

BOYS

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Ryan Hodge and Riley Fortune followed in second and third place, respectively, with season-best times of 15:06.4 and 15:09.8.

"It was fun to watch Mathias, Ryan and Riley place first through third," Garrison said. "They were able to beat the U-High runner that is ranked third in state.

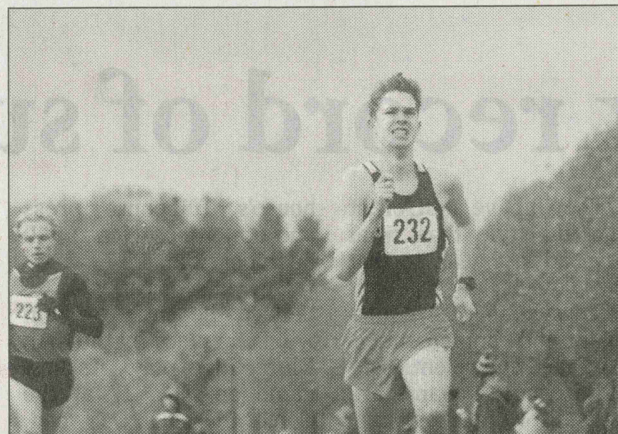
"He is a tough runner, but our boys worked as a team to increase their chances to beat him."

Bryson Keeble ran a season-best time of 15:58.6 for 19th place, and Evan Burge's season-best time of 15:58.8 placed him 20th.

"Bryson Keeble and Evan Burge really worked together to finish in front of the U-High pack in order to secure the win," Garrison said.

Burge ran a sub-16-minute time for the first time this season.

Kaelan Davis ran a season best 16:14.9 for 29th place, and Nate Douglas placed 56th with a time of



Daniel L. Chamness/for The Mahomet Citizen

Bulldog senior Riley Fortune runs the final 100 meters of the Class 2A Normal University High School Sectional at Maxwell Park in Normal. Fortune, the Bulldogs' third runner to finish, took third overall, finishing in 15 minutes, 9.8 seconds.

16:46.5.

"Nate Douglas had the largest improvement of the day as he cut 43 seconds off his previous best true 3-mile time," Garrison said.

The Bulldogs' goals for state are to run personal-record times.

"Rankings don't mean much going into state," Garrison said. "One year we were ranked second and ended up 15th.

"So we don't want to rely on rankings when we know it comes down to a footrace rather than predictions on paper."

The boys' team is scheduled to run at noon at Detweiller Park.

Garrison has guided seven consecutive boys' teams to state. Until 2011, in its history, M-S had only nine boys' cross-country teams advance to the state finals.