

Cross-country
SOQUEL INVITATIONAL

At Soquel (2.5 miles)

BOYS

Large schools

Teams — Sanger 48; 2, Bellarmine 87; 3, Clovis 93; 4, Redwood Larkspur 144; 5, Saratoga 186; 6, Clayton Valley (Concord) 192; 7, San Mateo 218; 8, Oakmont (Roseville) 226; 9, Serra 250; 10, Live Oak 308. Others: 11, Oak Grove 317; 12,

Newark Memorial 340; 14, Milpitas 350; 15, Independence 370; 16, Santa Teresa 373; 17, North Salinas 375; 18, Westmoor 384; 19, Hillsdale 427.

Individuals — Matt Giusto (San Mateo) 12:29.6; 2, Naranjo (Sanger) 12:37.2; 3, Hurtado (Sanger) 12:48.6; 4, Gollither (Saratoga) 12:48.8; 5, Ayers (Bellarmine) 12:56.1; 6, Lienau (Clovis) 13:00.9; 7, Goulet (Soquel) 13:08.7; 8, Leal (Sanger) 13:10.6; 9, Mann (Redwood) 13:14.9; 10, Bernal (Sanger) 13:16.1. Others: 14, O'Flaherty (Bellarmine) 13:25.6; 15, Allen (Bellarmine) 13:34.5; 18, Tung (Saratoga) 13:40.2; 20, Studenick (Oak Grove) 13:42.9; 21, Lile (Live Oak) 13:43.5; 25, Porter (Live Oak) 13:49.3.

Small schools

Teams — Terra Linda (San Rafael) 52; 2, Encinal (Alameda) 70; 3, Half Moon Bay 94; 4, St. Francis 133; 5, Palma 157. Others: 6, Capuchino 159; 7, Gonzales 167; 8, Jefferson 177; 11, Prospect 218; 12, Lincoln 258; 13, Terra Nova 291.

Individuals — Chris Becerra (Mills) 12:48.3; 2, K. Thayer (Terra Linda) 13:10.5; 3, Ghidossi (Capuchino) 13:15.9; 4, Lopez (Encinal) 13:18.3; 5, Beauchemin (Westmont) 13:19.9. Others: 6, Gonzales (Hollister) 13:28.4; 7, Beavers (Jefferson) 13:31.2; 11, Thompson (Half Moon Bay) 13:37.9; 12, Dye (Half Moon Bay) 13:44.1; 13, Cattanach (Pacific Grove) 13:45.7; 14, Martinez (North Monterey County) 13:49.7.

GIRLS

Teams — Clovis 66; 2, St. Francis 125; 3, Terra Linda (San Rafael) 139; 4, Bella Vista (Fair Oaks) 178; 5, Lowell (San Francisco) 182; 6, Tamalpais (Mill Valley) 199; 7, Terra Nova 209; 8, Soquel 238; 9, Independence 254; 10, Sanger 256. Others: 11, San Mateo 268; 12, Half Moon Bay 272; 13, Live Oak 307; 14, Newark Memorial 311; 16, Milpitas 337; 18, Westmoor 448; 19, San Lorenzo Valley 467; 20, Washington (Fremont) 518.

Individuals — Kelly Ilnicki (Harbor) 15:21.7; 2, Wilson (Terra Nova) 15:34.2; 3, Kim Himenes (St. Francis) 15:48.8; 4, Laughlin (Terra Linda) 16:03.0; 5, Keehner (Hill) 16:03.7; 6, Opp (Santa Teresa) 16:08.6; 7, Shaw (Clovis West) 16:12.2; 8, Rositano (St. Francis) 16:12.9; 9, Bungo (Milpitas) 16:15.9; 10, Kuphaldt (Bella Vista) 16:20.2. Others: 11, Buckler (Saratoga) 16:21.0; 13, Jauregui (Newark Memorial) 16:26.9; 14, Strandberg (Live Oak) 16:27.4; 15, Ferreira (Half Moon Bay) 16:31.2; 19, Rossman (St. Francis) 16:48.2; 20, Hart (Homestead) 16:50.9; 21, Naughten (Homestead) 16:52.0.

