

CITIZEN SPORTS

Which major league baseball team can boast having the last three Rookies of the Year? — You can find the answer inside!

Runners take fourth at state

By DAN ALEXANDER
and ERIK ANDERSON

The Mahomet-Seymour High School boys cross country team placed fourth at last Saturday's Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Class A state finals competition in Peoria. Junior Phillip Alexander placed 22nd and qualified as a member of the All-State Cross Country Team.

On the cold but clear Saturday morning, the team did not seem to have any trouble getting the adrenaline flowing for the big race. Thousands of cross country fans showed up in Peoria's Detweiler Park screaming team cheers through bullhorns at their school's runners.

With the pace car in place, 168 state-qualifying runners flew off the starting line on a three mile course that took them on paths through trees, up and down inclines and around the infield area of the park three times.

Spectators ran from one side of the infield to the other to follow their team or their favorite runner.

For the Bulldogs, the first runner to cross the finish line was Phillip Alexander with a time of 15:55. He was the 22nd runner to enter the chute and that was good for 12 team points.

Following Alexander and having great runs as well were Neil Banwart at 16:18 (45th individual, 29th team), Josh Smith at 16:19 (47 individual, 30th team), Chad Avery at 16:23 (61st individual, 41st team) and Scott DeWitt at 16:43 (86 individual, 61st team).

Although they did not figure into the Bulldog's team score, Jesse



M-S cross country runner Neil Banwart races for the finish line at last Saturday's cross country state fi.

Schweig at 16:53 (107 individual, 79 team) and Josh Mock at 17:04 (116 individual, 88 team) also ran very well in the large field of the state's best runners.

"I think they [the team] did great," said Amy DeWitt, vocational teacher aid and Scott's sister.

Tom DeWitt echoed his daughter's praises and added, "I think we're all proud of them. They pulled together and had a great season."

Varsity cross country coach John King also felt satisfied with his team's performance in the state finals.

"It's been a great year," he said. "The kids have always ran well."

King also praised the efforts of freshman Josh Mock who first competed on the varsity level at the IHSA cross country regionals on Oct. 21.

He said it was the team's goal to finish within the top five teams at the state finals. Finishing fourth without the team's top runner, junior Grant Lies, made the season especially successful.

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Nolan plans to attend Bradley University for volley

By **TONY FABRI**
Assistant Editor

Mahomet-Seymour spiker Lindsay Nolan has verbally committed to play volleyball for Bradley University in the fall.

"I think it's pretty exciting," Nolan said of playing for the Division 1 Bradley Braves.

The M-S senior was a powerful force at the net on this season's record-breaking varsity volleyball team.

Bulldog coach Pam Negangard had nothing but praise for Nolan.

"She's somebody that sets high goals for herself," Negangard said.

"She has improved a lot since she first came here. Her individual skills have improved a lot."

"Bradley is a good school for her. It will help her develop as a player," Negangard added.

Nolan said she considered other schools, but the volleyball program and new Braves coach Kalani Mahi were big factors in her decision to go to Bradley.

"The coach is very upbeat," she said. Nolan went on to say that the

Bradley offense is geared middle hitters, which was advantage.

"He wanted me as a hitter just as a blocker," she said.

Nolan cited campus size as another factor in Bradley. "It's not too big and not too small," she said.

In addition, the school offered Nolan a full athletic scholarship.

While she cannot sign a contract until February, Nolan verbally committed to attend Bradley Peoria school in the fall.

IHSA Boys Cross Country State Tournament Results

1. Petersburg Porta	86
2. Normal U-High	108
3. Urbana Uniniversity High	135
4. Mahomet-Seymour	175
5. Winnebago (Coop)	194
6. Kewanee	203
7. Sandwich	238
8. Eureka	239
9. Aurora	244
10. St. Joseph-Ogden	246

SCOREBOARD

M-S Boys Cross Country Finals Results

Team	Position	Name	Time
	12	Phillip Alexander	15:55
	29	Neil Banwart	16:18
	30	Josh Smith	16:19
	41	Chad Avery	16:23
	61	Scott Dewitt	16:43
	79	Jesse Schweig	16:53
	88	Josh Mock	17:04



The Mahomet Citizen staff congratulates all area sports teams on a successful fall campaign.