

NORTHWOOD'S ADLER CAPTURES SECOND AT STATE MEET

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The California cross country season ended with dramatic flair Saturday for Orange County runners.

Northwood's Erika Adler and Sara Leonard of Canyon finished second and third, respectively, in a three-way photo finish in the girls Division 2 race to highlight the 30th annual CIF State Championships in Fresno.

Adler, a senior, capped her first and only varsity cross country season as the state runner-up with at time of 17:26, the third-best overall time at the meet.

"It's amazing," Adler said. "It still hasn't really hit me. I'm so happy I got into this sport. I had a great experience with my coaches and teammates."

After starting her high school career as a cheerleader, Adler joined the Northwood track team in March, and into the cross country season she took second at the O.C. Championships, won the Pacific Coast League title and finished fourth at the CIF-SS Finals.

"She isn't fazed by talent

Gonzalez runs well at state meet

Senior Lora Gonzalez capped an impressive cross country career at Woodbridge High with a 29th-place finish in the Division 2 race.

Gonzalez ran the course at Woodward Park in Fresno in 18:36.9.

Gonzalez eclipsed her time from last season on the course by nearly 16 seconds.

The senior finishes at Woodbridge as the seventh-fastest all-time runner in the program.

The Crean Lutheran boys team ended the year on a high note. The Saints finished fifth in a strong Division 4 field with 206 points at the state meet.

Crean Lutheran finished in front of teams including San Lorenzo Valley and San Luis Obispo.

The Saints weren't even ranked among the top 13 teams heading into the CIF Southern Section Finals two weeks ago.

Foothill Technology won the Division 4 state title going away with 48 points.

Sage Creek was second with 100 points, JSerra was third with 162 points, and Oaks Christian took fourth with 195 points.

Crean Lutheran ran with a strong pack to place in the top five. The Saints had a gap of just 28.2 seconds between their first and fifth runners.

Peter Weiss was 40th in 16:26.7 to lead the bunch.

Garrett Miller took 48th in 16:32.0, Craig Odenwald was 50th in 16:33.1, Cole Pino placed 75th in 16:47.5, and Evan Bilotta was 85th in 16:54.9 to round out the team's scoring.

— Brent Shaver

level or pace of the race," Northwood coach Louie Muniz said. "Maturity beyond her years in the sport. Most kids in their first year would fold under that pressure, but she didn't."

"It was a three-way photo finish," Muniz said. "Everyone is screaming.

No one knows who's won. At the end, someone's got to be crowned state champ."

Leonard's third-place time of 17:26 helped Canyon to third place in the team scores.

Capistrano Valley finished 10th as a team.



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