

Boys' and girls' teams advance to sectional

By ISAAC TROTTER
For The Mahomet Citizen

Both the Mahomet-Seymour boys' and girls' cross-country teams advanced through the Class 2A regionals without an issue.

Elizabeth Sims and Brisa McGrath both finished in the top five as M-S edged out Normal U-High for the girls' regional championship.

The boys finished fourth behind a standout performance from senior star Mathias Powell. Bryson Keeble picked the perfect time to run the best race of his career. Keeble's fifth-place finish was a huge boost.

Boys' cross-country

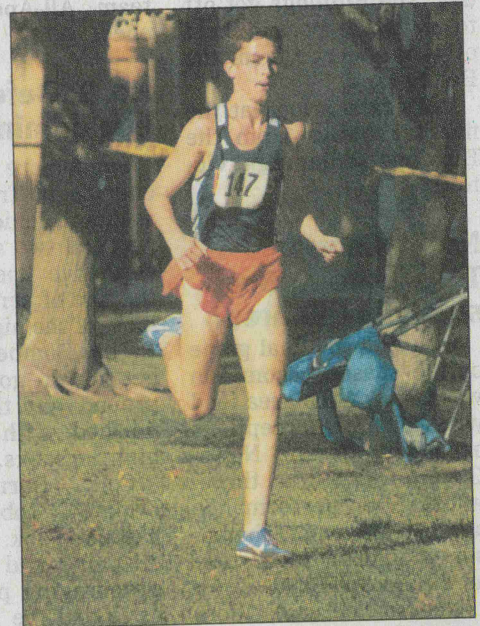
Powell continued his outstanding year with a dominant win in the Class 2A Normal U-High Regional at Normal's Maxwell Park on Saturday. Powell finished the 3-mile course in 15 minutes, 14 seconds, which was 30 seconds faster than the runner-up.

Keeble finished fifth at 16:07 and freshman Kyle Nofziger was 11th at 16:16 to help M-S advance to the sectionals.

M-S finished with a team score of 98. Metamora paced the nine-team regional with a team score of 53. Bloomington was the runner-up at 61. Washington (68) placed third. Morton and Champaign Central also advanced to the East Peoria Sectional.

Joe Taylor was 37th (17:40), Peter Slezak was 44th (18:04), David Wilcoski was 45th (18:33) and Josh Wilcoski was 47th (18:49). All the teams had to deal with a 20-mph wind, which slowed the times down a bit.

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Daniel L. Chamness/for The Mahomet Citizen
Mahomet-Seymour's Mathias Powell dashes to victory Saturday at the Class 2A Normal U-High Regional at Maxwell Park in Normal. He finished the 3-mile course in 15 minutes, 14 seconds.

RUNNERS

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"Bryson Keeble, Kyle Nofziger, Joe Taylor and Josh Wilcoski all ran season 3-mile bests at the right time," M-S coach Neal Garrison said.

Powell and Keeble both earned All-Regional honors and a medal for finishing in the top five.

Saturday's Class 2A East Peoria Sectional will include the boys' race at 11 a.m. at Illinois Central College.

Girls' cross-country

McGrath is the only senior on the M-S girls' cross-country team, but the Bulldogs are running like a veteran squad and they're rolling at the right time.

Sims, a freshman, and

McGrath both finished in the top five at Normal U-High's Class 2A regional on Saturday, and the Bulldogs won the meet to advance to sectionals.

Sims finished second with a time of 18 minutes, 5 seconds. McGrath was fifth at 18:37. Sims and McGrath were huge, but it was the clutch performances from Grace Lietz, Olivia Bunting, Delaney King, Madi Balbach and Klein Powell that helped M-S edge Normal U-High for the regional title.

Lietz (14th), Bunting (16th), King (18th) and Balbach (20th) all finished in the top 20. Powell was right behind her teammates, finishing 22nd at 19:58.

M-S finished with a team score of 55. Normal U-High was right on M-S' heels with a team score of 57. Washington was third with 83 points. Metamora



Daniel L. Chamness photos/for The Mahomet Citizen

ABOVE: Mahomet-Seymour freshman Elizabeth Sims runs her way to a second-place finish at the Class 2A Normal U-High Regional at Normal's Maxwell Park.

TOP RIGHT: Brisa McGrath, right, runs stride for stride with another competitor during Saturday's regional. The senior finished fifth in the 3-mile race.

was fourth with 93 points.

Normal U-High, Washington, Metamora, Bloomington and Morton all advanced to the sectional along with the Bulldogs.

M-S will compete in the Class 2A East Peoria Sectional on Saturday. The girls' race is set to start at 10 a.m. at Illinois Central College.