

MSHS CROSS-COUNTRY**XC teams shine in East Peoria****Tops at Peoria
Invite for third
year in a row****By TERRY GREENE**
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A total of 22 schools competed in the East Peoria cross country invitational on September 28 at Illinois Central College, but only one of them brought back first place titles in the boys' and girls' divisions.

Led by super sophomores Alex Keeble and Lauren Whitehouse, Mahomet-Seymour's girls' and

boys' cross country teams swept through the competition and secured impressive first place finishes. The girls' team placed first, edging Washington, Normal West, and Morton, while the boys' squad ran away from the field, outdistancing second place Normal Community by 47 points.

Whitehouse (19:17) continued her strong season with an 8th place finish, while Abigail Nielsen (19:31) was close behind in the 13th spot. Rounding out the top spots were Twinkle Mehta (24th, 20:12), Olivia Meyer (25th, 20:17), Isabelle Pommier (29th, 20:22), Mariah McAnally (44th, 20:50), and Sarah Knight (53rd, 21:01).

Coach Bonnie Moxley said it was a matter of time before her young runners "figured it out."

"We are a strong team with three of our top seven varsity runners being freshman. We are bound to improve as the season moves along and the young ones get it all figured out," Moxley said. "They are a great group of girls, and I mean the entire team."

The second-ranked boys' team placed seven runners in the first 25 to cross the finish line, including Keeble (2nd), Jackson Powell (7th), William Wolf (10th), James Williams (15th), Gabe Pommier (17th), Ethan Russell (18th), and Andrew Walmer (25th). It was the third year in a row the Bull-

dogs won the East Peoria race.

"Our runners represented their school very well," Coach Neal Garrison said. "In the eight previous years our team raced at this invitational we only had a total of nineteen runners ever place in the top forty. This year we had ten."

Other medal winners for the Bulldogs were Andrew Walmer (25th), Jack Hyde (30th), Ben Craw (36th), and Brian Butcher (37th).

"This really shows how strong the middle of our team is compared to other teams," Garrison said. "I believe that the middle pack of our team is one of the strongest in the state and has been a big reason for the success of our team this season."