

Bells' runners sweep finals in the WCAL

Ayers wins individual honors with a school-record effort

Whether Bellarmine Prep's cross country team is strong enough to win the Central Coast Section title remains to be seen — but nobody can doubt the Bells' supremacy in the West Catholic Athletic League.

Led by senior Shawn Ayers' school-record effort, Bellarmine had the individual winner in all four divisions and won all four team titles in Wednesday's WCAL finals at Belmont's Crystal Springs course.

Ayers completed the three-mile course in 15:22 to beat Serra junior Rob Wickstrom by 12 seconds in the varsity race. Ayers' time broke his school's course record by one second, and was 17 seconds faster than his own previous best at Crystal Springs.

Once again, the Bells' depth was far too much for their WCAL counterparts. Shane O'Flaherty, Keith Allen, Max Mancini, Ed Paone and Steve Raman finished 3-5-6-8-9

Prep roundup

for Bellarmine, which compiled 23 points to 64 for Serra and 73 for St. Francis.

St. Francis' Paul Leonard and Chris True placed fourth and seventh, respectively.

Bellarmino is the first school to win four consecutive WCAL varsity titles. Serra and St. Francis won three straight titles from 1974-76 and 1977-79, respectively.

Bellarmino's Bill Doheny, Tim Callon and James Roberson won the JV, sophomore and freshman races, respectively.

The next test for Bellarmine comes at the CCS Region I meet Nov. 15 at Crystal Springs. The top four teams in that meet, as well as any individuals from non-qualifying teams who finish in the top 10 percent, qualify for the CCS meet Nov. 22.

Bellarmino, Leigh, Del Mar, Saratoga, Willow Glen, Carlmont and Menlo-Atherton appear capable of challenging for the CCS boys' title.

Cross country

WEST CATHOLIC FINALS
At Crystal Springs, Belmont
(3 miles)

Varsity

Team scores — 1, Bellarmine 23; 2, Serra 64; 3, St. Francis 73; 4, St. Ignatius 95; 5, Riordan 145; 6, Mitty 155; 7, Sacred Heart 189.

Individual leaders — 1, Ayers (B) 15:22; 2, R. Wickstrom (S) 15:34; 3, O'Flaherty (B) 15:47; 4, Leonard (SF) 15:54; 5, Allen (B) 16:05; 6, Mancini (B) 16:06; 7, True (SF) 16:13; 8, Paone (B) 16:14; 9, Raman (B) 16:18; 10, Cabada (R) 16:22; 11, O'Leary (SI) 16:23; 12, Moore (S) 16:26; 13, Orchia (S) 16:29; 14, Heine (B) 16:30; 15, Riordan (SI) 16:45.

Junior varsity

Team scores — 1, Bellarmine 21; 2, Serra 41; 3, Riordan 88; 4, St. Francis 114; 5, Sacred Heart 138; 6, Mitty 149; 7, St. Ignatius 153.

Individual leaders — 1, Doheny (B) 16:50; 2, Kimball (S) 17:09; 3, Beste (B) 17:21; 4, Holte (B) 17:21; 5, Conneely (S) 17:25.

Sophomores

Team scores — 1, Bellarmine 28; 2, Serra 64; 3, Mitty 75; 4, St. Ignatius 83; 5, St. Francis 114; 6, Sacred Heart 121; 7, Riordan 141.

Individual leaders — 1, Callon (B) 16:39; 2, Fisher (B) 16:51; 3, Fanon (S) 17:00; 4, Lewis (SF) 17:14; 5, Conneely (S) 17:17.

Freshmen

Team scores — 1, Bellarmine 33; 2, Serra 48; 3, St. Francis 80; 4, St. Ignatius 83; 5, Riordan 107; 6, Mitty 120; 7, Sacred Heart 130.

Individual leaders — 1, Roberson (B) 16:59; 2, Stanek (B) 17:06; 3, Hollan (SI) 17:18; 4, Kelly (S) 17:46; 5, S. Wickstrom (S) 17:49.

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