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For Immediate Release

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SPARTAN HARRIERS TEST ATHENS CLUB

SAN JOSE--More than anxious to get the season underway, San Jose State's cross country team will meet the Athens Athletic Club of Oakland Saturday at 11 a.m. on a course in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

The meet was originally scheduled for last Saturday but was postponed for one week. The Spartans also had a meet against the Santa Clara Youth Village cancelled.

"The kids are anxious for competition," says newly appointed coach Ernie Bullard. "We expect to have a good team with fine depth. We're gearing our program so that we will start slowly and hope to reach our peak for the nationals."

Following Saturday's meet against the Athens Club, the Spartans will participate in the Sacramento State Invitational on Saturday, Oct. 12. This will be one of the toughest tests the Spartans will face outside of the national championships.

The Invitational field will include USC and San Diego State, two teams which must be rated among the tops in the country. Both are exceptionally strong with experienced runners. The Trojans, who up until this year haven't emphasized cross country, are rated a solid choice for the national crown, boasting of eight athletes who have run the two-mile distance in nine minutes or better.

Heading the Spartan contingent this year are two returning All-Americans, Darold Dent and Byron Lowrey, who will add needed experience to the squad. An outstanding newcomer who will be battling for one of the top spots is Andy Vollmer, a transfer student from Modesto Junior College. He surprisingly won the annual intrasquad melon run last week.

Others expected to bolster the Spartans' chances this season are Gary Berthiaume, a sophomore from Antelope Valley who finished second in the melon run, junior Ralph Gamaz, two-time California State Meet high school two-mile champion, seniors Mike Bailey and Dave Berni and sophomore Gary Rescualli.

In the melon run, the depth Bullard commented on was displayed when the first five runners were grouped within 45 seconds of one another over the $\frac{5}{8}$ mile course.