

**CROSS COUNTRY****Central Section meet****5 kilometers at Woodward Park**

Top two teams and five individuals not on those teams qualify for the state meet Nov. 25. Top four teams and top five individuals not on those teams qualify for the Grand Masters on Thursday.

**■ DIVISION 1****Boys**

Juan Chavira, Hanford, 15:58; Elpidio Leyva, Madera, 16:17; Michael Kasahun, Fresno, 16:18; Arthur Negrete Clovis, 16:28; Jacob Ekins, Bullard, 16:30; Mario Zambrano, Madera, 16:38; Steve Barrus, Clovis, 16:41; Arrando Negrete, Clovis, 16:46; Matt Larsen, West, 16:48; Andres Bazante, Madera, 16:49.

**Teams** — Madera 46, Clovis 50, Fresno 53, Roosevelt 121, Hanford, 158, Clovis West 161, West 192, Bakersfield 212, Bullard 222, McLane 252, Hoover 304.

**Qualifying for state** — 12, Rito Fuentes, Fresno, 16:55.

**Qualifying for grand masters** — 14, Jeremy Tullis, CW, 16:57, 22, Estevan Romero, CW, 17:29.

**Girls**

Stefanie McCarty, Madera, 19:02; Emili Lawson, Clovis West, 19:41; Kym Pilger, Clovis, 19:48; Christie Gregory, Clovis; 19:56; Sanjuana Gomez, Roosevelt, 19:59; Erica Florez, Bakersfield, 20:05; Amber Houchin, Clovis, 20:27; Jennifer Toler, Clovis West, 20:32; Christine Krumm, Bakersfield, 20:37; Sarah Smith, Clovis West, 20:43.

**Teams** — Clovis 40, Clovis West 49, Roosevelt 98, Madera 99, Bakersfield 117, West 158, Bullard 88, Fresno 194, McLane 21, McCarty, A. Donovan, Sanchez, Anderson, Torres, Reyes, G. Dawson) 65, Hoover 299, Hanford 302.

**Qualifying for state** — 13, Claudia Mayo, Roosevelt, 20:53.

**Qualifying for Grand Masters** — 15, Rebekah Larsen, West, 20:59; 17, Anna Rios, Bakersfield, 21:11; 18, Dana Burkholder, Bakersfield, 21:16.

**■ DIVISION 2****Boys**

Noel Nelson, Redwood, 15:55; Jorge Castro, Arvin, 16:13; Jose Godinez, Reedley, 16:19; Luis Herrera, Arvin, 16:27; Robert Lopez, Sanger, 16:37; Matt Duma, Mt. Whitney, 16:41; James Mandelsson, Stockdale, 16:44; Chad Schmidt, North, 16:51; Siverio Osorio, Reedley, 16:54; David Flores, Arvin 16:55.

**Teams** — Reedley 62, Arvin 79, Golden West 117, South 119, North 128, Mount Whitney 142, Redwood, 152; Sanger 180, Buchanan 208, Monache 232, Tulare 260, Highland 305, Foothill 332.

**Girls**

Tracie Dumler, North, 19:19; Angela Ruiz, Reedley, 19:33; Annable Ortiz, Reedley, 19:43; Rachel Bauer, Buchanan, 19:55; Tracy Cohn, Stockdale, 20:01; Melina Brambila, Monache, 20:13; Latanya Sumlin, North, 20:22; Therese Nesmith, Mount Whitney, 20:23; Yebel Rodriguez, Reedley, 20:23; Jocelyn Keller, Buchanan, 20:31.

**Teams** — Buchanan 52, Reedley 57, Stockdale 97, Golden West 119, North 127, Monache 152, Mount Whitney 166, Sanger 222, Foothill 238, Redwood 264, Highland 270.

**Qualifying for Grand Masters** — 23, Beth Weston, Highland, 21:40.

**■ DIVISION 3****Boys**

Miguel Raya, Wasco, 16:38; Jorge Rebollo, Mendota, 16:47; Matt Gonzales, Centennial, 17:00; Omar Jeronimo, Dinuba, 17:01; Chano Luviano, Dinuba, 17:01; Ramiro Arias, Mendota, 17:10; Hugo Ochoa, Mendota, 17:16; Ryan Suburu, Ridgeview, 17:17; Alex Gomez, Shafter, 17:26; Alejandro Palacios, Corcoran, 17:32.

**Teams** — Mendota 61, Shafter 72, Centennial 96, Corcoran 146, Wasco 149, Dinuba 185, Yosemite 196, Lemoore 206, Exeter 228, Central 236, Tehachapi 298, East Bakersfield 269, Ridgeview 334, Edison 361, Tulare Western 377, Washington 434.

**Qualifying for Grand Masters** — 12, Conner Bright, Lemoore, 17:39.

**Girls**

Veronica Sanchez, Wasco, 19:09; Irma Guillen, Shafter, 20:09; Nichole Urmston, Centennial, 20:23; Kristie Gonzales, Exeter, 20:31; Fidelina Perez, Wasco, 20:43; Maria Banuelos, Exeter, 20:53; Jeanne Abalo, Lemoore, 20:56; Kaylee Brittain, Centennial, 21:08; Kassia Regehr, Exeter, 21:17; Veronica Morgado, Wasco, 21:26.

