

MAHOMET-SEYMOUR GIRLS' TENNIS

Bulldogs on a roll after

By ISAAC TROTTER
For The Mahomet Citizen

MAHOMET — For the first time in school history, the Mahomet-Seymour girls' tennis team has won four straight matches. After starting the season 0-3, Alex Amatyleon's squad has found their groove.

M-S whipped Watseka, Maroa-Forsyth, Lincoln and Urbana before earning a fourth-place finish at the Apollo Conference meet. The Maroa-Forsyth victory was especially impressive because they had been undefeated beforehand.

"I didn't have any expectations," Amatyleon said.

"As we started to practice and I saw what I had, I was pleasantly surprised with our No. 1 and No. 2. I was very surprised by how quickly they listened and were able to implement little things that can end up really adding up to changing a game here and there. That can change a set and then can change a match."

Annie Bao has cemented herself as the No. 1 singles player, and she's taken her game to a whole new level. During the four-match winning streak, Bao didn't lose. Then, when she went 2-1 and placed third in the Apollo Conference at No. 1 singles.

"She's playing smarter;

she's playing high-percentage tennis," Amatyleon said. "She's keeping the ball in play. I would not be surprised if Annie made it to state this year. She's had an amazing season."

Bao isn't the only Bulldog who has adopted Amatyleon's style of playing high-percentage tennis.

Mrinali Kesavadas and Amalie Fried also went 2-1 to place third in the Apollo.

Britta Slupski, Emma Clements and Manvika Kohli went 1-2 to place fourth in the Apollo.

"It's been a blast," Amatyleon said. "It came to fruition in conference play. Our No. 4 singles (Slupski) nearly beat the No. 1 seed.

M-S JUNIOR HIGH CROSS-COUNTRY

Runners hitting their stride

By ISAAC TROTTER
For The Mahomet Citizen

MAHOMET — The Mahomet-Seymour junior high cross-country team completed its last regular-season meet Oct. 5, and they went out with a bang. M-S decided to run solely eighth-graders in the varsity races, and the girls finished seventh out of 14 teams and the boys finished seventh out of 19 teams at the Monticello Invitational.

"Today was a great day to get some talented runners on the varsity line that haven't had the opportunity yet this season," coach Lori Clark said. "Our runners found their stride and excelled some challenging hills that Lodge Park in Monticello presented."

In the boys' varsity race, Davin Tietz and Isaac Warren both finished in the top-25. Tietz was 16th with a time of 12 minutes, one

second. Warren was 24th at 12:11.

In the boys' open race, Auggie Gaudio was the race champion, finishing the two-mile course in 12 minutes and eight seconds. Ty Clark, Lukas Nykaza, Emmett Kearns, Landyn Hannah, Ethan Peterka, Blake Dillman and Sean Dady-Dreher all finished in the top 15.

"We are deep in talent," Clark said. "What one doesn't see by looking at the race results is how many runners ran personal records today. From our number one runner, all the way through the last runner to cross the line for us, we looked really good."

On the girls' side, Ava Boyd placed tenth in the varsity race. Avah Turner was 14th and Reece Gallier was 19th. In the girls' open race, M-S dominated yet again. Emmaline Culp

was the top finisher, placing second. Ava Jansen took fourth. Chloe Bundren and Phoebe Truax placed fifth and sixth, respectively. Hadley Grotelueschen, Haley Reed, Ainsley Smith, Isabelle Scheele, Isabel Lietz, McKenzie Hissong and Isabelle Difanis all ran top-22 times as well.

"As a whole team, we are solid and will be for many years to come," Clark said. "Our veterans have been standout runners for us and our new athletes have really stepped up to learn what it takes to reach personal records. Collectively, we are a strong team as we end this regular season."

M-S will head into the postseason next week.

"While many ran personal records, others simply worked on specific spots of their race and improved in those areas," Clark said.