

Mills High girls cross-country team makes state finals

By Rob Bhatt

Depth of talent has enabled the Mills High women's cross country team to head into this weekend's state finals even though an injury has forced its number one runner to miss the qualifying meets.

"The character of our team has held together," coach Ed Parker said, commenting on his team's ability to qualify for the finals despite the loss of Diana Harlick, who suffered a stress fracture to her lower leg over a month ago. Earlier this year, Harlick's first place finish in the Stanford Invitational, combined with strong performances by the rest of the squad, enabled Mills to replace La Jolla High as the top ranked cross country team in the state.

The Mills team lost its top ranking after Harlick was sidelined by her injury.

In last week's central coast section meet in Belmont, three of the teams runners, Jeanene Harlick (Diana's twin sister), Erin Brightwell and Yadira Taylor finished in the top ten with times under 20 minutes, while Kathy Morse finished with a strong time of 20:28.

Meanwhile, sophomore Tiffany Pang, thrust into the position of scoring runner due to Diana's loss, finished strong enough to enable the cumulative time of the team's top five runners to rank second and qualify for the state meet.

Diana Harlick started the race, but was forced to take herself out



The Mills High School girls cross-country team coached by Ed Parker is among the best in the state, despite an injury to one

of their top runners to a stress fracture. The team recently won an important meet in Belmont.

due to the lingering effects of the stress fracture.

Harlick has been following a daily regimen of cycling and swimming to keep herself in shape while nursing her injury.

Parker indicated he is hopeful the team's top runner will be able

to run at full strength for this weekend's race, however, due to the injury, neither himself nor Diana are sure how well she will be able to perform.

No matter how they do in the finals, the women on the team will continue to run. In addition

to the high school track season waiting on the distant horizon, Parker indicated the corps of the team is comprised of honors students who have been able to arouse the interest of college recruiters looking to attract runners to their programs.

Bicentennial event

The Millbrae Bicentennial Commission will hold a Bill of Rights Gala on December 12 at the Millbrae Recreation Center beginning at 6:30 p.m.