**Teams** — Exeter 58, Centennial 62, Yosemite 86, Wasco 101, Lemoore 120, Shafter 153, Edison 182, East 212, Ridgeview 220, Tehachapi 77.

**Qualifying for Grand Masters** — 12, Gloria Gonzalez, East, 21:33; 17, Doral Henry, Lemoore, 21:53; 18, Emily Lopez, Shafter, 21:55.

**■ DIVISION 4****Boys**

Micah Fuson, Taft, 16:02; Kerry Rhoads, Sierra, 16:19; Joel Lopez, McF, 16:25; Rudy Cavazos, McF, 16:33; Gerardo Soto, McF, 16:41; Jose Perezchica, McF, 16:42; Jose Arambula, McF, 16:53; Rudy Ballardo, McF, 16:57; Ryan Soares, Sierra, 17:44; Steve Moreno, Fowler, 17:59.

**Teams** — McFarland 25, Taft 91, Sierra 94, Firebaugh 96, Parlier 125, Kingsburg 170, Garces 202, San Joaquin Memorial 212, Fowler 221, Tranquillity 229.

**Qualifying for state** — 11, Pablo Vasquez, Firebaugh, 18:01; 12, Antonio Estrada, Tranquillity, 18:02.

**Qualifying for Grand Masters** — 16, Brent Watkins, Chowchilla, 18:29; Eusebio Herrera, Kingsburg, 18:31; 19, Francisco Pera, Parlier, 18:32.

**Girls**

Tracy Bowling, Taft, 19:43; Cristina Sanchez, McFarland, 19:51; Laura Davis, McF, 19:53; Niki Salcido, Taft, 20:36; Tanya Gonzalez, McF, 20:44; Ashlee Pinasco, S.J.M., 21:03; Jessica Hackler, Taft, 21:09; Lisa Eggleston, Taft, 21:14; Meredith Christian, Garces, 21:25; Vanessa Cooney, S.J.M., 21:41.

**Teams** — Taft 31, McFarland 35, San Joaquin Memorial 68, Garces 91, Tranquillity no score.

**Qualifying for state** — 11, Gina Goodfriend, Lindsay, 21:51.

**Qualifying for Grand Masters** — 15, Anna Pena, Parlier, 2:20; 17, Margret Sheriffs, Fowler, 22:43; 18, Cynthia Aca-pols, Sierra, 22:49; 20, Ebona Birch Carl, Sierra, 23:21.

■ Madera's Stefanie McCarty and Redwood's Noel Nelson both say they weren't running their best, but they still managed to record the fastest times of the day in the eight-race Central Section cross country championships.

By Lisa Burnett  
The Fresno Bee

Madera High's Stefanie McCarty and Redwood's Noel Nelson said they didn't feel they were running their best races Thursday in the Central Section cross country championships, but they might have trouble convincing the rest of the field.

McCarty led start to finish in the Division 1 race, completing the 5-kilometer course at Woodward Park in 19 minutes 2 seconds. That was the fastest girls' time of the day.

Nelson, who missed last week's West Yosemite League race because of a back injury, took the lead in the second mile of the Division 2 race en route to the fastest boys' time of the day — 15:55.

McCarty easily beat Emil Lawson, the defending champion from Clovis West who was second in 1941.

"This race, I wasn't as mentally ready as last week," McCarty said, referring to her Northwest Yosemite League championship run. "I just said, 'Well, Lord, help me through this.' And he did."

Nelson said he was a bit tentative in his first race after popping a vertebrae into place, but



Nector Amador — The Fresno Bee

**Runaway leader.** There's no one to challenge Madera's Stefanie McCarty, who won the Division 1 girls' race by 39 seconds.

best runner-up Jorge Castro of Arvin by 18 seconds.

"My back bothered me in warm-up and a little bit down hills," Nelson said. "I didn't really go down hill as fast as I could because I was afraid. . ."

Hanford sophomore Juan Chavira came close to Nelson's time, winning the Division 1 boys' race in 15:58.

Defending champion Madera, behind runner-up Egidio Leyva, sixth-place finisher Mario Zambrano and 10th-place Andres Bazante, edged 1994 runner-up Clovis 46-50 for the team title. Clovis also had three runners in the top 10 (Arthur Negrete, fifth; Steve Barrus, seventh and Armando Negrete, eighth).

The top two teams and top five finishers set on the top two

teams in each division qualify for the state meet Nov. 25 at Woodward Park. The top four teams and five individuals set on those teams qualify for next Thursday's section Grand Masters meet at Woodward Park.

In the Division 1 girls' team race, Clovis got a 3-4 finish from Kym Pilger and Chrissie Gregory plus a seventh by Amber Houchin to beat defending champion Clovis West 40-49.

**Division 2:** Defending state champion Buchanan repeated as the girls' winner but got a scare from runner-up Reedley. The Bears, whose top finisher was Rachel Bauer in fourth, scored 52 points. The Pirates, led by 3-3 finishers Angelle Ruiz and Annabel Ortiz, scored 57.

