

# Falcons are their 'bests'

## Runners record 46 personal bests

By DICK SPARRER

The word is out—don't run against the Saratoga Falcons on their home cross-country course.

Three teams tried last week, and they found themselves running in Saratoga's dust.

The Falcons recorded 46 personal best times on the 2.0-mile course on the Saratoga campus, and there were enough of them recorded among the Saratoga boys to lead to easy wins over Wilcox, Milpitas and Santa Clara.

The Falcons ran up a low 23 points to finish first in the four-team field. Wilcox was second at 51, with Milpitas third at 74 and Santa Clara fourth at 88.

"Forty-six personal bests tell the story for the Falcon runners," Saratoga head coach Marshall Clark said. "By far, this was the best varsity boys' team effort."

Hank Nothhaft led the Saratoga showing with a second-place finish overall. His time of 10:48 was 10 seconds better than his previous best, a course record time of 10:58 set in 1995.

Alex Daniels knocked a full minute off of his personal best, running 10:54 to finish third for the Falcons, and Nima Nafei bettered his previous best by 55 seconds, finishing fourth in 10:55.

Drew Copeland was sixth in 11:11, Ori Benhamou eighth in 11:29, Alex Shoor ninth in 11:33 and Luke Anderson 11th in 11:44—all personal bests.

The Saratoga girls finished second to Milpitas, but the Falcons still had some great individual efforts in the league meet.

Anne Ricketts was first overall in 12:45.4 for the Falcons. She was less



Photograph by George Sakkestad

*Saratoga distance star Anne Ricketts was running in a tough crowd at the Central Park run, but managed to finish seventh in the rugged field that included powers St. Francis and Los Gatos.*

than four seconds off of her course record of 12:44.8, set last year.

"It was an excellent front-running effort by Anne," Clark said.

Susan Song was third in 13:24, a 59-second improvement on her previous best, and Jenny Yoo was fifth in 13:44, 57 seconds better than her best time on the course.

Justine Lame was 18th overall in 14:42, with Miranda Sun 19th in 14:46, Joan Cheng 20th in 14:56 and Eilene Ozawa 21st in 15:02—all personal bests.

Eric Shan was third in 12:03 and Nobuaki Tomine was fourth in the same time to lead the Saratoga junior varsity boys to wins over Wilcox and Milpitas. Both runners bettered previous bests on the course by over a minute.

Nicholas Lin was fifth in 12:12, with David Yin seventh in 12:16, Robert Kim eighth in 12:33, Steven Teng ninth in 12:38 and Matt Shoor 10th in 12:40.

Saratoga was coming off of a strong showing in the running Cen-

tral Park Invitational in Santa Clara.

Ricketts ran her way into the top 10 in the tough 2.3-mile run, finishing seventh in 15:09. Yoo was 34th in 16:05 for the Falcons.

In the boys' varsity division, Nothhaft finished up 18th overall in 12:50.

David Wilson led the Saratoga boys in the junior varsity race, finishing 15th in 14:16, and Lam was 27th in the girls' jv division in 17:32.

Shan was 35th in 14:30, and Tomine was 36th in 14:32 for the Saratoga frosh-soph boys.