



# CALIFORNIA

## Track & Running News

### ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

# 1987

1987 was another exciting year for track and running in the Golden State. There's hardly a week-end anymore without some type of track and field or running event producing outstanding, noteworthy, performances. Add to that the usual slug of invitationals and championships and you've got another memorable year of track and running in California.

As we now move into the 1988 action, we can still hang on to some of the highlights of the past year with the annual *California Track & Running News* Athlete of the Year selections.

Again this year ballots were mailed out to our panel of selectors. They rated the top athletes in each category of their specialty from one to five. A first place vote received 10 points, a second place vote received 6 points, third 4, fourth 2, and fifth 1 point. Then it was just a matter of adding up the points to determine who the athlete of the year was in that particular category. Simple enough. Not really.

With 50 categories of voting, selecting the top athletes in California is no small job. It's impossible for any one person to know everything about all aspects of this game in California. We think our panel had broad enough representation to sort it all out and come up with worthy selections.

The following experts contributed to the voting in one or more categories: Percy Knox, Jack Shepard, Bruce Springbett, Ruth Anderson, Patyon Jordan, Mark Winitz, John Mansoor, Red Estes, Don Ruh, Tony Sandoval, Al Sheahen, Doug Speck, Bill Minarik, Keith Conning, Bill Cockerham, Bob Seaman, Howard Willman, Bob Larsen, Gordon Fitzel, Bob Womack, Mel Shine, Paul Reese, Sieg Lindstrom, Jim Sackett, John Wenos, Dick Slotkin, Ken Dose, Gregor Robin, Pete Mundle, Tom Pagani.

#### High School Boys Track & Field

##### QUINCY WATTS

Top sprinter in the nation. Fifth on *Track & Field News* ballot for HS Athlete of the Year. Eight races under 10.54 and won Junior Olympics 100/200 in 10.30/20.50.

Others: While Watts got all the first place votes, Brent Burns pulled in all of the second place votes with his 17-8 1/2 vault mark. Steve Lewis, Joel Smith, Dave Bultman, Paul Thomas, Percy Knox and Corey Ealy also pick up a number of votes.

Previous Selections: Rich Kimball 1974, Dedy Cooper 1975, Larry Doubley 1976, James Sanford 1977, Dave Porath 1978, Bill Green 1979, Charles Mayfield 1980, Pete Richardson 1981, Steve Kerho 1982, Maurice Crumby 1983, Joe Richardson 1984, Henry Thomas 1985, Eric Mastalir 1986.

#### High School Boys Cross Country

##### IAN ALSEN

Wasn't able to participate at the first State Meet, but beat all the state champions the week later at the Kinney Western Meet.

Others: Also picking up a good number of votes were Jaime Ortega, Dave Scudamore, Bryan Dameworth, Ben Ayers and Goshu Tadese.

Previous Selections: Ralph Serna 1974, Thom Hunt 1975, Tim Holmes 1976, Frank Assumma 1977, Jeff Nelson 1978, John Frank 1979, Jay Marden 1980, Harold Kuphaldt 1981, Eric Reynolds 1982, Calvin Gaziano 1983, Calvin Gaziano 1984, Mark Mastalir 1985, Marc Davis 1986.

#### High School Girls Track & Field

##### JANEENE VICKERS

Nobody even close in the voting here, as Janeene was also voted the *Track & Field News* Athlete of the Year as she went

undefeated in the 100 meter hurdles with a best of 13.34.

Others: Close in the voting for second were Kira Jorgensen, number one in the US in the mile with a 4:47.66; and Madette Smith, number one in the US in the long jump with 20-11.

Previous Selections: Mary Decker 1974, Cathy Sulinski 1975, Freida Cobb 1976, Ann Regan 1977, Cheri Williams 1978, Sherri Howard 1979, Sherri Howard 1980, Denean Howard 1981, Denean Howard 1982, Natalie Kaaiawahia 1983, Leslie Maxie 1984, L. Johnson 1985, Janeene Vickers 1986.

#### High School Girls Cross Country

##### KIRA JORGENSEN

Kira did it all in 1987. Won the State Meet, won the Kinney Western Regional and then the Kinney National Championships.

Others: Nobody was even close, but frosh. Deena Drossin had the next highest number of votes.

Previous Selections: Debra Johnson 1974, Suzanne Keith 1975, Vicky Bray 1976, Susan Sanchez 1977, Roxanne Bier 1978, Vickie Cook 1979, Vickie Cook 1980, Vickie Cook 1981, Cory Schubert 1982, Kirsten O'Hara 1983, Rebecca Chamberlain 1984, Laurie Chapman 1985, Katy McCandless 1986.

#### J.C. Men Track & Field

##### KENNY WASHINGTON

State champion in both the 800 and the 1500 meter runs.

Others: Washington was the clear winner, with Ron McCree, Ron Hooks, Damon Lee, and Dave Parsel the other major point getters.

Previous Selections: James Robin 1974, Grant Niederhaus 1975, Mi Hampton 1976, Houston McTear 1977, Kenneth Hayes 1978, Andre Phillips 1979, Joe Staub 1980, Tyke Peacock 1981, Sandy