

HUMBOLDT STATE COLLEGE

ARCATA, CALIFORNIA 95521

DIVISION OF HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

November 5, 1970

Editor
Track and Field News
P. O. Box 296
Los Altos, California 94022

Garry
Note carefully

Dear Editor:

If the Sacramento Invitational Cross Country results are used in any analysis of cross country running ability, make sure that you have all of the facts.

After several high school, junior college, and women's races, the chalk marks in the course were obliterated. Ignoring warnings from a course monitor and Bill Scobey and Dwyane Ray, who at the time were with the front pack, eight of the top nine runners cut off a sandy section of the course which gave them an approximate 150 yard advantage plus not having the strain of running in the sand.

Several of these top eight runners had run at least two previous races on this same course and should have been able to stay on the established route even if the meet management had failed to provide proper monitoring at strategic points.

When someone assumes the management of a big meet where nationally ranked runners are participating that person or persons should assume the responsibility of providing adequate supervision to allow all runners an equal chance of completing the prescribed course. It is extremely frustrating to a highly trained runner to place 9th in a big meet when he knows that he is probably the first runner to finish the prescribed course.

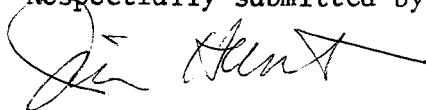
Incidents such as the above case and the well-known Culver City Marathon race last year can be avoided by some careful planning by meet officials. Maybe the NCAA and AAU should take a greater interest in cross country and road racing and provide the leadership that could eliminate these mixups.

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The actual winner of the Sacramento Invitational should have been either Bill Scobey or A. Mejai. For confirmation of this fact, check with Harvey Roloff, meet manager. Also check with Dwyane Ray or Byron Lowry and oh yes! check with Mr. Robert Coe and Don Kardong.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim Hunt", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

JIM HUNT

Track and Cross Country Coach