



# ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Cross country co-captain Jacob Mahaffey has been selected as the Mahomet Citizen Athlete of the Week.

After running 500 miles this summer to achieve the honor of co-captain, the Mahomet-Seymour High School junior has been turning in great times, including a time in the 15-minute range on a three-mile course.

Mahaffey ran a 15:42 at the Peoria Notre Dame Invitational, which is a certified three-mile course.

"In the last 10 years we have only had six individuals run in the 15's, some of them were even on short courses," said cross country coach Neil Garrison. "Jacob ran in the 15's this year in the first half of our season on a legit three-mile course. He appears to be on track to be the fastest runner we have had in over 10 years. The only other runners that have made it in the 15's all went on to run at the

college level."

Mahaffey said he was surprised that his time was that fast.

"I was shocked by my time. I dropped 40 seconds from the last race," Mahaffey said.

Mahaffey contributes off-season training to the success not only he has had this year, but also to his team's success this season.

"A few of us wanted to run 400 miles because that is one of the requirements to become a captain. We realized 500 wasn't far out of our grasp," Mahaffey said. "Its (running 500 miles) has helped tremendously."

Besides turning in low times this season, Mahaffey has earned medals at the Charleston Invitational (second place), Springfield Invitational

(eighth place) and East Peoria Invitational (seventh place) this year.

Garrison said he has also earned a spot in Mahomet-Seymour's fastest top 20 juniors on their home course this year. Mahaffey also made his way onto the all-time junior list at the Springfield Invitational, Peoria Notre Dame Invitational and East Peoria Invitational.

While Mahaffey is pleased with his performance this year, his ultimate goals are to make it to state and run in the low 15's by the end of the season.

Besides competing in cross country, Mahaffey is also an academic award winner this year and currently an AP and honors student.

He also competes in track in the spring and is a member of the Spanish Honor Society.

He is the son of Tom and Cheryl Mahaffey.



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