



SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

4801 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA 90505
(310)533-4352

ANDREW SALINAS, BOYS VARSITY COACH
RICK ESPONDA, COACH

BRIAN TOKUDA, HEAD COACH

MANDI JOHNSON, GIRLS VARSITY COACH
ANDREW LEUNG, REPORTER / TA

Clovis Invitational
Oct. 6-7, 2017

Woodward Park (Fresno). Hilly on pavement, grass, and dirt. 3.1 miles.
Sunny, 88°F

“We rickrolled out of Clovis,” wrote Girls Varsity runner Rivka Ben-Avides about the Clovis Invitational in Fresno. In spite of the torrid weather and hilly course, 19 of South’s runners managed to run at the event, and seven made new PR’s. Though this was a Varsity-only race, some JV Boys came along and attended the event. The two-day endeavor proved to take a physical toll on the team; many slept on the bus on the way home but were awakened to give quotes to TA Andrew Leung for this report. Hannah Nakamoto gave a synopsis of the happenings there and wrote to the author:

We got out of class at [nine] but ended up leaving at [ten] because Greg [Chan] locked the keys in one of the vans. After a [four-]hour drive up to Clovis we arrived at our supposedly “haunted” hotel. We then went to a pasta feed dinner with the teams we would be competing against the next day. On the way home from dinner one of the vans convinced Rick to take them to Macy’s. We then got back to the hotel and feasted on some pre-race pie ... while watching Friends. That’s a wrap on Clovis 2017 ©[.]

Rivka Ben-Avides wrote of the “haunted” hotel:

It was pretty wack [sic]. So first off we walked into the lobby of the hotel and we were all bummed out that the pool was closed. And when we looked around the lobby it looked like we were waiting in line to get on the Haunted Mansion ride at Disneyland. I think I speak for all of us when I say the rooms and bathrooms were pretty sketchy. There was also this creepy statue outside that reminded some of us of a scene from the movie [I]. Later on at night, Kanon [Mori], Emma [Gloyer], Mia [Trodden], and I all saw a little girl walking around outside by herself and we got scared because she was alone and the hotel was already giving us haunted vibes. When we went outside to talk to the girl she was gone. I don’t think we would ever be able to stay at that hotel ... again. We were SUPER loud and [were] constantly running down the hallway to get to each other[']s rooms. We were able to hear the JV boys very clearly from my room which was down the hall from their rooms too.

The runners came back to Torrance exhausted on Saturday, arriving home at around 6:15 p.m.

Hayden Johnson ran the fastest among South High’s runners, getting 27th place out of 242 in his race with a time of 16:29. His pace was 5:19 per mile. Noah Kawashiri followed closely, coming in one second slower than Johnson but four places behind. Varsity runners Dia Antazo and Casey Spencer took 90th and 111th places, with times of 17:18 and 17:30, respectively. Adrian Orejana got a 17:49, and Nick Majamaki ran an 18:48. Greg Chan got an 18:56. Boys JV runners Robert Martinez, Matthew Peters, Stephen Del Signore, Ryan Taylor, and Troy Wakimoto also ran at the event. Martinez ran a 17:48, while both Del Signore and Taylor ran and 18:25 and 18:26, respectively. Freshman Matthew Peters ran faster than both of them with an 18:01. Troy Wakimoto finished with an 18:51.

Preethy Abraham wrote, “You haven’t raced until you’ve killed yourself six times,” showing the devotion many of the runners had at Clovis. Abraham ended up getting a 20:25. Mia Trodden came in first among South’s girls and 32nd place in her race with a time of 20:10. Ashley Huang followed with a 20:11. Huang wrote, “No cop[,] no stop,” a phrase the author cannot comprehend but some of the Varsity Girls runners can. Rivka Ben-Avides got 97th place with a 21:19, and Emma Gloyer ran a 20:50. Gloyer, having a marching band competition at Warren High School in Downey on the same day as the meet, had to be driven home by her father to make it to band on time. Kanon Mori ran a 21:49; Hannah Nakamoto finished with a 21:11. Nakamoto best summarized the spirit of the event, writing, “Clovis is so much more than the race[,] spending time with your team is the best part of it all.”

Though Monday and Tuesday are student-free days at South High, Head Coach Brian Tokuda has stated that all runners must come for morning practice at 7 a.m. South’s next event is the Pioneer League Meet #2 at Columbia Park on Thursday. This is the second of three events that South will partake in as a part of the Pioneer League. At that meet, all athletes, not just Varsity, will be invited to attend. Mount Sac on October 20th will be a test of our athletes’ abilities due to its notoriously hilly course, hence its name. The Pioneer League Finals will then take place, and subsequently, the Southern Section Prelims and Finals will end the season. The chances are quickly waning for runners to improve their times with only a few meets left. As this Cross Country season comes nearer to its end, many are looking to make new PR’s and prepare themselves for Track and Field in 2018.

- TA Andrew Leung
Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017