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Times top athlete search on

The search begins Monday for the Times 1978 high school Athletes of the Year.

The top scholar-athletes from the 17 high schools on the Midpeninsula will be previewed next week, beginning Monday with candidates from Cupertino, Monta Vista and Fremont.

The top four boy athletes and No. 1 girl athlete from each school will be showcased, culminating with the announcement of the Times' boy and girl athletes of the year the following week.

Last year's winners were Mike Saphir of Awalt and Mary Hile of Peterson.

Schools eligible for the competition are Palo Alto, Cubberley, Gunn, Mountain View, Awalt, Los Altos and Peterson of the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League; Fremont, Monta Vista, Cupertino, Lynbrook, Homestead and Sunnyvale of the De Anza Athletic League; Menlo-Atherton, Menlo School and Woodside of the South Peninsula Athletic League; and St. Francis of the West Catholic Athletic League.

Los Altos and M-A have each had four athletes awarded as the Times Athlete of the Year, the most of any school since the contest's inception in 1954. Woodside has had three winners with Palo Alto, Cubberley, St. Francis and Fremont each with two.

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Previous winners:

- 1977—Mike Saphir, Awalt; Mary Hile, Peterson.
- 1976—Kurt Rambis, Cupertino.
- 1975—Myrt Easley, Woodside.
- 1974—Kim Johansen, Monta Vista.
- 1973—John Naber, Woodside.
- 1972—Scott Overton, Los Altos.
- 1971—Art Kuehn, Cubberley.
- 1970—Chris Adams, Los Altos.
- 1969—Jim Winters, St. Francis.
- 1968—Ralph Show, Homestead.
- 1967—Don Bunce, Woodside.
- 1966—Colby Howe, Menlo-Atherton.
- 1965—Tim Rossovich, St. Francis.
- 1964—Dick Roth, Menlo-Atherton.
- 1963—Bruce Wilhelm, Fremont.
- 1962—Eric Paulson, Sunnyvale.
- 1961—Tyce Fitzmorris, Fremont.
- 1960—Steve Clark, Los Altos.
- 1959—Mike Nichols, Cubberley.
- 1958—Bob Overman, Los Altos.
- 1957—Bob Wendell, Menlo-Atherton.
- 1956—Ron Larrieu, Palo Alto.
- 1955—Tom Blackwood, Menlo-Atherton.
- 1954—Rink Babka, Palo Alto.

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Palo Alto, Gunn, Cubber

The search continues today for the Times High School Athlete of the Year with athletes from Palo Alto, Gunn and Cubberley featured.

Since the contest started in 1954, Palo Alto and Cubberley have each had two students win the Times Athlete of the Year. Rink Babka and Ron Larrieu won it for Paly in 1954 and '56, respectively, while Mike Nichols and Art Kuehn were Cubberley honorees in 1959 and '71, respectively.

The preview of athletes will run through Saturday with the winners being announced next week.

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PALO ALTO

Mark Schultz—Schultz, a 168-pound wrestler, blitzed his opponents with a 28-0 record, winning

the pinnacle of high school wrestling—the state title. He swept through the SCVAL and CCS meets and was voted as the Outstanding Wrestler in the CCS this year.

Incredibly, it was Schultz's first year of wrestling.

As a freshman, Schultz won the South Peninsula Athletic League gymnastics championship, taking six of seven events in varsity competition.

Dan Jaqua—It was an outstanding year for Jaqua, who played football, basketball and tennis for the Vikes.

Jaqua was a two-year starter at quarterback for Paly and despite a weak offensive line, led the SCVAL in total offense with 1,096 yards passing and 182 yards rushing. He was voted first-team All SCVAL by

the league's coaches and also selected to the Times All-Midpeninsula team as quarterback.

On the tennis court, Dan won the SCVAL and Region II singles titles. He was all-league three consecutive years, posting a career record of 51-5. Jaqua capped it this year by placing fourth in the CCS singles tourney and winning his second straight MVP award at Paly.

Jeff Newman—Jeff was the SCVAL wrestling champ in the 168-pound division, winning the Ayer and Harbor tourneys before going on to claim the Region II championship. He was also the MVP of this year's wrestling team.

Newman was also a two-year starter for the Vikes' football team at the grit positions—fullback and linebacker. Jeff's grade point average is 3.45.

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Jim Zboralske—The man his teammates call "Z" is a basketball specialist. Jim was MVP of the Vikes' basketball squad and made second team All-SCVAL. He's a 6-0 guard who plays a consistent brand of ball with a 13.1 scoring average and an 80% free-throw mark.

Zboralske was an all-tourney selection at the Burlingame and Ukiah tournaments. He also helped coach the lightweight basketball teams in the fall.

