

SPORTS



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Palo Alto's Givens earns three berths for state track meet

The 2015 Central Coast Section Track and Field Championships on Friday night at San Jose City College served two purposes. One, the meet qualified athletes to the state championships. Two, it marked the 50th anniversary of the first section meet in 1966 -- a boys-only affair.

Remarkably, eight boys' events from that first meet stood the test of time -- a 10.83 100, a 21.47 in the 200, a 1:55.03 800, a 14.34 in the 110 high hurdles, a 6-9 3/4 high jump, a 22-8 1/2 long jump, a 62-6 3/8 mark in the shot put and a winning throw of 171-11 in the discus.

While Palo Alto junior Eli Givens came up short in surpassing three winning marks from 1966, he did accomplish something that has proven rare over the decades -- winning three individual events. In fact, he's the first athlete from Paly to do that.

Givens qualified for the section finals in four events, missing only in the 1,600 relay on Friday where the Vikings' quartet of junior Austin Cox, junior Dami Bolarinwa, sophomore Kent Slaney and Givens clocked 3:25.07 for sixth. Paly would have had to run a season best to surpass the final qualifying time of 3:21.80 by Bellarmine.

The efforts by Givens helped give Palo Alto 41 points and a third-place finish in the team standings. His sprint double is only the second by Paly in section history, the first since E.J. Floreal won the 100 and 200 in 2012.

Givens, who reached last year's state meet in three events (100, 200 and 1,600 relay), was one of six local athletes to qualify for the 2015 state championships.

A handful of local athletes just missed on advancing.

Menlo-Atherton junior Annalisa Crowe finished in the most frustrating of positions, fourth in the girls' 800 in a season-best of 2:14.44.

Palo Alto sophomore Kent Slaney and Paly junior Dami Bolarinwa each finished fifth. Slaney, who was added to the 1,600 field following scratches, made the most of his opportunity and ran a lifetime best of 4:18.55. That ranks him among the top five in school history. Bolarinwa also ran a personal best, clocking 50.48 in the 400.



Palo Alto junior Eli Givens won three individual events at the CCS Championships, including the 100 meters in 10.91.