

## WE RUN THIS

PVHS Women's Cross Country sweeps CIF SS for the second year in a row

By Claire Hardesty

As fall sports seasons come to a close, the Palos Verdes Cross Country team runs away from the season adding another CIF ring to the women team's collection. The team consisting of Savannah Scriven, Samantha Steman, Claire Hardesty, Maya Whitcomb, Natalia Gagliano, Emma Nelson, and Anna Terrell came out with the win at the Division 3 CIF championship race on November 23.

Not only did the team win the race, Scriven won the race individually with Steman coming in second.

"Going one two in the race with Savannah was definitely a really proud and happy moment for us, it was a goal we have been working toward for two years," Steman said.

Scriven and Steman went on to place second and sixth at the state meet a week later.

"Individually winning made me feel proud to be a part of this team. I feel like it also made us look more formidable because not only did we win the entire race as a team, we also swept the top spots," Scriven said.

The team was ranked second going into the race behind Brea Olinda High School.

"Winning this year was different than last year because the race was much more competitive. CIF released an article saying the Division 3 girls race would be the closest race of the day," Scriven said.

With the race so close and stakes at an all time high, the win felt like a huge accomplishment for the team.

"To me, winning this year was so much more meaningful than last year because we had more to fight for," Steman said.

PV ended the race with 70 points, beating Brea Olinda by 14 points.

"When I found out we won again this year I just felt a deep connection with my team," senior Natalia Gagliano said. "It felt like all our efforts from the past months were finally paying off."

The team pulled off the win due to the strenuous work put in during the early season and maintaining a tight team bond. Racing for one another and not only for oneself makes the race worth so much more.

"At the end of that race we were all one strong family who did that race for each other." Gagliano said.

PV High Women's Cross Country finished the season as two time defending CIF champions, a fourth place finish at the California state meet, and Scriven individually qualifying for the national championship in Oregon which took place on December 6.

A hard fought battle ended in PV on top this year, leaving the team with even more hunger for another win next year at CIF and a higher finish at state.