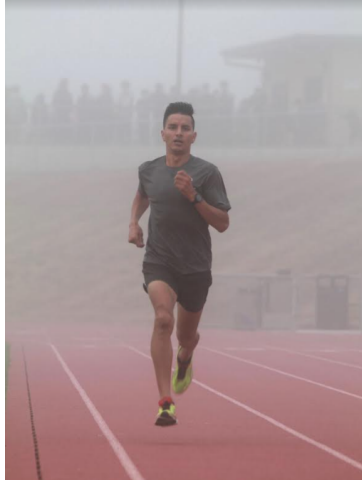


**4th Annual Jackie Henderson Memorial Post-Meet Story and Results**  
by Coach Gustavo Ibarra



A deep early morning fog, followed by a surprise momentary downpour, and then eventually the expected beautiful sunny skies, welcomed teams from all over the Central and Northern part of California to the **4th Annual Jackie Henderson Memorial Cross Country Invitational** on Saturday, September 9th, 2023 at North Monterey County High School in Castroville. Over 40 teams made for great competition and a large crowd cheering throughout the course propelling many teams and individuals to magnificent performances as we honored Coach Henderson and Coach Pierce. ***By the end of the day, we had new course records for both individuals and teams for both genders!!*** On to the details!



The day kicked off with a low-key open memorial race. This year the race was dedicated to Coach Charlie Pierce who unexpectedly passed away this past summer after assisting at North Monterey County for 15 years. His wife, daughter, and family friends were able to attend the event, greet well-wishers, and the public donated funds for a scholarship to be given to a North Monterey County senior in Charlie's name. When the skies opened and it rained for a few minutes his daughter mentioned that it was her dad letting us know he was with us, a beautiful tribute to her dad. Daniel Tapia, who prepped at North Monterey County, and now coaches at Carmel, won in 15:15 for 3 miles and defended his open race win from the last couple of meets. He is best known for representing the United States at the World Championships in Russia in the men's marathon.





The middle schoolers then had some fun on the shortened 2 mile course. Joey Palacios a 7th grader from Monte Vista Christian stole the show with a fine 11:22, a young lady from Santa Cruz Track Club shined, Washington Middle School from Salinas showed up in full-force taking the most medals, and Firebaugh Middle won the award for the longest bus ride, close to 2 hours!!



The Frosh/Soph and JV divisions kicked off the high school portion of the meet and we saw early on that the varsity races would be quite competitive with very fast times being posted in the early races! Alyssa Nagatani (10-Leland) threw down a 19:18 Frosh/Soph girls win only to be topped with a splendid 19:09 by Payton Wagner (10-St. Francis) in the JV girls. Before today those times would have been right around our top 25 all-time on the course! Alisal would snag the frosh/soph girls win while St. Francis would win the JV girls kicking off what would be a historic day for them. On the boys side, Brady Bliesner (10-Aptos) flew to a 16:33 frosh/soph win and then Kevin Beebe (11-St. Francis) decided to MATCH that also at 16:33 setting up some competitive spirit for the varsity races. King City took home the team plaque in the F/S boys. We originally thought Alisal had won the JV boys but upon further results reviews, St. Francis had actually notched their 2nd win in the JV boys.



2022 File Photo-Photo credit Laura Boothby via Santa Cruz Sentinel  
**New course record 16:48 for Ashlyn Boothby (11-Scotts Valley)**

We knew the varsity girls race would be epic featuring an individual ready to turn some heads in 2023 and an expected 2 team state level clash and it surely did not disappoint!

Ashlyn Boothby (12-Scotts Valley) held the course record from her win last year at 17:07 and we knew that record would be destroyed today as she sprinted to the front and absolutely crushed the first mile in 5:13! Her 4:39 track mile credentials were on full display. She hit two miles at 11:02 and roared home full of run stopping the clock at 16:48 shaving 19 seconds off her own course record! A truly magnificent effort the likes we haven't seen in any of our major meets we've hosted for over 25 years. This type of fitness and talent will carry Ashlyn to quite a season to remember. Karissa Chamberlain (12-Whitney) was the only individual to keep Ashlyn fairly close 28 seconds back at 17:16. Ava Declve (10-Scotts Valley) joined her teammate Ashlyn in the top 3 at 17:50 over a full minute back. Coming into today, the 25th best individual mark in course history was 19:10. Today, 15 girls were under that mark!



