

# X-country finishes 13th

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Though his boys' cross country team did not finish higher than ninth place at sectionals, which was the Bulldogs' goal, head coach Neil Garrison called his runners "the strongest team we've had in ten years."

The Bulldogs finished in 13th place at the Class 2A Peoria Notre Dame Sectional Oct. 27, which ties the team's second highest showing in the last 11 years.

"The performances as a team were pretty strong," said Garrison of the chilly, rain-soaked sectional meet. "We just needed to run all pr's [personal records], really, to get where our goals were, and that's just kind of tough to do."

John Prillaman, a freshman, did set a personal record and finished the highest for M-S at 24th place, with a time of 16:22.

Other finishing runners for M-S at sectionals were Austin Beck (73rd, 17:13), Steve Roberts (86th, 17:25), Dustin Kinkelaar (106th, 17:48), Kurt Bucker (112th, 17:59) and

Andrew Kumler (123rd, 18:16). Roberts, Kinkelaar and Kumler, all seniors, each pushed himself to the limit at sectional competition, according to Garrison.

Garrison also praised his squad's exceptional influx of team spirit the last two years, due to runners who are hard-working and unselfish. Only seven runners can compete at the varsity level, so showing up to cheer them on is a significant morality booster, Garrison said.

"In the past years they wouldn't have even showed up," Garrison said of his alternate runners being present to cheer on their fellow Bulldogs at sectionals.

"And this year the guys that knew they weren't gonna get to race were still there to be supportive of their teammates that they'd helped push to be one of the best teams we've had."

Garrison also credited the runners' enthusiasm to assistant coach Nathan Seal.

"He does a great job with bringing some of his concepts that he has for girls' basketball," Garrison said of Seal.