EILEEN CUNNINGHAM

Eileen Cunningham set the Chabot College record for the 400-meter hurdles back in 1984 and the record still stands 30 years later. But it’s the team events -- not the individual records – that Eileen remembers most fondly.

“I really liked the 4-by-400 relay,” she said recently. “It was fun to be part of the group and it was always one of the last events of the day. Sometimes the meet came down to that race.”

At the 1981 and ’82 Meet of Champions at Berkeley, Castro Valley needed to place in the 4x400 relay in order to reach the State Meet. With Eileen running anchor, the Trojans succeeded both years.

In the CVHS record book, Eileen still ranks first all-time in the 300-meter low hurdles and is a member of the record-holding 4x100, 4x400 and 4x65 hurdle relay teams. She ranks second in the 100-meter hurdles and third in the 400 meters.

Cunningham played guard on the varsity basketball team all four years at Castro Valley, the team going undefeated in league play in her junior and senior seasons

Cunningham set several Chabot records in track. All have since been broken except for her 61.78 seconds in the 400-meter hurdles. After Chabot, Eileen went on to Cal where she competed in cross country and track. An ankle injury forced her to give up the hurdles, but she still earned a berth in the Pacific-8 Conference finals in the 400 meters.

Although Eileen preferred shorter distances than her twin (Bridget), she was always among the top five runners on her high school cross country team that won four Hayward Area Athletic League championships and one Northern California title.

With a B.A. in English from Cal and a Masters’ in Business Administration from Cal State Hayward, Eileen has pursued a professional career in the publishing industry. She is currently director of operations at Diablo Publications in Walnut Creek. The company publishes Diablo Magazine, in addition to custom publishing for various businesses, including the Oakland A’s and San Francisco Giants.