

# Erickson motors in sectional cross country

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John Erickson "figured I'd be about third" in yesterday's Class A Paxton cross country sectional, but the Eureka High School senior didn't hold himself to that.



Erickson caught up to early leader John Eggenberger of Herscher about halfway through the 3-mile race, and left the field in his dust with a convincing victory in a season-best clocking of 15 minutes, 18.4 seconds, more than seven seconds better than second-place Eggenberger.

University High, led by fifth-place finisher Brian Nourie, came in second with 88 points, 33 behind team champion Chrisman's 55. Dan Nielsen's third-place finish sparked Mahomet-Seymour to third with 132 points, and Kankakee Bishop McNamara and Herscher also qualified for the Nov. 5 State Meet at Peoria.

When asked for his goal, Erickson quickly replied, "To win. If you're going to run, you gotta go for the win. But I figured I'd be about third. I knew he (Eggenberger) was good. He sort of slowed down and I kept my pace."

Erickson, running in just his fifth meet of the season, doesn't have to worry about carrying the Eureka team on his shoulders because his shoulders are the only ones on the team.



Nourie



Nielsen

a realistic goal," said Nourie, a senior. "I wanted to stay with the pack. My times have been inconsistent, but I think I can keep improving."

Nielsen wouldn't go as far to say he could have beaten Erickson, but he did wish he would have stayed with the Eureka runner longer.

"I wished I would have moved up with Erickson. I had more left at the end that at other recent races," Nielsen said. "I'm happy how it turned out."

Chrisman, the fourth-ranked team in the state, ran effectively in a pack. Andy Mills led the champions in 11th, and the next four Cardinals came across within 17 seconds in 12th, 13th, 14th and 16th.

Paxton tied for sixth with Illiana Christian, Olympia was 12th and Clinton tied for 13th.

Olympia junior Paul Roberts was the first non-qualifier in 18th.

## At Rushville

Tremont, the No. 2-ranked team in Class A, won the Rushville Sectional with 42 points. Also advancing to the state meet were No. 7-