



News-Gazette photo by Brian K. Johnson

Jay Busey, left, of Mahomet-Seymour greets teammate Brian Easter at the finish line. Busey placed 21st and Easter 24th Friday in the Class A Hoopeston Sectional cross-country meet.

M-S harriers to join perennial visitor Chrisman in state meet

By **JEFF PIERRON**
News-Gazette Sportswriter

HOOPESTON — Chrisman, a perennial state qualifier, and Mahomet-Seymour, which hadn't qualified since 1983, were the top finishers in the Class A high school boys' cross-country sectional Friday.

Chrisman won with 60 points and Mahomet-Seymour was second with 83 to advance to next Saturday's state meet at Peoria.

Also advancing from the 16-team field were the other three teams that finished in the top five — Oakwood (154 points), Illiana Christian (156) and Normal University High (164) — and the top seven individuals from non-qualifying teams.

Marty Woodaal of Illiana Christian was the individual winner in 14 minutes, 43 seconds over the 3-mile course at McFerren Park. Herscher grabbed second, third and 10th places, but missed qualifying as a team by two points.

CHRISMAN'S ONLY other sectional championship came in 1978, but the Cardinals have qualified for state as a team 13 years in a row.

Both Chrisman and Mahomet-Seymour kept their runners packed together tightly. Chrisman's five scorers were 38 seconds apart, and Mahomet-Seymour's 22.

Ben Jenness led Chrisman, placing sixth overall in 15:13. Kenny Bland was ninth, Andy Mills 11th, Brent Jenness 22nd and Brian Spicer 23rd.

"The kids ran real good. They did what they had to do," said Chrisman coach Roger Beals.

"We had Brent Jenness back running again after breaking his hand, and he ran a real good race. Benny Jenness had a slight hamstring pull, and we had to work on him for two or three days. They just ran right through the pain. That was terrific."

It was the first time this season that Ben Jenness, a senior who didn't begin running cross-country until this year, had led the team. Bland also achieved a milestone, beating Westville's Brian Towell for the first time this year.

"We had a lot of personal goals going, and team goals, too. It looks like we did a pretty good job of reaching all of them," said Beals.

Mahomet-Seymour coach John

King said the outcome didn't surprise him.

"It was about what I expected. I figured if we ran exceedingly well we could beat Chrisman, but I also knew they could beat us. We've traded back and forth at times during the year. I really felt they were the team to beat. They packed up real well, we packed up real well, and they came out ahead," said King.

JAMIE FANCHER LED Mahomet-Seymour, placing 14th individually in 15:30. Jeff Jankowski was 19th, Dan Nielsen 20th, Jay Busey 21st and Brian Easter 24th.

"We had good performances from Jay Busey and Jeff Jankowski. The others ran pretty much what they had been running, which is pretty good," said King.

King said he likes the chances of both Chrisman and Mahomet-Seymour in the Class A state meet.

"If we run like we did today, I would say Chrisman and us would both have a good shot at being in the top five and even winning it. Delavan's the team to beat, but they're not that far in front of either of us," said King.