

St. Joseph-Ogden takes fourth place in boys' state C-C

By FRED KRONER

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PEORIA — Eighteen area runners competed in the Class A boys' division of the state cross-country meet on Saturday.

Four earned all-state status for placing among the top 25 in a 167-runner field at Detweiller Park.

The area's elite included Urbana University High senior Joshua Folk (ninth in 15 minutes, 32 seconds); Chrisman junior Chad Beals (15th in 15:47); Georgetown-Ridge Farm sophomore Barry Pearman (18th in 15:48); and Mahomet-Seymour senior Dan Nielsen (24th in 15:50).

The individual champion, Wheaton's Chris Adesso, covered the 3-mile course in 15:04, 13 seconds ahead of the runner-up.

Team honors went to Tremont with 94 points followed by West Frankfort, 114, and Elmwood, 163.

St. Joseph-Ogden, with four runners packed between 30 and 51, placed fourth with 179 points.

The other area team was Chrisman, 14th with 298.

Folk moved up 16 spots from his 25th-place finish as a junior.

"HE'S THE KIND of kid who can respond to pressure," said Uni High coach Bonnie Byers. "He doesn't let himself get overwhelmed by the competition.

"He keeps an even keel."

Chrisman coach Roger Beals was satisfied with the results of his four-junior, three-freshman squad.

"Team-wise, we ran about where we should have,"

said Coach Beals. "Chad put everything together today."

Chrisman's Greg Barrett was 94th overall, was fourth among the freshmen. His time was 16:41.

G-RF's Pearman was third among sophomores.

M-S' Nielsen earned all-state recognition for the second time. He was 22nd as a sophomore and tailed off to 54th as a junior.

He closed his prep career with a 15:50 time.

"I WAS RIGHT where I wanted to be (sixth place) around 2 miles," he said, "but instead of putting on my kick, I slowed down the last mile.

"It's disappointing to work relatively hard all season and come in and mess up."

SJO head coach Jim Acklin applauded his runners' performance.

"They competed well and gave a good account of themselves," he said of his team, which was ranked sixth in the state's final poll.

"We gained invaluable experience. We have everybody back except Frank Roberts."

Roberts, a senior, came in 49th in 16:14.

Class AA

The only Champaign County entrant, Rantoul junior Jason Gass placed 40th in 15:29 for the 3-mile race, also at Detweiller.

The individual winner was Niles North's Vadim Nemad in 14:17. Team honors went to Elmhurst York, which placed four runners among the top 21 in the 221-runner field.

York's team score was 54 points. In second, with 209 points, was Hoffman Estates.

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