

# Orinda Parents Go the Extra Mile for Cross Country

By Cathy Tyson



Miramonte cross country kids carbo-load

“The garlic bread is really good,” says Heather Baskettt. Heather is a junior at Miramonte and enjoying a meal, compliments of Jill Larsen and other cross country moms in preparation for a Center Meet the next day at Lafayette Community Park. It takes a special kind of generosity to open your home and prepare food for approximately 90 kids. What’s even harder from the hostess perspective is not knowing if all 160 kids from freshmen to seniors are going to show up.

As it turns out, according to Head Coach Brian Henderson, it worked - the students ran well. Three schools compete at a Center Meet; at this particular event Concord High, Acalanes and Miramonte participated. All six divisions won against Concord, and the Frosh/Soph boys along with the JV girls won against Acalanes. “The pasta feeds are one of the absolute high-



Jill and Jim Larsen surrounded by contributing parents lights of the season,” notes Henderson. “It gets them pumped up for the meet.”

“It’s a great way to see all the kids who are a part of cross country. They appreciate a meal and some great team spirit. A lot of parents contribute, so it makes it easy,” says hostess Jill Larsen.

Daughter Molly Larsen reflects, “I like having all the cross country people here. JV Girls rock!” She continues, “for anyone who wants to do a sport, cross country is a good choice – all you have to do is finish and do your best.”

Lasagna, spaghetti, ziti, french bread, salad, fruit, cookies and brownies were on the menu for these hungry teenagers. There weren’t a lot of leftovers.



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