

SPORTS**Youth to carry M-S in cross country**

By DOUG OLSEN

Sports writer

Coach John King is looking on having good seasons from both the girls and boys cross country squads.

The girls team was hit hard by graduation, as two of the top runners are gone. The team this year will be junior dominated, with Jessica Rayburn possibly being the early team leader based on her strong ending last season. Other juniors that Coach King will be looking to include Christy Heinold, Jennie Hoch, Kristie Warner, Sonya Brumfield, Abby Haag and sophomore Jamie Leverich.

"Our strength is the ability of the girls to group up well together," commented King. "We have a lot of ability, and should be able to place five to six people close together." Coach King is also hoping that the girls team can remain relatively injury free

this season, which hampered the team last year.

The boys cross country team is even younger than the girls, as the squad looks to be sophomore and junior oriented. Sophomore Scott DeWitt was the only Bulldog qualifier to make the state meet, and the only freshman finisher at state last season. Coach King will be looking for more great meets from DeWitt.

Other main contributors will include Grant Isles, Josh Smith, Neil Banwart, Phillip Alexander and Jessie Schweig.

"We should have a good team this year," commented King. "We have a young team, but they will be even more improved over last season."

Coach King also wanted to mention that there will be a short informational meeting on Monday, Aug. 15 for all boys and girls interested in cross country at the high school track.