FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

COACH AND TEACHER JACQUELINE HANSEN GOES THE DISTANCE

As an accomplished marathon runner, St. Monica's P.E. and health instructor Jacqueline Hansen has crossed her share of finish lines. She has won both the Boston and the Honolulu Marathons, set world records for the Culver City and Nike Marathons, and set eleven world records en route to winning the American National 50-mile championship. In addition, she won 12 of her first 15 marathons. As a teacher and coach at St. Monica's, however, Hansen is not content with finish lines, preferring to go the distance to make a difference in her students' lives and in her sport.

Hansen, who is also the cross country and track-and-field coach, has taught at St. Monica's for four years. Aside from teaching and coaching,



she is the P.E./Health department chair, Girls' Athletic Director and the lead coordinator of the six-school girls' league. She is also heavily involved in coordinating the annual 5K run during the St. Monica's Oktoberfair, which pits student runners against the faculty. Currently, she is working on her master's degree in education with a focus on health.

Oddly enough, Hansen hated P.E. in high school. She found that she was good at running while taking President Kennedy's physical fitness tests, but there wasn't a girls' track team at Granada Hills High School until her senior year. She ran in college and eventually joined the LA Track Club. In addition, she and her husband founded a group to lobby for women runners to compete in longer distance running in the Olympics.

However, Hansen is proudest of her ability to help her student athletes find balance in their lives. "The discipline that you develop in sports carries over into other areas and creates a balance. I have been happy to see that running has helped my students find that balance," she said.

Hansen speaks from experience. One former student was a junior high school boy being raised by a single mom. He overcame a lot of personal obstacles to win a series of Jesse Owens meets and a required essay contest, eventually going on to win the National Championship.

"They say that if you make a difference in just one life, it's all worthwhile," she said. "So, I guess the rest is just icing on the cake."

OPEN HOUSE

January 10, 1998 - 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ENTRANCE EXAMS

For incoming 9th graders February 7, 1998

ABOUT ST. MONICA'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

- 98% of students go on to college
- Student body population of approximately 600
- Maximum class size is 32. Average size is 22.
- Co-educational
- Strong Advance Placement offerings
- Rich choice of electives
- Caring and involved faculty



ST. MONICA'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL 1030 Lincoln Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90405 (310) 394-3701