Girls Finalist

Amy Rost—Amy competed in track, volleyball and soccer for the Vikes. She holds the school record for the discus, high jump and shotput and was consistently the top pointwinner for the Vikes. She made the SCVAL finals in those three events and qualified for the CCS meet in the discus.

Amy was team captain on the soccer team and MVP on Paly's volleyball team in both her junior and senior years. Her grade point average is 3.56.

GUNN

Jeff Arons—When it comes to tennis, Jeff is the best of the best. He was the No. 1 player on the Titans' CCS championship tennis team and crowned three years of first-team All-SCVAL status by making All-America for the second straight year.

As a sophomore, he was ranked the No. 1 16-year-old in Northern California, as a junior, the No. 2 18-year-old and this year is ranked No. 1 in the 18's.

Jeff will take his All-America tennis talents and 3.71 grade point average to either Stanford or Cal in the fall.

Dave Arbogast—Dave set a good example as captain of the Titans' wrestling team. He placed 5th in the CCS meet to highlight a big year in the 148-pound class.

Arbogast swept through his

SCVAL opponents with 11 pins to make first-team All-SCVAL and second-team All-Region II. His college plans are targeted for Colorado.

Jack McGannon—Versatility is McGannon's strong suit, participating in three years of cross-country, soccer and track. Jack's top sport is soccer, where as a mid-fielder won All-SCVAL status as a junior and senior.

He capped three years of varsity track by competing in eight individual events this year and being selected as team captain.

He registered a grade-point average of 3.86.

Parker George—Parker likes to run and run . . . and he ran all the way to an honorable mention selection on the All-Northern California cross-country team. George ran three years of varsity cross-country which helped prepare him for the track season.

As a sophomore, George won MVP honors on Gunn's frosh-soph track squad. He was an SCVAL finalist in his final two years in the mile on the varsity level.

He compiled a 3.98 grade point average.

Girls Finalist

Sally DeStefano—Sally was an outstanding shortstop on Gunn's softball team, winning first-team all-league honors three years in a row. She was also the Titans' MVP in that span.

Sally also played basketball as a junior and senior, winning the "Coaches Award" while making honorable mention All-SCVAL. She recorded a solid 3.2 GPA.

CUBBERLEY

Hugh Williamson—Hugh starred in football, soccer and baseball for Cubberley. But when it comes to kicking a football, few athletes are any better. Williamson averaged 43.5 yards a punt in spite of having

two 65-yarders erased because of penalties.

Williamson was All-CCS, All-Midpeninsula, and All-SCVAL as a kicking specialist. He'll use his talent for San Jose State, where he accepted an athletic scholarship.

He kicked five goals for the Cougars' SCVAL champion soccer squad and made honorable mention All-league. On the baseball field, he was awarded second-team All-SCVAL status after making several astonishing catches in centerfield.

Paul Amick—Paul was an outstanding soccer player. As a back, he was a first-team All-SCVAL pick and anchored the Cougar defense which allowed only 10 goals.

Amick also quarterbacked the Cougar football squad and passed for 553 yards and five touchdowns.

Felix Natis—When the Cubberley football team needed yardage, Natis is the man that got the ball. A fullback, Natis usually got the job done, rushing for 637 yards and eight touchdowns.

He was the Cougars' lone offensive player selected to first-team all-SCVAL by the leagues' coaches. Natis gained 137 yards against Buchser for a personal single-game high.

Girls Finalist

Heidi Wagner—When it comes to badminton, Heidi is just about the best. Anywhere.

She was undefeated in SCVAL play and took second in the CCS, contributing many points toward the Cougars' CCS team championship. Heidi also took second place in the Northern California championships in Berkeley, after winning firsts in 1977 in singles and mixed doubles. She was the captain of the Cubberley squad and also received the Coaches Award.

Heidi posted a grade point average of 3.86.

Awalt, Mountain View, L

The top athletes from Awalt, Mountain View and Los Altos Highs make their entry today in the Times Athlete of the Year contest.

Los Altos has had four winners—Bob Overman in 1958, Steve Clark in 1960, Chris Adams in 1970 and Scott Overton in 1972.

Mike Saphir of Awalt won the award last year, the first time a Spartan athlete has been honored.

The remainder of the area schools' athletes will be featured on Friday and Saturday.

The finalists and winners will be named next week.

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AWALT

Kent Gustafson—Kent played three years of varsity soccer and golf and one year of varsity football. He was all-league his junior and senior years in soccer, was team MVP this season and was SCVAL offensive player of the year. He qualified for the regionals in golf for two straight years and started at defensive end in football.

He carries a 3.4 GPA and will attend San Diego State or Pepperdine.

