

Top-ranked 2A teams takes 2nd at Springfield

M-S coach says Bulldogs are right where they need to be

By JASON BROWN
For The Mahomet Citizen

The top-rated Mahomet-Seymour boys' cross-country team placed second out of 19 schools in the 51st Lee Halberg Lanphier Invitational last Saturday at Lincoln Park in Springfield.

Mundelein, currently ranked No. 6 in Class 3A, took first with 29 points.

The Bulldogs, ranked first in Class 2A, followed with 49 points, above No. 3 ranked Class 2A Chatham Glenwood (106), No. 7 ranked Class 2A Springfield (125) and No. 13 ranked Class 2A Bloomington (148).

"We placed right where we were hoping to place," coach Neal Garrison said. "The boys ran a solid run for this time in the season."

In the varsity race, five Bulldogs earned medals and finished among the top 25. Three M-S runners placed in the top 10.

Runner-up Ryan Hodge had the Bulldogs' best placing, covering the 3-mile course in 15 minutes, 42 seconds.

Mathias Powell followed in third place, also with a time of 15:42, and Riley Fortune ran a 15:50 for seventh place.

All three runners' times were season bests.

The other two medal winners included Bryson Keeble and Kaelan Davis.

Keeble ran a 16:20 for 13th place and Davis ran a 16:45 for 24th.

Evan Burge placed 41st with a time of 17:26 and Joe Churm finished 55th at 17:50.

"Our varsity ran a nice run," Garrison said. "Five of them managed to place in the top 25 to earn a medal against some strong teams."

"The course is challenging, and they handled it well."

The Bulldogs did not have enough runners to have a full team for the freshman or open race, but did have four runners earn medals.

In the freshman race,



Photo by Neal Garrison

Mathias Powell (No. 731) and Ryan Hodge (No. 726) compete in the varsity race Saturday in Springfield. Both recorded season-best times with Hodge finishing second and Powell third.

Joe Taylor and Calen Dowers were the medalists.

Taylor placed 10th with a time of 12:01, and Dowers followed in 11th one second behind.

"Caleb Dowers and Joe Taylor put themselves in great position in the freshman race at the start of the race," Garrison said. "They have both drastically improved in just one year."

"I couldn't be happier with them as a coach. They really impressed their older teammates by being so competitive. They represented our team and school well."

In the open race, David Wilcoski placed sixth with a time of 18:38 and Nate Douglas finished 15th at 18:58.

"David Wilcoski and Nate Douglas really did a great job leading the open race," Garrison said. "Both ran a solid race and earned a medal."

In total, nine of 13 Bulldogs who competed earned medals.

"We were pleased with that," Garrison said. "There were many state-ranked teams in the meet, so I was very happy with the runners being able to place so high."

M-S is scheduled to enter Peoria Notre Dame's Richard Spring Invitational at 11 a.m. Saturday at Detweiller Park, which is also the site of the state cross-country meet.