

Nielsen runs 24th in State; earns All-State rating

By E. W. Hesse

Danny Nielsen, Mahomet-Seymour High School's accomplished cross-country runner, was primed for the race of his prep career in the Class A state final at Peoria's Detweiller Park last Saturday.

He had collected momentum for his state bid by winning regional and sectional tests the two previous weekends. He won the regional race over his "home" course at Mahomet with the highly impressive 3-mile time of 15:11.1, and then finished first in the sectional run over Paxton's tough course in 15:43.

In the title competition at Peoria Saturday, he was doing well through the first two miles.

"I was running sixth, right where I wanted to be," Nielsen said. "But when I tried to put on my kick, it wasn't there. In fact, my pace slowed down the last mile."

He wound up in 24th place with a time of 15:50.

He admitted disappointment. Two years ago, as a sophomore, he had placed 22nd with a time of 15:55. Last year, running despite a troublesome knee, he lagged to 54th place in 16:22.

Individual winner of this year's race was Chris Adesso of

Wheaton, who completed the 3-mile course in 15:04. Runnerup was Justin Weiss of Lisle, timed in 15:17. Nielsen's regional time would have been worth second place.

Tremont was the Class A team winner with 94 points, followed by West Frankfort with 114, Elmwood with 163 and St. Joseph-Ogden with 179.

A note of consolation for Nielsen was that his 24th place was worth All-State recognition, which was accorded to the first 25 finishers.

