

SPORTS

DIGEST

13 area schools to be represented at meet

From N-G News Services

PEORIA — Thirteen area schools will have at least one runner participating in this week's unofficial state cross-country races, with invited teams and individuals announced Sunday.

ShaZam Racing and MileSplit Illinois are co-hosting the unsanctioned meet at Chillicothe's Three Sisters Park. It is serving as a replacement for the IHSA's state showcase, which is not transpiring this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Local competitors are involved in the Division I and Division II fields, meant to replicate Class 1A and 2A lineups. Division I girls' and boys' races will be held Friday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., and Division II races will play out Saturday on the same timeline. There will be four flights conducted for each gender in each division.

Below are the area participants, separated by division and gender. All involved had to apply for an invitation, and the runners are competing for club teams or individually instead of under school banners to avoid conflict with the IHSA.

Division I girls: Monticello (team, Sages XC Club); St. Joseph-Ogden (team, SJOXC); St. Thomas More (team, PSL); Uni High (team, Lab Rats); Bismarck-Henning/Rossville-Alvin's **Gabriella Moreman** (Fr.); Iroquois West's **Samantha Hartke** (Soph.); Judah Christian's **Aleigha Garrison** (Fr.); Paxton-Buckley-Loda's **Trixie Johnson** (Fr.); Unity's **Erica Woodard** (Fr.) and **Olivia Shike** (Fr.).

Division I boys: Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond (team, 4 City Striders); Monticello (team, Pacers); St. Joseph-Ogden (team, SJOXC); Unity (team, Iron Rockets); BHRA's **Eli Mojonier** (Jr.); Clinton's **Ethan Black** (Sr.); Iroquois West's **Connor Price** (Sr.); PBL's **Ryder James** (Jr.); Tuscola's **Josiah Hortin** (Fr.).

Division II girls: Mahomet-Seymour (team, Mahomet-Seymour Cross Country Club).

Division II boys: Mahomet-Seymour (team, Mahomet Seymour Distance Project).

MLB unveils award finalists

New York Mets ace **Jacob deGrom** is going for his third consecutive NL Cy Young Award, and Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder **Mookie Betts** could become the second player to win the MVP award in each league.

The competition, of course, is tough.

DeGrom, **Trevor Bauer** and **Yu Darvish** are the top finishers for the NL Cy Young Award in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Betts, **Freddie Freeman** and **Manny Machado** are the finalists for NL MVP.

Cleveland's **Shane Bieber** joined Minnesota Twins right-hander **Kenta Maeda** and Toronto Blue Jays left-hander **Hyun Jin Ryu** as finalists for the AL Cy Young Award.

Chicago White Sox first baseman **José Abreu**, Cleveland Indians infielder **José Ramírez** and New York Yankees leadoff man **DJ LeMahieu** are the top three finishers in voting for the AL MVP award.

The top finishers in voting for AL Manager of the Year are Tampa Bay's **Kevin Cash**, Toronto's **Charlie Montoyo** and **Rick Renteria**, who was let go by the White Sox after the team made the playoffs for the first time since 2008.

Miami's **Don Mattingly**, San Diego's **Jayce Tingler** and the Cubs' **David Ross** are the finalists for NL Manager of the Year. Tingler and Ross just completed their first seasons as big-league skippers.

Lester picks up hefty tab

Jon Lester provided his supporters with some hydration and a weekend to remember.

The Chicago Cubs All-Star left-hander, who became a free agent Friday, spent more than \$47,000 on Miller Lites at four Division Street bars for fans last weekend.

Lester tweeted his beer tabs from sales at The Lodge, Shenanigan's, Butch McGuire's and Hopsmith, and expressed his appreciation for the support of the fans during his six

seasons.

Lester's bill included \$32,606.46 in beer sales and a \$14,504.92 tip — which is 34 percent and corresponds with his Cubs jersey number.

Lester received a \$10 million buyout, but still wants to pitch for the Cubs. He needs seven victories to reach the 200 mark for his storied career.

Elliott wins, Harvick done

Kevin Harvick was on cruise control all season long, the most dominant driver in NASCAR, coasting into the championship round with a comfortable cushion that left plenty of room for error.

That's how it was supposed to play out, at least, after Harvick won a Cup series-high nine races and the regular-season title.

Then his nearly perfect season came to a spinning and sudden halt Sunday when a mediocre run bounced Harvick from the playoffs in a stunning upset at Martinsville Speedway.

Chase Elliott won the high-stakes race to earn his first career berth in the championship four. It stopped Harvick one race short of the title round in a stunning collapse to a season spent as the favorite to win the Cup crown.

"We won nine races and had a great year," Harvick said. "Just came up short."

Eight points short, to be exact, after his spinning 17th-place finish at Martinsville.

Elliott, **Brad Keselowski** and **Denny Hamlin** will race **Joey Logano**, who had already clinched his berth, in next week's finale at Phoenix. It's a matchup of a pair of Fords from Team Penske against Hamlin's Toyota and Elliott, the first Hendrick Motorsports and Chevrolet driver to make the finale since **Jimmie Johnson** won his seventh and final title in 2016.

Harvick was eliminated along with **Alex Bowman**, **Kurt Busch** and **Martin Truex Jr.**, who battled for the win until a late loose wheel ended his shot.