

## MSHS CROSS-COUNTRY

# CONFERENCE CHAMPS

## Boys claim Corn Belt crown; girls a close second

By TERRY GREENE  
Mahomet Citizen sportswriter

For the second year in a row, the Mahomet-Seymour varsity boys' cross-country team will wear the Corn Belt Conference crown.

The Bulldogs cruised to the first-place finish on October 18 at Fairmont Park with a team total of 21 points.

Normal U-High finished a distant second.

All seven M-S runners placed in the top ten, including meet champion Alex Keeble (15:13.20). Other all-conference performers included William Wolf (3rd), Jack Hyde (4th), Ben Craw (6th), Brian Butcher (8th), Andrew Walmer (9th) and Trevor Hanlon (10th).

The Bulldogs also won the open race competition with 16 points, one point over a perfect score.

M-S's Riley Fortune was the conference meet open champion.

In addition to Fortune, the Bulldogs had eight of the top ten in the open race - Jackson Powell (2nd), Joey Magyar (3rd), Ryan Hodge (4th), Mason McAnally (6th), Calan Whitehouse (7th), Gabe Pommier (9th), and Joe Churn (10th).

M-S Coach Neal Garrison said that as successful as the Bulldogs have been to date, the team continues to strive for better times and higher goals.

"The runners have a lot of respect for the teams they race and know they aren't guaranteed a win if they don't give a strong effort every time out," Garrison said.

"Individually they have all worked hard for years and they know they only have a small window of races before the season ends.

"They give it their best effort every time since they know the season will end whether they have reached their full potential for a great individual time or not."

The Lady Bulldogs, led by Lauren Whitehouse's first-place finish, came within an eyelash of upsetting heavily favored U-High before falling by one point, 47-46.

Six of the seven M-S varsity runners recorded personal best times.

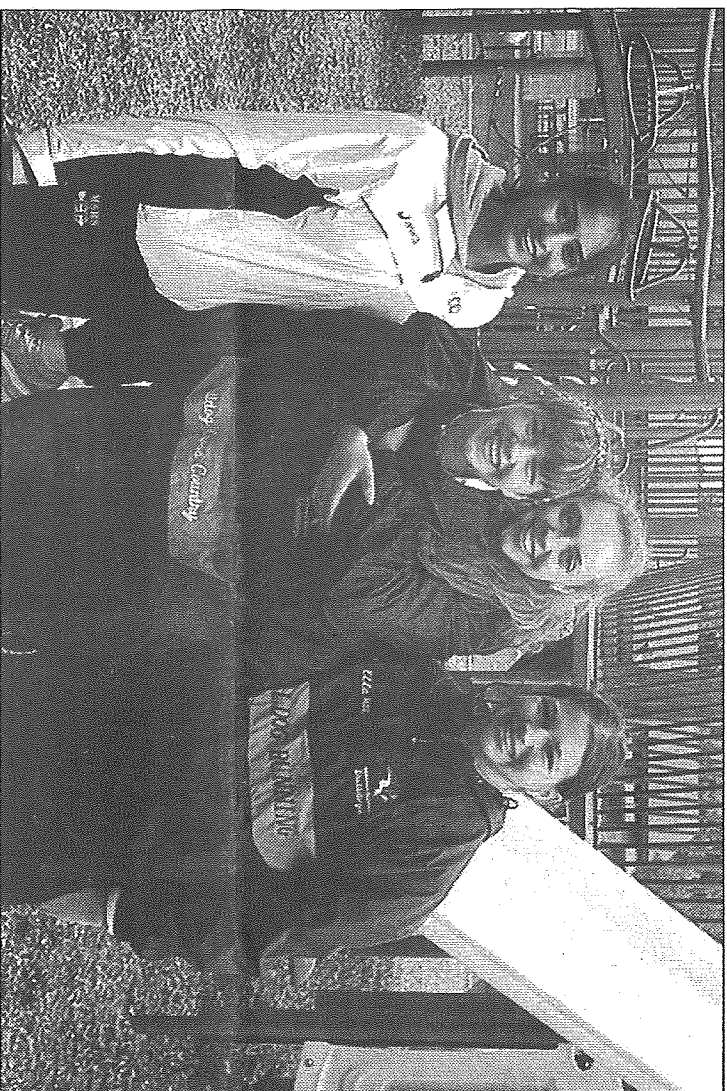
Joining Whitehouse in the impressive runner-up finish were Jenna Straub (8th), Jocelyn Thrasher (10th), Twinkle Mehta (12th), Kaaitin Lewis (17th), Maria McAnally (18th), and Olivia Meyer (25th).

Coach Bonnie Moxley called the Lady Bulldogs' effort a "classy performance" against the state-ranked Pioneers from U-High.

"I was very, very proud of every one of our girls. They ran with all of their hearts and more," Moxley said. "And



Submitted photo  
The boys' cross-country team honored five senior members at this weekend's meet: Ryan Huff, Christopher Williams, Jackson Powell, Trevor Hanlon and William Wolf.



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The girls' cross-country team paused this weekend to honor four graduating seniors: Twinkle Mehta, Blayne Moxley, Devon Kreps and Ella Fried.

**Right:** Conference champions Lauren Whitehouse and Alex Keeble show off their medals after this weekend's conference meet.

Lauren was in total control of the individual title the entire race. She has trained hard enough to win and it shows."

M-S dominated the open race, putting seven runners in the top ten.

Samira Kassem placed second, followed by Madison Buzicky (3rd), Devon Kreps (5th), Taylor Zboril (6th), Jacqueline Bacon (7th), Ella Fried and Rachel Asbil (9th).



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