

Bulldog boys run 14th in Class A meet at Peoria

by E. W. Hesse

Fourteenth out of 152 isn't bad. Actually, it's in the top 10 percent, and isn't that usually worth an "A"?

Well, that's how Mahomet-Seymour's prep boys cross country team fared in the state Class A meet at Peoria last Saturday. Coach John King's brigade ran 14th in the competition which climaxed the season that began with 152 of the so-called small schools of Illinois this fall.

Seneca and West Frankfort, both unrated in the weekly Associated Press poll, finished 1-2 with 131 and 140 point totals to surprise and dethrone 1988 champion Chrisman, third with 162 points.

Normal U-High, Mahomet-Seymour's Corn Belt Conference rival, was fourth with 169. The M-S Bulldogs' point total was 314.

While Mahomet-Seymour's showing wasn't quite what

Coach King had hoped—he usually points for a finish in the top 10—it was comparable to Bulldog performances of the past two years. They were 10th in 1987, 11th last year.

M-S sophomore Derek Short was the Bulldogs' foremost runner Saturday. He placed 49th with a personal best time of 16:20 for Detweiller Park's 3-mile course. "Derek ran a super race," praised Coach King.

Junior Danny Nielsen, the Bulldogs' season-long star, meanwhile, was slowed by knee trouble, and had to settle for 54th place in 16:22. Nielsen finished second to Herscher's John Eggenberger in Paxton's sectional, and Eggenberger proceeded to win the state's individual Class A title Saturday in 15:05.

Nielsen, understandably disappointed with his performance, heartily congratulated teammate Short.

Remaining Mahomet-Seymour

runners finished as follows: senior Brian Easter, 73rd in 16:39; senior Hans Waters, 124th in 17:50; junior Burt Huddleston, 126th in 17:53; freshman Dave Wagner, 159th in 18:36 and junior Nezar Kassem, 161st in 18:44.

Elmhurst York won the Class AA state crown, outdistancing Palos Hills Stag, 75-128. Bob Wilson of Palatine was the individual winner with a time of 14:35.

Palatine's girls outran Hoffman Estates, 94-144, for their AA state trophy. Marques Sanders of East St. Louis Lincoln completed the 2.1-mile course in 11:51 for individual laurels.

Winnebago clipped defending champion Chrisman, 104-109, for the Class A girls title. Brooks Roberts of Shelbyville claimed the individual championship with a clocking of 12:22.

Mahomet-Seymour had no girl qualifiers for the state meet this year.