

Cross country teams do well in St. Joe-Ogden Spartan Classic

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The Mahomet-Seymour cross country teams faced Urbana and Stephen Decatur on Sept. 20 as a warm-up for the St. Joe meet. We can say it was just a warm-up because both Bulldog squads dominated.

On the boys side, M-S recorded 15 points to take first, Decatur had 65 points and Urbana 69. Bulldog runners took seven of the top 10 places, with Grant Iles taking first overall in 14:53. Scott DeWitt was 2nd in 15:09, Josh Smith 3rd in 15:20 and Phillip Alexander 4th in 15:45. The other M-S runners to finish in the top 10 were Chad

Avery, Jesse Schweig and Brad James.

Even though the girls did not dominate as much as the boys team, they did finish five runners in the top 10 to oust Stephen Decatur by 15 points and Urbana by 37 points. Stacey Elkins was the top runner for the Lady Bulldogs, as she finished 2nd overall in 13:04. Just behind Elkins was Jessica Rayburn who finished 3rd in 13:08. Kerrie Green grabbed the 5th spot, with Jamie Leverich 7th and Amy Slawter 9th.

The big meet of the week was of course the St. Joseph-Ogden Spartan Classic on Saturday. The M-S girls team grabbed

third place out of 19 teams, as Tuscola finished first and St. Joe-Ogden second.

Rayburn was the top Bulldog runner for the girls, as she finished 3rd overall in 12:06 out of 138 runners. Elkins was the next M-S runner to cross the line as she finished 29th in 12:49. Slawter took 33rd in 12:57, and Leverich 36th in 13:02. Christie Heinold finished 50th, Green 69th and Abbey Haag 85th.

Head coach John King particularly had praise for Rayburn following the meet. "Jessica gave an outstanding effort. She's the first girl we've had finish in the top three at the Spartan Classic in a long, long time." Coach King also said that Slawter is starting to run real well and he's also glad to have Leverich back from an injury.

The boys team finished fifth out of 24 teams at the Spartan Classic. All four teams that fin-

ished ahead of the Bulldogs are ranked in the top seven in the state.

DeWitt was not only the top M-S runner with a time of 15:27, but was also the top sophomore at the meet. Smith was the second Bulldog to finish, as he grabbed 21st place in 16:08. Iles was feeling ill on the day, which attributed greatly to his 29th spot finish in 16:24. Alexander finished 49th, Neal Banwart 55th, Avery 70th and Schweig 86th out of 172 runners.

"The boys ran well, and they've been working hard," commented King. "We must get a little better in some spots however if we want to get out of sectional competition."

The next big varsity meet is the M-S Invitational on Oct. 8, as coach John King is starting to ready his team for post-season competition.