

M-S 'rookies' ready

Neal Garrison guided Mahomet-Seymour's cross-country team to state last fall, but there's something different about this year's 2A qualifying team. "We have four runners that haven't run at the cross-country state meet before," Garrison said, "so we are just looking for a solid performance out of them more than a specific place."

Matthew Chupp and **Jackson Powell** are first-year high school cross-country runners.

James Williams and **Alex Keeble** were junior high state qualifiers but will make their high school debuts at state.

They will be joined at the Detweiler course by state veterans **Jonathan Schaap**, **Forrest Smoes** and **Ethan Russell**.

"My main regret is that I can only run seven of our runners at the state meet," Garrison said. "We have such a strong team that goes beyond just seven runners deep. They all sacrificed so much, and it is hard to know that only seven runners get the chance to represent the entire team."

Eleven different squad members have posted 3-mile times of less than 17 minutes this season for the state-ranked (No. 7) squad.