

A 10-man track club at UCSD will run a 24-hour relay marathon

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A 10-man track club at the University of California, San Diego, known as "The Over the Hill Gang," will run a 24-hour relay marathon Friday and Saturday, November 17 and 18, in order to raise funds for the school's intercollegiate track team.

The Over the Hill Gang, made up of seven members of the UCSD track team, one "good" runner who has never run competitively, a rugby player, and a soccer player, will begin running at 4:00 p.m. Friday on the Soccer Field just west of the UCSD Gymnasium.. Each member will take a turn at running a mile, hand the baton to the next runner, and then rest until his next turn. If things go according to plan, that next turn should come up about once every hour.

By 4:00 p.m. Saturday the Gang hopes to have run better than 200 Miles, or a little less than 10 miles per hour during the 24-hour period.

According to Charles Crumly, a tall, lanky Muir College biology major who runs the mile, two miles, and steeplechase during track season, the better distance runners ought to be able to average a five minute mile each time they run.

"The guys who normally run shorter distances will probably go between five to six minutes per mile and the others will probably average between six and seven minutes," Crumly said. "We expect the pace to be pretty good at first but we know it will get harder at night. We expect it to pick up again when the sun comes up."

Crumly said that if any runner misses his turn he is out for the duration and the rest will have to carry on without him.

The object of all this running is to increase the budget of the UCSD track team. "If we can raise \$200 we will just about double the current budget," Crumly said. "We are badly in need of travel funds so that the team can enter several of the annual meets in the Los Angeles area this year."

Crumly and the other Gang members are seeking sponsors who will back them at specified amounts per mile. According to Crumly, some sponsors have offered 5-cents a mile based on the entire distance the club goes. Others are backing individual runners or are offering money for every mile the club can go over 200.

During the long night hours Coleman lanterns will light each end zone of the quarter mile course. Building lights from the gymnasium and the street lights along North Torrey Pines Road will pretty well light up the rest of the course.

Believe it or not, according to Crumly, there is a world's record for this sort of thing: 271 miles set last year by California State University, Fullerton.

"Cal State Fullerton was the national cross country champs last year so they had a pretty good bunch of guys running for them," Crumly said. "I don't really think we can match their record. One of the Fullerton runners missed his turn somewhere early in the morning and they had to run the last 100 miles with only nine guys."

In addition to Crumly, the other members of the Gang are: Ed Avol, a miler and three miler; Mike Bergkamp, a freshman who was first man on the UCSD cross country team this year; Mike Diaz, a senior who has never run competitively; Don Campbell, a distance and steeplechase runner; Kirk Newell, a quarter and half miler; Dave Robinson, a half miler and Javelin thrower; Fred Sorenson, a quarter and half miler; Paul Mitch, a rugby player; and Carlos Robles, a soccer player.

Why "The Over the Hill Gang?"

"We just figure were all over the hill," said the 21-year-old Crumly.

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