hold back for the first mile and try to control the pace for her teammates. I think she enjoyed being able to look back and set a pace."

Leary is confident Clark will repeat as CCS champion.

"Right now she's very healthy and sound," he said.

Clark's leading competitor next week is expected to be Silver Creek's Nanette Garcia, who finished sixth in last year's CCS finals.

Kim and Karen Himenes finished fifth and seventh, respectively, for St. Francis Tuesday, and teammates Dana Rositano and Diana Rossman placed 14th and 20th. All four are juniors.

Anne Petersen finished 19th to lead Palo Alto to fourth.

In the boys' race, Gunn junior Roger Kohne, Saratoga's Doug Gollieher, Mountain View's Paul Hoover and Saratoga's Eugene Tung finished sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth, respectively. Gollieher, Tung and 13th-place runner Rich Salazar helped Saratoga earn a CCS berth with a third-place finish.

Cross country

Prep scoreb

CENTRAL COAST SECTION REGION I FINALS At Crystal Springs, Belmont (3.0 miles)

CENTRAL COAST SECTION REGION II FINALS At Crystal Springs

Boys
Team scores — 1, Bellarmine 61; 2, Carmont 95; 3, Menlo-Atherton 111; 4, St. Francis 140; 5, Serra 154; 6, Half Moon Bay 158; 7, South San Francisco 187; 8, San Mateo 201; 9, Aragon 230; 10, Capuchino 229; 11, St. Ignatius 244; 12, Jefferson 264; 13, Westmoor 279; 14, Woodside.

Individual leaders — 1, Giusto (San Mateo) 14:56; 2, Becerra (Mills) 15:01; 3, Wickstrom (Serra) 15:22; 4, Ghidossi (Capuchino) 15:28; 5, Leonard (St. Francis) 15:34; 6, Ayers (Bellarmine) 15:36; 7, Ramirez (S. San Francisco) 15:40; 8, O'Flaherty (Bellarmine) 15:42; 9, Thompson (Half Moon Bay) 15:49; 10, Dye (Half Moon Bay) 15:48; 11, Allen (Bellarmine) 15:52; 12, Barlo (Menlo-Atherton) 15:54; 13, Montazer (Carmont) 15:56; 14, Lopez (Menlo-Atherton) 15:58; 15, name unavailable (Jefferson) 15:59; 16, Paone (Bellarmine) 16:04; 17, True (St. Francis) 16:09; 18, Armstrong (Carmont) 16:10; 19, Bullock (Carmont) 16:10; 20, Merrington (Jefferson) 16:13.

Boys
Team scores — 1, Willow Glen 44; 2, Mountain View 67; 3, Saratoga 83; 4, Leland 128; 5, Gunderson 142; 6, Monta Vista 165; 7, Gunn 172; 8, Lynbrook 184; 9, Milpitas 233; 10, Homestead 245; 11, Santa Clara 278; 12, Palo Alto 308; 13, Lincoln 325.

Individual leaders — 1, Green (Gunderson) 15:07; 2, Santa Maria (Willow Glen) 15:41; 3, Barron (Willow Glen) 15:42; 4, Clark (Mtn. View) 15:43; 5, Blockhus (Mtn. View) 15:53; 6, Kohne (Gunn) 15:55; 7, Gollieher (Saratoga) 15:58; 8, Hoover (Mtn. View) 16:00; 9, Tung (Saratoga) 16:02; 10, Rivera (Willow Glen) 16:07; 11, Mendoza (Willow Glen) 16:19; 12, Matthews (Santa Clara) 16:20; 13, Salazar (Saratoga) 16:24; 14, Pepper (Homestead) 16:24; 15, Orozco (Milpitas) 16:39; 16, Marriottini (Mtn. View) 16:41; 17, Dalez (Gunderson) 16:41; 18, Jensen (Willow Glen) 16:43; 19, Spencer (Leland) 16:46; 20, Politoski (Leland) 16:47.

Girls
Team scores — 1, Half Moon Bay 55; 2, Menlo-Atherton 80; 3, Terra Nova 103; 4, San Mateo 114; 5, Mills 119; 6, Aragon 128; 7, Burlingame 144; 8, Westmoor 151; 9, Sacred Heart 181; 10, Carmont 222.

Individual leaders — 1, Han (Westmoor) 17:51; 2, Wilson (Terra Nova) 18:40; 3, Aguirre (Burlingame) 18:48; 4, Ferreira (Half Moon Bay) 19:05; 5, Harilaub (Burlingame) 19:17; 6, Williams (Terra Nova) 19:25; 7, Faisle (Half Moon Bay) 19:55; 8, Kendall (Mills) 19:57; 9, Holmes (Menlo-Atherton) 19:57; 10, DeMarval (Menlo-Atherton) 20:05; 11, Auerback (Aragon) 20:09; 12, King (Half Moon Bay) 20:13; 13, Carlson (San Mateo) 20:16; 14, Charette (Mills) 20:31; 15, Sendino (Half Moon Bay) 20:40; 16, Horstmeier (Menlo-Atherton) 20:41; 17, P. Harrison (Half Moon Bay) 20:51; 18, Harrison (Half Moon Bay) 20:51; 19, Bennett (Aragon) 20:57; 20, Villavicencio (San Mateo) 20:58.

Girls
Team scores — 1, St. Francis 69; 2, Gunderson 130; 3, Mountain View 133; 4, Palo Alto 135; 5, Gunn 144; 6, Homestead 147; 7, Willow Glen 156; 8, Leland 171; 9, Lynbrook 205; 10, Milpitas 226; 11, Santa Clara 263; 12, Saratoga 279; 13, Fremont 374; 14, Lincoln 394.

Individual leaders — 1, Sh. Clark (Mtn. View) 17:44; 2, Chapman (Gunderson) 18:18; 3, Seck (Lynbrook) 18:34; 4, Adams (Gunderson) 18:47; 5, Kim Himenes (St. Francis) 18:50; 6, Bungo (Milpitas) 18:56; 7, Ka. Himenes (St. Francis) 18:58; 8, Buckler (Saratoga) 19:00; 9, Castello (Willow Glen) 19:08; 10, DeMoss (Leland) 19:13; 11, Burtness (Gunn) 19:20; 12, Sheehan (Gunderson) 19:27; 13, Naughten (Homestead) 19:50; 14, Rositano (St. Francis) 19:53; 15, Hart (Homestead) 19:54; 16, Woods (Santa Clara) 19:55; 17, Van Zant (Wilcox) 19:57; 18, Tieferl (Mtn. View) 20:00; 19, Petersen (Palo Alto) 20:04; 20, Rossman (St. Francis) 20:06.