



THE 11TH ANNUAL DON BOSCO TECH *CROSS COUNTRY INVITATIONAL*

INVITATIONAL PREVIEW

On Saturday, September 10, 2011, the 11th Annual Don Bosco Tech Cross Country Invitational gets underway at 8 am at Santa Fe Dam Recreational Park. There are 12 grade level races with one starting every 20 minutes. Seventy high schools cross country teams and over 2,560 athletes will trek the 3-mile course over a variety terrain that includes grass, asphalt, dirt and bike trails. Medals will be given out to first 50 athletes in each Small Schools' race and to the first 60 in the each of the Large and Medium Schools' races. There will also be team awards given out to the first 3 places in each division.

The top returning male athletes for this year's Invitational come from the Small School's Division. Seniors Scott Acton of Desert Christian and J.J. Dominguez of host Don Bosco Tech. The two will challenge for top honors of the day. Similarly, their teams will battle out for a small boys' trophy. Division IV parochial power, Salesian led by junior Angel Barranco, comes in hungry to succeed after narrowly missing the State Finals. Traditional small-school boys' powerhouses from Division V, Pasadena Poly and Flintridge Prep, will also try to keep pace in the team awards. In the girls' Small School race, junior Ricki Scherer and Rosamond will battle with senior Annie Grove and Bishop Montgomery for the fastest girls' individual and team times.

In the Medium School race, North Torrance returns an experience boys squad that will place among the top trophy getters in this Division. The Foothill Knights of Santa Ana is poised to give the North Saxons the biggest threat with their young championship caliber squad ready for another post season run. Top senior Tom Ebner will lead the Damien Spartans into battle for a team award. On the girls' side, the best frontrunners will lead their squads hopefully to a podium finish. Junior Taylor Jones of La Mirada will try to help her team upset heavily favored Foothill. The Lady Knights are led by a strong 1 – 2 punch in sophomore Jessica Cushing-Murray and junior Jacquie Adams. Traditionally, Foothill is one of the strongest female cross-country programs from Orange County.

This year in the boys' Large School Divisional races, the championship trophy will be up for grabs among C.I.F. Division I powers Paramount, El Rancho, Etiwanda, Rialto, and Marina. All squads have a tough group of runners mixed with experience and a young influx of talent. Division II schools Serrano and Redlands East Valley also will challenge for a team trophy. However, it is the girls of the Large Schools Division that will impress today's spectators. Newcomer to the Don Bosco Tech Invitational, Redlands East Valley has many talented individual runners that pose a threat to tough Serrano from Phelan. The Lady Diamondbacks always reload in the High Desert and come out on top, especially with sophomore Melissa Fairchild leading the way. But watch out for the Arcadia girls' squad. They lost their top girls to graduation but will find a way to land on the podium. Another school that could be on the radar is Huntington Beach Marina.

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