

13th Annual Hi-Desert Classic

The 13th Annual Hi-Desert Classic found a new home, at least for the 2007 version. Running on Saturday for the first time in its history, 11 schools competed for the title. When the dust, and wind had settled, Granite Hills' boys & Yucca Valleys' girls edged out the competition of some CIF ranked teams.

The famed 2.91 new course was supposed to have challenged, even the most seasoned runner. However, the long downhills counter balanced the 3 famous hills in Machris Park, leading to some very fast times. The only flat spot available to run was the baseball diamond in which the teams were camped out. The athletes were either going up or coming down. And, although there were no fires in the area, Nick Kelley of Granite Hills & Katarina Ratkowiak of Yucca Valley scorched the course in 14:41 & 17:30 respectively. March like temperatures allowed all the runners to seize an opportunity to set PR's.

The team competition had Granite Hills successfully defending its title from a year ago, knocking off Burroughs RC by 13 points 34-47. Rim of the World brought home the bronze with 93 points. Yucca Valley girls posted its 4th title in a row, beating Rim of the World by 10 points & Granite Hills by 21 points. Rim was running without their #2 runner & #3 was unable to finish due to a slight sprained ankle.

Burroughs RC returned the favor to Granite Hills in the JV boys' race, beating them by 11 points 33-44, with Desert Mirage placing 3rd. Individually, Jordan Beiter won the race in 17:39.

Twentynine Palms, much improved over last year, won the girls JV race by 16 points over Hesperia. The Wildcats placed 3 in the top 4 to score a mere 19 points. Cameo Lakey of Twentynine Palms won in 19:45.

The Frosh/Soph boys race allowed Rim of the World to sneak by Hesperia by 1 point, 55-56. Granite Hills finished in 3rd. Individual honors went to Mark Rice of Granite Hills in 16:59.