

Three-milers power through 'adversity'

Despite storms, team perseveres

By **STACEY LAFEVER**
Citizen correspondent

A two-hour thunderstorm delay. A cramped bus waiting out the delay. A less-than-usual 30-minute warmup.

The Mahomet-Seymour boys' three-milers powered through such "adversity" at the Peoria Notre Dame Richard Spring Memorial Invitational Sept. 18, improving 10 slots from 40th in 2009 to 30th out of 58 full teams this season.

"Despite all the conditions that the boys couldn't control going against them, they did an excellent job getting mentally prepared to race the toughest competition we face all year," Coach Neal Garrison said. "I was extremely proud of how they competed despite the adversity."

Sixteen of the 19 Bulldog runners ran season-best times, while the other three came within sec-

onds of theirs, pacing Mahomet to its best collective time at this invitational in ten years.

Junior Lucas Prather ran the second-best Bulldog time in that ten-year span, finishing in 15:55 for 103rd place out of 554 runners. Fellow junior Eli Johnson ran the course in 16:22 for 180th.

Four others joined Johnson within the 16th minute: senior John Prillaman 16:29 (205th), junior John Butcher 16:36 (230th), freshman Forrest Smoes 16:37 (231st) and sophomore Jonathan Schaap 16:37 (232nd).

"Anytime we get a runner in the 16-minute range, we feel he is one of the best runners in the area," Garrison noted.

Freshman Ethan Russell ran four seconds over the 17th minute to also earn a spot among Mahomet's fastest times at this invitational with the aforementioned. Senior Evan Forbes crossed in 17:23.

All helped M-S represent its No. 14 ranking in Class 2A. The Bulldogs posted 904 points to finish as the fourth fastest Class 2A team, en route to beating three other Class 2A state-ranked teams, including No. 9 Chatham Glenwood.

Chatham-Glenwood edged the Dawgs to claim second at the

Springfield Lanphier Lee Halberg Invitational Sept. 11. Class 2A top-rated Belvidere North hailed as champion at Peoria Notre Dame with 102 points.

"The Peoria Notre Dame Invitational is run on the state meet course," Garrison noted. "So many Class 3A teams come down from Chicago to run this course. The majority of the teams that beat us were state-ranked Class 3A teams.

"We aren't worried about these teams beating us, as they aren't in our class in the state series, but it was great to get to run against them for the competition."

M-S is scheduled to resume action in the East Peoria Invitational at Illinois Central College Sept. 25.