

# M-S cross country boys run in State Saturday in Peoria

by E. W. Hesse

Mahomet-Seymour's prep boys cross country team, whose predecessors placed 10th and 11th in the state's Class A competition the past two years, will bid for another worthy finish in the 1989 windup meet at Detweiller Park in Peoria Saturday. Race time for Class A boys will be 9:30 am.

(Detweiller Park is just off State Highway 29 north of Peoria. The Class A awards ceremony will be conducted in the Peoria High School gymnasium, 1615 North St., at 1:45 pm.)

"It seems to be becoming an annual thing for me to say we're hoping to finish somewhere in the top 10," said Mahomet-Seymour coach John King Monday. "Actually, we are hoping to do exactly that, although an ineligibility, announced today, will complicate our effort. Now we'll probably have to substitute one of our freshmen for one of our first seven runners."

Mahomet-Seymour, which won the regional meet it hosted Oct. 20, placed third in the vital sectional meet conducted at Paxton last Friday. In a bit of a surprise, Normal U-High shaded defending state champion Chrisman for first place, 110 points to 114. King's Bulldogs were third with 143 points. Then came Kankakee Bishop McNamara with 162 and Herscher with 203 to complete the qualifying top five state-bound teams from the Paxton sectional.

Individually, Danny Nielsen, Mahomet-Seymour's junior standout, ran second to Herscher's Eggenberger in the sectional. Eggenberger earned a time of 15:32.4 over Paxton's 3-mile course; Nielsen, who is battling tendonitis in his knee, made it in 15:48.0.

Other Bulldogs performed as follows: senior Brian Easter, 29th in 16:43; senior Hans Waters, 32nd in 16:47; junior Bert Huddleston, 37th in 16:50; sophomore Derek Short, 53rd in 17:18; freshman David Wagner, 98th in 17:58 and junior Nezar Kassem, 114th in 20:00. Freshman Jason McKinney and senior Jay Yost round out King's varsity squad.

"The state meet really seems up for grabs," King ventured. "Any one of about 10 schools could win the title. The odds now are against us being one of them, but we'll be trying."

Last year Chrisman won the Class A boys title with 122 points. Tremont followed with 139, Maple Park Kaneland with 140. Mahomet-Seymour was 11th with 273. (M-S placed 10th in 1987 with 288 points.)

Nielsen, a sophomore last year, finished 22nd in 15:55.

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Mahomet-Seymour's girls cross country team ran 13th in the sectional meet hosted by the Bulldogs at Lake of the Woods last Saturday.

Chrisman's defending state champions ruled the field easily with a score of 59 points. Unity

was runnerup with 83, Chicago Christian and Herscher tied for third place with 103s, and St. Joseph-Ogden rated the fifth state-qualifying berth with 133. Mahomet-Seymour, in 13th, showed 340 points.

(Regional meets do not precede the state-qualifying sectionals in Class A girls cross country competition. Sectional meets are the only preliminaries.)

Injuries and youth have hampered coach John King's girl runners this fall. Daughter and senior Barbara King, nursing a back injury much of the season, gamely bid in the sectional Saturday—and just missed qualifying for the state with a 12:21 effort over the 2-mile LOW course. She placed 23rd overall and eighth individually (among non-team-qualifying runners) when the first seven netted state berths.

Senior Jenny Roberts, who with King co-captained the Bulldog squad, was idled most of the season by injury.

Competing in the sectional along with King were the following: freshman Katie Williamson, 77th in 14:11; soph Jill Yost, 94th in 14:50; freshman Missy Lake, 98th in 14:59; freshman Lynn Connor, 105th in 15:53; junior Mindy Carpenter, 110th in 16:43; and freshman Sonja Volk, 113th in 17:48.

The Class A girls state final at Peoria will start at 10:30 am Saturday.