



## **2026 7th Annual Jackie Henderson Memorial Meet Preview by Coach Gustavo Ibarra**

**Please email updates to [gibarra@nmcusd.org](mailto:gibarra@nmcusd.org)**

We are pleased to host the [7th Annual Jackie Henderson Memorial Cross Country Invitational](#) on **Saturday, September 12th, 2026 at North Monterey County High School** in Castroville, CA. The meet started back in 2018 with a modest 13 teams and has now exploded in size to over 50 teams in 2026 and growing! The event continues to honor **Jackie Henderson** who was an assistant cross country and track coach at North Monterey County who was tragically hit by a car while out on a run in the summer of 2017. The course is 3 miles and features a start and loops on flat grass, a moderately hilly section on dirt trails, and intermediate loops with an exciting finish in a beautiful track and field stadium. It has a mix of everything with great viewing and seating in the stadium and race play-by-play announcing and an awards stand. Most of our teams are from the Central Coast Section with some top contenders making a longer trip! The meet kicks off with a free [3 mile open race](#) (8:00 am) to honor Jackie allowing everyone to lace them up. Then the [middle schoolers](#) (6th-8th grades) are invited to show up for a free/open 2 mile (8:30 am). Finally, the traditional Frosh/Soph (9:00 Girls, 9:30 Boys), Junior Varsity (10:00 Girls, 10:30 Boys), and Varsity (11:00 Girls, 11:30 Boys) 3 mile [high school](#) races for each gender will highlight the meet on the fast layout. **The 2025 meet was incredible, [highlighted by a new boys' team time course record by Willow Glen \(76:57\)](#). For 2026, we return all of our team and individual champions and we can expect the deepest fields ever. And, as a treat, special-guest [Thomas Valles, of McFarland USA fame](#), will be around to greet and meet!**

The varsity girls feature several of the top CCS teams including 2 of the 5 CCS defending divisional champs along with some top squads from other sections, including a **defending STATE CHAMPIONSHIP team**, making for a great early season meet! Henderson darling **St. Francis (Mountain View)**, returns as the **THREE-TIME defending champion** blitzing 90:17, 90:31, and 91:47 team-times! The defending CCS Champions in D2 have built quite the dynasty. But, after graduating some of their key leaders, they will be trying to hold off perennial power-house **Whitney**, from the Sac Joaquin Section. **They dazzled last season capping things off with a STATE TITLE in division 2!!** Although they also lost some key senior leaders, they are our [course record holders \(90:04\)](#) from 2023 and would like nothing else but to ruin the CCS party on their return to the meet and keep the elusive course record in their hands! They have added a couple of new youngsters stepping up in distance and could win it all with their additions. **It's a virtual toss-up for the win among these two teams with the nod going to St. Francis until they are de-throned!** **Alisal, Aptos, Woodcreek, Hollister, and Scotts Valley**, the defending CCS champs in D4, are contenders for a top 5 finish while **Evergreen Valley**, who is a bit short-handed today, **Willow Glen, King City, Pacific Grove, Marina**, and host **North Monterey County** hope to sneak into the top 10. Teams will need to run sub 98:38 team time to make our [top 10 all-time](#). 2-3 teams have a shot to do that here.

Individually, our defending champion **Brinley Pickett (11-St. Francis)** returns and brings with her some great course experience after blasting a 17:33 last year making her the 5th fastest ever on the course! She brings great leg speed with a 4:51 mile in the spring! She will have her hands full with three ladies who really had an amazing end of season and all ran under 18:00 at the state meet for 5k setting them up for an upset win here! Leading the challengers is **Hanna Shehorn (12-Scotts Valley)** who is **our slight pre-meet favorite to win the whole thing!** She blasted a 17:36 at CCS finals at Crystal Springs for 2.95 miles and then topped that with a 17:44 5k at state! She also had a nice 10:48 2 mile in track. **Maddie Goss (11-Woodcreek)** who went 17:47 at state and 10:55 for 2 miles was our surprise here last year placing 4th and may take the whole thing! **Eva Soto (12-Whitney)**, who ran 17:59 at state and a 10:51 2 mile, and **Prienna Chavez (12-Hollister)**, who was 5th here last year and already ran 17:49 on the course 2 weeks

back, may surprise them all. Also watch **Kaylee Smith (11-Whitney)**, with her 2:10 800 speed, late in the race! **Isla Roake (11-Santa Cruz)**, who was 9th last year, and **Anna Conca (12-Monte Vista Christian)**, who was 10th, would like to snag another top 10 medal. Other medal contenders include **Juliet Stoelker (11-St. Francis)**, **Iris Paten (11-Pacific Collegiate)**, **Kenzie Culbertson (12-Aptos)**, **Pierce Culbertson (10-Aptos)**, **Hailey Shehorn (12-Scotts Valley)**, **Maya Wastie (12-St. Francis)**, **Yaretzi Cornelio (12-Alisal)**, and , who blitzed a 4:59 mile. Others to watch include **Kayla Gold (10-Whitney)**, **Tanisha Bhugra (11-Evergreen Valley)**, **Finley Castro (12-Monte Vista Christian)**, **Ava Takeuchi (9-Whitney)**, **Alivia Rivera (12-Marina)**, **Isabelle Williams (12-Woodcreek)**, **Taylor Glinkowski (11-Soquel)**, **Penelope Samuels (9-Anzar)**, and **Ella He (12-Cupertino)**. [Girls will need to run under 17:43 to crack our top 10 all-time](#). We could see 5-6 girls under that mark!! This race is LOADED!

