

## MSHS CROSS COUNTRY

# Boys' and girls' teams compete in Peoria invite

## Top finishes by runners on both MSHS teams

By **TERRY GREENE**  
*Mahomet Citizen sportswriter*

Mahomet-Seymour sent its boys' and girls' varsity cross country teams to Peoria on September 21 to compete in the 26th Annual Richard Spring Memorial Invitational.

The event routinely features the top high school cross country teams from throughout Illinois and represents most of the larger schools in the state.

Lauren Whitehouse placed second out of 497 runners in the freshman/sophomore race with an impressive run of 18:09. Teammate Olivia Meyer (19:51) finished 43rd in the freshmen/sophomore competition.

The varsity runners came in 51st out of 58 teams but Coach Bonnie Moxley believes better days are ahead.

"We are a rather young team with three talented freshmen in the varsity line-up. This makes for a very competitive practice time with several others working hard to break into the lineup too,"

she said. "Our 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th runners are really equals so this gives up depth that we have not had in the past. This group is much improved over last year and they will improve a lot over the season."

Competing in a 63-team field, the varsity boys' team posted a 10th place finish. Sophomore Alex Keeble (15:05) earned a 19th place finish to lead the way.

Coach Neal Garrison praised his squad's effort against some of the strongest and deepest cross country squads in the state.

"This invitational is our largest and toughest meet of the season. It is tougher than our state meet as we compete with schools that are in a larger class than we have to compete against at the state meet," he said. "Our boys weren't intimidated by the great competition, but came out as one of the stronger teams."

The boys' freshmen/sophomore team also set a new team record by placing 9th out of 48 full teams.

Contributing to the strong effort was Jack Hyde 16:33, Andrew Walmer 16:34, Jake Keller 16:56, Ben Craw 17:06, Brian Butcher 17:10, Mason McAnally 17:18, Joey Magyar 18:14, Zack Pryztulski 18:54, Tristan Ray 22:37, and Cody Jesswein 23:20.