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It's now or never for Aztec Harriers

It's now or never for the State cross country team Saturday as the harriers travel to San Jose State for the PCAA Cross Country championships over the Spartan six-mile course.

The Aztecs have to be rated a slight favorite going into the meet as they have wins over Long Beach, defending champion, and host San Jose.

Also, the harriers have run over the course once already this year when they ran against San Jose last month, and coach Tony Sucec

sees this as an advantage.

"Having already run over the course, we know that it is a rough course that will require shoes. Tom Davidson ran barefooted and the course was rather rocky, now he knows he has to wear shoes."

The added fact of just knowing the route of the course and its terrain is another plus for the State harriers. The course itself is a good course for cross country with some hills, straights and grass.

Sucec will be taking a seven man

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It's now or never

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contingent to San Jose, with the team consisting of Otis Martin, Tom Wheeler, Tom Davidson, Roger Friend, Dave Matheny, John Jacobson, and Bill Inglehart.

Martin is just coming off of a brilliant win in last Saturday's Aztec Invitational. Martin toured the six-mile Balboa Park course in 29:38.5 and has an outstanding chance of being the conference champion.

Martin was a redshirt last year after transferring from Southern University. He, along with Bill Inglehart, ran last season for the San Diego Track Club and was 14th in the AAU meet in 1969, while leading SDTC to second in the AAU Meet.

He is 21, a junior from San Diego.

The surprise of the team this year is Wheeler. The 18-year-old freshman from Torrance was not expected to do much this year. He had a 4:26 mile to his credit, but Sucec was not sure what he could do when he had to run five and six miles.

Tom Davidson was the most valuable runner on last year's

team and placed second in the PCAA meet last season. Davidson sprained his ankle at the beginning of the year, but has recovered from it and is back to top shape. He is 19 and a junior from El Cajon.

Another red shirt from last year's team, Roger Friend is ready to go Saturday, after finishing sixth in last week's Aztec Invitational. Friend did a 30:25 with a cold, but has recovered and is ready. He is 22 and a senior from San Diego.

Running in his first year of cross country, Dave Matheny has shown this year that he can go the distances. He ran on the Aztec track team last year and has a 9:08 two mile to his credit. He is 21 and a senior from Spring Valley.

A consistent performer all season long, John Jacobson is ready to go Saturday. He finished in the top ten last week at Balboa Park. He is 20 and a junior from San Diego.

Filling out the seven-man team is Bill Inglehart. He also redshirted last season after coming here from Oklahoma. Inglehart finished eighth last Saturday. He is 21 and a senior from Westminster.