

**6th Annual Jackie Henderson Memorial Post-Meet Story and Results**  
by Coach Gustavo Ibarra



The deepest fields ever individually and as teams and the largest cheering crowds ever made for a historic ***6th Annual Jackie Henderson Memorial Cross Country Invitational*** on Saturday, September 6th, 2025 at North Monterey County High School in Castroville. ***By the end of the day, we had a NEW BOYS TEAM TIME COURSE, several top 10 team times along with 10 boys and 10 girls making our top 25 all-time lists!!*** On to the details!



The day kicked off with a low-key open memorial race and then an open middle school race. As always, it was great to see past runners along with the newest runners enjoying the meet. **Danny Tapia**, class of 2004 at North Monterey County, who ran professionally and represented the United States in the world championships marathon in Russia years ago, took a shot at the course record and came close by **running 14:44 in the 3 mile layout to kick off the day which ended up being the fastest of the day!!** Watch out you masters runners, he will be rocking you guys soon!



**Lily Symon**, who transferred from Los Altos to St. Francis, and is waiting for her CCS clearance, was not to be outdone by Danny and **she roared to a 17:23 open race win for the girls!!! That was the fastest girl of the day and 3rd fastest ever for high school girls**, but, since she ran in the unofficial open race we won't count it on our meet records. BUT, and it's a BIG BUT, the state and country better watch out as she joins the national caliber St. Francis (Mountain View) team down the road as a senior!! Oh my!!!





The open race then continued the fireworks as **Henry Bartle, an 8th grader** at Carmel Middle School, **smoked a 16:19!!** Watch for him to make our top 25 all-time next year as a 9th grader at Carmel High!



The middle schoolers then joined the fun on a 2 mile layout with **Andrew Castaneda**, an 8th grader at San Juan Middle who will head to Hollister High next year **winning in 11:20** followed by **Penelope Samuels**, who also goes to San Juan Middle and headed to Anzar High next year **winning the girls in 12:09!** Her dad prepped at North Monterey County back in the day. And for fun, **Bjorn Plata, a 3rd grader** and son of local legend Victor Plata (who was an Olympic triathlete), snuck into the race and **blitzed a 13:08!**



The open races set the stage for fireworks we saw individually and team wise in the frosh/soph girls as **Emily Williams (10-Windsor) blasted a 18:01**, good for 16th fastest on the course and she led her teammates to a dominating 20 point win over St. Francis (33-53) with St. Ignatius a distant 3rd (93). 6 girls broke 19:00 in this race alone! And, **Windsor ran a spectacular 98:11 team time good for #8 all time on the course.** What a future with an all frosh/soph team going that fast with 5 girls under 20:39!







The frosh/soph boys had one of the closest finishes of the day as **Ignacio Hoglund (10-St. Ignatius)** sprinted past Finn Allan (10-Los Gatos) in the final sprint to get the narrow win **15:44** to 15:45. **Pacific Grove sparkled on the team front** at 71 pts. followed by St. Ignatius (104) and St. Francis (144) , who got back to back top 3 team medals.



The JV Girls showed off the deep **St. Francis** squad as they placed 5 girls in the top 8 with a **dominating 21-85** decision over Woodcreek with St. Ignatius snagging yet another top 3 medal making it 3 for 3 for them and St. Francis. The Lancers were led by race winner **Daniella Buckallew (12) in 19:24** with her teammate Annabel Moore (11) also dipping under 20:00 at 19:58.



The JV Boys continued the West Catholic League show as the **St. Francis** boys also wanted a team win and got one here with a big **60-127 win** over Atwater who held off King City by only 2 points. **Chase Spolin (12-St. Ignatius) got a close win 16:43-16:47** over Kekoa Flechtner (10-St Francis).



Brinley Pickett (10-St. Francis) wins varsity girls





All of these races built excitement up as the varsity girls were ready to show off some of the top teams and individuals around! Sivani Kaliki (11-Evergreen Valley) was our slight pre-meet favorite and she went to the front right off the start and led most of the race. The silky smooth strider worked hard throughout as others took turns in 2nd trying to stay close. She held on valiantly until the closing stages as **Brinley Pickett (10-St. Francis)** smoked the last 800 and blasted to the lead to a **convincing 17:33-17:37 win** as Sivani settled for 2nd but was rewarded with a 17 second personal best moving her up to #6 all-time! Brinley had a massive jump from her 18:10 last year here smashing 37 seconds off her personal best to get a school record time for them and #5 all-time at NMC!! Ava Decleve (12-Scotts Valley), with the best leg speed in the field, showed that off as she sprinted up for 3rd to make it close in 17:39 almost catching Sivani late. She shaved 11 seconds off her best from last year and moved up to 7th all-time! The surprise of the meet may have been diminutive Maddie Goss (10-Woodcreek) who was strong throughout and shined at 17:42 good for 4th and

Prienna Chavez (11-Hollister) who moved nicely late for a 5th place 17:46 after running 18:29 last year beating many top girls. All in all, **all 10 medalists cracked our top 25 all-time!!**



