

Nielsen advances to state final competition

By E. W. Hesse

Danny Nielsen, a standout runner for Mahomet-Seymour since his grade school days, hopes to climax his prep cross country career with a peak performance in the Class A state final at Peoria's Detweiller Park Saturday morning.

The Class A (small school) title race for boys will lead off a four-event program starting at 9:30 am. Starts of the Girls Class A, Girls Class AA (large school) and Boys Class AA runs will follow at one-hour intervals.

Nielsen, who won a state mile run as an eighth-grader, will be making his fourth state prep appearance. He was an also-ran as a freshman. He placed 22nd as a sophomore with a time of 15:55. And last year, as a junior, experiencing knee trouble, he wound up 54th with a time of 16:22.

Last year's showing was especially disappointing to Nielsen because in Paxton's sectional meet the week before the state meet he had run second to Herscher's John Eggenberger. The latter proceeded to win the Class A state title at Peoria.

"Dan hasn't been seriously troubled with his knee this year," said Mahomet-Seymour

coach John King Monday. "Of course we're hoping his luck holds up. He's been running well. After one long workout and two hard ones the first three days of this week, he'll take it easy Thursday and Friday. This year we don't plan to go to Peo-

ria until Saturday morning—that will enable him to sleep in his own bed Friday night."

Nielsen completed an admirable progression when he won the sectional race at Paxton last Fri-

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town-Ridge Farm.

Nielsen was out of sight so far as his fellow Bulldogs were concerned. Jason Lasater placed 66th, Derrick Short was 67th, Burt Huddleston 82nd, John Ar-

buckle 89th, Jason Preston 108th and Nazar Kassem 135th.

So Nielsen was Mahomet-Seymour's only athlete to qualify for the state meet. The Bulldogs ran 10th in a 20-school field at Paxton. St. Joseph-Ogden and Normal U-High wound up 1-2 with 90 points each, Herscher was third with 128, Chrisman fourth with 139 and Kankakee Bishop McNamara fifth with 145. M-S tallied 268.

Girls cross country qualifying for the state meet is strictly sectional—there are no preliminary regionals. Mahomet-Seymour was one of 30 schools participating in a sectional at Mahomet

last Saturday. Herscher won with a score of 80. Also qualifying for the state final at Peoria: Unity, second with 109; St. Joseph-Ogden, third with 114; Urbana Uni High, fourth with 126 and Chicago Christian, fifth with 139. Mahomet-Seymour placed 11th with 268, the same total as scored by the Bulldog boys.

Freshman Jama Ryan led M-S with a time of 12:45 for 27th place. Courtney Pierce was 52nd in 13:23, Jill Yost was 66th in 13:40; Brittany Pierce was 78th in 13:54; Lynn Connor was 80th in 14:24 and Christy Campion was 114th in 15:41.

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