

Fall Sports Preview - Boys' and Girls' Cross Country

Boys' cross country gets more help

By SAL NUDO
The Mahomet Citizen.

The M-S boys' cross country team saw three new faces on the coaching staff when practice began last week, and head coach Neal Garrison couldn't be happier.

With forty young men to keep an eye on, he welcomes the assistance.

"With the added help," said Garrison, "my runners get more attention. I think that's gonna make my program much stronger than it ever has been."

Pretty strong words, con-

sidering the team did well last year, finishing third place in regionals, its highest standing since becoming a class AA team.

Joining Garrison on the coaching staff is legendary M-S girls' basketball coach Nathan Seal, as well as Travis Titsworth and Eric Potter, both teachers at Mahomet-Seymour.

Seal helped the cross country team out at last year's midway point, and Garrison is glad to have him aboard the whole way through this year.

Garrison's team is still in the developmental stage, and

the coach admits his runners probably won't dominate. Yet he's confident they could be one of the better teams in the area and is keying in on regionals, where he thinks the team could have success.

"Last year we had our best season since we've been double A," the coach said, "and I think we can match that."

Assisting the team toward that goal will be juniors Justin Sebens, Troy Pittman and Gabe Walder, as well as sophomores Steve Roberts and Andrew Kumler. All are top returning runners whom Garrison expects big things from this year.



Garrison said that around five to seven runners have the potential to bump out the team's top seven varsity positions. He's impressed with the off-season work ethic and overall improvement of up-and-comers like Dustin Campbell, Devon Lyons, Brandon Lovett, Nick Sellers

and Jared Williard.

Coach Garrison said he's "running the legs out from underneath" his players during the first week of practice, in preparation for the team's first meet on August 30th, where it will face off with Bloomington, Urbana and Decatur Eisenhower.