

ALL IN THE RUNNING

CLASS AA URBANA REGIONAL

Fresh faces fine for repeat champs

By SETH GRUEN
For The News-Gazette

URBANA — Last year, when the Mahomet-Seymour girls' cross-country team won a Class AA regional championship, Amy Clawson was not a part of it.

After all, she was in eighth grade.

But on Saturday, the freshman led the way to a repeat team title by winning the individual crown in 18 minutes, 45 seconds.

"I was expecting to get second, so I'm really happy," Clawson said.

She was not the lone Bulldogs runner in the top five. Fellow freshman Jessica Butcher finished third in 19:35, edging Urbana's Tanaya Tuell (19:41).

"I just didn't want her to pass me," Butcher said of Tuell. "I tried to stay with her the second

as a team. Qualifying individually were Danville's Janelle Hensold (16th place), Champaign Central's Lisa Mazzacco (27th) and Mattoon's Sarah Eberspacher (23rd) and Elizabeth Dole (26th).

On the boys' side of Saturday's regional, Centennial came away with the team title, benefiting from a third-place finish by senior Dan Rolando (15:56).

"Third was definitely a solid finish," he said.

Rolando & Co. were able to win despite what coach Greg Walters called a subpar performance.

"We had a pretty average to below average day," Walters said. "You win a regional title, and I guess that's exciting stuff, but we certainly haven't run for a while the way we're capable of running."

