

MSHS CROSS COUNTRY

Boys 15th, girls 20th at State

Teams cap off seasons at Peoria meet

By **TERRY GREENE**
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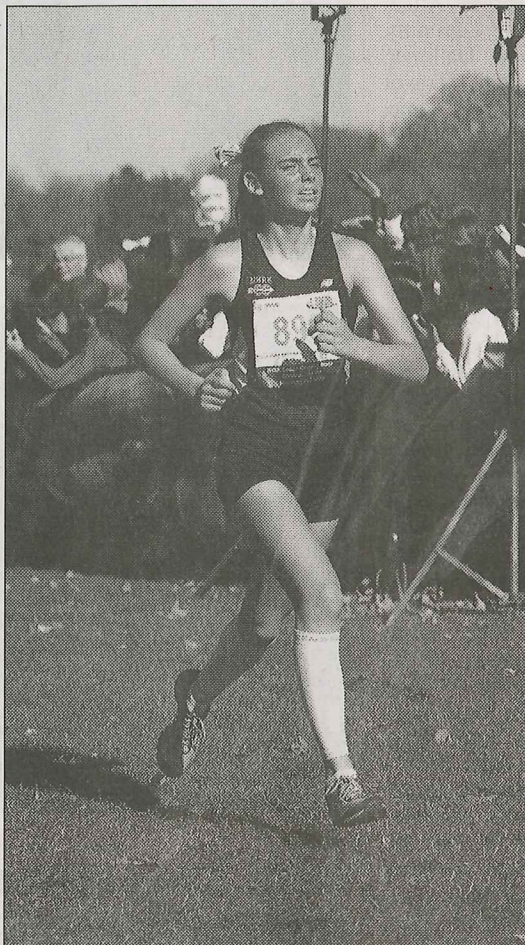
While neither the Mahomet-Seymour varsity boys or girls cross country teams brought home a trophy or medal from the IHSA Class 2A finals at Detweiller park in Peoria on November 9, the team did gain valuable experience by competing against the best Illinois had to offer – and it didn't diminish the outstanding results that both teams compiled during the 2013 season.

At the state finals, the boys team ran into trouble when its number one runner – Alex Keeble, who had been battling illness throughout week – was unable to finish the race. With its top scorer on the sidelines, the rest of the Bulldog did its best to finish as strong as possible and placed 15th overall in the field of 27 teams.

Freshman Andrew Walmer ran a lifetime best of 15:52 to put him 62nd in the individual race. James Williams was next for the Bulldogs (90th, 16:02), followed by William Wolf (113th, 16:16), Gabe Pommier (129th, 16:26), Ethan Russell (137th, 16:29) and Jackson Powell (167th, 16:43).

Coach Neal Garrison said that while it was a difficult way to end the season, it was still an outstanding year for the cross country team.

"In the end, sickness just got the best of us. In a meet with the state's best teams, it's hard to place well when your top runner is no longer in the team score," he said. "But our team had incredible support throughout the year from our parents,



Mahomet-Seymour sophomore Lauren Whitehouse looks toward the finish line at the IHSA finals this weekend. Whitehouse finished 26th by running a time of 18 minutes, 9 seconds.

the alumni, the alumni parents, administration, and their teammates. The state finals brought out the most amount of fan support we have had in years."

On the girls' side, the Lady Bulldogs garnered 20th place out of 25 teams.

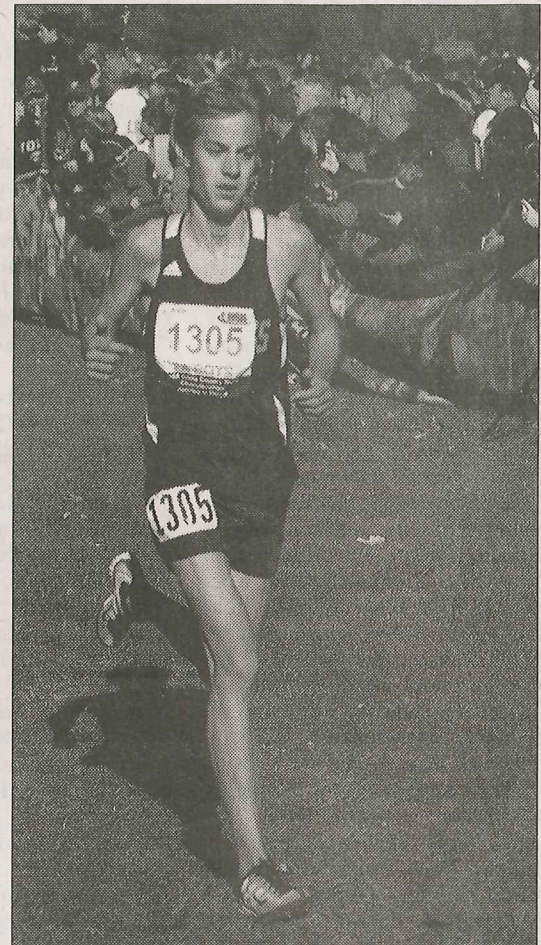
Lauren Whitehouse just missed an All-State finish for M-S, coming in 26th with a time of 18:09. The top 25 finishers receive the IHSA All-State designation.

Next for M-S was Abigail Nielsen, who nabbed the

47th spot with personal best 18:48, then Olivia Meyer (139th, 20:08), Isabelle Pommier (158th, 20:25), Jocelyn Thrasher (164th, 20:31), Mariah McAnally (167th, 20:32), and Madison Buzicky (180th, 20:58).

According to Coach Bonnie Moxley, it was a bittersweet finish to the season.

"It was sad that Lauren Whitehouse finished just one place from earning an All-State medal. The good news is that she is only a sophomore and I just



Daniel Chamness/For the Mahomet Citizen

Mahomet-Seymour's third scoring runner, William Wolf, finished 113th overall, running the 3.0-mile course at Peoria's Detweiller Park in 16 minutes, 16 seconds.

can't imagine her allowing such a thing to happen in her last two seasons in high school," she said.

"As a team we finished behind teams that we beat at the sectional, but with three freshmen and two sophomores in the lineup, the state meet can be a daunting experience.

"However, I'm encouraged that this group of underclassman will be hungry to make a better showing at the state meets to come."