

# St. Joseph-Ogden edges U High with 'sixth man'

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The sixth man on a cross country squad isn't often important because only five runners count toward the team score.

In the PBL Class A Sectional yesterday at Paxton, the No. 6 runners for St. Joseph-Ogden High School and University High became crucial.

The defending champion Pioneers, ranked fourth in the state, and No. 6-ranked St. Joseph-Ogden each scored 90 points.

The Spartans were declared the winners because their sixth runner, Nick Smith, placed 41st (17:07) compared to U High's sixth man, Marshal Watson, who was 6.2 seconds back in 45th.

"We lost a close one, but we've got the big one left," said U High coach Lester Hampton, whose team qualified for the Nov. 3 state meet at Peoria's Detweiller Park for the fourth straight year.

Also qualifying for the fourth straight year was individual champion Dan Nielsen of Mahomet-Seymour, who covered the three-mile, PBL High School course in 15 minutes, 43.59 seconds. The senior finished four seconds ahead of U High sophomore Barrett Moore.

As in the regional, the Pioneers were hurt when a hip injury slowed No. 3 man Kevin Eggan to 105th place. He was 30th last year.

"We need some insurance so we'll definitely have to go with Todd (Foldesi in place of Eggan)," said Hampton, planning his state meet lineup.

Other U High scorers were Charles Alsberry (sixth, 16:05), Mike Sams (23rd, 16:44), Chris Dixon (33rd, 16:58) and Kyle Anderson (40th, 17:04).

Other Pantagraph area qualifiers were Gardner sophomore Ryan Meece in eighth (16:18) and Olympia junior Chad Cremeens in 11th (16:22). Cremeens, who missed advancing by one place a year ago, grabbed the seventh and final individual berth.

Rounding out the team qualifiers

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were No. 14-ranked Herscher (128), No. 13-ranked Chrisman (139) and No. 10-ranked Kankakee McNamara (145).

"I didn't feel too strong," said Nielsen, who was second here last year and third as a sophomore. "But fortunately events unfolded in a beneficial way for me.

"It really helped to have a lot of people cheering for me. It's special when people from other communities and other schools cheer for you. I appreciate that."

Nielsen wasn't especially cheerful about his time on the multi-cornered course. Herscher's John Eggenberger ran 15:32 here last year before winning the state title.

Nielsen ran with Moore and third-placer Barry Pearman of Georgetown-Ridge Farm through mile splits of 4:58 and 5:23 before pulling away with a 5:22 last mile.

"I tried to go ahead with Dan, but he had a little more than I did," said Moore, who was one of only three freshmen to qualify for the state track meet 3,200-meter run last spring. The others were Meece and Arthur's John Jess, who qualified fifth yesterday.

Meece, ninth here last year, ran 14 seconds slower than he did on this course in September.

"He said his lungs were burning today," said Gardner coach Kurt Wolter, whose team placed seventh (196).

Other area entrants were Tri-Valley (eighth), Clinton (ninth), Mahomet-Seymour (10th) and Olympia (12th).

### At Rushville

Top-ranked Tremont edged No. 3-ranked Liberty, 56-65, to win its third straight Rushville Class A Sectional title at Scripps Golf Course.

The Turks and Liberty advanced to the state meet along with No. 5-ranked Elmwood (91), No. 8-ranked



Dan  
Nielsen

Barrett  
Moore

Monmouth (115) and Rushville (184).

"I didn't think we ran very well," said Tremont coach Mike Lynn. "I guess if you run well enough to win that says something. I think I can easily see where we can improve next week."

Elmwood's Roy Scherler handed Tremont's Brad Kaufmann his first loss to a Class A opponent, running three miles in 15:18 to Kaufmann's 15:25.

"The last three-quarters of a mile, Scherler started to pull away," Lynn said. "Although it wasn't so much that Scherler pulled away as it was Brad was slowing down. He ran 4:58 and 5:05 miles, but then ran a 5:25 last mile. He said he felt really tired."

The seventh individual qualifier not on an advancing team was Lowpoint-Washburn's Dan Jassman, who placed 16th.

Boosting Tremont's cause were Mike Jay in ninth (15:56), Ty Petro in 11th (15:58) and Chad Gingrich in 14th (16:04). The Turks' fifth man, Brad Horton finished 28th in a personal best of 16:23.

Petro missed the regional with a hip injury.

"That was pleasing to see him back up there," Lynn said. "Considering it was his first race for awhile, he ran pretty well."

Also in the 20-team field were Lowpoint-Washburn (11th), Delavan (12th), Illini Central (14th), Hartsburg-Emden (15th) and Mid-County (19th).