

SPORTS

Cross country teams advance to sectional

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Sports writer

Both the Mahomet-Seymour boys and girls cross country teams advanced to sectional competition this Saturday. Sectionals will be held at Mahomet-Seymour, with the girls running at 10:30 and the boys at 11:30.

The M-S boy's team finished second at regionals, just three points behind first place St. Joseph-Ogden. Josh Smith was the highest placing Bulldog, as

he ran the three mile course in 16:39 to finish fourth. Phillip Alexander took eighth in 18:59, Grant Isles ninth in 17:06 and Scott DeWitt tenth in 17:08. Neal Banwart took 12th and Chad Avery 13th.

"This is one of the top three performances we've had since I've been here," remarked head coach John King. "We finished six guys in the top 13 and still didn't win. That's almost unheard of."

The girl's squad, while they advanced, was not without their difficulties. "We had some physical problems that hampered our performance," commented King. "Jessica Rayburn was having an allergic reaction and that hampered her performance. We had some other girls that were hurting too." King did especially garner praise for Abbey Haag and Christy Green, who both ran well on the day. "We've got to

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have to put our problems behind us and focus on the sectionals if we hope to advance any further," King remarked.

While the girl's team took third place overall, Rayburn was the highest finishing Bulldog who ran the 2-mile course in 13:31. Green was 16th in 13:59 and Stacey Elkins 23rd in 14:29. Haag finished 24th, Jamie Leverich 29th and Christy Heinold 30th.

In the sectionals 20 teams will compete for both the boys and girls. The top five teams advance to state competition.