



Photo by Tim Brozenec

**Shaving time**— Sophomore Jacob Mahaffey shaved 40 seconds off of his personal best time to lead the Bulldogs to a first place showing at the Bulldog Invitational.

## Mahaffey sets new PR

By **TIM BROZENEK**  
The Mahomet Citizen

Sparked by sophomore Jacob Mahaffey's 40-second shave job Saturday, the Bulldog cross country team overcame injuries to take first place in the 24-team Bulldog Invitational field.

Senior Justin Sebens finished fifth overall for Mahomet with a time of 15:53 on the three-mile track, but it was Mahaffey's 16th place, 16:31 time that helped push the team past the competition.

"I couldn't believe him," Sebens said of Mahaffey. "We hit the mile mark and they're yelling for him, and I'm like 'holy cow, he's only like 10 seconds behind me - what's he doing?'"

For most of the season, it has been the one-two punch combination of Sebens and Troy Pittman that have carried the Bulldogs (117-42 overall). But recently, Pittman has been held back because of the injury bug, though he did run Saturday and finished just behind Mahaffey with a time of 16:40 (18th overall).

"Three guys were banged up - Devin Lyons, Steve Roberts, and Troy Pittman -- and they

all made the sacrifice for the team and ran well," Mahomet coach Neil Garrison said. "Most recently, in the last 10 years, the highest we've placed is fourth in our invitational. I'm just impressed. I'm impressed with their efforts and their team spirit. I can't complain."

Mahaffey credited the weather and Pittman's pace during the race as the impetus to his new personal best time, a mark that is 40 seconds faster than his previous best time.

"That was my goal, to try to stay up with Pittman and run a PR," Mahaffey said. "It's our home course, so I felt comfortable with it, and I just knew that Troy was right behind me pushing me the whole way."

Mahomet took the team title with 78 points (lowest score wins format). Bloomington Central Catholic finished second with 80 points, while Normal U-High's 110 points was good enough for third place.

After Sebens, Mahaffey, and Pittman, the Bulldogs also got solid finishes from Andrew Kumler (17:16, 30th place), Lyons (17:17, 32nd), Dustin

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