

JUNIOR HIGH CROSS-COUNTRY

Bulldogs run past Clinton at home

Girls' and boys' teams take top spots

By **TERRY GREENE**
Mahomet Citizen sportswriter

Both the M-S junior high school boys' and girls' teams dominated the top spots to post convincing victories over Clinton on September 12 at the Lake of the Woods. The girls' team won 21-63 while the boys' team finished ahead 15-73.

Bryson Keeble (12:10) grabbed top honors for the Bulldogs on the boys' side, followed by Riley Fortune, Mathias Powell, Evan Burge, and Ryan Hodge to complete the

first five finishers.

For the girls' team, Maddie Louis (13:59) crossed the finish line first. Teammate Abby Kyle was third, followed by Lydia Magyar and Jenna Straub to round out the top five.

Coach Lisa Martin said the boys and girls teams complement each other in their running abilities and leadership skills.

"Our boys' team knows the power of the pack. The secret to being successful in cross country is a good solid pack in the right place at a meet. Each meet is another opportunity for our boys to run together and get stronger as a team. The veteran boys are very good at teaching the new runners ways of being successful," Martin said. "Our girls' team has

a good time together as they push each other to run harder and reach personal bests. This team is full of hard workers who are not only teammates, but also friends. This goes a long way when it comes to team success."

Martin added that each team has had to work hard outside of practice this year. "With several days off of practice due to the heat, the coaches asked the runners to run on their own in the later part of the day," she said. "This hard work when no one was around to watch is what is the key to our current success and what will be the key to our continued success."

Unlike many other individual and team sports, a cross country race doesn't always draw large crowds and can take place in in-

clement weather.

Because of the uniqueness of the sport, Martin said the sport appeals to different runners for a variety of reasons.

"Some kids just like to go out and run, others like to push themselves, others enjoy the camaraderie of the team. No matter what, everyone is out to accomplish the same goal, run hard each race and do better than the last one, setting goals and reaching them while having fun doing it," she said. "There is nothing better than the look in a runner's eyes after he or she has run a great race. A stopwatch with a time is only a formality, the feeling in the heart that a runner gets when they just know they had a great race is irreplaceable."