

SPORTS



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The race is on for spots at the state cross country meet

by Rick Eymer/Palo Alto Online Sports

The same two teams that finished first and second in last year's Central Coast Section Division I boys cross country race will be in the forefront again Saturday at the Crystal Springs course off Hallmark Drive in Belmont.

Bellarmine Prep is looking to continue its dominance of the sport and Palo Alto is in the running to possibly unseat the Bells.

Vikings' senior Kent **Slaney** and Bellarmine's Meika Beaudoin-Ross will likely vie for the individual title.

The Division I boys race is scheduled to go off at 12:20 p.m. with the girls to follow at 12:55 p.m.

The Division IV boys and girls races kick off the full day of competition at 10 a.m. and 10:35 a.m., respectively.

The Division V races begin at 11:10 a.m. and 11:45 a.m., with Castellija and Priory both in the hunt for a top finish among the girls.

The Division II races get underway at 1:30 p.m. and 2:05 p.m., with the Gunn girls looking to place among the top three.

The Bells will be hard to defeat. All five of its scoring runners placed in the top nine of the West Catholic Athletic League finals and all ran under 16:00, with Beaudoin-Ross going 14:59.6 at Crystal Springs. No. 2 finisher Alex Scales ran 15:14.3.

Slaney ran 15:22 in finishing second (first in Division I) overall last year, Beaudoin-Ross went 15:35 a year ago.

Palo Alto is uniquely situated to challenge Bellarmine for the team title, with enough quality depth among its runners to stay with the Bells.

Six Vikings finished among the top 10 at the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League El Camino Division finals at Crystal Springs, with **Slaney** running 15:18.4 and No. 6 runner Sam Craig going 16:29.6.

In between, Henry Saul, Naveen Pai, Spencer Morganfeld and Ben Beaudry can make things interesting. Even Kai Oda, who finished 17th at the league meet, could factor in the final tally by finishing ahead one of the Bellarmine runners.



Palo Alto boys (left to right): Ben Beaudry, Kai Oda, Henry Saul, Kent **Slaney**, Sam Craig, Spencer Morganfeld, Naveen Pai



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