The **Willow Glen** boys return after a stellar 2025 meet where they set a new [team-time course record of 76:57](#) averaging 15:23 for their top 5 guys on their way to a CCS title in D3! They did graduate 3 out of their top 4 boys so the door will open this year to four teams who match-up very well in **Alisal**, **St. Francis**, **Evergreen Valley**, and **Hollister**. Alisal and St. Francis are traditional teams with good balance and smaller team gaps and could win it all if it comes down to the depth of the 4th and 5th runners. Both teams are not afraid to race hard from the start and will push the team race early on. Evergreen Valley has the best 1-2 punch in the field and those low sticks could make the difference here in a tight team race if they have a decent showing at the back of their pack. Hollister has the best 1-3 punch and will hope for their 4th and 5th runners to keep their gap under a minute to win it all. For now, *we will tab Alisal as very slim favorite to win it all but it is a toss up*, any of these teams could win on a good day. Hoping to upset the CCS party will be **Whitney**, from the Sac Joaquin Section. They are a tradition rich program and have some solid front-runners. Teams hoping for upsets include **Carmel**, **Santa Cruz**, **Aptos**, **Pacific Grove**, **King City**, **Salinas**, and host **North Monterey County**. Teams will need to run 79:59 or faster team-time to make our [top 10 all time list](#). We see 3-4 teams capable of that, in fact, Hollister already ran 80:17 2 weeks back on this course in a scrimmage so we know they are very capable.

Individually, **Sam Hansen (12-Aptos)** returns to defend his title after a stellar 14:52 win and 3rd fastest ever on the course! Now he sets his sights on the [14:29 course record set in 2024 by Aydon Stefanopoulos \(Los Gatos\)](#). Sam has all the tools to take a run at it if others push the pace early on and he can use his lethal kick late with 1:56 800 speed. That being said, *Johann Coss (11-Evergreen Valley) was our surprise last year in 4th so this year he will not surprise anyone as our slight pre-meet favorite!* He added a nice 4:18 mile to his resume in the spring and already ran 15:32 at Crystal Springs this season. **Ted Koch (12-St. Francis)** returns after a nice 7th place last year and will be in the mix for the win. **Michael Briano (12-Hollister)** already ran 15:15 here 2 weeks back and could challenge on a good day. His teammates **Luis Perez (12-Hollister)** and **Andrew Parra (12-Hollister)** give them the best 1-3 in the field. Andrew has been developing nicely and could use his 4:17 mile speed to upset the favorites if he's there late along with **Noah Tally (12-Willow Glen)** with 1:53 800 speed! **Josh Landon (11-Whitney)**, who ran 4:23 for the mile and 9:27 for 2 miles and **Jasper Bolante (12-Carmel)** who almost matched that with a 4:23 mile and a 9:28 2 mile could translate those spring times here. Others with a shot at an upset include **Jacob Martinez (11-Evergreen Valley)**, **Owen Beckmen (10-Monte Vista Christian)**, and **Zach Downing (12-Whitney)**, with 4:21 mile speed. Those with medal hopes include **Alexander Profumo (11-Pacific Collegiate)**, **Davis Pisoni (12-Palma)**, **Alexander Chavez (11-Alisal)**, **Raul Martinez (12-Alisal)**, **Nain Garcia (12-Watsonville)**, **Anthony Avis (Woodcreek)**, **Christopher Alejandro (11-North Monterey County)**, from our host school, **Ben Nguyen (12-Marina)**, and **Betinho Zunguze (12-Pacific Grove)**. **Henry Bartle (9-Carmel)** who turned heads in middle school when he ran 16:19 here last year as an 8th grader in the open race and a 4:26 mile now takes aim at the high school boys and should destroy the 16:07 9th grade record! [Boys will need to go sub 15:04 to get into the all-time top 10](#). We could see 4-5 guys doing that today!

Thank you to the schools who have joined us as we honor Jackie and we hope you enjoy the meet!

