

Area well-represented. Four area boys' programs and four area girls' programs are ranked among the state's best in Class 1A, according to this week's poll by ilmilesplit.com.

Unity and Monticello stay at Nos. 2 and 3, respectively, on the boys' side, with St. Joseph-Ogden No. 6 and Paxton-Buckley-Loda No. 13. In the pre-season poll, the only differences were SJ-O was listed at No. 7 and PBL at No. 12.

Among girls' teams, Urbana Uni High is rated sixth, St. Joseph-Ogden seventh, Unity eighth and Monticello 12th. That's a bit of a shakeup from the preseason when the Illineks were ranked fourth, with Unity fifth, SJ-O seventh and Monticello 14th.

In Class 2A, Mahomet-Seymour's boys are rated fourth and the Bulldogs' girls are ranked 12th, three spots ahead of Danville.

The depth of the M-S boys' team is reflected in times, Five Bulldogs have posted 3-mile times under 16 minutes, and one (Alex Keeble) has come in under 15 minutes. Keeble is chasing the school record, which has held since 1974 when Mark Johnson was timed in 14:41. Keeble's season best is 14:58.