Ken Landphere—Ken was a starting linebacker for three varsity seasons and was chosen captain by his teammate. He was honored on the All-Midpeninsula team and was a first team All-SCVAL honoree at linebacker. In baseball, Ken was the all-league catcher as a freshman, catcher and captain for three varsity years and named to the All-SCVAL first team his junior and senior years. He was Player of the Year on the Times All-Midpeninsula team after batting .556. A 3.0 student, he will attend San Diego State or University of the Pacific.

Kobert Smith—Kobert was the finest miler in the Central Coast Section this year and ran a school record of 4:10.83 in last weekend's state meet trials. He was SCVAL, Region II and CCS champ in the mile. He also won the SCVAL mile and two mile as a junior and captured 880 crown this year. Smith was also all-league in cross-country in 1976 and '77. Headed for Princeton with a 3.7 GPA.

David Pole—Dave is the aquatics star at Awalt, having participated in three national championships in 1977 and 1978. He swam on the varsity swim team four years and was all-league for each of those seasons. He was also All-America his sophomore, junior and senior years in the 100 fly, and 200 IM. A three-year competitor in water polo, Pole won fourth team All-America honors as a junior and seventh team A-A as a senior. On CCS championship team as a junior and carries a 3.3 GPA.

Girls finalist

Jennifer Brey—Jennifer is a top all-around athlete who has competed in varsity tennis, volleyball, softball and basketball. She was all-league in basketball her senior year and competed in all four sports her freshman and sophomore years. She was officer of the Awalt Athletic Council for three years and carries a 3.5 GPA.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Dennis Mateo—A standout three-sport star, Mateo was the most val-

Los Altos list top athletes

uable offensive back in the SCVAL this past year with over 1,000 yards passing. He was also the quarterback on the All-Region II team. In basketball he was second team all-league with a 16-point average while in baseball he batted .447 and was named to the All-SCVAL first team. Also all-league and all-region in baseball as a junior and second team all-league in baseball as a freshman and sophomore. He threw for 1,000 yards as a sophomore quarterback in leading team to CCS title.

Kent Wheat—As a senior, Kent was varsity co-captain in football, all-league and All-Midpeninsula and picked for North-South county all-star game in August. Also won 120-yard high hurdles title at SCVAL track finals this year and made it to the CCS finals where he clocked 14.6. Also won highs at league meet his junior year when he ran track and played both football and basketball. Varsity track MVP for three straight years. He carries a 3.4 GPA.

Corky Olmos—Corky played football, wrestled and played baseball for two years. He was first team all-league in football, being the only player in the league to make the top six in as many as three statistical categories, doing so in rushing (537 yards), receiving (19 catches) and scoring (50 points).

Corky was the SCVAL, region and CCS champion in wrestling at 141 pounds. Competed in state meet and carries a 2.5 GPA.

Girls finalist

Sandy Zobel—Sandy won numerous honors in volleyball, soccer and track. As a senior, she was all-league in volleyball and soccer and the team's MVP along with being named to the USVBA 'A' team in volleyball. She ran hurdles and put the shot in track and is a alternate for the NAASP honor society. Was among the high school All-Americas in badminton as a junior.

LOS ALTOS

Jim Pauli—As a senior, Jim lettered in both track and basketball. He was first team All-SCVAL in basketball and co-MVP of the league and team MVP. He was also All-Midpeninsula and honorable mention All-CCS and tabbed to play in the North-South county all-star game this summer. In track, he competed in the long and triple jumps and placed in the TJ in the league meet. He was a second team all-league choice in basketball as a junior.

Kevin Tiffin—Kevin won 13 out of 14 races in the 200 freestyle as a senior, winning the league championship in the 200 and taking second in the 100 free. He was also a finalist at the CCS meet this year and named as the outstanding swimmer at Los Altos. Kevin let-

tered in water polo where he started this year and earned first team all-league honors. Tiffin also started as a junior and was all-league and the team's MVP as a sophomore.

Tim Hanley—Tim was a leader on the soccer team for three years and was the most valuable defensive player in the league the past two years. He was chiefly responsible for the Knights' league-low of only nine goals given up this year during a 6-1-2 campaign.

Allan Goes—The outstanding track performer at Los Altos this year, Goes had his season cut short by mononucleosis two weeks before the league meet. He had bests of 1:58.2 in the 880 and 38.1 in the low hurdles prior to that time, but still qualified to the regionals. In soccer he was a three-year varsity starter and won all-league honors as a sophomore. In football he was a two-year starter on the varsity and made all-league and All-Midpeninsula as a wide receiver.

Girls finalist

Karyn Hinkelman—Karyn enters the girls' competition after three years of basketball, four years of track and two years of volleyball.

She is also a member of the Arrow Track Club and was the NorCal AAU age-group high jump champ in 1974. Has a best of 5-5 and carries a 3.5 GPA. Also secretary of Girls Athletic League at Los Altos.