

Both MSHS cross country squads win regional titles

By **TIM BROZENEK**
The Mahomet Citizen

Not to be outdone by the girls, Mahomet won its first Class AA boys cross country regional Saturday in the 10-team field, and it wasn't even close. With five of its seven runners

finishing in the top 10, the Bulldogs' 31 points easily bested runner-up Champaign Centennial's 83 points. Justin Sebens finished first overall with a time of 16:17, which included the senior out-running nemesis Connor Millar from Rantoul. Millar was one of

the favorites going into the race and was recently featured in an area newspaper.

"We weren't expecting to finish so high," M-S coach Neil Garrison said. "All seven of our runners picked it up a notch."

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By **MICHELLE ROBBINS**
The Mahomet Citizen

Mahomet-Seymour girls' cross country team won its seventh straight regional title on Saturday behind five top 10 finishes. Sarah Forbes took second

place for Mahomet-Seymour at the regional race in Utrama. Four other Bulldogs took top 10 honors at the meet.

Josi Parker finished third, Hannah Schaap took fourth, Amanda Rodriguez added an eighth place finish and Jessica Butcher was ninth for M-S.

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Compared against athletes that have beaten them during the season, they really stepped it up. Justin ran a really intense race. He really wanted to beat Millar, and he ended up beating him by 30 seconds (16:47). He beat him soundly."

Fellow senior Troy Pittman finished fourth in a time of 16:51, while Devin Lyons' 17:35 was good for seventh, and Andrew Kunler and Jacob Mahaffey (17:40) tied for ninth.

"We've been double-A for 10 years and we'd never won a regional before," Garrison said. "We've had the talent before, but actually doing it was a good thing. We're happy about that. To have five runners in the top 10 speaks volumes to our depth."

The win sends the Bulldogs to Saturday's sectional meet in

Centralia. There will be at least 21 teams running, plus individual runners who qualified from teams who didn't make it out of the regional. The top five teams will advance to state.

"We've never made it to state as a team," Garrison said. "The highest we've ever finished in the sectional is 13th, so higher than that is a goal. We've had three guys make it to state in the last 10 years since we went

double-A. We're hoping somebody will make it out.

"A lot of those guys in the lower 17's are going to have to cut off 30 seconds or more to advance. It will be a little longer and very challenging course. The top seven individuals after the teams make it also advance. If we don't make it as a team, we hope somebody will make it out."