

## SPORTS



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### Palo Alto earns a return trip to state cross country meet

by Rick Eymer/Palo Alto Online Sports

Senior Kent **Slaney** ran a personal best, though he was unable to defend his Central Coast Section Division I individual title, finishing second to Bellarmine's Meika Beaudoin-Rosse, whom ran second to **Slaney** last year.

Palo Alto also finished second to the Bells, 25-51, in the team race, duplicating last year's results. Both teams advance to the state meet in Clovis in two weeks.

"It was a good race," **Slaney** said. "We were moving pretty hard through the second mile. I stayed with him until until the final 400 meters. Now we're all looking forward to state."

Beaudoin-Rosse (14:58.8) and **Slaney** (15:10.9) ran the top two times of any division on the day. Palo Alto and Bellarmine placed all give of its scoring runners among the top 16. Homestead was third with 99 points.

Sophomore Henry Saul placed 10th in 16:02.9, followed by Spencer Morganfeld in 11th (16:05.5), Naveen Pai in 12th (16:07.02), and Ben Beaudry in 16th (16:14.6). Sam Craig had to drop out at the start because of a hamstring problem.

In Division II, Gunn placed fifth, with 141 points, and senior Jonas Enders qualified to the state meet as an individual. He placed 12th overall in 16:07.2.

Sacred Heart Prep's Brett Anstrom ran eighth in the Division IV race, finishing in 16:09.0, to qualify for the state meet. The Gators were seventh (170) as a team.

Eastside College Prep was fourth in Division IV competition and junior Max Velazquez qualified for the state meet after finishing 12th in 17:10.8.

Priory junior Jack Nash also made it to state, finishing 14th with a time of 17:16.4. The Panthers were seventh with 172 points.

#### Division I

It was a two-team and a two-man race almost from the start as it became clear no one was going to bunch their runners together. Even then, Bellarmine, with five runners among the top eight, took the advantage from Paly, with only **Slaney** and two other runners keeping the Bells from a perfect score of 15.

Beaudoin-Rosse finished a full 12 seconds ahead of **Slaney**, who, in turn, completed the 2.95-mile course about 16 seconds ahead of Bellarmine's Alex Scales.

"Spencer and Naveen worked together, pushing each other," **Slaney** said. "They were passing runners and everybody stepped up and finished strong. I was proud of how we worked."

Menlo-Atherton ran 12th as a team, led by sophomore Luke Scandlyn's 31st-place finish in 16:40.9. Karl Zahlhaas-Lieb was 45th for the Bears.



Heading back up the hill on the first mile at Crystal Springs. Photo by Mark Foster.



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