

Prather sixth Bulldog to qualify for state

Boys' cross country

Team's highest

finish short

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Citizen correspondent

Junior Lucas Prather became

Mahomet-Seymour's sixth boys'

cross-country runner to qualify for

state, while the Bulldogs' highest

finish of seventh in the last 14

years fell short in the East Peoria

Class 2A sectional October 30 on

Illinois Central College's campus.

"At good things must come to

an end," Coach Neal Garrison

said. "Our team ended the season

by setting another team best but

fell short of qualifying."

Second-ranked Normal Univer-

sity won the meet with 82 points,

followed by fifth-ranked Yorkville

(107), tenth-ranked Peoria Norte

Dame (127), 11th-ranked Dixon

(129) and 14th-ranked Morton

(165).

Top five teams advanced, with

Mahomet two spots back at 224

points. Most racing experts pre-

viewed that any number of eight

ranked teams could have taken the

remaining three spots, including

M-S.

Prather placed 13th in 15:50, 40

seconds behind the leader and the

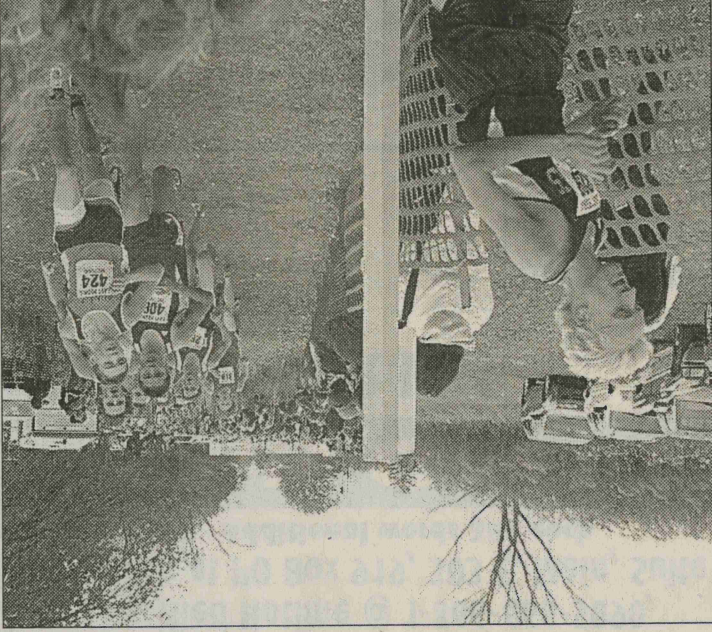


Photo Submitted by Bryan Forbes/Mahomet Citizen

Lucas Prather rounds the curve in the sectional meet. He was the Bulldogs' only state qualifier.



Photo Submitted by Bryan Forbes/Mahomet Citizen

Forrest Smoes runs during the sectional meet.

ing until after the race is over.

Lucas will have his chance to race

one more week at state this com-

ing weekend."

Senior John Prillaman narrowly

missed having a chance to race

one more weekend, placing 20th

in 15:57. Junior John Butcher

crossed in 16:17 for 36th place.

"John (Prillaman) had one of the

best races of his career," Garrison

than normal, John (Butcher) ran a

personal best on that course."

Sophomore Jonathan Schaap

placed 68th (16:51); freshman

Forrest Smoes 88th (17:24); fresh-

man John Russell 107th (17:46);

and junior Eli Johnson 112th

(17:56).

"Forrest ran a self-sacrificing

teams at sectional were slower

than normal, John (Butcher) ran a

personal best on that course."

Sophomore Jonathan Schaap

placed 68th (16:51); freshman

Forrest Smoes 88th (17:24); fresh-

man John Russell 107th (17:46);

and junior Eli Johnson 112th

(17:56).

"Forrest ran a self-sacrificing

for state.

"Not too many athletes can run

as well as Forrest, especially when

they have a fractured bone. We

are glad he will now have time to

fully rest his injury."

Sixteenth-ranked Mahomet-Sey-

mour—No. 2 in the area—ran

well at sectional and throughout

the year to place the highest it has

in numerous invitational: first at

the Springfield Invitational (fresh-

men) and varsity third; first at the

Eureka Fresh/soph invite; second

at the East Peoria invite; runner-up

at the U-High invite; second at the

Corn Belt Conference meet; and

fourth at the Metamora invite.

"I think our boys did a lot of

things right this year in the season

to bring us that much closer to

making it state," Garrison added.

"If the boys continue to make the

great gains they have as individu-

als over the past couple years, then

they have a good chance of reach-

ing it next year.

"The team had an outstanding

year, setting many team bests.

The success of the team this year,

even at the sectional meet, is

largely due to the great team spirit

of all 22 of our runners."