**Girls Varsity Top 10**



**Scotts Valley 3rd (97 pts-95:13), St. Francis 1st (35 pts-90:17), Whitney 2nd (39 pts-90:04)  
New team-time course record by Whitney (90:04)**

On the team front, St Francis (Mountain View) was here for the first time and boasted a veteran line-up which placed 3rd at state last year and may move up that podium this year! They added a key 9th grader up-front making them a force in 2023. They were out fast with a strong pack of 4 girls in the top 6 and sent a message early on that they were going for it. They held a massive team lead in the first mile but we knew Whitney, who had a more conservative start, had a squad that would make it a tight finish by 3 miles. Sure enough, Whitney moved up throughout the second half of the race and made it a very exciting close finish which we had expected. Early on when results were first posted it showed a 35-35 tie! Teams score 5 runners each with tie breakers going to the 6th runner. Whitney, we thought, had pulled off the win with a better 6th runner. Right before the awards were announced, it was brought to our attention that St. Francis' 4th runner was not in the results. Upon further review, a timing chip malfunction was the cause. Inserting her back into the results showed the true result, a tight 35-39 win for St. Francis! A Whitney coach also knew the outcome as

he was counting points and saw that St Francis had their 5th girl right ahead of his 5th girl sealing the win on his tally. At the end of the day, St. Francis would take the plaque for the team win and sparkled with a 17 second 1-5 gap while Whitney would take home a new course record team-time edging St. Francis 90:04-90:17. If you do the math, that's **AVERAGING** around 18:00 for each of their top 5!! Before today, only 3 girls had ever dipped under 18:00. Unbelievable running by these two squads who both ran 5 minutes faster than the old course record (95:10) set by Scotts Valley just last year! Look for both St. Francis and Whitney to challenge for state titles in Division 2. Scotts Valley was a distant 3rd today at 97 points and 95:13 team time only 3 seconds off their old course record.



2022 File Photo-Photo credit Jon Lee via Santa Cruz Sentinel  
**New course record 14:46 for Eli Fitch-Young (11-Santa Cruz)**

The boys had a tall task to match what the girls had just done but we knew Eli Fitchen-Young (11-Santa Cruz) was ready to shine and we had a couple of teams ready to challenge the course record!

Eli last year flashed to the front and stopped the clock at 14:47 for a new course record. This year, he carbon-copied his race blasting a 4:33 first mile. He settled in hitting 2 miles clear of the field in 9:37 and used the roar of the crowd to stop the clock at 14:46, one second under his old record! Just like Ashlyn, Eli sets himself up for a fantastic season at the state and national level, now as an upperclassmen with experience and maturity. Joshua Guzman (11-Gilroy) held off the other challengers at 15:05, good for 2nd fastest ever on the course! Noah Lopez (12-Whitney) would set the tone for his team up-front at 15:12, good for 5th fastest ever. All in all, before today, it took sub 16:00 to make the top 25 all-time. 16 guys did that today!!



**Varsity Boys Top 10**

On the team front, Whitney and St. Francis made it another close one with Whitney coming out on top 73-85 with a little more room to spare than the ladies while taking down the course record in the process! Both teams looked very similar with about a 1:00 spread 1-5. Whitney was able to win each of the 1-5 head to head battles to seal the win. Whitney ran a 79:06 to take 45 seconds off of Scotts Valley's 79:51 course record from 2019. St. Francis stopped the clock at 79:39, also under the old course record! Whitney and St. Francis averaged just under 16:00 for their top 5 setting them up nicely for D2 battles later on at the state level. Alisal was a distant 3rd with 132 points and a 81:42 team time, good for 8th fastest ever.



**Alisal 3rd (132 pts-81:42), Whitney 1st (73 pts -79:06), St. Francis 3rd (85 pts-79:39)  
Boys Varsity team winners  
79:06 Course Record by Whitney**



**Thank you to everyone who came and helped remember Jackie and Charles!**

2023 Full Results!

<https://www.athletic.net/CrossCountry/meet/221941/info>

Meet website;

<https://sites.google.com/view/hendersonmemorialcc/home?authuser=0>



## North Monterey County HS Course Records\* Updated 2023!

(\*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) 95:10 Scotts Valley 2022
- 4) 95:57 Clovis West 2019
- 5) 96:16 Lynbrook 2019
- 6) 97:38 Carmel 2022
- 7) 99:58 Skyline 2019
- 8) 100:40 Los Gatos 2019
- 9) 100:47 Gunn 2019
- 10) 100:55 Hollister 2022

