



Above Photo: Marion's Boys Team celebrates their win at Saturday's Decatur MacArthur Sectional (Photo Courtesy of Eli Baker)

By Michael Newman

DyeStat Illinois Editor

mike@dyestat.com

Metamora Sectional

#1 Mahomet-Seymour held out some of their top seven for the second meet in a row. It did not matter as the Bulldogs placed four runners in the first eight to tune-up for next week's state meet with a sectional win scoring 41 points. Jack Franklin (Normal University HS) looked especially strong running 14:39 to win the individual sectional title by twelve seconds ahead of Metamora's Jake Gillum on the 2.94 mile course at Black Partridge Park.

Andrew Walmer led Mahomet with a third place finish. He was followed by Mathias Powell (6th), Ryan Hodge (7th), Ben Craw (8th), and Evan Burge (18th). Their split on the top five was 44 seconds. #2 Normal University scored 67 points to finish second behind top ten finishes by Franklin, Jared Schuckman (4th), and Zach Wolford (9th). #4 Metamora made it in with ease finishing third (105 points) behind Gillum's finish and the fifth place finish by freshman Adam-Gilbreath-Glaub. The next five places were separated by only seven points. #15 Peoria Notre Dame clinched the fourth spot (174 points) behind Patrick Bruch's 15th place finish. #20 Dunlap just got in (176 points) with help from Drew Fick's 12th place finish. Morton and East Peoria (179 points) along with #18 LaSalle-Peru (181 points) just missed qualifying as teams.

#2 Dunlap showed why they could be the team to beat in next week's 2A State Meet. The Eagles dominated this meet making a statement placing five runners in the first seven to easily win the sectional title with only 22 points. Dunlap's Franny Verville won the individual title (17:44) seven seconds ahead of Normal University freshman Katy Clausen. The story of this race was Dunlap's strength up front. There was only a 32 second split on their top five with Verville, Abby Johnson (3rd), Andrea Copeland (5th), Kate Piper (6th), and Jena Brooks (7th) in that group. #14 Normal University finished second (120 points) behind Clausen's finish. #11 Mahomet-Seymour finished third (123 points) led by Megan Churm and her 10th place finish. #7 Metamora finished fourth (137 points) led by Kari Lalumandier finishing 4th overall. #13 Peoria Notre Dame edged #8 Washington by one point for the final qualifying spot (161-162). The Irish placed two runners in the top twenty led by Catie Elward (15th) and Grace Breitbach (19th).

Belvidere Sectional

#1 Belvidere North placed three in the first six to tune up for next week's state showdown with Dunlap by winning this sectional with 56 points. The Blue Thunder were led by the individual win by Jenna Lutzow. The senior ran 16:58 for the win twenty seconds ahead of Boylan Catholic's Delaney Appino. Grace McLaughlin (Boylan Catholic HS, Rockford) was another 21 seconds behind in third. North had Lutzow, Madison Diercks (4th), and Gianna Sagona (6th) in the top ten. There was a 41 second gap between Sagona and their fourth and fifth runners Alexandria Riza (23rd) and Sabrina Elder (24th).

#3 Vernon Hills edged #4 Crystal Lake Central by four points (89-93) for second place. The Cougars had a solid 42 second split on their top five led by Payton Makowskyj's 12th place finish. The Tigers had Janine Orvis (8th) and Kelly Doerr (11th) within five seconds of each other. Their top five split was 71 seconds. #16 Kaneland earned the fourth spot (194 points) led by the 7th place finish by freshman Rachel Richtman. #11 Grayslake Central just made it to state finishing fifth just four points ahead of #17 Woodstock. #21 Rockford Boylan (221 points) and #5 Lakes (229 points) were next. Lakes' freshman Olivia Schmidt just missed qualifying as an individual by one place and one second.

Jack Aho and his brother Matt finished 1-2 to lead #3 Grayslake Central to the sectional title with 111 points. Jack ran 14:36 to win by 18 seconds ahead of his brother. Eli Minsky was the Rams' third runner (20th) with Ben Steinbeck (39th) and Mario Giannini (43rd) as their other scorers. Their split on the top five was 117 seconds. #5 Crystal Lake Central scored 111 points to finish second only nine points away from Grayslake Central. The Tigers were strong up front led by Cole Barkocy (5th), Weston Sterchi (11th) and Brandon Tomasello (14th) all in the top fifteen. #10 Sycamore finished third (126 points) behind Stephen Poorten's 4th place finish. #6 Sterling will be making a state appearance as a team for the first time in 33 years. The Warriors finished fourth (131 points) behind top ten finishes

from Jacob Gebhardt (5th) and Jonathan Landis (8th). #22 Dixon had only a thirteen second split on their top five to capture the final qualifying spot for the state meet with 137 points. #13 Hampshire missed qualifying by five points to finish sixth but had Jacob Oury and William Matushek qualify as individuals.

