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CC's Rees Does 9:11.7 2 Mile At All-Comers

By Eddie Lopez

Bob Fries, track coach at Fresno City College, is a hyper-excitabile guy so when he shouts "Wow, a 9:12 two mile!" it is expected.

But when Dutch Warmerdam, the coach at Fresno State, starts throwing around expressions like "That's great — simply great!" well, you know something's cooking.

The cause of all this excitement during yesterday's All-Comers Meet at Ratcliffe Stadium was Cliff Rees, the 5-foot-8, 145-pound City College freshman from Dinuba. He won the two-mile in 9:11.7.

Now, that might not sound like anything to get excited about in this era of sub nine-minute eight-lappers, but, it is. Only a handful of San Joaquin Valley-born runners have ever run faster.

To start with, Rees' 9:11.7 eclipses Pete Santos' 9:26-flat City College record. And, get this: It was his first-ever flat course two-mile race. His others have been in cross country competition.

The valley's fastest-ever two-milers include Pete Romero, 8:54.6 as a senior at Reedley High in 1967; Rick Hitchcock, 8:59.6 as a freshman at Bakersfield College in 1969; and Dave Cords, 8:58.9 as a senior at FSC in 1969.

"He's really got it, hasn't he?" Warmerdam remarked. "That'll be an eye-opener for some of those distance runners down south. Potentially he can run with any JC two-miler in the state."

Rees' time was possible because he was chasing Jeff Hill, former City College distance runner now competing for FSC, catching him in the final

stretch. Long-haired Hill timed 9:17.4, also a career best. Hill's previous best was 9:30-flat.

"I was a little tired," Hill gasped. "I worked out in the morning. Why? Like, distance-wise we've (meaning FSC) got competition all over the place."

Hill hit the mile mark in 4:39-flat and was 8:20 after seven go-arounds.

Rees, who timed 4:19.1 for the mile and 1:58-flat for the half-mile against Bakersfield last week with only a 40-minute rest between the two events, ran a cross country four-mile last fall in 20:30 and a prep cross country two-mile in 9:52.

"No, they weren't chasing me," he said. "I was chasing Hill. It really surprised me. I didn't think I could run that fast. I like to switch around a lot and I'd like to try them all, anything from a 440 to 26-miles."

"But I think I like the mile best."

The meet, under clear skies with a slight breeze, produced a number of other outstanding marks, notably a 16-foot vault by FSC's Tom Whitten, 152-3 discus toss by Havis Nelson, 53-1/4 shot put by Roger Castaneda, 171-1 hammer throw by Keith Tice, 199-9 javelin mark by Fresno Pacific's Max Drake and 42.4 time for the 440 relay by Lorenzo Johnson-anchored City College.

Whitten, former College of the Sequoias athlete and former GI, cleared 14-6, 15-0, 15-6 and 16 feet on first attempts. He was over at 16-feet twice last year. The 6-foot-1, 190-pounder looks stronger than ever.

Drake, a 6-foot-1, 195-pounder, was in his third javelin competition. His previous best was 193

feet. The former Reedley High athlete did 56 feet and 166 feet with the shot put and discus last season. He has reached 215-feet in practice and plans to concentrate on the 10-event decathlon.

Tice, 6-foot-3, 260-pound, 23-year-old junior from El Cerrito, also is throwing the 16-pound hammer for the first time.

Castaneda, at "about 300-pounds," was dissatisfied with his mark. He did 55-6 last year.

"I've hit 55-feet in practice," he said. "Last year I stayed at 55 feet for a long time. I was

waiting to explode another two feet, like a lot of putters sometimes do all of a sudden, but never did."

Reggie Davis, former Centennial High (9.8) and Compton College (9.7 and 21.6) sprinter now running for Pacific, surprised Johnson in a 10-flat 100. But the 5-foot-6, 160-pounder was not strong enough for City College's Don Ward in a 22.4 furlong. Johnson was a badly beaten fourth.

Hammer throw — 1. Tice FSC 171-1; 2. Carlsen Unaff. 153-5; 3. McCave FP 151-11.

Javelin — 1. Drake FP 199-9; 2. Petruskin Unaff. 177-4; 3. Powell FCC 176-6. 440 relay — 1. Fresno CC (Giordano, Parks, Ward, Johnson) 42.4; 2. Pacific (Hurd, Davis, Sconiers, Temple) 42.7. LJ — 1. Trujillo Reed. 20-11; 2. Jackson FP 20-6 1/4.

Mile — 1. Kirk FCC 4:33.8; 2. Blydenburgh FP 4:33.9; 3. Hall FCC 4:36.1. HJ — 1. Laraway FP 6-4; 2. Kass FCC 6-4; 3. Cowart FCC 6-4.

120 HH — 1. Lindskoog FP 15.3; 2. Zulim FSC 15.3; 3. Tatum FCC 15.6.

SP — 1. Castaneda FSC 53-1/4; 2. Anderson FP 52-9 1/2; 3. Dalerio FCC 49-10 3/4.

440 — 1. Parks FCC 49.6; 2. Elder FP 50.1; 3. Williams FSC 50.3.

100 — 1. Davis FP 10.0; 2. Ward FCC 10.0; 3. Johnson FCC 10.2.

800 — 1. Elder FP 1:57.4; 2. Perez FCC 1:58.7; 3. Gobelman Hayward 1:58.9.

TJ — 1. Trujillo Reed. 44-10; 2. Allredge FP 44-3 1/2; 3. Macklin FP 41-9. 440 IH — 1. Rademacher FCC 56.2; 2. Zulim FSC 56.7; 3. George FSC 56.7. 220 — 1. Ward FCC 22.4; 2. Davis FP 22.5; 3. Bessey FP 22.7.

Discus — 1. Nelson FSC 152-3; 2. Kalderberg FSC 143-9; 3. Drake FP 140-8. Two-mile — 1. Rees FCC 9:11.7; 2. Hill FSC 9:17.4; 3. Daugherty FSC 9:44.5. PV — 1. Whitten FSC 16-0; 2. Peters FP 13-6; 3. Livingston FCC 13-6. Mile relay — 1. Fresno Pacific (Thompson, Dick, M. Elder, J. Elder) 3:24.1; 2. Fresno CC 3:24.8; 3. Fresno State "B" Team 3:27.5.