

# Clark family sweeps SCVAL finals

## Mountain View wins boys' title, Palo Alto takes girls' championship

By Paul Salvoni  
Times Tribune staff

BELMONT — To nobody's surprise, it was strictly a family affair in Tuesday's Santa Clara Valley Athletic League cross country finals at Crystal Springs' three-mile course.

Mountain View High School's Rich and Shannon Clark won the varsity boys' and girls' races, respectively, and Shannon's twin sister, Stacy, a freshman, finished 13th in the varsity girls' race.

Rich Clark and sophomore Craig Blockhus finished one-two as Mountain View won the boys' team title with 27 points to 66 for Gunn and 87 for Milpitas.

Led by the Clark sisters, Mountain View's girls did well enough to end Gunn's streak of six consecutive SCVAL titles — but Palo Alto did even better. Palo Alto, led by sixth-place finisher Alice Deisinger, compiled 59 points to beat Mountain View (61) and Gunn (64).

The top five teams qualified for the Central Coast Section Region II finals next Tuesday at 2:10 p.m. at Crystal Springs. Individuals who placed among the top 10 percent of the runners also qualified, regardless of their teams' finish.

"Palo Alto simply ran great today," said Gunn coach Hal Daner, whose girls are

### Prep cross country

seeking a team berth in the Northern California finals for the fifth consecutive year. "I still think we may have one of the top five teams in the CCS, but give Palo Alto and Mountain View credit."

Shannon Clark, who won the CCS title as a freshman last year, completed the course in 18:02 to beat Gunn's Laura Burtness by 1:05. Milpitas' Kelly Bungo was third, followed by Wilcox's Becki Van Zant and Santa Clara's Marta Champeny.

The Palo Alto girls' top five finishers were Deisinger, Anne Petersen (seventh), Denise Novotny (ninth), Jennifer Rich (10th) and Emily Hartzell (27th).

"This is by far the best team-oriented group I've had since I've been coach," said Paul Jones, in his fifth season as either the boys' or girls' coach at Palo Alto.

Mountain View dominated the boys' race as Rich Clark, Blockhus and Paul Hoover placed one-two-four, separated only by third-place finisher Mike Matthews of Santa Clara. Dave Mariottini and Scott Lessing

placed seventh and 13th, respectively, to complete the Spartans' 27-point total.

Clark's winning time of 15:48, which beat Blockhus by two seconds and Matthews by four, was more than a minute slower than the 14:40.3 by San Mateo's Matt Giusto in last week's Peninsula Athletic League finals — but Clark said his main concern is the team's success.

"Willow Glen and Saratoga will be very tough (in the Region II meet), but we feel we should be able to finish at least third," Clark said.

Two years ago, Mountain View had only two runners out for its girls' team — and finished the season with only one. But Mike Sesich and Brendan Leary, in their third season as the Spartans' boys' and girls' coaches, respectively, have built a healthy program.

"I think there are good distance runners in this area, and we're getting them out for the team," Sesich said.

"Brendan and I both care about running. We like to run in marathons, and I think that helps. We run with the kids during the workouts, and we try to get them to figure, 'Hey, these guys are old and gray and ugly — we've got to be able to beat them.'"

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**Mountain View, Santa Clara Prep roundup**  
 Mountain View High School is the only team that can prevent Santa Clara from winning its third consecutive Santa Clara Valley Athletic League water polo title.  
 In Tuesday's SCVAL playoff opener, Todd Brannon and Dan Candelaria each scored three times as round-robin champion Santa Clara eliminated Gunn, 12-8, and Steve McCoy scored three goals as Mountain View beat Palo Alto, 7-6.  
 Santa Clara plays Mountain View Thursday at 3 p.m. in the SCVAL playoff finals. If

### Cross country

#### SANTA CLARA VALLEY FINALS At Crystal Springs (3.0 miles)

##### Varsity boys

Team scores — 1, Mountain View 27; 2, Gunn 66; 3, Milpitas 87; 4, Palo Alto 90; 5, Santa Clara 108; 6, Los Altos 109; 7, Wilcox 176.

