

5th Annual Jackie Henderson Memorial Post-Meet Story and Results by Coach Gustavo Ibarra



A deep early morning fog, followed by glorious sunshine and moderate temperatures made for a beautiful day to run and made for perfect conditions to chase records at the **5th Annual Jackie Henderson Memorial Cross Country Invitational** on Saturday, September 7th, 2024 at North Monterey County High School in Castroville. Over 50 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. ***By the end of the day, we had new course records for the boys individually and as a team while the girls came oh so close to the team time record!*** The depth this year was crushing with a total re-writing of the team time and individual top marks. On to the details!

The day kicked off with a low-key open memorial race and then an open middle school race. As always, it was great to see past runners along with the newest runners enjoying the meet.



The real fireworks kicked off with the frosh/soph girls. A big pack of girls took turns leading throughout and it was Maya Wastie (10-St Francis) holding off for a slim 2 second win over Eliot Marsh (9-St. Ignatius) 18:49 to 18:51 while Iris Paten (9-Pacific Collegiate) had the strongest sprint finish up for 3rd in a very close 18:52. In the end, 5 girls broke 19:00 to start what would be the deepest meet in our short history.



Maya beating Eliot up-front would set the stage for the team title as well as St. Francis hung on for a close 29-31 win over their league rival St. Ignatius. Los Gatos was well back in 3rd with 100 points grabbing the last medals making this a two-team show up-front.



The frosh/soph boys then featured the largest field of the day with well over 300 runners! Ted Koch (10-St Francis) made it two for two for the Lancers with the convincing 10 second win over a fast-closing Andrew Parra (10-Hollister) 16:20 to 16:30. Aditya Garg (9-Leland) would hold on for 3rd in 16:36. All in all, we had 7 guys break 17:00 making for a nice early race.



King City didn't have any stars among the leaders but had the best 1-5 pack to secure the 3 point 78-81 win over Hollister while St. Francis was a strong 3rd at 96 points. 4th place was almost 100 points back making these three teams truly the class of the field.



The JV girls gave us the first break-away race and smooth striding Payton Wagner (11-St. Francis) hit the gas early and stormed away to stop the clock at 18:39! She was over 1 minute ahead of 2nd placer Brianna Kropp (12-St. Francis) who didn't run bad at all in 19:48, it was just Payton running incredibly well! Payton's time was good for 25th overall all-time mark on the course and set the stage for the complete re-writing of the records later in the varsity races! Jieyu Chiu (11-Los Gatos) was 3rd in 20:22 and helped lead 5 girls under 21:00.



Payton and her teammates from St. Francis put on a team clinic as they almost pulled off a perfect score, a very rare feat in a 50 team invitational, with a 16 point statement, only 1 shy of a perfect score! Alisal was a strong 2nd at 64 points while Everett Alvarez made it two Salinas schools in the top 3 at 111 points holding off some very close schools.



The JV boys really started turning up the heat as the temperatures also started to rise a tad. Anthony Avis (Woodcreek-10) made a long trip and was rewarded with a fine 15:53 in his meet debut only 5 seconds off the all-time overall meet records! Sub 16:00 for sophomores is excellent and he helped Cooper Coddling (12-Los Gatos) and Joseph Dito (11-St. Ignatius) post some great times as well in 16:07 and 16:18 respectively. Overall, we saw 9 guys dip under 17:00.



Los Gatos would flip the win on the team front securing a close 41-49 point win over Woodcreek, who took the individual title. St. Ignatius collected some more medals in 3rd at 66 points.



