



SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

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Pioneer League Meet #2
Oct. 12, 2017

Columbia Park. Flat on grass, dirt, and bike paths. 3.0 miles.
Sunny, 74°F

“IT’S EVERYDAY BRO! IT’S EVERYDAY BRO!!!” Hunter Dunlavey, a spirited freshman runner, chanted that famous phrase multiple times at the Cross Country party at Lamppost Pizza, becoming the sensation of the evening. At the Pioneer League Meet #2, runners enjoyed the flat course at Columbia Park. Head Coach Brian Tokuda said on Wednesday that South’s season was “on the line,” and said after the meet that “we did horribl[y],” to the sadness of the team. Girls Varsity runner Mia Trodden said that the course at the South Bay Cup, also held at Columbia Park, was ultimately harder than the one at this meet. Girls Varsity runner Rivka Ben-Avides said regarding the tasty snacks at the meet, “To whoever brought the snacks, I love you.” The injured athletes included Ankesh Jhangiani, Simon Lam, Desiree Powers, and Hannah Nakamoto. TA Andrew Leung, Chloe Esponda, Jhangiani, and Lam were the photographers for the event, and Leung, using Head Coach Tokuda’s half-gigabyte memory card, ran out of memory while he tried to take pictures during the JV Girls race. He said, “Doggone it! That darn thing is from the 1980s!”

The JV Boys were badly beaten by Torrance and West High in the race, with runners from West taking the first 13 places. Zach Davis was the first boy from South to cross the finish line in his race, with a time of 17:09. He was in 20th place. Jack Aubele, Robert Solis, and David Ma took the next three spots. Jonathan Austin ran a 20:22 and said, “This race was better than the South Bay Cup. It’s hard to transition from grass to dirt.” William Woolen, who finished with a 19:37, said that this race felt shorter than the South Bay Cup. Caleb Ma joked, “Yusei [Fujikura] and Ajith [Nair] took the hypotenuse instead of the corners in the race.” In the Freshmen race, Matthew Peters got first place with a 16:35. South, though, still lost that race to West by 37 points. In the Varsity race, South came in fourth out of five places. Dia Antazo remained positive, though, and said, “Noah [Kawashiri] and I kicked [butt] today.” Kawashiri came in sixth place, and Antazo came in seventh.

It was a sad day for the JV Girls, who lost to Torrance High by one point in the calculations. Rania Gomaa, Sara Reeder, and Carli Colditz, though, managed to take the first three places in the race, but then a large block of girls from Torrance and West came and took many of the other early spots. Amara Ugwu, who actually smiled for the camera as she crossed the finish line, ended up getting a 26:10. She said of her performance, “It was similar to Woodbridge in the sense that it was flat and I almost PR-ed.” TA Andrew Leung judged the picture of her from the race as the best one of the meet, if not the season. The Varsity Girls did worse than the JV Girls, getting third place and losing to Torrance by 16 points. Mia Trodden was the first one to come in among South’s girls, running an 18:40. Ashley Huang ran a 19:02 and said, “I want to die.”

At the pizza night, Boys JV runners Lukas Berhe and Michael Shaw both downed some hot sauce, immediately regretting their ill-advised decisions. Berhe threw up in the bathroom, while poor Shaw vomited in his hands. Visiting hurdle star Sean Hamilton rode to the meet and pizza night in style in his ’98 Ford Mustang GT. Boys JV runner Kyle Nakai, celebrating his birthday at the party, said, “It feels pretty good to be 17.” Nakai’s father kindly brought cupcakes for all the athletes. Girls JV runner Seijin Park liked Hunter Dunlavey’s “It’s Everyday Bro” chants, but many others did not. Rivka Ben-Avides said, “[Freshman] Kai [MacKenzie] reminds me of Andrew,” much to the disgust of both MacKenzie and TA Andrew.

Up next is Mount Sac next Friday, an event many of the runners are conversing about because of its notoriously difficult course. Judging from South’s performance at the Pioneer League Meet #2, it is of utmost importance to keep up the practice and training the athletes are doing. Though this meet did not go well for South’s runners, they still persevered. Injured JV Boys runner Simon Lam optimistically said, “I did not run, I did not hide, I saw our Spartans, I saw our pride!”

- TA Andrew Leung
Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017