

OUTPACING THE COMPETITION

MSHS XC teams perform at Springfield

By **TERRY GREENE**
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With outstanding individual and team performances this past weekend in Springfield, the Mahomet-Seymour varsity boys and girls cross country teams continue to serve notice they are among the best of the best in downstate Illinois.

Competing in the Lee Halberg Invitational at Lanphier Park, the boys' team finished first in the varsity, freshmen, and open races while the girls' varsity team placed third overall and the JV squad first.

In the 24-team boys varsity race the Bulldogs' Alex Keeble was the first to cross the finish line with a sparkling time of 15:07.

Other top finishers for M-S included Andrew Walmer (3rd, 15:40), William Wolf (5th, 15:52), Jack Hyde (7th, 15:55), Ben Crow (8th, 15:57), Brian Butcher (15th, 16:06), and Gabe Pommier (40th, 17:03).

In the boys' junior varsity race, M-S claimed the top four spots. Jackson Powell was first with a time of 16:53, followed closely by Trevor Hanlon, Mason McAnally, and Joey Magyar.

The Bulldog's freshmen team captured the two-mile run meet with Riley Fortune placing first (10:37) and Evan Burge second (11:11).

"This was the first time any team has won all three team titles and individual titles. It really shows how hard-working this group is and how team-oriented all of them are," Coach Neal Garrison said. "We don't have a single runner on our team that isn't an extremely hard worker."

On the girls' side of the ledger, M-S finished just behind Normal Community and Chatham Glenwood for a third place finish in the 18 team field.

The Lady Bulldogs' Lauren Whitehouse was the overall race champion with a time of 18:29. Jenna Straub (13th, 20:31), Jocelyn Thrasher (20th, 20:49), Olivia Meyer (23rd, 20:50), Mariah McAnally (37th, 21:23), Twinkle Meh-ta (42nd, 21:31), and Kaitlin Lewis (44th, 21:40) provided plenty of depth in M-S's strong showing.

The Lady Bulldogs' junior varsity team topped the 18-team field by a healthy 68-point margin over second-place Chatham Glenwood. Devon Kreps was the highest M-S finisher with a 6th place time of 22:09.

Other Lady Bulldogs who aided the cause were Samira Kassem (7th), Liv Turner (9th), Ella Fried (11th), Taylor Zboril (14th), Blayne Moxley (17th) and Rachel Asbill (32nd).

"This was a much improved effort overall and it is always great to have the overall race winner," Coach Bonnie Moxley said. "Lauren looked spectacular and our junior varsity team won big too. This group is working hard and has lots of fun as well."