



Robin Scholz/The News-Gazette

Clockwise from lower left: Nate Douglas, Bryson Keeble, Riley Fortune, Evan Burge, Kaelan Davis, Matthias Powell and Ryan Hodge hang out Monday afternoon with the Class 2A boys' cross-country state trophy they helped Mahomet-Seymour win Saturday at Detweiller Park in Peoria, the second consecutive state title for the Bulldogs.

BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY

REPEAT EFFORT

Bulldogs race their way to second straight Class 2A state title

By JASON BROWN
For The Mahomet Citizen

For the second straight year, the Mahomet-Seymour Bulldogs took home the boys' cross-country state championship Class 2A trophy following Saturday's 25-school meet at Detweiller Park in Peoria.

The Bulldogs scored a team low of 91, which was 23 points better than top-ranked Normal University High School.

"I was pleased the boys had such a successful year," coach Neal Garrison said. "They worked so hard and they deserved it. It is always great to see nice guys do well."

Junior Mathias Powell, senior Riley Fortune and senior Ryan Hodge placed in the top 10 and earned all-state honors.

Despite a slow start, Powell took fourth place with a personal-record 3-mile time of 14:45 to lead the Bulldogs. He improved on his best time by six seconds.

"Riley Fortune and Ryan Hodge went out from the start with the top runners in the state," Garrison said. "They worked together to hold on to the leaders and finished in the top 10."



Daniel L. Chamness/for The Mahomet Citizen

Mathias Powell (No. 1278) leads the Bulldogs to the IHSA Class 2A state championship last Saturday at Detweiler Park in Peoria. The Bulldog junior was one of seven runners who broke the 15-minute mark as he finished fourth overall with a time of 14 minutes, 45 seconds.

Fortune ran a personal best 14:48 for sixth place, cutting 21 seconds off his previous best.

Hodge improved four seconds to run a season-best time of 15:02 for ninth place.

"This really set our team up," Garrison said, "but every team's No. 4 and No. 5 runner is really where meets

are won or lost, as they have experienced," Burge said, the most amount of points for any team.

To help secure the win, junior Bryson Keeble cut off 19 seconds from his season best, and Evan Burge gave "an incredible effort" as well, Garrison said.

"The payoff at state was unlike anything I've ever

experienced," Burge said, "and it's the whole team that won state, not just the top seven. It was all 17 of us."

Keeble's personal best of 15:39 earned him a 45th-place finish, and Burge's season-best time of 15:54 placed him 72nd.

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