

Mahomet-Seymour's boys' program is shooting for school history this week. Twice, the school has been on the verge of a state trophy, which goes to the top three team placers.

In 1995 and 1996, M-S was fourth when it was a Class 1A school. M-S' highest finish since advancing to Class 2A is fifth in 2011.

"Our goal is to try and place the highest we have ever placed," M-S coach Neal Garrison said. "We feel a sense of obligation to our alumni that worked so hard to set the standards for us to try and beat."

Alex Keeble has won six races this fall and is among a handful of individuals expected to challenge for the top spot this weekend.

For the team to meet its expectations, however, Garrison recognizes that more than the leaders will need to run well.

"Most races are won and lost by the later runners since they give the most amount of points to the team score," he said. "This year, our No. 6 and No. 7 runners will play a critical role in pushing back other top teams' runners.

"In many ways, we gain as much confidence knowing our fourth through seventh runners are tough runners that we can count on when matters."