

Top-ranked Tremont cruises at regional

By Pantagraph staff

No. 1-ranked Tremont High School, competing without its top runner, won the Delavan Class A Regional cross country meet yesterday.

With Chad Gingrich, fifth in last year's state meet, sidelined by a touch football-caused upper back injury, the Turks still dominated with 34 points. Tremont placed six runners in the top 12.

Also qualifying for Friday's 4 p.m. Rushville Sectional were Lowpoint-Washburn (68), Delavan (69), Henry (85) and Mid-County (139).

Tremont sophomore Brad Kaufmann won the 2.9-mile race in a time of 15 minutes, 22 seconds. Lowpoint-Washburn's Kenric Bond placed second (15:49) and Delavan's Eric Graham third (15:58).

Among the five individual qualifiers not on advancing teams were Hartsburg-Emden's John Donaldson (fifth, 16:06) and Joshua Hackett (23rd, 17:52).

Tremont's scorers included Mike Jay (sixth, 16:29), Ty Petro (seventh, 16:29), Brian Page (ninth, 16:40) and Scott Pennington (11th, 16:45).

At Mahomet

No. 6-ranked Mahomet-Seymour won its regional with 48 points. Also advancing to Friday's Paxton Sectional were St. Joseph-Ogden (72), Paxton (84), Tuscola (87) and Urbana Uni High (112).

Mahomet-Seymour junior Dan Nielsen, despite a sore knee, won in 16:38 over the 3.1-mile course. He posted a 43-second margin of victory over runner-up Joshua Folk of Urbana Uni High.

"I was pleased overall with our team," said Mahomet-Seymour coach John King. "We had some guys run well and some didn't.

"I was concerned with Dan's knee. He hadn't run all week. He

said his knee felt good and he could have run faster."

The Bulldogs got season best performances from Hans Waters (10th, 17:53) and Derrick Short (21st, 18:24). The rest of Mahomet-Seymour's top five included Burt Huddleston (sixth, 17:37) and Brian Easter (12th, 18:04).

Paxton was led by Chris Hernandez in eighth (17:47).

One of the five individual qualifiers not on advancing teams was Prairie Central's Clint Schaffer (11th, 17:55).

At Kankakee

Gardner placed third in the Herscher Regional to advance to Friday's Paxton Sectional.

The Panthers, led by freshman Ryan Meece's fourth-place finish, scored 76 points. No. 3-ranked Kankakee McNamara won with 32 points followed by Herscher with 44. Also advancing were Manteno (100) and Illiana Christian (128).

Meece posted a time of 16:48 on the 3-mile Kankakee Community College course. Herscher's John Eggenberger, third in last year's state meet, won in 15:38 over McNamara's Tim Kennedy.

Other top placers for Gardner were Brian Haller (eighth, 17:04) and Chris Hillman (12th, 17:31).

At Franklin

Illini Central edged Piasa Southwestern, 42-46, to defend its Franklin Regional title.

The Cougars packed five runners in the top 14 led by fifth placer Mamo Rivera, who clocked 18:09 on the 3-mile Franklin Outing Club course.

Defending champion Jed Brown of Piasa Southwestern retained his title in 17:09.

Other Illini Central scorers were Jay Westerfelt (sixth, 18:18), Richie Dixon (seventh, 18:21), Bill Whitsel (10th, 18:41) and Tony Finn (14th, 19:01).

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