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The Pantagraph/RANDY SHARER

Mahomet-Seymour High School's Forrest Smoes, right, speeds past the two-mile mark with teammate Jonathan Schaap by his side during Monday's Corn Belt Conference Cross Country Meet at Stanford. Smoes clocked a career-best of 15 minutes, 7 seconds on the 3-mile course while Schaap placed second in 15:13.

Cross (8th, 19:28). U High's No. 6 and 7 girls, Christy Hulett (9th, 19:48) and Madigan Landess (12th, 20:42), beat everyone else's No. 3 runners.

Defending champion Alex Van Hoof of Central Catholic, the 2011 1A state runner-up, was with the leaders through a 5:50 opening mile, but dropped out soon after, citing mental reasons.

"I think the pressure got to me a lot last year," Van Hoof said. "So this year that really took its toll in the beginning of the season and now I'm just trying to catch up a little. So that got to me today, I think."



Junior Sydney Billingsley led University High School to victory by winning Monday's Corn Belt Conference Cross Country Meet at Stanford in 18 minutes, 7 seconds for 3 miles.