



SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

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Palos Verdes Invitational
Sept. 29, 2017

Palos Verdes HS. Hilly on dirt and woodchips. 2.0 miles.
Sunny with fog, 76°F

“DOGGONE IT! I was hoping to beat my goal of a 99:59!” That was how TA Andrew Leung reacted when he heard that South would not stay for the open race at the Palos Verdes Invitational last Friday. It was likely the TA’s only chance to run with Head Coach Brian Tokuda, who also expressed an interest in running in the open race. Nevertheless, the day was hectic for South’s Cross Country team, with 18 different races occurring. The TA was absent from the event, deciding not to miss his classes. The rest of the team ended up coming home at around 4:45 p.m., missing the Varsity and open races. It was very saddening to hear that Girls JV runner Amara Ugwu will be unable to run this week due to injuries sustained previously. Calling the author from the doctor’s office, she said, “I look forward to getting better, and I’m taking it easy.” Because of the unique schedule at the meet, TA Andrew regrets to admit that it is impossible to provide a complete list of injured athletes for this report. Data on PR’s are not available for the athletes as a result of the special two-mile course.

Boys Freshmen runner Matthew Peters got first place in his race with a time of 11:12. Freshman Hunter Dunlavey did amazingly, running a 13:25 in his race. According to Girls JV runner Amara Ugwu, Dunlavey “ran Agony Hill by himself for most of the time.” JV runner Greg Chan finished with an 11:38, and Troy Wakimoto ended with an 11:40. Freshman Michael Uchi, whose name TA Andrew has had a hard time remembering, got a 14:36. Freshman Brandon Ito got a 14:03. JV runner Mark Chung accidentally stepped on fellow JV runner William Woolen’s foot, causing his shoe to fall off. Woolen had to stop running to put his shoe back on. He ended up getting a 14:35. And as if that incident wasn’t enough, Chung, while cheering on other runners, fell down Agony Hill, landing on his buttocks. He said, “You know, after I landed on my [buttocks], it felt very sensitive, very painful. But it’s pretty funny that I fell on Agony Hill.”

Strangely, statistics from only six girls are available for the meet as of publishing time; they are from Carli Colditz, Mia Espinoza, Rania Gomaa, Emma Hesson, Claire Masuda, and Tea Takaoka. Colditz did well, getting seventh place in her JV race with a time of 14:07. Masuda and Espinoza came in within three seconds of each other, getting third and fourth places respectively among the other Girls runners from South. Takaoka finished with a 17:39. Freshman Gomaa again exceeded expectations, getting 11th place in her race with a 15:09. In an interview with injured athlete Amara Ugwu, it was found that freshman Cora Hesson won a first place medal, her first of the season. Spectating Girls Varsity runner Rivka Ben-Avides wrote to the author, “[I]’m really proud of how everyone did[;] they all worked hard, they fought like [S]ejin, won like [A]shley, and most importantly[,] they ran for [G]reg. I’m really happy with the results of the team.”

Picture day for the runners and staff will be on Thursday; Head Coach Tokuda says that more information is to come regarding pictures. South’s next event is the Clovis Invitational in Fresno for Varsity athletes only. The van will leave on Friday, and the runners will stay overnight and arrive home on Saturday evening. All other runners will have Friday off, but must still sign in with TA Andrew per Head Coach Tokuda’s instructions. The TA and the other athletes wish the Varsity runners well at Clovis.

- TA Andrew Leung
Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017