

## CROSS-COUNTRY

## ON TO SECTIONALS

Mahomet-Seymour boys see first-place finish, girls take second at regionals in Normal last weekend

By TERRY GREENE

*Mahomet Citizen sportswriter*

One down, two to go for the Mahomet-Seymour varsity boys' and girls' cross country teams.

The first step in the journey to the IHSA state finals was clearing the Class 2A regional hurdle in Normal on October 25.

Both Bulldog teams passed the test with flying colors with the boys' team capturing first place while the girls captured the runner-up spot. Both teams advanced to the sectional competition in East Peoria.

Alex Keeble once again led the way for the boys' squad, currently ranked second in Class 2A, with a first place finish and a time of 15:05. Closely behind was teammate William Wolf, whose time of 15:08 was good enough for second place. Other Bulldogs to place in the top 20 were Jack Hyde (5th), Riley Fortune (15th) and Ben Crow (16th).

M-S, who had three of its top runners—Andrew Walmer, Brian Butcher, and Trevor Hanlon—sidelined due to illness, outdistanced #3 Metamora 39-57.

Normal West, Morton, and East Peoria rounded out the top five teams. It was the fourth straight regional championship for the Bulldogs.

"I'm proud of the way our

team competed," Coach Neal Garrison said. "All seven of our runners represented our school very well."

On the girls' side, Lauren Whitehouse made it a clean sweep for M-S by crossing the finish line first with a time of 17:55. The highly regarded Whitehouse never trailed and posted a 42-second margin over the second place runner.

The Lady Bulldogs, ranked #17, placed second behind #11 Normal U-High 48-76.

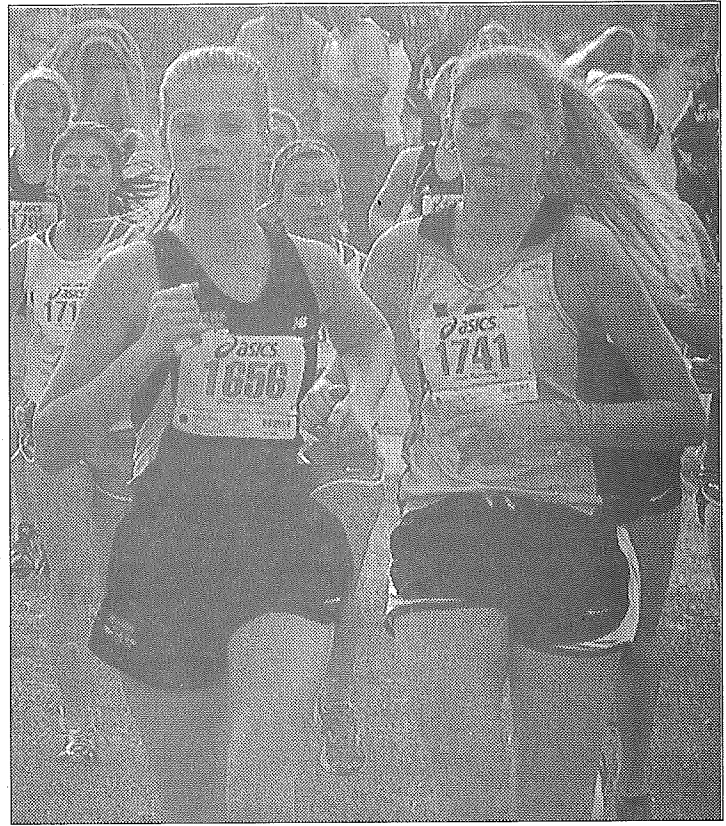
M-S's Jenna Straub turned in a time of 19:17, which good enough for an 11th-place finish.

Two other Lady Bulldogs recorded top 20 times with Jocelyn Thrasher (19:52) in 18th place and Twinkle Mehta (19:54) placing 20th.

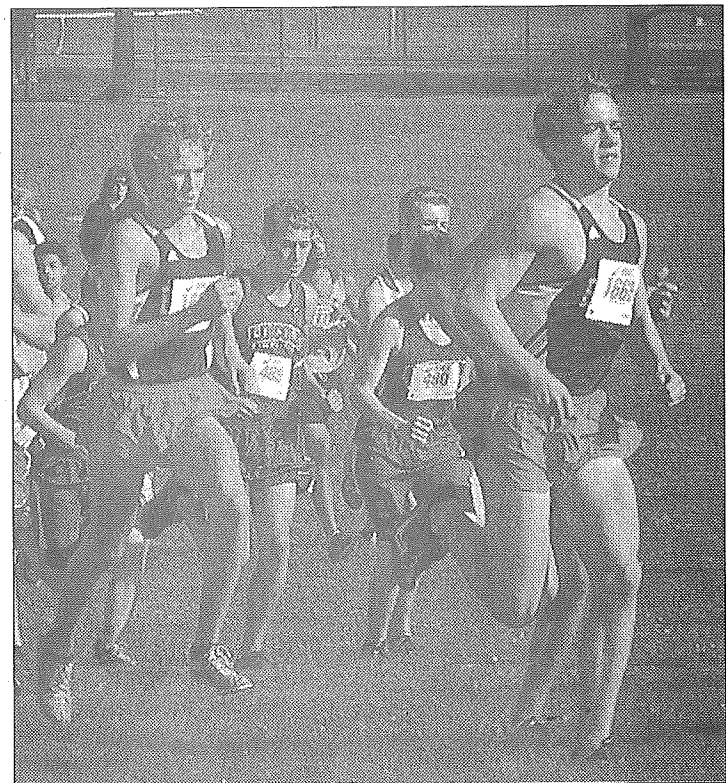
According to Coach Bonnie Moxley, the second-place finish was somewhat of a "surprise" for the Lady Bulldogs.

"We believe that Washington will put forth a better effort at the sectional so we'll need to raise the bar next weekend to finish in the top five teams to qualify for the state meet," Moxley said. "It will take our best effort of the year but I believe that we're up to the task."

The boys' and girls' sectional meet will be Saturday, November 1, at Detweiller Park in East Peoria.



Submitted photo



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**Top:** Mahomet-Seymour's Mariah McAnally runs the second mile of Saturday's regional race. **Bottom:** Mahomet-Seymour's boys lead the pack at the start of Saturday's regional.