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HIGH SCHOOL

Fast Horse, Papavasiliou push each other to glory at county track championships



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They were competitors and partners in speed.

Ventura High senior Anthony Fast Horse and Thousand Oaks senior Liam Papavasiliou pushed each other to record-breaking performances in the boys 1,600 meters at the Ventura County Track and Field Championships on Friday night at Moorpark High.

University of Oregon-bound Fast Horse held off Papavasiliou in a meet-record 4 minutes, 9.57 seconds, adding the gold medal to his county cross country championship from the fall.

“It was a wonderful race,” Fast Horse said. “It’s so much fun when you help others go fast. It’s the best thing ... one of the highlights of running.”

Papavasiliou, who also bettered the meet record, broke the 44-year-old Thousand Oaks school record in 4:09.94 in the event, set by Steve Fairman in 1980.

“This is a culmination of all the work I’ve done for four years,” Papavasiliou said. “And the legacy of that record, I know a lot of fast distance guys in this program have gotten close. It means the world.

“I don’t think I could have done it without (Fast Horse). Just together, we were able to push on those last two laps.”

Two weeks after she was chased down by Newbury Park’s Sophia Grant at the Azusa Meet of Champions, Ventura’s Melanie True held Grant off down the stretch by less than a second to win the girls 1,600 meters in 5:01.58.

“In my mind, it was all a strategy race,” True said. “Then I realized it was going to have to hurt a little bit.”

Oaks Christian senior Niya Clayton lived up to her reputation as the defending state champion in the girls 100-meter dash, running to victory in the event for the second straight season in 11.75 seconds.

“I kind of have a target on my back,” Clayton said, “an expectation to hold.”

Ventura junior Luke Carnaghe surprised himself as the night’s lone triple champion.

“It’s county, so there’s a lot of good competition,” Carnaghe said. “I was pretty surprised.”

Carnaghe won the boys 110 hurdles in 15.27 seconds and the boys 300 hurdles in 40.26 seconds.

He then won the long jump on his final attempt, tying his personal best of 21 feet, 4 inches, moments after scratching his first attempt and reaching back to spoil his second.

“I thought, ‘I just have to go for it here,’ ” said Carnaghe, who only placed in the 300 hurdles last year as a sophomore.

Oaks Christian junior Weston Schwesinger swept the boys sprints, winning the 100 meters in 10.99 and the 200 in 22.09.

Royal senior Quincie Richards defended her county title in the girls triple jump with a mark of 37-8 and added the girls long jump title with a leap of 17-9.

Camarillo junior Trinity Tipton and Ventura senior Erik MuroMurillo dominated the throws.

Tipton won the girls discus for the third straight year with a throw of 125-2 and added the shot put title with a throw of 36-3.50. MuroMurillo took the boys shot put with a throw of 54-0 and the boys discus with a throw of 149-10.

Westlake senior Cade Sommers won the boys pole vault in a personal best of 16-1. The mark is good for No. 4 in the state and No. 17 in the nation this season.

Westlake’s Claudia Turner won the girls pole vault at 12-4, moving to No. 4 on the area’s all-time list and No. 10 in the state this season.

Girls results

Buena's Madison Easter edged Royal's Oliva Kirk by 0.001 to win the 200 meters in 24.68. Thousand Oaks' Morgan Quinn won the 400 in 57.18. Newbury Park's Elyse Grant took the 800 in 2:19.36.

Newbury Park's Abigail Pace won the 100 hurdles in 15.54. Moorpark's Caitlyn Dougherty won the 300 hurdles in 47.24.

Oak Park's Katarina Modrzejewski won the 3,200 in 11:20.54.

Ventura's Valentina Fakrogha won the high jump at 5-6.

Oaks Christian swept the three relays. The team of Imani Clayton, Niya Clayton, Rayah Rodriguez and Kyra Terry won the 4x100 relay in 46.98. The team of Rodriguez, Terry, Kerry Dickerson and Chiara Baker won the 4x400 relay in 4:03.74. The quartet of Payton Godsey, Grace Geyer, Delaney Napierala, and Alexandra Reiersen won the 4x800 relay in 9:28.88.

Boys results

Westlake's Ife Orekoya won the 400 in 49.86. Newbury Park's Nathaniel Schohn edged teammate Jack Watson in the 800 in 1:54.67.

Foothill Tech's Chance Leandro won the 3,200 in 9:28.43, holding off Ventura's Henry Hammel and Moorpark's Thomas White.

Rio Mesa's Jackson Knowles won the high jump at 6-5. Thousand Oaks' Powell Williams took the triple jump at 41-11.

The Westlake team of MJ Byrd, Ylian Ostojic, Cade Sommers and Orekoya won the 4x100 relay in 42.31.

The Royal team of Thenuk Chandraseka, Preston Binns, Benjamin Kirk and Asher Lee won the 4x400 relay in 3:28.08.

The Ventura quartet of Micah Grossman, Henry Hottinger, Blake Harris and Fast Horse won the 4x800 relay in 7:58.39.

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