

Oakwood Among C-C's Best

By JOE MILLAS
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Last year the question for Class A area boy's cross-country teams was "Who can beat Chrisman?"

This fall the question is "Who will succeed Chrisman?"

After losing star senior Tom Hoult and starting the current campaign without three other performers who were supposed to return from last year's standout outfit, the Cardinals appear to lack the power to repeat their 1981 dominance.

Several other schools will try to lay claim to Chrisman's mantle as area harrier kingpin.

Oakwood, with most of its lineup returning intact, has the early edge. The Comets have already won the first Chrisman Invitational and defeated challenger St. Joseph-Ogden in dual meet competition.

But don't count out the Spartans just yet. Coach Rick Mohr has a way of bringing his teams along slowly until they peak just in time for the Spartan Classic and then again for the conference and district meets.

Mohr has a solid nucleus on which to build. Senior Tom Fortune, who finished 16th in the Class A state finals last November, heads the cast of six returning lettermen. He'll be supported by Dean Carroll, Eric Minzer and Bob Zadler, who finished 3-4-5 for the Spartans at state.

Other top contributors include juniors Bill Simpson and Scott Liggett (the latter transferred from Erie where he ran No. 2) Don Kloster and Craig Carroll and seniors Doug Duitsman and Ben Galbreath.

"If we stay healthy we'll come along," Mohr said in anticipation of his 11th season as the Spartans' coach.

with anyone in our class," said King. "It really depends on how the others do. Our concern is depth."

Mahomet-Seymour will host its invitational meet at Lake of the Woods on Oct. 16 and King said he is looking to conduct competition for girls as well as boys. Any girls teams interested in competing that

day should contact King at 586-4415 or 586-2696.

In addition, Monticello, led by senior Brian Doan, could make waves when the Okaw meet is held at Decatur St. Teresa on Oct. 21. Doan will lead a group of four returning lettermen for coach Gene Stratman, who enters his 19th year at the helm.

Another potential area challenger is Mahomet-Seymour which survived a budget-cutting scare last spring and could, conceivably be facing its final cross-country season unless finances in the school district improve.

Bulldogs' coach John King has five returning lettermen including seniors Eric Mathis and Steve Goebel, junior Tom Brainerd and sophomores Neal Mathis and Jim Horn. Other expected contributors include junior Chris Perry and sophomore Karl Welke.

The Bulldogs finished third at Chrisman behind Oakwood and St. Joseph-Ogden.

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