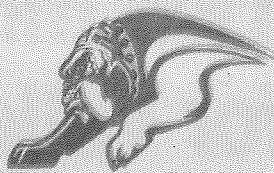


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# Cross Country Invite Saturday

*Tough comeptition coming to town*

By **BRUCE YENTES**  
and **STEVE HOFFMAN**  
The Mahomet Citizen

MAHOMET — The Bulldog cross country teams will be trying to accomplish a few things at this week's Mahomet-Seymour Bulldog Invitational: continued improvement on their individual teams, a quest for another strong team finish and using it as a tune-up for the post-season.

The regular season ends for the M-S runners with the Invitational, but both the boys' and girls' squads hope their season is far from over. The Corn Belt Conference meet is slated for Oct. 16, and the IHSA State Series begins with Regional action the following weekend at Charleston. It all culminates in the State Cross Country Meet Nov. 6 in East Peoria.

## Invitational details

A total of 19 teams are set to run Saturday, with action beginning with the girls' division at 9 a.m. The boys will run after that, with a girls' open division set to begin at 10:15 a.m. and a boys' open division at 11 a.m.

Bonnie Moxley's girls' squad has suffered from nagging injuries in recent weeks, and she hopes to have

The long-time Bulldog coach thinks there are several teams "to be reckoned with" at this Saturday's run, including Normal U-High, St. Joseph-Ogden, and Rochester.

Boys' coach Neil Garrison is also hoping for a high finish, and hopes to keep pace with Class A state powerhouses Danville Schlarman (second at state last year) and Normal U-High (third in state in 2003). Charleston also has a strong program. He also feels the Invite will be a good test for his squad as they ready for conference and Regionals.

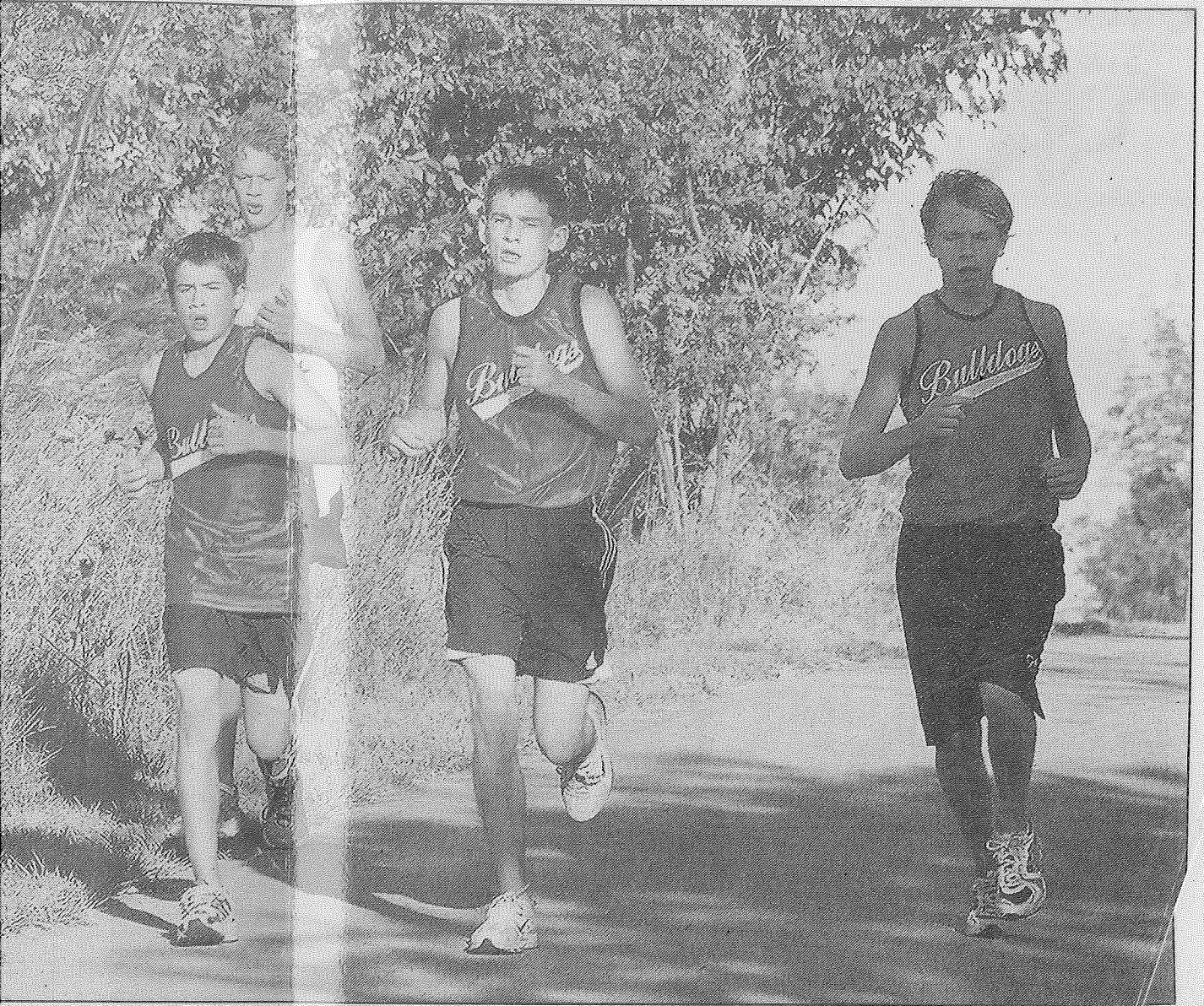
"We tried to make it tougher this year by inviting more AA (large school) teams," said Garrison. "In making it more competitive, we're hoping that we'll respond and get better."

