

# Campo Harriers Triumph

By Douglas Chudler

**O**n Nov. 7, the Campolindo cross-country team coached by Chuck Woolridge raced triumphantly at the DFAL Cross Country Championships to prove, once again, that they are one of the top high school running programs in the area.

The league championships were held at Shadow Cliffs Recreation Area in Pleasanton. The varsity 3-mile course, as well as the freshman/sophomore and JV 2-mile course, were relatively flat with minimal hills. Runners were thus given the opportunity to run their best race of the season and exhibit their full potential.

The two varsity races showcased some truly exciting performances by the Campo Cougars. The girls race was held first. Prior to the race, senior Hillary Tomas reflected upon the girls' season: "It's been kind of hard because of all the injuries, but for the most part, we've done really well and we're still undefeated."

During the race, freshman Grace Orders was in the lead, battling side-by-side with College Park's top runner. Although the College Park runner eventually broke away to win the race, Orders finished second. This is a spectacular finish for Orders who is just a freshman.

"Well, I just got off my injury, and I just got second, so I was really happy with my race," said Orders. She is among several freshman girls, including Sarah Mostatabi and Rachel Faoro, who stepped it up as the season progressed and landed them spots on the varsity squad. The combined efforts of each runner gave the team a first-place finish in the championships. This is made more exceptional by the fact that during mid-season, the girls team was plagued with injuries. The girls successfully bypassed these obstacles to close out the season

still undefeated.

The varsity boys race followed next.

For most of the race, junior Robert Pulford stayed just behind some of the greatest runners in the state. His great pacing allowed him to finish sixth. Juniors Michael Brondello and Ross Geiger positioned themselves at the front early in the race to push the team to a third-place finish. The Cougars lost to College Park and Acalanes, but defeated Las Lomas, who had beaten Campo in the early part of the season. The Campo varsity boys overcame a lack of discipline early in the season to prove themselves serious and focused athletes. Sophomore Paul Jackson, the youngest runner on the varsity squad, was excited about his 18th place finish: "I did everything I wanted to do in this race. It was my best race, and now I'm number four for Campo."

The Campolindo JV and frosh/soph teams also generated positive results at the league championships. While the frosh/soph girls achieved the perfect culmination to their season with a first-place finish, the frosh/soph boys finished in third. On the JV side, five Campo runners finished in the top ten for the boys, who concluded the season undefeated, while the girls acquired a third-place finish.

The varsity squads now look to the postseason. "We're hungry for redemption," said junior Colby Pines. The first postseason meet will be the North Coast Section Championships on Nov. 17. While the girls look to defend their NCS crown, the boys look to take their relatively young team to the next level.

"I'm preparing myself mentally and physically," said boys varsity team member Jason Budge. "As the Asics ad says, 'Sound Mind, Sound Body.'"

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