

Class 2A Bloomington Sectional

Bulldogs, Chargers, Tigers thrive. Neal Garrison believed before the 2019 boys' season started his Mahomet-Seymour crew was a year away from making waves in the Class 2A state meet.

"They're a little ahead of schedule, which is good," Garrison said Saturday. "We'll take it."

Kyle Nofziger (16 minutes, 3 seconds) and Nick Miles (16:04) took 10th and 11th place, respectively, to guide the Bulldogs to third in their sectional and secure a spot at state.

"They didn't have anybody to rely on," said Garrison, referencing the graduation of former state champion Mathias Powell. "His absence actually forced them to realize some of them were ready to step up."

Joining M-S in the 2A boys' state field are Centennial's Luke Manolakes (second, 15:37) and Ben Olaiyar (eighth, 16:00), as well as Champaign Central's Alex Ahmari (13th, 16:06).

Urbana's Olivia Rosenstein won the girls' race in 17:37 to bank her own state berth and paired with teammate Celia Barbieri, who advanced in eighth (19:04).

The M-S girls moved on as a team, too, grabbing the fifth and final qualifying spot. Elizabeth Sims placed fourth in 18:26, and Klein Powell snagged 20th in 19:35.