Area runners target school bests

y RANDY SHARER antagraph staff

This year's high school state ross country meet could qualify s a Star Trek episode as Pantgraph area teams try to go where one from their respective schools as gone before.

The state meet at Peoria's Deweiller Park will have the Class A boys race at 9:30 a.m., the Class A firls at 10:30 a.m., the AA girls at 1:30 a.m. and the AA boys at 12:45

The following is a look at area lopes.

Class A boys

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

No. 6-ranked U High seems sure o improve on last year's school ecord 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.

Area runners target school bests

By RANDY SHARER Pantagraph staff

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

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

The following is a look at area

Class A boys

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

record ninth-place finish. Pioneer to improve on last year's school

No. 6-ranked U High seems sure

place two runners in the top 25, coach Lester Hampton is hoping to two in the top 40 and one between

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

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

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

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

"Danny is better suited to flat-

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

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

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

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

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

school records for state meet To get the Metamora sophomore

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

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

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

cal times of 13:23. and 139th, respectively, in identi trant since 1979 when Barb Conk amora hasn't had a state meet en in and Gail Gebhart placed 138th top 25 since Bloomington's Melissa traza was second in 1983. Met-• Area runners in the second No area girl has placed in the

and Paxton freshman Julie Graves Olympia senior Sheila Bowles, Tri annual Class A meet include All are first-time qualifiers Valley sophomore Denice Klinzing