

Freeman, Mahomet Run To Okaw Titles

By The News-Gazette

Despite a 1-2 finish by St. Joseph-Ogden's Art Freeman and Buddy McElwee, Mahomet-Seymour scored a convincing victory over the Spartans in the Okaw Valley Conference cross-country meet Thursday.

Freeman covered the three-mile layout at the Monticello golf course in a record 15:45, finishing 29 seconds ahead of McElwee.

Mark Wieneke led a 3-5-8-9-13 finish by Mahomet-Seymour, which outscored SJ-O 38-54. Warrensburg-Latham was third with 64.

Track Notes

Mahomet, a member of the Okaw for four years, has never lost this meet. It was also the fourth consecutive big-meet victory for the Bulldogs, who are ranked No. 7 in the state in Class A.

Trailing Freeman and McElwee were Wieneke in third, Monticello's John Pratt in fourth and Mahomet's Joe Metcalf in fifth. Other scoring Bulldogs were Lance

Neaville, eighth; Dale Wirth, ninth, and Jason Means, 13th.

SJ-O and Unity's Clifford Like were the team and individual champions in the freshman-sophomore meet.

•Danville is favored to win its fifth team title in six years Saturday in the Big 12 cross-country meet at Parkland College. Starting time is 10 a.m., with the Central Illinois Athletic

Conference junior college meet to follow at 11.

Mattoon, coached by former Tuscola High and Eastern Illinois University runner Ken Burke, is the top challenger to Danville.

Defending Big 12 champion Champaign Central is likely to duel Urbana and perhaps Stephen Decatur and Bloomington for third place. The Maroons are now without star half-miler Byron Clark, who quit the team. Twin City champion Craig Detamore of Central has been ill and missed school Wednesday.

Urbana had earlier lost Paul Franke, who is out with mononucleosis.

The individual favorite is Danville's Mike Neff. He was second last year to Central's Steve Swartzen-druber, who is now a freshman on the Illini team.

•Former Illini Mark Avery is recovering from injuries received when he was struck by a car while running in a Decatur park. Avery is no longer hospitalized and was here last Saturday to watch Illinois in its double dual meet against Indiana and Miami (Ohio).

•A check in the scoring of that double dual meet revealed that Indiana and Miami tied 28-28. Miami

had originally been credited with a 27-28 victory over Indiana.

•St. Olaf sophomore Jani Ensrud of Champaign has run second in big women's invitational meets on each of the past two weekends. Last Saturday she ran 5,000 meters in 17:56 at the Carleton Invitational. The previous week, she clocked 18:05 at the Iowa State Invitational.