

# Frank run attracting big field

■ John Frank's former Oregon State teammates have dominated the event in recent years, but two of them will be absent Saturday.

The north state's oldest running race makes its 22nd run on Saturday.

The NorCal John Frank Memorial Run is expected to draw more than 500 runners and walkers, according to race director Linda Doniak. She said 370 people had entered as of Thursday.

The event, which features 3- and 10-mile runs along with a 3-mile walk, always draws a strong field. Usually at the top of it are the former Oregon State University teammates of John Frank, a state cross country champion at Central Valley High School in 1979.

Frank, a standout for the Beavers in cross country and track, died in an industrial accident in Yosemite National Park in 1986. The NorCal race was renamed in 1987 in his honor, and former teammates pay tribute to him by appearing at the race.

Proceeds for the race are used for the John Frank Scholarship Fund and for scholarships for high school runners in the north state.

Two of Frank's teammates who are former winners, Karl Van Calcar and Mark Fricker, won't attend this year. Van Calcar won the 3-mile last year and Fricker, the course record holder in the 3-mile, took the 10-miler in 1991.

Doniak said Fricker's wife is expecting a baby "any day now" and Van Calcar is staying home in Beaverton, Ore., to train for the U.S. Olympic Trials in the steeplechase. Van Calcar is a former NCAA champion in that event.

Two other former teammates of Frank's, though, are expected to do well in the 3-mile. Dick Oldfield of Portland has qualified for the U.S. Olympic Trials and Gid Rysdam is a past winner in the 10-mile.

Both women's champions are returning — Christy Oliveira, a former West Valley High School and Shasta College runner, in the 3-mile, and Weaverville's Gail Jones in the 10-mile.

Doniak expects Redding's Patrick Kornder and Chico's Tom Cushman to contend for the men's 10-mile title, and cites Redding's Luanne Park and Kim Stempien as threats to Jones in the women's 10-mile.

The 3-mile walk begins at 9:45 a.m. near the Redding Elks Lodge. Both runs start at 10 a.m. on Diestelhorst Bridge. All races end at Caldwell Park near the intersection of Benton Drive and Quartz Hill Road.

The walk follows the new extension of the Sacramento River Trail on the north side of the river. The 3-mile run winds through the Lake Redding Park area. The 10-miler, for the most part, follows Quartz Hill Road.

Runners can register for the race until 8 tonight at C.R. Gibbs on Hilltop Drive in Redding. The cost of \$17 includes a T-shirt and post-race refreshments.

Day-of-event registration, which costs \$20, is from 7:30 to 9 a.m.

Awards will be given out to the top five finishers in each age class. There are 14 age divisions for the walkers, 13 for the 3-mile runners and 10 for the 10-mile runners.

The race is sponsored by Bud Light.