

Daily



Aztec

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Sacramento Meet Labeled 'Stiff Test'

Tony Sucec's Aztec cross country team faces a stiff mid-season test tomorrow when it travels to Sacramento for the Sacramento State Invitational.

The Aztecs will be gunning for USC, the only team to beat SDS in the last two seasons.

The course is a flat four-mile course and is rated fast by experts. The course runs along the riverbed of the American River.

"We run on solid riverbed for the first mile and one-half, but then we hit loose sand for about one mile. We must be with the leaders when we hit the sand because it is almost impossible to gain ground in sand," Sucec said.

Oly Olseon, who won the Long Beach Invitational last month, will lead USC. Neil Duggan, former Hancock JC star and 3:56

miler, will also spearhead Troy. The Trojans have eight athletes who run the two-mile in nine minutes or better.

Darold Dent, NCAA cross country all-American and former JC all-American from Pasadena City College, leads a strong San Jose State team. Byron Lowrey will also pace the Spartans.

Bob Waldon of Cal, Greg Black of Stanford and Gary Tuttle of Humboldt State will also provide strong individual competition.

Stanford, Cal., and San Jose State along with USC will provide strong team competition. Host Sacramento State, Chico State, UC Davis, University of Pacific, Fresno State, Humboldt State, San Francisco State and Haywood State are the other contenders.

"This is our first big test," Sucec said. "This will prove if we have just a good team or a great one. We need strong team cohesion. It is starting to form now that the new people are learning our system."

The Aztec squad of Tom Davidson, Roger Friend, Tim Danielson, Alan Leverenz, Pete Virgadamo, Dave Hamblen and Skip Crowley is ready both mentally and physically for this meet, Sucec feels.

The SDS squad improvement has been staggering this season. Hamblen covered the Whittier Invitational course in 21:24 - 64 seconds faster than last year. Crowley covered the same course 66 seconds faster than a year ago and Friend was 22 seconds faster than in 1967.

The Aztecs covered the Whittier course in an average time of 21:41. This was an improvement of 24 seconds over last season and seven seconds faster than USC's winning time of 21:48 last year.