Moxley also likes the idea of running at home the same day of the Homecoming dance, instead of having to travel across the state to run.

"Last year we were at Wheaton during Homecoming, so that was a little distracting," said Moxley. "It's nice they get to run home on Saturday prior to the dance."

Teams taking part in this Saturday's event are Unity, Lincoln, BCC, Clinton, Prairie Central, Monticello, Urbana, Normal U-High, Cumberland, St. Anthony, Mattoon, Charleston, Urbana Uni-High, Centennial, Danville Schlarman, Jamaica, St. Joseph-Ogden, Georgetown-Ridge Farm, Rochester and Mahomet-Seymour.

The starting line is located at the



GARRETT HALM/The Mahomet Citizen

**OUNDING THE CORNER** — From left to right, Clay Mitchem, Jared Sanders and Doug Russian round many of the curves that make up Bulldog cross country course route. The boys' squad won their triangular meet last week at home, defeating both Bloomington Central Catholic and Rantoul.

## COUNTRY

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### Boys

The M-SHS boys' squad easily outran Bloomington Central Catholic and Rantoul in a triangular meet Sept. 28.

The M-S harriers took the top seven spots in beating their Corn Belt Conference foes.

Justin Sebens crossed the finish line ahead of the field

to post the overall victory, followed by Troy Pittman, Patrick Kirwan, Gabe Walder and Steve Roberts.

Sebens completed the three-mile course in 16-minutes, 17-seconds to take the top time in the meet. Pittman had his personal-best time in finishing second with a run of 16:35. In all, 14 of the M-S runners posted a personal best, despite

slow course conditions, according to M-S head coach Neil Garrison.

### Girls results

The M-S girls placed 24rd out of 28 teams at the highly-competitive Wheaton Invitational this past Saturday. The good news was that nine of 12 Bulldog runners "ran personal bests for the season, so that was wonderful," commented Moxley.

Julie Jarrett shaved nearly a minute off her personal best,

running the course in 18:34 to finish ninth in the flighted #2 race. Abby May added a nice time of 19:30, while Jenn Fall and Amy Balek had times of 20:51.

"For a freshman, that's phenomenal," added Moxley. "She put herself in a pretty elite group of runners."

With no meets this week except the Bulldog Invitational, the coach hopes to get her team healthy and ready for their final meets of the 2004 campaign.

want to hear from you!!