Reedley also had the ninth-

place runner (Yebel Rodriguez), but Buchanan, in typical style, had Nos. 10-12, 15, 16 and 18.

Buchanan coach Marty Simpson said the Bears have been feeling the pressure of being defending state champions and were hampered by the uncharacteristic performance of Tiffany Heilbut, who was Buchanan's seventh runner Thursday: "When [the other girls] start to beat Tiffany, who should be our No. 1 girl . . . it makes them a little nervous."

The Reedley boys had better luck than the girls. Despite being without Michael Lujan, who has run No. 1 or No. 2 all year, the Pirates outscored defending champion Arvin 62-79.

Lujan was suspended for five days for disciplinary reasons, according to Reedley coach Aggie Contreras. But Jose Godines, who has flip-flopped with Lujan all season, picked up the slack, finishing third in 16:19 and splitting up the Arvin duo of Jorge Castro (second) and Luis Herrera (fourth).

**Division 3:** With three runners in the top 10, including runner-up Jorge Rebollo, Mendota scored a convincing victory in the boys' race.

After the girls' race, the Exeter girls stood in a circle, holding hands and pleading for victory while awaiting official results. Their prayers were answered as they nipped defending champion Centennial 58-62.

**Division 4:** Sierra's Kenny Rhoad (16:19), last year's state runner-up, finished second to Taft's Micah Paxon (15:02).

"This year, it feels like I haven't even got started yet, and it's already almost over," Rhoad said. "I feel like I've lost my touch or something. I feel like I can't do it any more."

Central Section - 1 1/10 Woodward Park (Fresno site of State Meet) - 5000m course (course extremely dry and sandy this year--no moisture through 1 1/18). - from Dennis DeWitt/Bob Womack Boys: Div I - 1. Juan Chaviz (Hanford) 15:58, 2. Elpidio Leyva (Madera) 16:17, 3. Michael Kasahun (Fresno) 16:18, 4. Arthur Negrete (Clovis) 16:28, 5. Jacob Elone (Bullard, Fresno) 16:30. Teams: 1. Madera 46 (83:46), 2. Clovis 50 (83:53). Div II - 1. Noel Nelson (Redwood, Visalia) 15:55, 2. Jorge Castro (Arvin) 16:13, 3. Jose Godinez (Reedley) 16:19, 4. Luis Herrera (Arvin) 16:27, 5. Robert Lopez (Sanger) 16:37. Teams: 1. Reedley 62 (85:18 w/o #1 injured), 2. Arvin 81. Div III - Miguel Raya (Wasco) 16:36, 2. Jorge Rebello (Mendota) 16:47, 3. Matt Gonzales (Centennial, Bakersfield) 17:00, 4. Omar Jeronomi (Dinuba) 17:01, 5. Chano Luvianox (Dinuba) 17:01. Teams: 1. Mendota 61 (87:38), 2. Shafter 82. Div IV - Micah Fuson (Taft) 16:02, 2. Kenny Rhoan (Sierra, Tollhouse) 16:19, 3. Joel Lopez (McFarland) 16:25, 4. Rudy Cavazos (McFarland) 16:33, 5. Gerardo Soto (McFarl) 16:41. Teams: 1. McFarland 25 (83:34), 2. Taft 91.

**Central Section - 11/10 Woodward Park (Fresno site of State Meet) - 5000m course (course extremely dry and sandy this year--no moisture through 11/18). - from Dennis DeWitt/Bob Womack - Girls: - Div I - 1. Stefanie McCarty (Madera) 19:02, 2. Emilie Lawson (Clovis West, Fresno) 19:41, 3. Kym Pilger (Clovis) 19:48, 4. Christi Gregory (Clovis) 19:58, 5. Sanjuana Gomez (Roosevelt, Fresno) 20:08. Teams: 1. Clovis 40 (101:54), 2. Clovis West (Fresno) 49 (103:02). Div II - 1. Tracie Durnier (North, Bakersfield) 19:19, 2. Angela Ruiz (Reedley) 19:33, 3. Annable Ortiz (Reedley) 19:43, 4. Rachel Bauer (Buchanan, Clovis) 19:55, 5. Tracy Cohn (Stockdale, Bakersfield) 20:01. Teams: 1. Buchanan (Clovis) 52 (102:17), 2. Reedley 57 (102:27). Div III - 1. Veronica Sanchez (Wasco) 19:09, 2. Irma Guillen (Shafter) 20:09, 3. Nichole Urmston (Centennial, Bakersfield) 20:23, 4. Kristie Gonzales (Exeter) 20:31, 5. Fidelina Perez (Wasco) 20:43. Teams: 1. Exeter 58 (108:40), 2. Centennial (Bakersf) 62. Div IV - Tracy Bowling (Taft) 19:43, 2. Christina Sanchez (McFarland) 19:51, 3. Laura Davis (McFarl) 19:53, 4. Nico Salcido (Taft) 20:36, 5. Tenya Gonzalez (McFarl) 20:44. Teams: 1. Taft 31 (104:39), 2. McFarland 35 (105:40).**