

Lamorinda cross country

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“He had time of 16:05.8 which we thought was great, so he had an exceptional day.”

Miramonte

It was a senior laden team that coach Tristan Tool brought to the state meet. The team was led by seniors Kate Riley (9), Ania Keenan (18), Emma Wirz (36), Claire Nolet (57) and sophomore Grace Bell (60), finishing in fifth place.

“The girls worked hard for their victory in the NorCal

Championship, and it was a great confidence builder for them,” Tool said.

The ultimate results at the state meet were not quite what Tool was hoping for: “Kate ran a good race (100th out of the 977 other racers),” Tool said. “We had been hoping to do better but did not do that well with our later runners. It was a longer and more difficult race than the NorCal meet, but our girls did show a lot of improvement from when we ran there at the Rough Rider Invitational

with some of the girls improving by over a minute which is normally unheard of.”

Tool is going to really miss this group of seniors: “They spent a lot of time together and they’ve all become friends and they do the same in shepherding the younger runners in a genuine way, spending a lot of time away from school doing a number of social things together. The bonding of the group has been phenomenal and a big part of their success. Kate was an especially good leader in that

she is a very gritty runner and the most outwardly tough of the runners which helped in bringing the younger girls up and showing it was also cool to look and act tough.”

Unlike the girls team, the boys top finishers at the NorCal meet were all underclassmen led by sophomores Asher Patel (21) and Jason Wagner (43), freshman James Jenkins (46) and juniors Ricky Davis (55) and Sean Soohoo (59), graduating only Roan Kazmierowski (62).

“This was definitely a year

to build on for the boys,” Tool said. “We have a solid number of kids that love it and another solid group of freshmen and sophomores that have shown a lot of potential.”

Tool singled out Patel for how he had battled an injury all year. “Asher is definitely one to keep an eye on. He had almost no actual running all season, working on a bike and an elliptical and still finished first among our runners. Once he gets a full season under his belt, he is going to be very good.”


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