

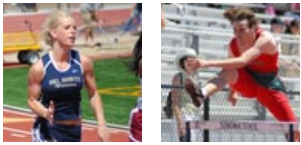
Local athletes score big at NCS championships

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A total of 26 athletes from the Big Five and 17 from the Little Four advanced past their respective North Coast Section championships in the Bay Area last Saturday.

Of the 43 athletes to qualify for this Saturday's Meet of Champions in Berkeley, seven won NCS titles, and all of them will look to finish in the top four at the MOC to advance to next weekend's California Interscholastic Federation State Championships at Cerritos College in the Los Angeles area.

South Fork's Casey Finch was the only local boy to win an NCS title, advancing to the MOC in the discus with a throw of 141-feet, 2-inches.

The six other NCS champions were girls, including Del Norte's Kelsy Hintz, who won both the 100-meter dash (12.8 seconds) and the pole vault (11-0); Arcata's Celeste Manka, who tied with Hintz in the pole vault for the section title; McKinleyville's Brittainy Chown (long jump, 16-11.5); Fortuna's Mallorie Franco (high jump, 5-3); South Fork's Taylor Neill (pole vault, 8-0); and Hoopa's Alanna Nulph (discus, 120-10).

Other locals who had notable performances at the NCS meets include Del Norte's Bailee McCulloch, who placed third in the 100m (12.9 seconds) and second in the 200m (25.96 seconds); Arcata's Anya Ritter, who placed second in the 400m (1:00.16), and Tichelle Daggs, who placed second the 300m hurdles (48.04 seconds); Fortuna's Amber Glenn, who placed second in the shot put (37-3.5) and fourth in the discus (103-0.5).

A total of 41 local athletes advanced past NCS to the MOC last year, with five section champions, but only two athletes, Hintz (pole vault) and Franco (long jump), advanced to state.