

# Area runners target school bests

*Pantagraph Fri. Nov. 3, 1989*

by RANDY SHARER  
Pantagraph staff

This year's high school state cross country meet could qualify as a Star Trek episode as Pantagraph area teams try to go where none from their respective schools has gone before.

The state meet at Peoria's De-weiller Park will have the Class A boys race at 9:30 a.m., the Class A girls at 10:30 a.m., the AA girls at 11:30 a.m. and the AA boys at 12:45 p.m.

The following is a look at area hopes.

## Class A boys

•University High, fresh from its sectional upset of No. 1-ranked Chrisman, joins Tremont and Mahomet-Seymour in the 20-team field.

No. 6-ranked U High seems sure to improve on last year's school record ninth-place finish. Pioneer

coach Lester Hampton is hoping to place two runners in the top 25, two in the top 40 and one between 80-100th.

•No. 8-ranked Mahomet-Seymour's best state meet finish was 10th in 1987 and 1978. The Bulldogs are led by state title hopeful Dan Nielsen.

## Class AA boys

•Normal Community wants to improve on its school-best 20th place effort of a year ago. Coach Tom Patten said the Ironmen's No. 3 man, Dave Hoerber, missed a day and a half of school this week because of the flu.

"I don't think it'll hurt him," Patten said. "Kids bounce back quick."

The Ironmen will alter their lineup by running Danny Deavours instead of Jamie Whitlow, who had replaced Deavours after the regional.

"Danny is better suited to flat-

ter, faster courses," Patten said. "Jamie does well on the hills."

•Pontiac, with an enrollment of 762, is the smallest Class AA qualifier. Geneseo is the next smallest in the 25-team field at 933.

"We look at this as a chance to end on a note where we come back and better some people who bettered us," said Pontiac coach Keven Forney.

Of the six freshmen running in Class AA, Pontiac has two in Aaron Culbertson and Adam Dowdy. Morton's Josh Stubbs was the only freshman to qualify individually.

•Metamora sophomore John Weigel has run the best time on Detweiller's 3-mile course of any Pantagraph area entrants regardless of class. He clocked 15 minutes, 5 seconds in the Peoria Invitational.

To get the Metamora sophomore school records for state meet

placement and time, Weigel will have to better the 23rd-place effort Mark Scheirer produced as a sophomore. The 1987 state champion ran Detweiller in 14:42 as a sophomore.

"John has a real chance to be in the top 10," Metamora coach Gene Jones said.

## Girls

•Metamora sophomore Talva Parker, in her first year of cross country, could place in the top 25 in Class AA, according to Jones. Parker has run 12:42 on Detweiller's 2.1-mile course.

No area girl has placed in the top 25 since Bloomington's Melissa Straza was second in 1983. Metamora hasn't had a state meet entrant since 1979 when Barb Conklin and Gail Gebhart placed 138th and 139th, respectively, in identical times of 13:23.

•Area runners in the second annual Class A meet include Olympia senior Sheila Bowles, Tri-Valley sophomore Denice Klinzing and Paxton freshman Julie Graves. All are first-time qualifiers.

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