Ilnicki of Harbor first — again

SOQUEL — Gary McConnell, the cross country coach at Harbor High School, is feeling pretty good.

He has a runner, and a freshman runner at that, who is described by his colleagues at other area schools as "impressive" and "just awesome."

That runner, Kelly Ilnicki, took first place in the girls' varsity race at Saturday's 14th Annual Soquel High Invitational cross country meet, beating her nearest challenger by 22 seconds and topping runners from larger schools with relative ease.

It is the first time a Santa Cruz County girl has won the large school varsity race.

Ilnicki took her lead in the first quarter-mile of the 2.5-mile course, which is fairly level at the start, and then used her strength on hills to extend that lead.

"It's her strength in hill running that shines," McConnell said of Ilnicki. "She established her position in the first quarter mile and let no girl get in front of her. She ran by herself the rest of the race."

Ilnicki is undefeated in seven races this season, four in dual meets and the remainder in invitationals. "This is the first major invitational she has won," McConnell said. "She has won others, but this is one of the largest in the (Central Coast) Section. It establishes her as one of the premier girls' cross country runners in the section."

Aptos coach Jim Beaumont has a pair of

freshman girls to crow about as well. Dagnar Legallion and Danielle Karmian were 10th and 11th, respectively, in the girls' frosh-soph race, with times of 17:40 and 17:41. But Beaumont could only describe Ilnicki's performance as "awesome."

Even McConnell's brother, Mark, who coaches at Soquel, got into the act. "I knew she was good, but when she wins a race like this, that's impressive," the host coach said.

Other local runners who finished in the top 10 of their divisions were

- Mike Didiago of Soquel, whose seventh place finish (14:55) in the frosh boys' large schools division helped Soquel finish 10th overall.

- Mark Russell (14:11) and Ken Hale (14:30) of San Lorenzo Valley finished second and sixth, respectively, in the boys' sophomore small schools division, but their team was edged, 81-82, by North Monterey County. Bill Dunston of NMC (14:41) was the Condors' highest finisher in ninth place, and Marty Brenner of Harbor (14:22) was fourth.

- Marc Goulet of Soquel (13:06) placed seventh in the boys' varsity, large school division, and Tim Eberhardt of Aptos (13:11) was 47th in the small school division.

In the large schools boys' varsity, Sanger outran Bellarmine and Clovis to take the team title. Matt Guisto of San Mateo (12:29) took first place, with David Naranjo (12:37) and Miguel Hurtado (12:40) of Sanger in second and third,

respectively.

In the small schools boys' varsity, Terra Linda sneaked by Encinal and Half Moon Bay to take the team title, with 52 points. Encinal finished with 70 and HMB had 94. Chris Becerra of Mills (12:48) set the pace, with Kevin Thayer (12:10) of Terra Linda second and Paul Ghidossi of Capuchino (12:16) third.

In the girls' varsity meet, Clovis easily outpointed St. Francis, 66-125, and everyone else to win the division. St. Francis had two of the top 10 finishers. Lori Wilson (15:34) of Terra Nova and Kim Jimenes (15:48) of St. Francis finished second and third, respectively, to Ilnicki.

Clovis West was the top school in the boys' junior varsity division, and NMC finished seventh. Kevin Hatch of Clovis (13:59) took first place.

Bellarmine won the sophomore boys' large schools division. Anthony Smith (13:59) of Independence took first place in the race.

Hollister, led by first place finisher Steve Vallejo won the frosh boys' small schools division, while Bellarmine took top honors for the large schools division. Andy Davis of Newark Memorial led the division with a time of 13:59.

Clovis West took the team title in the girls' frosh-soph division, and Teresa Poy (16:54) of El Cerrito came in first.

Fifty-five schools and 924 runners participated in the event.