Sixth-ranked Bulldogs finish second at I Runnin' Red Invitational

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photo by Kristi Lietz

By Fred Kroner

The sixth-ranked (Class 2A) Mahomet-Seymour boys' cross-country team

finished second to (Class 3A) Palatine on Saturday (Oct. 9) in the 22-school Runnin' Red Invitational at Black Partridge Park, in Metamora.

Palatine had a team composite of 48 points. M-S was next at 105 points. Third-place Oswego East had 120 points.

The Bulldogs entered all 22 of their runners in the 279-runner varsity race.

The top five finishers counted toward the team score on the 2.94-mile layout. Those five finished the race within 78 seconds of one another.

Leading the way for the Bulldogs was senior Joseph Scheele. His time of 15 minutes, 37.3 seconds placed him fifth overall.

Teammates in the lead pack were Kyle Nofziger (eighth in 15:50.2), Jonah Singer (ninth in 15:53.6), Taylor Fan (40th in 16:44.4) and Karsten Waisath (49th in 16:55.0).

Each of the top five are seniors.

The first underclassman Bulldog was No 6 runner, junior Hayden Grotelueschen (63rd in 17:05.5).

Five other M-S competitors finished in the top half of the field: John Tender (91st in 17:31.8), Gabe Wisnasky (109th in 17:55.7), Ben Wallace (115th in 18:01.2), Lukas Nykaza (121st in 18:07.3), Gage Williams (127th in 18:15.8) and Grant Smysor (128th in 15:15.9).

Smysor was the first sophomore finisher for the Bulldogs and Nykaza was the team's top freshman.

The other M-S participants were: Blake Dillman (144th in 18:50.1), Avery Seaman (147th in 18:53.2), Gabe Difanis (156th in 19:01.6), Jaxon Themanson (206th in 20:42.8), Zach Wilcoski (207th in 20:45.9), Kaleb Kasper (208th in 20:46.0), Will Slezak (237th in 22:02.9), Alex Carpenter

(258th in 23:46.3) and Manny Salinas (272nd in 27:31.0).

M-S returns to action on Tuesday (Oct. 12) in the Apollo Conference meet at Effingham. The boys' team has won three of the last four Apollo Conference meets, including two in a row.

#Ben Wallace   #Gabe Wisnasky

#Hayden Grotelueschen   #John Tender

#Jonah Singer   #Joseph Scheele   #Karsten Waisath

#Kyle Nofziger   #Lukas Nykaza

#Mahomet-Seymour Cross Country   #Taylor Fan