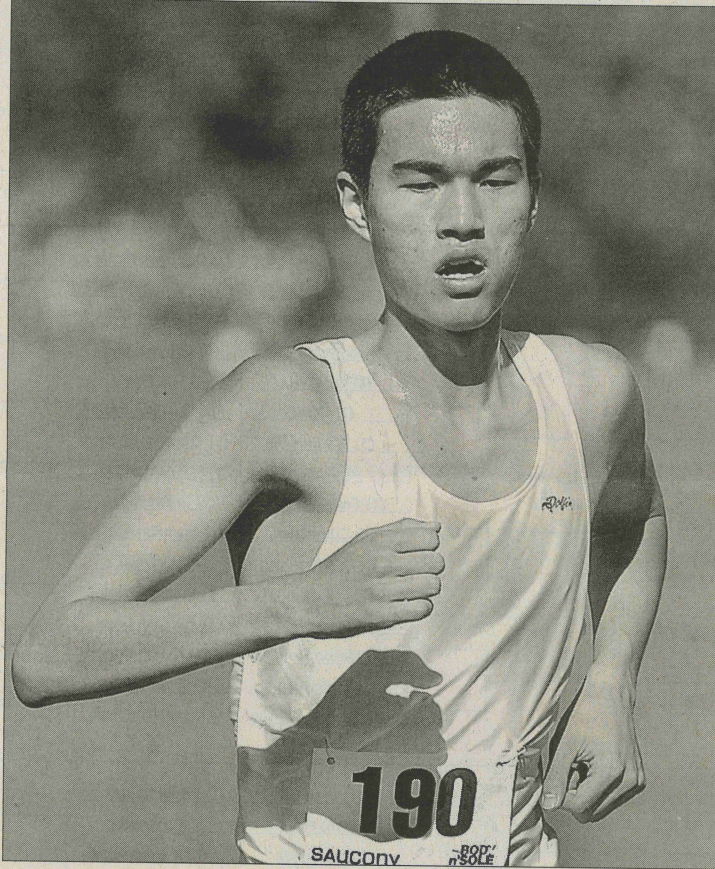


Centennial's Eric Simpson runs to victory Saturday in a boys' Class 2A cross-country regional. Simpson finished in 15 minutes, 34 seconds at the UI Arboretum. Mahomet-Seymour was the boys' and girls' team champions.

Holly Hart/
The News-Gazette



ROUNDUP

Simpson, M-S take titles

By The News-Gazette

URBANA — Centennial's Eric Simpson breezed to the individual title of the Class 2A Urbana Regional boys' cross-country meet, while Mahomet-Seymour fended off Kankakee Bishop McNamara for the team crown.

Simpson completed the 3-mile race in 15 minutes, 34 seconds for a 37-second margin over runner-up Jacob Mahaffey of M-S.

The Bulldogs edged McNamara 49-52 behind John Prillaman (fifth), Dustin Kinkelaar (11th), Austin Beck (12th) and Steve Roberts (19th).

Centennial, Champaign Central and Rantoul also advanced to next week's sectionals. The third-place Chargers dominated the front of the finish line, with Simpson followed closely by teammates Mike Brown (third) and Ryan Root (fourth).

Russell Wetzel led fourth-place Central by finishing 10th. Chris Collins was the top runner for fifth-place Rantoul, crossing ninth.

Urbana's Joe Ellinger advanced as an individual by placing 18th, as did 27th-place Taylor Smith of Argenta-Oreana. Prairie Central had three individual sectional qualifiers: Jordan Nagy, Jarrad Miller and Phil Johnson.

At Normal. Richard Sisson had a team-best finish of 45th in 17:43 for Danville in the 3A regional. Tyler Ammermann was 47th (17:56) and Aris Bivens 48th (17:58.13).

At Beecher. Led by runner-up Tom Pacey, Paxton-Buckley-Loda placed five runners in the top 11 to edge the host school 27-28 for the Class 1A regional title. Pacey, a sophomore, fin-

ished in 16:06.

Also scoring for the Panthers were Nick Brehm (third); Felix Cardoso (fifth); Adam Carlson (seventh) and Adam Kyrouac (11th).

Luke Switzer was the top finisher for third-place Bismarck-Henning, placing 17th.

At Monticello. Monticello's Brent Rhodes won the individual title and Unity captured the team crown in the 1A regional.

Rhodes finished in 16:18 — 17 seconds in front of runner-up Brice Dodds of the Rockets, while Joel Thompson placed sixth and Henry Dust seventh.

Alan Hollingsworth placed fourth for runner-up Monticello. Bement's Jesse Gifford was fifth and advanced to sectionals as an individual.

Fifth-place Villa Grove qualified for sectionals, led by 13th-place Justin Berry.

Also advancing as individuals were Nick Moore of Tuscola and the Arthur duo of Cedric Blandford and Jake Cohan.

In girls' action:

At Normal. Kayla Stipp was Danville's top finisher, coming in 39th in 21:44 in the 3A regional. Elizabeth Sothen of the Vikings was 47th (22:07.82), and teammate Kelsie Dickerson was 57th (25:42.72).

At Beecher. Erika Ramos won the 1A regional title in 19:43, leading Hoopston Area to second place and a berth in next week's sectionals. Ramos, a junior, finished 20 seconds ahead of the runner-up.

Belinda Cohen was third and Abby

Neyman 11th for the Cornjerkers, who trailed champion Beecher 31-43.

Third-place Bismarck-Henning placed two runners in the top seven: Abby Albers (fourth) and Jessica Brito (seventh).

Freshman Sara Diesburg was the top runner for fourth-place PBL, finishing 20th.

At Monticello. Freshman Lindsay Troike of Tuscola was the top area finisher, placing fourth in the 1A regional in 19:49. Rachael Brewer finished 12th for the fourth-place Warriors.

Runner-up Monticello was led by freshman Kelsey Hardimon, who was fifth in 20:08. Emily Walch placed ninth for fifth-place Villa Grove.

Advancing to next week's sectionals as individuals were Unity teammates Emily Bickers (eighth) and Elsa Reifstek (22nd).

At Urbana. Amy Clawson and Brittany Bohn finished 1-2 overall for champion Mahomet-Seymour in the 2A regional.

Also in the top 11 for the Bulldogs were Amanda Rodriguez (seventh), Shelby Stucker (eighth) and Hannah Schaar (11th). M-S outscored runner-up Urbana 29-68. Megan Houk finished fourth for the Tigers, and teammate Marissa Marrone was fifth.

Claire Tortorelli was sixth for fifth-place Centennial, the last team to qualify for next week's sectionals.

Advancing as individuals were Ashley Livingood (12th) and Taylor Black (26th) of Argenta-Oreana; Sunita Karan (20th) and Rory Mills (24th) of Champaign Central; and Andrea Martis (16th) of Salt Fork.