

6 Bulldogs run season-best times

By JASON BROWN
For The Mahomet Citizen

The Mahomet-Seymour boys' cross-country team placed ninth among 64 full teams, with 317 points, in the varsity race Saturday at the Richard Spring Invitational at Peoria's Detweiller Park.

Despite the hot and humid weather, six Bulldog runners ran season-best times. Three Bulldogs earned medals.

"As far as the meet, it was our toughest of the year," coach Neal Garrison said. "We were able to beat all the AA state-ranked teams, so we were happy about that."

"It was the first time we faced No. 2 state-ranked Normal U-High. They are a team filled with great runners with great coaching. It is always nice to be able to compete with such a fine program."

Mathias Powell (14 minutes, 51.9 seconds), Ryan Hodge (15:07.2) and Riley Fortune (15:31.5) each earned a medal and ran season-best times alongside the strong competition.

Powell placed sixth, Hodge 14th and Fortune 39th in the 3-mile event.

Bryson Keeble's season-best (15:58.7) placed him 77th.

Kaelan Davis (16:46.1) ended

in 194th and Evan Burge (17:10.3) finished in 242nd.

"The heat really took its toll on all the runners in the field, including ours," Garrison said.

"The boys ran in two different races

"The meet officials sped up the meet by 20 minutes to avoid heat issues. Our second group

ran one hour later, and one hour really slowed down the times with the increased heat.

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Daniel L. Chamness photo/for the Mahomet Citizen

Mahomet-Seymour junior Mathias Powell (No. 7092) and FW Parker's Jack McNabola race side by side at the Richard Spring Invitational on Saturday at Detweiller Park in Peoria. Powell, who finished sixth overall, finished the 3-mile race in 14 minutes, 51.9 seconds. McNabola was fifth overall with a time of 14:47.5.

RUNNERS

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"The times weren't impressive for any of our runners, but they were very competitive."

The Bulldog varsity team competed against 11 Class AAA state-ranked teams, five AA state-ranked teams and three A state-ranked teams.

M-S beat three of the elite AAA state-ranked teams, all the AA teams, including No. 2-ranked Normal U-High and No. 4 Chatham Glenwood.

In the open race, the Bulldogs placed 26th as a team.

In that race, Kyle Sheehy (18:19.0) finished

139th to lead the Bulldogs.

Jack McHale (19:44.6) ran a personal-best as did Garret Williams (20:05.9).

The team's other finishers included David Wilcoski (18:23.6), Nate Douglas (18:38.1), Joe Taylor (20:06.1), Caleb Mason (21:12.8) and Gaven Williams (22:51.6).

"Kyle Sheehy and David Wilcoski led our open race runners," Garrison said. "Both have worked so hard over the years, so it was great to see them leading our open team."

"I am super proud of them."

The Bulldogs are scheduled to enter the East Peoria Invitational at Illinois Central College at 9 a.m. Saturday.