

State cross country primer

Where: Peoria's Detweiller Park

Saturday start times: Class 1A girls – 9 a.m.; Class 1A boys – 10 a.m.; Class 2A girls – 11 a.m.; Class 2A boys – noon; Class 3A girls – 1 p.m.; Class 3A boys – 2 p.m.

Class 1A qualifiers

Central Catholic outlook: The Saints will be represented by sophomore Abby Lewis, who took 10th in the Elmwood Sectional in 19:06.

Clinton: The Maroons, who last had an all-stater in 2001 when Chris Holl placed 19th, will be represented by freshman Payne Turney. She ran 18:49 in the Effingham St. Anthony Sectional to place fifth.

Deer Creek-Mackinaw: The Chiefs' boys, ranked No. 12 in 1A, will be making their state meet debut. Junior Gary Cates became his school's first state qualifier last year when he placed 54th in 16:05. Dakota Myers led Dee-Mack in the Elmwood Sectional, placing sixth in 16:05.

El Paso-Gridley: Sophomore Kate Atkins, 67th in last year's state meet in 19:19, will be joined by her No. 25-ranked team. This is the first EPG girls squad to qualify. The No. 17 Titan boys are making their fourth straight state trip. The top returnee from last year's seventh-place team is Andy Layden, who finished 35th a year ago in 15:45.

Eureka: This is the No. 6-ranked Hornet girls 16th state trip. Their leader is sophomore Emma Argo, who placed 40th last year when Eureka finished 12th. For the boys, sophomore Kyle Johnson, 15th (16:24) in the Elmwood Sectional, is Eureka's lone qualifier.

Gardner-Dwight: Northern Illinois recruit Daly Galloway placed second last year in 16:50, 31 seconds behind three-time champion Anna Sophia Keller of Effingham St. Anthony, who also went 1-2 with Galloway in 2014, 16:27 to 16:52. As freshmen, Keller sped 16:35 while Galloway was third in 17:30. Unbeaten the past four seasons, Keller could become the first small-school girl to win four titles since Carthage's Katelyn Bastert (2003-06).

Olympia: Senior Shelby Siltman, the Elmwood Sectional champion, placed fifth last year in a school-record 17:46. The best finish in school history was Janelle Birky's fourth in 1996. Siltman's No. 8-ranked team, which is making its 10th state trip, finished 15th last year. For the boys, the lone qualifier is senior Kyle Rader, who was third in the Elmwood Sectional in 16:02.

PBL: Sophomore Evie Ellis advanced 15th (19:34) from the Effingham St. Anthony Class 1A Sectional.

Prairie Central: The Hawks have gone five straight years with at least one state qualifier. Junior Jacob Maquet makes a return visit after placing 50th last year in 16:01.

Tremont: Leland Sumer is among three freshman individual qualifiers statewide. He was 14th in the Elmwood Sectional in 16:19.

Class 2A qualifiers

Lincoln: Junior Blake Jones, 13th (15:31) in the Metamora Sectional, is the first Railsplitter to qualify since Jackson Johnson in 1998.

Mahomet-Seymour: Ranked No. 1 all season, the Bulldog boys are favored ahead of No. 2 University High, which has finished second behind Mahomet-Seymour for five consecutive weeks. A 15-time qualifier, Mahomet-Seymour has placed second each of the past two years. Senior Andrew Walmer led the Bulldogs last year in 10th in 14:48. The school record is 14:36. Other state veterans are seniors Gabe Pommier, Ben Craw and Brian Butcher and junior Ryan Hodge. The No. 15-ranked Bulldog girls are making their 14th state trip. Their best finish was fourth in 2007. They were 19th last year. Their leader is freshman Megan Churm, who was 10th in the Metamora Sectional in 18:30.

Streator: Junior Rebecca Neaterour became the first female state qualifier in school history are finishing 21st in the Metamora Sectional in 19:05.

University High: The No. 2-ranked Pioneer boys, 10th each of the past two years, are making their 25th state trip. The leader is two-time sectional champion Jack Franklin, who placed sixth last year in 14:42. He clocked a school record 14:31 on the Detweiller Park course earlier this year. The No. 14 U High girls are making their 14th state trip. The Pioneers are led by all-state candidate Katy Clausen, a freshman who placed second in the Metamora Sectional in 17:51.

Class 3A qualifiers

Normal West: Sophomore Mara Smith and junior Tyler Dunn will represent the Wildcats. Smith placed ninth in the Edwardsville Sectional in 19:35 while Dunn was 11th in 16:31.