Decatur MacArthur Sectional

Jenna Schwartz led wire to wire for the individual win and to lead #24 Waterloo to the sectional title on a windy morning at Decatur's Hickory Point Golf Course. Schwartz ran 17:36 to win by fifteen seconds ahead of Annemarie Michael (Urbana University HS). It was close for the team title as Waterloo edged #20 Urbana 131-139 for the win. Urbana had Libby Cultra (5th), Olivia Rosenstein (6th), and Chian Scott (7th) all in the top ten. Waterloo had a 52 second split on their second through fifth runners which was the difference. Springfield put three runners (all freshmen) within ten seconds of each other in the top twenty to get them back to state with a third place finish (148 points). #12 Chatham-Glenwood did not run their best race of the year but still made it back to the state meet finishing fourth (154 points) behind Ali Winn's ninth place finish. Mascoutah was the final team to qualify (166 points) by 33 points ahead of Mattoon.

Ben Flowers (Jersey HS) overcame the windy conditions to score an easy fifteen second win ahead of Carbondale's Atlantis Green. Flowers winning time was 15:13. It was #9 Marion that stole the show in winning the Boys team title. Freshman John Bruce finished third and Zach Young tenth to lead the Wildcats to the championship with 97 points. #7 Danville did not have any runners in the top ten but relied on a 33 second split on their top five to finish second (105 points). William Powell led the Vikings with a 14th place finish. #8 Chatham-Glenwood finished third (112 points) led by a top ten finish by Chris Durr (5th). #17 Springfield had Jackson Esela finish 6th and Kyle Boughter finish 12th to help them finish fourth (132 points). Charleston was a surprise in finishing fifth (187 points behind top fifteen finishes by Nick Oakley (11th) and Austin Ames (13th).

Wheaton Academy Sectional

#11 Riverside-Brookfield placed four runners in the first fifteen to win the sectional with 76 points. The individual race was close as Jesus Palmerin (Kennedy HS, Chicago) won the individual race (15:28) just by a second ahead of Nick Brouch (St. Francis HS, Wheaton). RB's Mateo Nunez was another two seconds back in third. The Bulldogs had Jacob Wardzala (8th), Connor O'Brien (9th), and Jack Sagan (15th) in the top fifteen followed by Matt Zamudio (44th). Their 5 man split was 107 seconds but 59 seconds on their top four.

The story of this season has been the emergence of Illinois Math and Science Academy who will be making their first state appearance. The Titans finished second (109 points) behind Daniel Chen's fourth place finish. #25 Hinsdale South will return back to state after finishing third (149 points) with Chris Joseph (6th) finishing in the top ten. St. Francis was only one point behind in fourth (151 points) led by Brouch's second place finish. #24 Brother Rice just barely made it to Peoria behind Joe Sweeney's 12th place finish. They scored 160 points to finish one point ahead of host Wheaton Academy who qualified three individuals for next week's state meet.

#15 Lemont had a 50 second split on their top five to win the sectional title with 69 points. Beata Drozda was their top runner (5th) followed by Bridget Kunkel (10th), Cassandra Hamilton (13th), Julianane McClatchy (19th), and Jaycee Schickel (25th). Riverside-Brookfield finished second (88 points) led by sophomore's Tara Janney's 8th place finish. Wheaton Academy finished third (101 points) led by Julia Robleski's fourth place finish. #18 Rosary had Claire Hengesbaugh finish third to help them get back to Peoria with a fourth place finish (126 points). Glenbard South was the final team qualifier in fifth (166 points). Abby Fiorei (Aurora Central Catholic HS) ran 18:10 to win the individual title by 27 seconds ahead of Gillian Fiene (Illiana Christian HS, Lansing).

Fenton Sectional

#6 Northside Prep showed that they have a chance for a trophy at next week's state meet. The Mustangs placed five runners in the first fourteen to easily win the team championship with 32 points. Fiona Casey ran 18:52 to win individually 22 seconds ahead of teammate Sara McCoy. Northside's other scorers included Sylwia Balata (4th), Erin Franke (13th), and Kendra Lachick (14th). Payton Prep (81 points) finished second followed by St. Ignatius (96 points), Trinity (131 points), and Latin School (140 points).

Host Fenton won the Boys team championship with 77 points. Jose Vazquez-Perez missed most of the season due to an injury but was Fenton's #1 runner as he finished 8th overall. St. Viator scored 88 points to finish second behind Sam Brey's individual win. Brey ran 16:13 to win the race by thirteen seconds ahead of Mather's Jeremy Bekkouche. Payton Prep (102 points) and Northside Prep (117 points) finished third and fourth. Elmwood Park took the final spot (138 points) despite losing #1 runner Amadeus Lopez earlier in the week due to team rules violations.