

# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Success at State Tournament for Dons and Cougars, led by Acalanes 4x100 relay team



Acalanes' 4X100 relay team (from left): Ethan Torres, Paul Kuhner, Coach Escobar, Trevor Rogers, and Kyle Bielawski

By Jon Kingdon

To make it to the California State Track Meet is one thing and placing is quite another. The Acalanes boys 4x100 relay team of Ethan Torres, Kyle Bielawski, Trevor Rogers and Paul Kuhner would finish in second with a time of 40.96. Kuhner would finish in 19th in the 200 meter race and Rogers finished in fourth in the long jump with a jump of 23'4" which was 3 1/2 inches longer than his jump at the Meet of Champions.

The Dons finished 12th overall in the state. "California is the most competitive meet in the country because it's the only state that does not have divisions," Acalanes head coach Joe Escobar said. "Our success is all that more impressive when you think about a school of our size to go that far and perform at that level is absolutely insane."

Their 40.96 time was the fastest time ever run by a Diablo Athletic League team, the fastest public-school time in the state this year and the fastest time in the history of the North Coast Sectional. "It's just much more impressive when you consider that none of our runners made it to the finals in an individual sprint event," Escobar said. "Every other team had at least one runner that made it to one of those finals."

It was the ultimate team effort where the sum was greater than the whole of its parts, said Escobar. "Paul has been an incredible anchor, Trevor an incredible curve runner, Kyle an incredible leader and Ethan incredible out of the blocks," Escobar said. "They all played their parts as well as they could, and they were perfectly set up to run well together."

Last year the team did not make it to state due to a baton drop at the Tri-Valley meet so there was a determination to make sure that did not happen again, but it wasn't that easy in the end due to various injuries during the season. "Trevor did not compete until late April and Paul missed time with two hamstring injuries and the four of them did not really get

experience."

### Campolindo

Finishing in 60th, the Campolindo girls' team was a combination of strength, endurance, and speed. Pinkie Schnayer competed in the shot put, Mari Testa in three speed events and Ellie Buckley in the 3200-meter race. Josh Myer was the lone representative of the boys' team in the 100-meter race.

"If we take our year where we've had four person relays, this is up there for the numbers that we have sent," Lindquist said. "There were a couple of years where we've sent a few more but to have four individuals making it to state is an incredible accomplishment."

Junior Pinkie Schnayer finished 11th in the shot put with a throw of 39 feet, 7 3/4 inches. "This was just Pinkie's second year as a shot putter," assistant coach Andy Lindquist said. "She was good last year, but to go from that to 11th in the state of California is pretty phenomenal and it shows you just how talented and hard working she is and how much potential she has out there for next year."

Senior Ellie Buckley finished her career for the Cougars by finishing in 11th in the 3200-meter race with a time of 10:42.54. "Ellie ran a smart race," Lindquist said. "The top 10 runners went through the first mile in 5:10 which is pretty fast, and Ellie was patient and moved up in the middle of the race and to finish where she did in the state of California is pretty impressive."

In her time at Campolindo, Buckley has won three state championships in cross country, three NCS championships in cross country and two NCS meet championships in track. "Ellie has been our most consistent contributor in the team's successes over the past four years," Lindquist said.

Mari Testa finished in 6th in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 14.01, a personal and school record, and the highest finish ever for a sprinter from Campolindo.

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