

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS

Condor League still chasing Thacher

By Steven Wilson News-Press Correspondent



The boys race at Wednesday's Condor League meet gets under way at Cate School.

MIKE ELIASON / NEWS-PRESS

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After just the second league meet of the season, the boys and girls cross country teams from Thacher are in prime position for a league championship after dominating first-place finishes at Cate School on Wednesday.

Both the girls and boys teams from eight different schools in the Condor League competed in the race that started and finished on the school's all-weather track with a multitude of terrains in between.

The girls from Thacher earned a first-place finish as six competitors finished in the top 10. Cate was close behind and took second, and Midland finished third.

Melanie Reimer took home first place for Thacher with a time of 20 minutes, 22 seconds. Junior Marla Bonser from Laguna Blanca finished second with a time of 20:46.

"It was good. I was recovering from the weekend because I was sick, but it was good. I forgot about the hill, and the heat was a problem,

but I'm improving. I need to work on my speed a little bit more," Bonser said.

For the boys, Thacher took home first place as it earned the first and second place spots with solid performances from Simon Novich and Justin Myles, who both finished with a time of 17:57.

"I felt pretty good. The race was relatively flat, so it was nice and easy," said Novich, a sophomore.

Instead of shooting for new personal bests, Thacher coach Fred Coleman told his team before the meet to be tactical and to run as a team.

"This was not a day to run for time, with the heat and the hill. Even though by our standards this was not a hilly course," Coleman said. "So with the conditions, it wasn't a day to impress people or post (personal records). So we were running for points, and we did exactly what we needed to do.

"We just knew that our pack needed to beat Cate's pack and we did that."

Although Novich and Myles were one and two, the rest of the team wasn't far behind, as Thacher earned six

top-10 finishes.

Third place went to Charlie Lehman from Midland with a time of 18:00. Midland finished second in the meet, thanks to Lehman's third-place finish, and four other finishes in the top 20.

"I don't think it was close to my best time, which was 16:30 at Santa Ynez, but it still felt great," Lehman said. "I was trying to catch up at the end, but I just couldn't get myself to sprint fast enough."

Cate finished in fourth as three racers finished in the top 20, including a fourth-place finish from Jeffery Acheampong.

"It was a very demanding race today. I think I just lost it on the hill. I was in second place, but I had to jog after racing up that hill," Acheampong said. "Today is extremely hot. I don't know why or how, but it's not usually like this. We can't blame it on the weather today though, because everyone was running under the same conditions."

The league's next meet will be in three weeks at Midland for the league finals.

email: sports@newspress.com