Girls' cross country

Bohn Top 20, team top 15

Prather fourth highest

By STACEY LAFEBER
Citizen correspondent

Squaring off against the steep Class 2A competition it has all season, the Mahomet-Seymour girls' cross-country squad was led by senior leader Brittany Bohn's all-state, top-20 finish to place within the top 15 at Peoria's Detweiller Park November 6.

Sixth-ranked Peoria Notre Dame—as of last updated ESPN Rise/Dyestat IL rankings—upset the 20-team field with 113 points over fourth-ranked Yorkville's 130. Predicted to finish as high as seventh, tenth-ranked M-S scored 272 points for 13th, 32 points behind nemesis Normal University, previously ranked No. 1.

"It was quite an exciting weekend," Coach Bennie Moxley said. "This group of juniors, which is the bulk of our team, remembers vividly not qualifying for state for the past two years, so this trip was oh, so sweet for them."

Five juniors, six sophomores and two freshmen have the potential to return next season and offset the loss of six seniors, including Bohn who consistently ran at the front of the Bulldog pack as well as entire pack all year.

Bohn crossed her final finish line for Mahomet in 17:49 to place 19th out of 167 runners and earn all-state status, the third Bulldog to do so in Moxley's 15-year tenure with Maureen Scott and Amy Clawson the other two.

"There is no denying that Brittany is one of the most talented runners in the state of Illinois," Moxley said. "It was truly her day to shine, and she did. After being eliminated from the state series in track last season, she has been on a mission to prove herself.

"Given the way she has raced so consistently this season, there was no reason to believe that she would be denied her goal of all state. She has been running and lifting for four years now, and her quiet leadership has been invaluable to our program."

Sophomore Tessa Hanlon and junior Rachel Rodriguez both broke the 19-minute mark, clocking 18:30 (56th) and 18:48 (73rd), respectively. Bohn finished as the top runner in the area at 17:38, Hanlon runner-up at 18:14 and Rodriguez fifth at 18:40.

"Tessa and Rachel both ran well at state and have begun their dream of all-state status too," Moxley continued. "This is what it is all about: setting goals and working toward them as a team and individuals."

Junior Nikki Lewis clocked in next at 19:27 (105th); freshman Allie Melchi 19:28 (106th); junior Lauren Penrose 20:01 (131st); and junior Ceirra Nevin 20:07 (138th).

"With regards to the steep field of competition we have seen all year, that is an understatement," Moxley noted. "Last year it took breaking 18:40 to be an all-stater. This year it took breaking 18:00. That is crazy.

"The young lady who won the 2A race set a new all-time record for Detweiller and ran ten seconds faster than the 3A winner did. Just being part of the field of competition was an honor and a reward for all of this team's hard work."

Prather places in top two-thirds: Mahomet-Seymour boys' cross-country junior Lucas Prather placed in the top two-thirds of Class 2A state at Peoria's Detweiller Park November 6.

Cheered on by teammates with inspirational-painted bare chests in the cold weather as well as numerous other M-S fans, Prather posted a time of 16:10 for 106th place, 43 seconds off his seventh-best area time of 15:27 but the fourth-best time since M-S' Class 2A status.

"Lucas had a tremendous season capped off by getting the opportunity to race the state's best runners at Peoria," Coach Neal Garrison said. "It was really great for Lucas to have qualified for state as a junior. The experience of running at state will be extremely beneficial to his senior year."

Photo submitted/Mahomet Citizen

Colton Cresap, Zak Kaesberg and Joel McClughen lead the pack onto the field in Metamora.

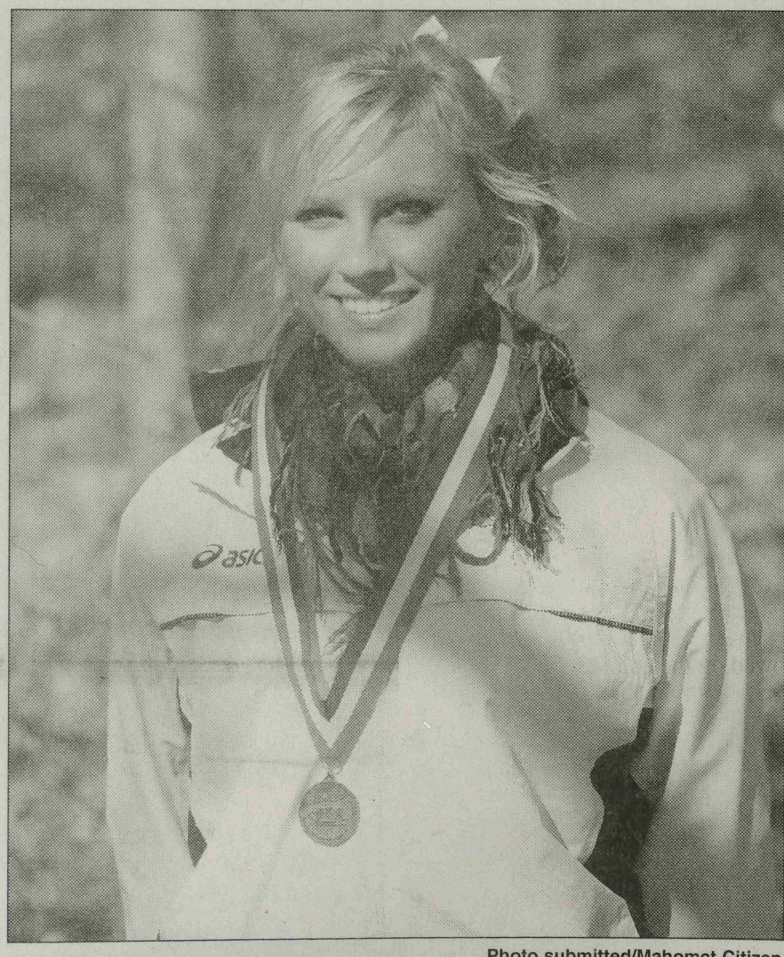

Photo submitted/Mahomet Citizen

Brittany Bohn places 19th out of 167 runners on Saturday.