

Runners advance to cross country sectionals

By DAN ALEXANDER

It's crunch time in the high school cross country world and both the Mahomet-Seymour boys and girls teams came through the first round of the IHSA cross country regionals in great style on Oct. 21. Each team qualified to move on to the sectional competition that will be held at Mahomet next weekend.

The M-S boys were first overall with a score of 46. St. Joe-Ogden and Urbana Uni High tied for second with 54.

It was the first time this season that the M-S boys defeated #3 state ranked Urbana Uni High. In an earlier meet, the

M-S boys had also defeated the #1 state ranked team from Normal University High.

The girls team ran second overall in the regional with a score of 61. St. Joe-Ogden took first with 26.

For the ninth consecutive meet, junior Phillip Alexander was the first M-S runner into the finish chute. Phil placed fourth overall with a time of 15:48.

Others scoring points for the winning M-S team were junior Scott DeWitt (seventh), senior Neil Banwart (ninth), senior Josh Smith (eleventh) and junior Jesse Schweig (fifteenth). Freshman Josh Mock and ju-

nior Chad Avery rounded out the team.

Jessica Rayburn once again led the M-S girls with a third place overall finish and a time of 13:05, only 16 seconds behind Hoopeston's previous course record.

Contributing to the M-S girls team score were sophomore Sarah Bobsin (tenth), sophomore Alana Booth (eleventh), junior Sinead O'Sullivan (22nd) and senior Abbey Haag (25th). Rounding out the M-S team were senior Christy Heinhold and junior Jamie Leverich.

O'Sullivan's performance was a bright spot for the day. Finishing fourth among M-S runners, this was her first time running for the varsity team.

Sectionals will be held this Saturday morning, Oct. 28, here in Mahomet. Both M-S teams have a shot at advancing to the state finals to be held at Peoria's Detweiler Park on Saturday, Nov. 4.