The Varsity girls completely stole the show last year and returned to keep the fire burning here. Early on in the race we had several lead changes while Kylie Hoornaert (12-Prospect), who was 2nd here two years back, did much of the early work. Then it was Sabrina Zanetto (12-St. Francis) who took over the lead and pushed much of the middle portion of the race helping to make the race what it turned out to be. Surging late and convincingly was Shea Elmore (12-Los Gatos) pulling away for a very solid win in 17:32! This is a nice early season win for Shea and puts her on a new elite level for 2024! Her time is the 4th fastest ever on the course ahead of some very good ladies. Kylie hung on for 2nd. She was 2nd two years back as well and was rewarded with a 17:47 today while doing much of the early race pace-setting. Sivani Kaliki (10-Evergreen Valley) was strong throughout and held off Sabrina (18:00) and her teammate Lauren Draper (11-St. Francis) in 18:02 who started the St. Francis show! The records were destroyed as 17 girls dipped under 18:40, the old mark to make our top 25 all-time! Oh my!!



The St. Francis varsity girls wanted the course record and it was evident early on that they were willing to go for it here with 7 girls all in the top 12 early on! The middle and last mile seemed to spread them out a bit and by the end they came up just short. Whitney stormed to a course record last year in 90:04 and will hold on to that record at least another year with St. Francis showing here in a fine 90:31, only 27 seconds off the record. That would be good for a solid 31 point showing over some very good teams! Los Gatos, led by Shea, would be a distant 2nd with 92 points. They would stop the team time clock at 96:10, good for 5th best ever! Evergreen Valley, without their usual #1 today, showed well in 3rd at 100 points and 97:46 team time, good for 8th best ever! This result points St. Francis with a trajectory to yet another top 3 placing at the state meet, which would be three in as many years if they can pull it off.



New Course Record 14:29!! Aydon Stefanopoulos (12-Los Gatos)





The Varsity boys had played 2nd fiddle to the girls last year but this year the tables turned! We lost our top returner to a recruiting trip and another top contender to an injury but we knew the field was stacked and would provide more than enough firepower and we were not disappointed. Aydon Stefanopoulos (12-Los Gatos), the tall silky smooth strider, would blast to the front early on and then settle a little in the hills hitting the first mile in 4:40 only to blast away late and storm for a **NEW COURSE RECORD in 14:29 shattering the record by 17 seconds!!** We knew he had a chance if things fell into place and they sure did! The weather was ideal and the crowd was nuts propelling him to dip under Eli-Fitchen Young's remarkable mark of 14:46! Sub 14:30 this early on is quite remarkable and sets him to contend with the nation's best in 2024! Meet veteran Mack Aldi (12-Carmel) would have a breakout race here in a stellar 14:56, good for 3rd best all-time! Trey Wright (12-St. Ignatius) would set the table for his team's stellar showing with a great 14:46 as well, tied for 3rd best ever! Joshua Guzman (12-Gilroy) did much of the work early on leading a little while also leading the chase pack throughout and was rewarded with a very good 15:01, 5th best ever. All in all, 21 boys went sub 15:48 which was the 25th best mark ever before today!! Truly spectacular and crushing depth to re-write the record books.



St. Ignatius gets the win and Los Gatos gets the new Team Time Course Record 78:05!

St. Ignatius made their meet debut and did it in fine style eeking out a 1 point win over our pre-meet favorite Los Gatos, 96-97! It doesn't get closer than that with St. Ignatius putting 6 guys in before Los Gatos had 5 to make the difference here! Los Gatos would get some nice follow-up news with their NEW COURSE TEAM TIME RECORD in 78:05 to take more than a minute off of Whitney's 79:06 from last year! St. Ignatius was close at 78:36 good for 2nd fastest ever also under the old record. Willow Glen flashed to

the front early and impressed throughout with the best 1-4 pack in the meet and had a chance at the win but faltered as their 5th runner was well back of the other top contending teams. If they can close that 5th man gap, which we think they will soon, watch out! Today they were 3rd at 110 pts but that could change soon. Their team time was just 1 second off the old course record at 79:07, making them the 4th best ever. Aptos at 79:32, Woodcreek at 79:33, and St. Francis at 79:45 move to 5th, 6th, and 7th fastest teams making this easily, and by far, our best boy's meet ever to cap off a great meet!

Thank you to everyone who came and helped remember Jackie!

2024 Full Results!

<https://live.athletic.net/meets/39858>

Meet website;

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



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