Useful links; [Meet website](#), [participating teams](#), [live results](#), [meet reminders](#)

# North Monterey County HS Course Records\* (\*3 miles on new course made in 2018)

## Girls' Top 10 Team Times



**1) 90:04 Whitney 2023**

2) 90:17 St. Francis 2023

**3) 92:35 Evergreen Valley 2025**

4) 95:10 Scotts Valley 2022

5) 95:57 Clovis West 2019

6) 96:10 Los Gatos 2024

7) 96:16 Lynbrook 2019

8) 97:38 Carmel 2022

**9) 98:11 Windsor 2025**

**10) 98:38 St. Ignatius 2025**

## Girls' Top 25 Individuals



**1) 16:48 Ashlyn Boothby 12 Scotts Valley 2023**

2) 17:16 Karissa Chamberlain 12 Whitney 2023

3) 17:28 Eleanor Wikstrom 12 Skyline 2019

4) 17:32 Shea Elmore 12 Los Gatos 2024

**5) 17:33 Brinley Pickett 10 St. Francis 2025**

**6) 17:37 Sivani Kaliki 11 Evergreen Valley 2025**

7) 17:39 Kylie Hoornaert 10 Prospect 2022

**7) 17:39 Ava Decleve 12 Scotts Valley 2025**

**9) 17:42 Maddie Goss 10 Woodcreek 2025**

**10) 17:43 Prienna Chavez 11 Hollister 2025**

11) 17:56 Caitlin Cilley 11 St. Francis 2023

12) 17:58 Julia Salamacha 9 St. Francis 2023

**13) 17:59 Payton Wagner 12 St. Francis 2025**

14) 18:00 Sabrina Zanetto 12 St. Francis 2024

**14) 18:00 Lauren Draper 12 St. Francis 2025**

**16) 18:01 Emily Williams 10 Windsor 2025**

17) 18:03 Katie Mullane 10 St. Francis 2023

17) 18:03 Ava Kopec 12 Whitney 2023

**19) 18:04 Anna Conca 10 MVC 2025**

**20) 18:05 Yaretzi Cornelio 11 Alisal 2025**

20) 18:05 Kylie Brunelli 12 MVC 2024

22) 18:06 Addison Ewers 10 Whitney 2023

23) 18:07 Charlie Hofstetter 10 St. Francis 2023

24) 18:08 Anna Weirich 11 Harker 2019

**24) 18:08 Eliot Marsh 10 St. Ignatius 2025**

## CLASS RECORDS

**9th 17:58 Julia Salamacha 2023 St. Francis**

**10th 17:33 Brinley Pickett 2025 St. Francis**

**11th 17:07 Ashlyn Boothby 2022 Scotts Valley**

**12th 16:48 Ashlyn Boothby 2023 Scotts Valley**

## Boys' Top 10 Team Times



### **1) 76:57 Willow Glen 2025**

2) 78:05 Los Gatos 2024

3) 78:36 St. Ignatius 2024

4) 79:06 Whitney 2023

**5) 79:28 Monte Vista Christian 2025**

6) 79:32 Aptos 2024

7) 79:33 Woodcreek 2024

8) 79:39 St. Francis 2023

9) 79:51 Scotts Valley 2019

**10) 79:59 Hollister 2025**

## Boys' Top 25 Individuals



### **1) 14:29 Aydon Stefanopoulos 12 Los Gatos 2024**

2) 14:46 Eli Fitchen-Young 11 Santa Cruz 2023

**3) 14:52 Sam Hansen 11 Aptos 2025**

4) 14:56 Mack Aldi 12 Carmel 2024

4) 14:56 Trey Wright 12 St. Ignatius 2024

**4) 14:56 Duncan Lorang 12 Willow Glen 2025**

**7) 14:58 Tomas Rey-Avila 12 Salinas 2025**

**8) 14:59 Brady Bliesner 12 Aptos 2025**

9) 15:01 Joshua Guzman 12 Gilroy 2024

10) 15:04 David Winston 12 Woodcreek 2024

11) 15:06 Carson Smith 12 Santa Teresa 2019

11) 15:06 Trent Nosky 12 Aptos 2022

**13) 15:07 Johann Coss 10 Evergreen Valley 2025**

**14) 15:08 Aidan Dunosky 12 Willow Glen 2025**

**15) 15:09 Fernando Herrera 12 Alisal 2025**

**16) 15:11 Ted Koch 11 St. Francis 2025**

17) 15:12 Noah Lopez 12 Whitney 2023

17) 15:12 Kees Van Der Meer 12 Santa Cruz 2023

19) 15:13 Dominic McMahon 12 Santa Clara 2024

20) 15:14 Matthew Mullane 12 St. Francis 2023

**21) 15:15 Michael Briano 12 Hollister 2026**

**22) 15:18 Michael Ervin 10 Windsor 2025**

**23) 15:20 Xavier Surgeon 12 Windsor 2025**

**24) 15:21 Leandro Montoya 12 NMC 2025**

24) 15:21 David Hurren 12 Whitney 2023

## CLASS RECORDS

**9th 16:07 Owen Beckmen 2025 MVC**

**10th 14:47 Eli Fitchen-Young 2022 Santa Cruz**

**11th 14:46 Eli Fitchen-Young 2023 Scotts Valley**

**12th 14:29 Aydon Stefanopoulos 2024 Los Gatos**

As a treat, special-guest [Thomas Valles, of McFarland USA fame](#), will be around to greet and meet!

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### About Thomas

Thomas Valles, best known as the top runner on the legendary 1987 McFarland cross country team depicted in the movie McFarland, USA, has transformed his story into a powerful message of perseverance and resilience. He will share his inspiring journey, highlighting the importance of mentorship, mental resilience, and pushing past perceived limits.

### BOOKING INFORMATION

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