### 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) 17:39 Kylie Hoornaert 10 Prospect 2022
- 5) **17:50 Ava Declève 10 Scotts Valley 2023**
- 6) **17:56 Caitlin Cilley 11 St. Francis 2023**
- 7) **17:58 Julia Salamacha 9 St. Francis 2023**
- 8) **18:03 Katie Mullane 10 St. Francis 2023**
- 9) **18:03 Addison Ewers 10 Whitney 2023**
- 10) **18:04 Ava Kopec 12 Whitney 2023**
- 11) **18:07 Charlie Hofstetter 10 St. Francis 2023**
- 12) 18:08 Anna Weirich 11 Harker 2019
- 13) 18:09 Amber Boothby 12 Scotts Valley 2022
- 14) **18:11 Sophie Hutchinson 10 Whitney 2023**
- 15) 18:13 Ava Ghio 10 Carmel 2022
- 16) **18:13 Lauren Draper 10 St. Francis 2023**
- 17) 18:15 Claire Bringetto 10 Clovis West 2019
- 18) 18:19 Azalea Groleau 11 SLV 2019
- 19) 18:22 Kalei Aoki-Chance 10 Clovis West 2019
- 20) 18:29 Kayla Penny 12 San Lorenzo Valley 2019
- 21) **18:30 Jane Landon 10 Whitney 2023**
- 22) 18:32 Oriana Jalal 12 Cupertino 2019
- 23) 18:34 Viveca Pannell 11 Los Gatos 2019
- 24) 18:40 Grace Lathrop 10 Whitney 2019
- 25) 18:43 Sonia Wasserman 11 Orcutt 2019

## Boys' Top 10 Team Times



**1) 79:06 Whitney 2023**

**2) 79:39 St. Francis 2023**

3) 79:51 Scotts Valley 2019

4) 80:21 Clovis West 2019

5) 80:58 Santa Cruz 2022

6) 81:16 Carmel 2022

7) 81:22 King City 2018

**8) 81:42 Alisal 2023**

9) 83:10 Lynbrook 2019

10) 83:11 Santa Teresa 2019

**2) 15:05 Joshua Guzman 11 Gilroy 2023**

3) 15:06 Carson Smith 12 Santa Teresa 2019

4) 15:06 Trent Nosky 12 Aptos 2022

**5) 15:12 Noah Lopez 12 Whitney 2023**

**6) 15:12 Kees Van Der Meer 12 Santa Cruz 2023**

**7) 15:14 Matthew Mullane 12 St. Francis 2023**

**8) 15:21 David Hurren 12 Whitney 2023**

9) 15:25 Jeremy Kain 10 Scotts Valley 2019

10) 15:25 Mitchell Ross 12 Scotts Valley 2019

11) 15:28 Ethan Dodge 12 Whitney 2019

12) 15:28 Aiden Boothby 12 Scotts Valley 2022

13) 15:30 Pierson Lamborn 12 Clovis West 2019

**14) 15:31 Mack Aldi 11 Carmel 2023**

15) 15:35 Cory Nounnan 11 San Lorenzo Valley 2019

16) 15:36 Mario Avila 11 King City 2019

**17) 15:37 Sanjit Borle 12 St. Francis 2023**

**18) 15:37 Alvaro Ruelas 12 North Monterey County 2023**

19) 15:38 Aiden Tarantino 12 Carmel 2022

20) 15:39 Cash Ebright 10 San Lorenzo Valley 2019

21) 15:40 Jack Brownfield 12 Scotts Valley 2022

**22) 15:45 Ben George 12 Scotts Valley 2023**

23) 15:48 Esteban Deniz 11 King City 2018

24) 15:51 Jose Velazquez 11 Alisal 2019

25) 15:51 Dylan Craig 12 Carmel 2022

## Boys' Top 25 Individuals



**1) 14:46 Eli Fitchen-Young 10 Santa Cruz 2023**



*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



***RIP Coach Charlie Pierce (1958-2023)***

Charles “Charlie” Lee Pierce passed away unexpectedly in his home in Prunedale, CA on July 5th, 2023. He was born on Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, NM on January 28th, 1958. He was 65 years old at the time of his passing. Charlie was known for his positive attitude, determination, computer wizardry, and his love of cookies.

Charlie is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 41 years, Debbie Pierce, his two children, Andrew Pierce and Alyssa (Riley) Williams-Pierce, and his sister, Mary Pierce. He is preceded in death by his parents, Lee Van Pierce and Helen Louise Pierce.

Charlie was a devoted husband, father, and friend. He greeted everyone with a smile, and went above and beyond to help others whenever he could. Charlie started running in 2005 when his son joined the North Monterey County High School Cross Country team and never stopped. He went on to coach for 16 years, using his unwavering positivity and “can-do” attitude to support many aspiring young runners.

A celebration of life will be held to honor Charlie’s memory. Additional details will be shared in the coming months. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to North Monterey County High School Cross Country team, or to the Monterey County SPCA.

During this time of grief, may we find comfort in our memories of Charlie. Let us celebrate his life and carry with us his positivity, and the love and friendship he extended to everyone he met.