On the team front, we knew **St. Francis (Mountain View)** was the class of the field and they showed it even on a slight off day. While the front of the team sparkled at 17:33, 17:59, and 18:00, they “struggled” a bit at 4 and 5 with 18:49 and 19:26. Those gaps were too much to take a shot at Whitney’s team time record of 90:04 (2023) but they were **rewarded with a nice 91:47** on an “off day” and a **12 point decision (51-63)** over Evergreen Valley. But, and it’s a very LARGE BUT, they were missing one of their key scorers today, along with the before mentioned Lily Symon in the open race. That, plus a couple of their stars being a little off, will make this team very, very dangerous down the road. Watch for them to turn heads as all cylinders click later on. Evergreen Valley showed very, very well with a 92:35 team time good for #3 all time at NMC! Scotts Valley was a distant 3rd (111 pts) but ran a very fine 96:06 team time about a minute off their school record on this course. St. Ignatius was the other top team in 4th running 98:38, good for #10 all time. All in all, **5 teams inside our top 10 all-time team times!**



**WILLOW GLEN NEW COURSE RECORD 76:57!**



The varsity boys did not want to be outdone and boy, did they bring it! When all was said and done, we had a **NEW TEAM TIME COURSE RECORD of 76:57** along with **10 guys in the top 25 ALL TIME!** The true icing on the cake. **Willow Glen** came in as our pre-meet favorite, who we felt had a legitimate shot at the course record, and they did not disappoint! **Check out these top 5 times for them, 14:56-15:08-15:36-15:37-15:40 with an AVERAGE 15:23!!!** That was good for 2nd-5th-15th-16th-20th at a major invitational! That led to a **commanding 49-109 win** over St. Ignatius, who we thought would be 2nd, and a distant 3rd for St. Francis (184), who we thought would be 3rd. We also guessed the varsity girls top 3 in order so it's time to go to Vegas! Willow Glen sets themselves up very nicely to be a force to be reckoned with in 2025. St. Ignatius and St. Francis should probably pay double entry fees for all the hardware they took today or they could stop at a pawn shop on the way home!!



Individually, it was front-running Fernando Herrera (12-Alisal) who would be the bravest in the deep field taking them out hard and pushing the pace early. Although he would falter a bit late he would be rewarded with a fine 6th place in 15:09. Many of the elite kickers in the field laid in wait and pounced late. They were all led by one of

our pre-meet favorites in Sam Hansen (11-Aptos) who looked as smooth as we have seen late in races to sprint to the front for a smoking 14:52 win, good for 3rd fastest ever only behind Aydon Stefanopoulos (Los Gatos-14:29) and Eli Fitchen Young (Santa Cruz-14:46) who have graduated after stellar prep careers. Put Sam right in the mix now as one of the elite runners in Northern California and a danger in any race with his late race speed. Duncan Lorang (12-Willow Glen) was only 4 seconds back in 14:56 and set the stage for his team's domination today! In 3rd was another of our pre-meet favorites Brady Bliesner (12-Aptos) in 14:59 giving Aptos the best 1-2 punch around! Youngster Johan Cross (10-Evergreen Valley) surprised in 4th at 15:07 while Aidan Dunosky (12-Willow Glen) rounded out the top 5 in 15:08 giving them one heck of a 1-2 punch as well! And finally, not to be outdone, the boys top 10 medalists also all made the all-time top 25 lists!! Oh my!!

**Thank you to everyone who came and helped remember Jackie!**  
**We hope to see you all in 2026!!**

[Full Results!](#)

[TEAM TIMES!!](#)

[Updated Course Records!](#)

[Meet website](#)



*RIP Coach Jackie Henderson*

**July 25th, 1989-July 14th, 2017**



Jacklyn was fatally struck while visiting family by an SUV while running in Huntington, NY on July 14th, 2017. She was 27 years old. A native of Huntington, Jacklyn graduated from Oyster Bay High School before attending Hunter College, where she was a three-year member of the Hawks cross country and track and field teams. A talented distance runner, Jacklyn was a member of two CUNYAC Championship cross country teams (2010 and 2011), earning first-place in the conference championship meet in 2010 to take CUNYAC Runner of the Year honors. Jacklyn was a six-time conference All-Star and helped the Hunter distance medley relay team to a CUNYAC title at the 2010-2011 Indoor Championships. She graduated from Hunter in 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology, her childhood passion. She was a biology teacher and cross country and track and field coach at North Monterey County High School in Castroville, CA at the time of her passing. At North Monterey County High she quickly became one of the most popular teachers on campus. Hundreds of her students, athletes, and fellow staff members quickly became very fond of her. She had a great passion for life, adventures, travel, and making everyone she met feel complete and unconditional love. She was extremely family and friend oriented. She lived every day as if it were her last and made lasting impacts on those she has left behind. Her legacy will live on with all those she touched in life. Our heartfelt thoughts are with Jacklyn's family and friends, as well as her teammates, students, athletes, and colleagues. #RUNLIKEJACKIE