

SPORTS



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Gunn's Meeks runs to another victory in cross country

After a cool morning in Fresno on Saturday, it warmed up to the point of being just plain hot with 90-plus degree heat. That, however, didn't slow Gunn senior Gillian Meeks at the Clovis Invitational held at Woodward Park.

Despite the sweltering heat, Meeks had another great performance as she won the Division I girls race with a 17:44.5 over the 5,000-meter (3.1 miles) layout that also serves as the site of the state championships.

"It was a really amazing race," said Gunn coach PattiSue Plumer.

Meeks won by nearly a full 1 1/2 minutes as the second-place runner ran 19:00.2. Equally impressive, Meeks had the second-fastest overall time among girls on the day. Only Destiny Collins of Great Oak ran faster, a 17:36.7 in the championship race that was held in the morning when temperatures were still in the 60s.

Plumer said she was most impressed by the fact Meeks won by such a large margin -- she was leading by five seconds at the mile -- and did so in the high temperatures and dust.

With Meeks leading the way, the Gunn girls finished sixth in the team standings. Illi Gardner was the No. 2 Gunn finisher in 25th (20:15.8).

"The girls team did fairly well, though some of the girls really struggled with the conditions," Plumer said.

Palo Alto junior Kent **Slaney** also wilted in the heat while suffering his first loss of the season. He led after the first mile, at which point the Vikings were in 11th as a team. **Slaney** was tied for first as the two-mile mark but wound up finishing ninth in 16:28.9. The Vikings, however, moved up and took fifth in the Division I race. Gunn senior Reid Kovacs led the Titans with a 17:00.8 for 41st.



Gunn senior Gillian Meeks won the Division I girls race at the Clovis Invitational on Saturday.



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