

Cross country teams stumble at CCS finals

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Published November 19, 2013



Both the Palo Alto High School boys' and girls' cross country teams are recovering from injuries after a disappointing turn at the Central Coast Section Division I finals on Saturday.

The boys' team looked like it was going to improve its standings from last year, and qualified for CCS for the first time in recent years, but ended up placing in ninth as well.

Sophomore runner Griffin Carlson noted the team's high hopes going into the season.

"We had recently acquired new runner Lucas Matison and he had gotten fifth in CCS last year and he's just a junior this year," Carlson said, "We also had freshman **Kent** Slaney who's gone to the Junior Olympics and is extremely fast."

However, in a parallel manner to the girls' team, the boys were also plagued by injuries going into CCS.

"The week before CCS, Lucas got into a bike accident and couldn't race," Carlson said. "**Kent** had developed severe back problems by the end of the season so we weren't able to perform as expected."

Both the boys' and girls' teams are ready to move past this season, and have high hopes for next year.

"I think we hope to do a lot better," Tindall said, "and I think we hope people don't get shin splints or sprained ankles anymore because that was the biggest detriment to the team this season."

Carlson said, "We expect to do extremely well next year. Not only will our runners who weren't able to run at CCS be healed but we also won't be losing anyone so you can just expect for us to get faster."