

M-S JUNIOR HIGH SPORTS ROUNDUP

Cross-country teams finish strong at two meets

By JASON BROWN
For The Mahomet Citizen

The Mahomet-Seymour Junior High boys' and girls' cross-country teams competed in the 14-school Monticello Invitational at Lodge Park last Saturday, four days after the Champaign County Meet was held at Urbana High School.

At the Monticello meet, the boys' were meet champions, while the girls brought home the runner-up trophy.

The Bulldog boys won by 30 points with the low score of 67.

"The boys' team won by a solid amount," coach Lisa Martin said, "leading

the scoring over several teams that have defeated us earlier this season, while the girls closed the scoring gap on rival Tolono Unity.

"Our runners and their competitive drive are coming together at just the right time in the season."

Out of 102 runners, Joseph Scheele (11 minutes, 50 seconds for 2 miles) placed fifth to lead the Bulldogs.

Other M-S finishers included Kyle Nofziger eighth, Anthony Ramirez 11th, Justin Straub 21st and Taylor Fan 25th.

In the boys' open race, out of 222 runners, Gabe

Difanis (12:23) placed second, and Kai Jones finished fifth.

Other Bulldog runners included Finn Randolph eighth, Avery Seaman 11th, Noah Butler 17th, Gage Williams 18th and Hayden Grotelueschen 22nd.

The girls' team placed second with a score of 58. Tolono Unity won the meet, compiling 33 points.

Out of 93 runners, Elizabeth Sims (12:30) led the Bulldogs with a fourth-place finish.

Other runners included Delaney King sixth, Grace Lietz ninth and Klein Powell 10th.

In the girls' open event,

out of 191 runners, Callie Jansen (14:06) placed 15th, Ella Scott 17th, Ava Boyd 18th and Alyssa Christensen 19th.

Fifteen schools were represented in the Champaign County meet.

The boys' and girls' teams each placed second.

"Varsity races were very competitive this year and the Bulldogs took the runner-up position in both, behind strong Tolono Unity programs," Martin said.

"It was a nice event showcasing local talent, and it's always great to see that cross-country is continuing to be a strong tradition in our local schools."

The girls' team defeated St. Matthew with a score of 53 but lost to Tolono Unity, which totaled 27 points.

Out of 95 runners, the Bulldogs earned four medalists.

Sims (12:59) placed fifth and King followed in sixth.

Lietz and Powell placed eighth and ninth, respectively.

In the open meet, Jansen (14:27) led the Bulldogs with a fifth place finish.

Other M-S runners included Boyd (seventh), Cece Abramson (15th), Christensen (17th) and Leah Nykaza (18th).

For the boys' team, M-S' 95 points was second to Tolono Unity's 67.

The three medalists included Fan, who finished 13th (12:22); Nofziger, who placed 14th; and Ramirez,

who placed 19th.

In the open race, out of 207 runners, Jones (12:57) was meet champion.

Other Bulldog finishers included Williams ninth, Seaman 12th, Davin Tietz 17th and Kolton Mannin 18th.

M-S is scheduled to enter the IESA Class 3A Sectional meet at Normal Parkside on Saturday.

"It should be a very competitive sectional meet for both of our varsity squads," Martin said, "and we are excited to take on the challenge and prepare to be one of the top teams."