

Nofziger finishes first at East Peoria Invitational



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By Fred Kroner

Mahomet-Seymour senior Kyle Nofziger was the individual winner on Saturday (Sept. 25) in the East Peoria boys' cross-country invitational at Black Partridge Park.

Nofziger bested a 191-runner field, completing the 2.94-mile course in 15 minutes, 22.8 seconds. His winning margin was 5.6 seconds.

Four seniors ran upfront for the state-ranked Bulldogs, who were second in the team chase.

Morton took top honors in the 15-school meet (38 points), followed by M-S (80), Normal West (140) and East Peoria (172).

Trailing Nofziger were [Joseph Scheele](#) (10th in 16:01.6), [Jonah Singer](#) (14th in 16:07.9) and [Taylor Fan](#) (27th in 16:35.8).

M-S' top six runners were separated by 44 seconds.



Others in the top six were [Ben Wallace](#) (28th in 16:37.1) and [Karsten Waisath](#) (35th in 16:45.8).

In all, 12 Bulldogs competed in the varsity race.

The other M-S entries were: [Hayden Grotelueschen](#) (53rd in 17:07.6), [John Tender](#) (61st in 17:19.0), [Avery Seaman](#) (64th in 17:28.7), [Gabe Wisnasky](#) (85th in 18:11.4), [Julian Eckley](#) (130th in 20:12.0) and [Alex Carpenter](#) (176th in 22:28.0).

In the most recent Class 2A state poll by milesplit.com, Fenwick was top-rated, followed by M-S in the No. 2 position.

In a separate race for freshmen-sophomore runners, ninth-grader **Lukas Nykaza** led the way for M-S. He placed 11th in a field of 119 runners, stopping the clock in 17:18.9 seconds.

Other Bulldog participants were: **Blake Dillman** (15th in 17:33.2), **Grant Smysor** (20th in 17:50.0), **Zach Wilcoski** (66th in 19:55.9), **Jaxon Themanson** (73rd in 20:14.1) and **Kaleb Kasper** (100th in 22:18.3).

M-S returns to action on Tuesday (Oct. 12) in the Apollo Conference meet at Effingham.

#Avery Seaman

#Gabe Wisnasky

#Grant Smysor

#Hayden Grotelueschen

#Jaxon Themanson

#Julian Eckley

#Kaleb Kasper

#Karsten Waisath

#Lukas Nykaza