

M-S' Sebens advances to state

■ MSHS varsity boy's cross country team finishes ninth at sectionals; Sebens' qualifies for state meet

By **TIM BROZENEK**
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Justin Sebens' ninth-place finish in Saturday's Class AA cross country sectional earned the senior a spot in the state meet this weekend in Peoria.

Sebens' three-mile time of 16:24 made him just the fourth M-S boys' runner in the last 10 years to qualify for state, and

the first since 2000.

As a team, the Bulldogs finished ninth in the 21-team field. Only the top five teams (Glenwood, O'Fallon, Springfield Sacred Heart-Griffin, Edwardsville, and Springfield) advanced to state as a team.

"We're very glad for him," M-S coach Neil Garrison said. "He's worked really hard. It's all coming together for him now. He was the only Class AA boy runner to advance from the area. We would've had to have run personal bests by everyone to make it out as a team. Still, the ninth-place finish is the highest finish we've ever had in Class AA."

Other finishers for Mahomet were Troy Pittman (52nd), Devin Lyons (68th), Andrew Kumler (83rd), Steve Roberts (113th), Dustin Kinkelaar (134th), and Jacob Mahaffey (143rd).

The highest-ever individual state finish for the Bulldogs is 53rd. Though Garrison said Sebens would like to do better than that, he's more concerned with running his personal best time on Saturday.

"He wants to run a 15:40 at state," Garrison said. "I don't know where that would put him overall, but that'd be a great run."