

SEASONS OF SUCCESS

Bulldog athletes bring home state titles in cross-country and track and field

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For the Mahomet Citizen

The new year is right around the corner, and Mahomet-Seymour had a heck of a sports run in 2018. Here's a look back at our picks for the top 10 sports stories from the last calendar year. All are listed in no particular order. So without any further ado ...

No. 1: Mathias Powell wins a state title in boys' cross-country

Powell etched his name in history as he became the first Bulldog to win the individual state championship in cross-country and broke the school record for 3 miles.

Powell's time of 14 minutes, 31.77 seconds broke Alex Keeble's time of 14:36 set in 2015. Powell smoked the 208 other runners in the Class 2A state meet, pacing the field by 16.19 seconds, the largest margin of victory in Class 2A in 11 years.

"I was so relieved," Powell said. "I went over, and all my friends went to watch me, and they were freaking out. I went and hugged my mom. That was one of my favorite parts of the day, right after the race. It was an incredible moment. She just said 'congratulations.' She thought I had run a good race and she was proud of me."

No. 2: Boys' basketball wins third regional title in the last four years

Cory Noe unleashed 36 points



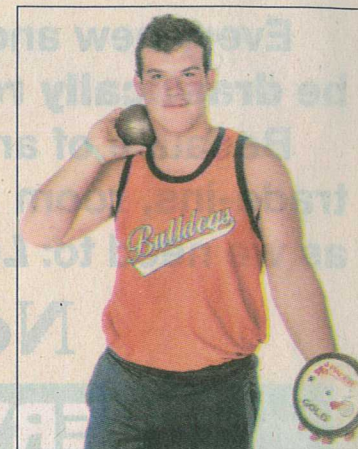
Garrett Halm/for The Mahomet Citizen
Mahomet-Seymour's Cory Noe controls the ball during a game last season. Noe led the way as M-S claimed its third regional crown in the last four seasons.

Brandon Bretz places sixth in the 400 meters and senior Riley Fortune has a gutsy ninth-place finish in the 800.

"It's awesome, man," M-S coach Todd Lafond told The News-Gazette's Colin Likas. "It's one thing to think about it in January, say we've got a shot. It's another thing to do it, come within four points of being state champs. That's pretty awesome."

No. 4: Coaches Chad Benedict, Stacey Buzicky, Joey Gruner and Keith Pogue all resign

Benedict led the



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onship.

In Gruner's eight years at the helm, he led M-S' girls' soccer squad with an impressive 127-28-11 overall record.

His coaching accolades include five regional championships (2012, 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2018). He was The News-Gazette's Coach of the Year in 2014, 2017