

# Girl harriers remain undefeated

by E. W. Hesse

Strong performances by Mahomet-Seymour's prep cross country teams in Tuscola's Invitational last Saturday pleased coach John King with their progress and have him contemplating regional competition a month hence with obvious optimism.

King's girls, who vie in

single-class fields (without enrollment qualifications, that is), have yet to lose with half a dozen meets, three of them multi-team invitationals, already on the books. King's boys, whose ranks remain somewhat thin, have made noteworthy strides upward, as their fourth-place finish in a 17-school group at Tuscola will attest.

The dominance of Mahomet-Seymour's girls has been paced by seniors Karen Welke and Mary Seal, who have run 1-2 in five of their outings. Their only runnerup efforts occurred in a quadrangular September 11, when Tara Morris of Olympia registered a Mahomet course record of 12:01 for two miles. Welke placed second, Seal

fourth.

Welke's winning times have ranged from 12:58 to 12:29, while Seal's best was 12:50.

At Tuscola, where no team scores were kept, the girls ran a 3.1-mile course through the town's streets. Welke won with a time of 19:13, Seal was second in 20:06, and sophomore Laura Batsie, also of Mahomet, was third in 20:16. Senior Sheila Robinson ran fifth in 21:35, and soph Jacqui Harland placed eighth in 22:09.

In a dual meet at Monticello last Thursday, the Bulldogs had warmed up for Tuscola with an 18-39 romp as Welke, Seal, and Batsie placed 1-2-3.

Senior Melissa Cox, who had managed finishes of third through seventh in the first four meets of the season, was withheld from last week's meets because of her recurring back trouble.

The Bulldog boys' fourth-place effort at Tuscola

represented definite improvement; they had finished sixth at Chrisman and 10th at Paxton. Lebanon won the Tuscola competition with a score of 69; Chrisman followed with 95, Cumberland was third with 113, Mahomet-Seymour fourth with 148.

Highest finisher for the Bulldogs was junior Jamie Fancher, seventh over the 5,000-meter course in 16:47. Senior Steve Echols ran 17th in 17:24, soph Jay Busey 27th in 17:49.

The boys had bowed at Monticello Thursday, 22-34. There Fancher posted a time of 17:02 over the three-mile course for second place. Echols notched fifth in 17:56, Busey seventh in 18:10, and freshman Hans Waters ninth in 18:27.

"Our boys will compete in the Spartan Classic at St. Joseph Saturday," reminded Coach King. "Our hope is to place in the top 10, something we failed to do last year for the first time in my memory. We finished something like 19th last September."