

Palo Alto Weekly

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25-22, 21-25, 25-22, 15-11. The Titans (4-5, 9-11) had a strong team effort and were led by Erica Johnston and Meghan Mahoney, each with nine kills.

In the PAL Bay Division, Menlo-Atherton held on to a share of second place following a 25-19, 25-22, 25-11 win over visiting Hillsdale. Paulina King had 15 kills and 12 digs for the Bears (9-2, 17-8) with Devin Joos adding 11 kills and 12 digs. Virginia Lane had 21 digs while freshman Kirby Knapp contributed 40 assists and 12 digs.

The Bears were coming off a tough 24-26, 25-23, 26-24, 25-15 loss to nationally ranked Valley Christian last Friday. King and Joos combined for 35 kills.

Cross country

Gunn senior Sarah Robinson has run in seven cross-country races this season and won all of them. That makes her a heavy favorite for individual honors at the SCVAL El Camino Division Championships on Tuesday at Crystal Springs in Belmont.

Robinson, however, will not go

into the girls' varsity race (3:30 p.m.) at the 2.95-mile layout as the defending champion. In fact, she didn't even compete last season.

Robinson was dealing with some physical problems last year and missed the league finals. Without her, Gunn finished fourth.

The story will be quite different this time around as Robinson leads a young, talented and deep squad coached by Olympian PatiSue Plumer.

The Titans made their final tuneup before the league meet a good one by easily winning the annual Palo Alto City Championships on Tuesday on the 2.18-mile Bol Park course at Gunn.

With Robinson running the second-fastest time ever on the course (11:49.6) while winning by nearly 50 seconds, Gunn finished 1-3-4-6-7 for 21 points without its best lineup. The girls' course record is 11:41 by Tori Tyler in 2004.

The Titans' No. 2 runner, sophomore Gillian Meeks, ran in the first of two varsity races and won comfortably in 12:47.1.

Palo Alto sophomore Bryn Carlson (12:38.5) and junior Katie

Foug (13:16.7) prevented a Gunn sweep by finishing second and fifth, respectively.

In the Junior-Senior boys' race, Palo Alto junior Lucas Matison cruised to victory in 10:59.3, but Gunn took six of the next seven spots and won the team title with 21 points. Paly was second with 38.

Gunn finished 2-3-4-5 behind the efforts of Thomas Rasmussen (11:24.7), Antonio Puglisi (11:31.4), Kushal Nimkar (11:33.0) and Noah Krigel (11:33.9).

Paly actually had the second-fastest boy on the day, Kent Slaney, but the freshman ran in the frosh-soph race. He won easily in 11:15.3 to break the previous freshman course record of 11:37.0 by Paul Summers in 2006.

Girls tennis

Menlo clinched its 20th straight league title, the 18th under head coach Bill Shine, with a 7-0 blanking of visiting Sacred Heart Prep on Tuesday. The Knights improved to 9-0 in the WBAL Foothill Division and 20-1 overall. The triumph also was Menlo's 207th straight in league play, an ongoing state record. ■