

## A season of firsts

Mahomet-Seymour's boys' team has competed in eight Saturday invitationals thus far. The Bulldogs have

won team honors in seven, including a sweep of conference, regional and sectional meets the past three weeks.

Coach Neal Garrison's squad will participate at state for the third year in a row. Senior Ethan Russell — who ranks fifth on the school's all-time list for consecutive days run (217) — is the only three-time state-meet competitor on the current squad. Alex Keeble, James Williams and Jackson Powell were also on last year's fifth-place Class 2A state team. Russell and Williams are the only seniors among the top seven on the state-bound squad.

Keeble has erased entries in the school record books, running the fastest time by an M-S sophomore at conference (15 minutes, 38 seconds), regional (15:29) and sectional (15:24).

"I am very pleased with how the boys both trained and raced this season," Garrison said. "Some runners have the discipline to train hard. Some runners have the competitiveness to race hard. I am fortunate to have a group of runners that are able to do both."

M-S was ranked second to Illiana Christian in the last state poll conducted by the ITCCCA. The sectional crown marked the first time in school history the school had accomplished that feat in back-to-back years.

Garrison is limited to using seven runners at state, even though he has a much larger contingent that has helped the team reach its pinnacle.

"This group has so much depth that we are having to leave a large group of excellent runners off the state-series team," Garrison said. "Many hardworking runners on our team won't get the honor to represent the team in the state-meet race that they were so much a part of creating."

### Class 2A boys' qualifiers

(Noon Saturday)

#### TEAM

**MAHOMET-SEYMOUR** — Alex Keeble, So.; Gabe Pommier, Fr.; Jackson Powell, Jr.; Ethan Russell, Sr.; Andrew Walmer, Fr.; James Williams, Sr.; William Wolf, Jr.; coach: Neal Garrison

#### INDIVIDUALS

**CHAMPAIGN CENTRAL** — Corey White, Sr.; coach: Argie Johnson

**DANVILLE** — Johnny Leverenz, Sr.; coach: Todd Orvis