Cougar harriers 2nd in invitational

DALY CITY — Five Half Moon Bay High girls finished in the top 19 as the Cougars placed second in the team competition at the 4th Annual Ram Invitational Saturday at Westmoor.

Twenty-four teams and 521 athletes from the Bay Area competed in the event, held on Westmoor's 2.1-mile course. There was competition in five divisions, including varsity girls and boys. The San Mateo County schools represented were Westmoor, Terra Nova, El Camino, Half Moon Bay and Notre Dame.

The HMB girls combined for 44 points, just behind winner El Cerrito at 34. Leading the Cougars was Suzy Faigle, who wound up seventh at 15:50. The titlist was Silver Creek's Angela Stearns in 15:05.

Other high Half Moon Bay finishers included Jenny Hampton (ninth at 16:10), Amy Clemens (12th at 16:32), Leslie King (13th at 16:40) and Jamie Kaminski (19th at 17:32).

Westmoor's Patty Pender, the only other county athlete in the top 20, took eighth at 16:02. Teammate Sabrina Han, one of the area's finest distance runners, continues to nurse tendonitis in her right leg. Han may be ready for next Monday's Stanford Invitational.

El Cerrito also captured a first in the boys' varsity competition, scoring 43 points. Half Moon Bay was the highest county finisher, totaling 158 points for fifth.

Dave Tigert of Terra Nova came in ninth at 12:59 to lead all county runners. Russell Hill of Silver Creek outran the rest of the field, rolling in at 12:23.

El Camino's Peter O'Driscoll came in 16th, Tony Restivo of Westmoor took 18th and Fernando Villegas was Half Moon Bay's highest finisher at 19th.

Half Moon Bay continued its fine showing at the lower levels as it took third (61 points) at the boys' sophomore division. Matt Romersa placed fifth at 13:49.

In the girls' frosh-soph race, HMB's Nicole Jones won in 17:49.

Three course records were set: Matt Kutchi of St. Ignatius won the boys' JV race in 13:47; Sal Talamo of Live Oak captured the boys' sophomore race in 13:14; and in the boys' freshmen event, John Fairbanks of Homestead set a record in 13:49.

The next major cross-country event is the annual Artichoke Invitational, where dozens of teams and nearly 1,300 athletes from throughout northern California will converge at Half Moon Bay High Saturday. The event, divided into large-school and small-school divisions, gets underway at 9 a.m.

FOURTH ANNUAL RAM INVITATIONAL at Westmoor High

Boys' varsity: El Cerrito 43, Homestead 51, St. Ignatius 119, Monta Vista 151, Half Moon Bay 158, Berkeley 190, Los Gatos 201, Castro Valley 208, Westmoor 216, Del Mar 230.

Individuals (2.1 miles): 1. Russell Hill (Silver Creek) 12:73, 9. Dave Tigert (Terra Nova) 12:59, 11. Peter O'Driscoll (El Camino) 13:15, 18. Tony Restivo (Westmoor) 13:15, 19. Fernando Villegas (HMB) 13:18, 20. Jason Halsey (HMB) 13:20, 21. Danny Restivo (Westmoor) 13:22, 23. Paul Fortune (HMB) 13:29.

Girls' varsity: El Cerrito 34, Half Moon Bay 44, Independence 81, Castro Valley 90, Lowell 107, Notre Dame-Belmont 126, Homestead 166. Individuals (2.1 miles): 1. Angela Stearns (Silver Creek) 15:05, 7. Suzy Faigle (HMB) 15:50, 8. Patty Pender (Westmoor) 16:02, 9. Jenny Hampton (HMB) 16:10, 12. Amy Clemens (HMB) 16:32, 13. Leslie King (HMB) 16:40, 19. Jamie Kaminski (HMB) 17:32, 21. Rosanna Tigert (Terra Nova) 17:34, 22. Monica Nelson (Notre Dame) 17:38.

Boys' JV: St. Ignatius 42, Berkeley 55, Bellarmine 57, 6. Half Moon Bay 195. Individuals (2.1 miles): 1. Matt Kucthi (St) *13:47, 12. John Ferreira (Westmoor) 14:35, 20. Steve Silici (Westmoor) 14:55.

Boys' soph: St. Ignatius 58, Bellarmine 59, Half Moon Bay 61, 7. Westmoor 204. Individuals (2.1 miles): 1. Sal Talamo (Live Oak) *13:14, 5. Matt Romersa (HMB) 13:49, 6. Kyle Premenko (Terra Nova) 13:55.

Boys' frosh: Bellarmine 32, Monta Vista 92, Castro Valley 110, 4. Half Moon Bay 115, 5. Westmoor 131. Individuals (2.1 miles): 1. John Fairbanks (Homestead) *13:49, 4. Jose Solano (Westmoor) 14:12, 5. Dan Rhodes (HMB) 14:28, 7. Jess Whiting (HMB) 14:34.

Girls' frosh-soph: Castro Valley 22, Lowell 36, Notre Dame-Belmont 67. Individuals (2.1 miles): 1. Nicole Jones (HMB) 17:49, 13. Gloria Lee (Westmoor) 20:11, 15. Maria Seamans (Notre Dame) 20:47, 16. Yvonne Schustoff (Westmoor) 20:51.

*set course record for division