

# SJA Athletes Heading to State

*BY ELADIO JAIMEZ*

**VALLEY MORNING STAR , Monday, April 17, 2012**

SAN ANTONIO — St. Joseph Academy head track & field coach Meme Garza described it as a “positive day.”

The Bloodhounds girls team finished in fourth place (83 points) and the boys sixth (69) at the TAPPS 5A South Regional track & field meet on Monday at Central Catholic.

But SJA qualified a solid group of upper and lower classmen to the TAPPS state meet next month in Waco. The top four in each event qualified for the state meet at Baylor University on May 4 through 5.

“I’m always happy to see our seniors do well and qualify for state,” Garza said. “They’ve put in four years of hard work, and it’s nice to see them continue their track seasons.”

Luis Valencia is among those seniors. Valencia qualified in the pole vault. He won the event with a height of 14 feet, 0 inches. A couple of years ago, Valencia won the state championship in the pole vault.

Javier Richa also qualified in the pole vault with a mark of 11-0 for fourth place. Sara Dunn, another senior, also qualified in the pole vault at 9-6 for second place. “Luis is ready to go higher, and Sara had some good attempts at 10-0,” Garza said.

Another senior Andres Cardenas, who was injured during the 300-meter hurdles at the Meet of Champions last month in Weslaco, fared very well at the regional. Cardenas won the 110 hurdles in a time of 15.27 then came back and took second in the 300s with a time of 40.99. “Andres had been iffy there for a while,” Garza said. “All our seniors did a great job, and our younger kids showed us that they’ll keep our tradition going.”

SJA had a strong showing from a sophomore class led by Hannah Carrillo, who qualified in four events. Carrillo finished third in the long jump (16-3), third in the 100 hurdles (16.90), third in the 100 dash (13.17) and fourth in the 300 hurdles (51.02).

Kristen Lopez qualified in the pole vault (8-0), Jose Masso moved on in the long jump (20-10) and Sasha Kraus did so in the 110 hurdles (15.45).

Throwers Marianna Chavez also qualified in the discus (109-10) and shot put (33-4), and Steven Trevino advanced in the discus (134-7).

The boys 800 relay qualified with a time of 1:36.01, and all three girls relays are moving on to state as well. The 400 relay finished in 52.79, the 800 relay in 1:52.73 and the 1,600 relay in 4:26.01.

“It was exciting, and we’re looking forward to the next couple of weeks,” Garza said.

San Antonio Antonian won the boys and girls team titles.