Individual leaders — 1, Clark (MV) 15:48; 2, Blockhus (MV) 15:50; 3, Matthews (SC) 15:52; 4, Hoover (MV) 16:02; 5, Orozco (Mil) 16:25; 6, Kohne (G) 16:31; 7, Mariottini (MV) 16:50; 8, Smith (Mil) 16:53; 9, Arnoff (G) 17:01; 10, Nowlis (PA) 17:05; 11, Such (PA) 17:08; 12, Smith (Mil) 17:09; 13, Lessing (MV) 17:15; 14, Osborn (G) 17:16; 15, Hamerton-Kelly (G) 17:16.

##### Fresh-soph boys

Team scores — 1, Gunn 36; 2, Palo Alto 50; 3, Los Altos 61; 4, Mountain View 88; 5, Milpitas 122; Santa Clara and Wilcox incomplete.

Individual leaders — 1, Smith (MV) 17:31; 2, Hesterman (G) 17:38; 3, Cunningham (LA) 17:41; 4, Sheehan (G) 17:41; 5, Large (PA) 17:43.

##### Varsity girls

Team scores — 1, Palo Alto 59; 2, Mountain View 61; 3, Gunn 64; 4, Milpitas 96; 5, Santa Clara 104; 6, Wilcox 130; Los Altos incomplete.

Individual leaders — 1, Sh. Clark (MV) 18:02; 2, Burtness (G) 19:07; 3, Bungo (Mil) 19:12; 4, Van Zant (Wil) 19:42; 5, Champeny (SC) 19:46; 6, Deisinger (PA) 19:48; 7, Petersen (PA) 19:49; 8, Pickering (G) 19:50; 9, Novotny (PA) 19:52; 10, Rich (PA) 19:55; 11, Woods (SC) 20:11; 12, Tiefert (MV) 20:13; 13, St. Clark (MV) 20:19; 14, Paaso (LA) 20:24; 15, Kubokawa (G) 20:38.

##### Junior varsity girls

Team scores — 1, Palo Alto 18; 2, Mountain View 46; 3, Gunn 66; 4, Milpitas incomplete.

Individual leaders — 1, McKinley (PA) 21:27; 2, Zulman (PA) 21:29; 3, Bass (PA) 21:38; 4, Del Nevo (PA) 21:56; 5, Smith (MV) 22:21.

### Water polo

#### PENINSULA LEAGUE

Sequoia 1545 — 15  
 San Mateo 0014 — 5  
 S — Ozsvath 6, Mecchi 4, Rogers 2, Lenci, Koch, Volksen.  
 SM — Boverman, Nabe, Robbins, Roepke, Taylor.

Serra 6395 — 23  
 Carimont 3421 — 10  
 S — Khan 7, Heinzen 7, Laine 6, Looze 2, Marques.

C — LaPaglia 4, Akinshin 2, Wal-lach 2, Schmidt, Fraumeni.

#### SANTA CLARA VALLEY Playoffs — first round At Palo Alto High

Palo Alto 2112 — 6  
 Mountain View 3220 — 7  
 PA — Backstrand 2, Field, Jack, Halladay, Graessle.

MV — McCoy 3, Quimet 2, Thompson, Krokorian.

Gunn 2321 — 8  
 Santa Clara 3225 — 12

G — Silverberg 3, Kumer, Rosenberg, Dickens, Dillard, Mrad.  
 SC — Brannon 3, Candelaria 3, Callin 2, Clark 2, Filla, Westbrook.

### XCCER

#### BAY AREA CONFERENCE

Playoffs — first round  
 At Kezar Stadium  
 College Prep 00 — 0  
 Woodside Priory 01 — 1  
 WP — Colchett (Sprinkle)