

## M-S JUNIOR HIGH CROSS-COUNTRY

# Teams hold their own against the state's best

## Girls finish 5th at Normal and boys take 13th out of 50 teams

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For The Mahomet Citizen

MAHOMET — Basketball and football are usually the most popular sports, but you could make a case that Mahomet-Seymour is a running school. From junior high to high school and beyond, there's an impressive crop of runners that come out of Mahomet.

It all starts at the lower levels, and the Mahomet-Seymour Junior High cross-country team packed up 120 runners and competed in the Normal Parkside Meet last Saturday.

Fifty teams from across the state competed, and 1,925 runners raced in the meet.

The MSJH girls' team placed fifth out of 50 teams with a team score of 225.

In the girls' varsity race which featured 313 runners, Ava Boyd led the way with a 15th-place showing. She finished the 2-mile course in 12 min-

utes, 17 seconds. Avah Turner was 24th. Reese Gallier (50th), Ava Jansen (69th) and Emmaline Culp (70th) all finished in the top-third. Chloe Bundren crossed the line in 113th place and Phoebe Truax was 200th.

In the girls' open race, 570 runners competed, and M-S had 12 girls finish in the top 100. Haley Reed was 35th. Ainsley Smith and Isabel Lietz were 36th and 37th, respectively.

Isabelle Schelle, Isabelle Difanis and Hadley Groetelueschen all placed in the top-60. Emma Frazier, Lauren Bednar, Morgan Waisath, Lacie Bushman, Cora Tandy and McKenzie Hissong all placed in the top 100.

"With this year's strength being our ability to pack up our runners, this meet provided us with the opportunity to have to work hard to find our Bulldog pack," coach Lisa Martin said. "With a crowded course, the Bulldogs searched to find each other during the races, and were able to find teammates that helped push them into the finish line."

On the boys' side, M-S placed 13th out of 50.

Davin Tietz placed 18th with a time of 11:28. Lukas Nykaza, Isaac Warren and Finn Randolph all placed in the top 100 in the 341-man race. Sean Dady-Dreher, Grant Smysor and Ty Clark were just outside the top 100.

In the boys' open race, 701 runners competed, and Augustus Gaudio might have had the performance of the day, finishing in seventh place with an outstanding time of 12:20. Blake Dillman was in 10th. Landyn Hannah (15th), Kai Jones (16th) and Henry McMurray (26th) all had terrific finishes.

Kaden Jackson, Emmet Kearns, Parker Wilkins, Zach Wilcoski, Chase Dockham and Charley Hawley all finished inside the top-50. That made 11 M-S boys to finish in the top-50 out of 701. Owen Mahannah, Jaxon Themanson, Tucker Loven, Preston Sriver and Will Anderson all finished in the top 100.

"Our young runners had a great day," Martin said. "We are excited about the leadership this team has on it as well as the young runners who are eager to learn and grow in the sport."