

New 5K to raise funds for junior high track, XC uniforms

Race set for October 26 in Mahomet

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Track and cross-country are two of the most popular sports at Mahomet-Seymour Junior High, and their popularity shows no signs of waning any time soon.

"It seems like it just keeps growing and growing and growing," said Joe Bails, assistant cross-country coach and head boys' track coach at the school. He noted that over 160 kids ran track last spring, while the season's cross-country squad boasts 75 members.

Bails is also heading up an effort to purchase new uniform jerseys for the team, organizing a 5K race to raise the money needed for replacements.

With so many kids participat-

ing each year—and with school enrollment on the increase—"we need to be sure we can outfit all of them," he said.

The team replaced the uniform shorts over the past couple of years. But the current uniform tops are over 20 years old. Bails said they're made of a material similar to basketball jerseys—material that doesn't breathe well in the summer heat.

Those tops "have been through a lot," he said. "They're hot, they're heavy, and we need to replace them."

But replacing those 200 jerseys could cost the program anywhere from \$1,500 to \$3,000. That's where the 5K comes in.

The race is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Oct. 26. It'll start and end at the junior high on State Street, following much the same route as the Mahomet Area Youth Club 5K held annually in August. (Bails is the longtime coordinator of that race as well.)

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Submitted photo

Bulldog sixth graders lead the pack in the "Newcomer's Mile" at the Edison Invitational Cross Country meet this weekend.