

M-S Bulldog boy runners 11th in state

by E. W. Hesse

Mahomet-Seymour placed 11th in the state's Class A high school boys cross country finals in cold, damp weather at Peoria's Detweiller Park last Saturday.

"I had been hoping we'd finish in the top 10," said coach John King, whose Bulldogs compiled a score of 273. "Actually, our showing came close to being a repeat of our performance of a year ago. We placed 10th with a score of 288 last year.

"The boys didn't run poorly, though most of their times were higher than the ones they had in the sectional meet at Paxton a week earlier. I guess you could blame the weather for that."

M-S sophomore Danny Nielsen, the Dawgs' season-long pace-setter, placed 22nd with a 3-mile time of 15:55. He had run third in 15:25 in the Paxton sectional.

Senior Laura Batsie, the only Mahomet-Seymour girl to qualify for the newly established class A (small school) state finals, wound up 28th with a time of 13:19 for the girls' 2.1-mile course. She had finished 20th with a time of 12:46 for Paxton's 2-mile sectional.

"Laura had reason to be pleased with her performance," said King.

Supporting Nielsen for Mahomet-Seymour in the boys division were: junior Brian Easter, 49th in 16:25; junior Hans Waters, 94th in 16:47; senior Jeff Jankowski, 96th in 16:48; soph Burt Huddleston, 120th in 17:06. Also-rans were senior Jay Busey, 125th in 17:09, and junior James Yost, 166th in 18:15. Freshman Derek Short attended as an alternate.

Disregarding non-team contestants, Nielsen placed 11th, Easter 32nd, Waters 68th, Jankowski 70th and Huddleston 92nd.

Little Chrisman, directed by famed basketball coach Roger Beals, was the sensation of the state finals. The Cardinals registered the unprecedented feat of winning both boys and girls state titles. Their Class A boys posted a score of 122, followed by Tremont with 139, and Maple Park Kaneland, last year's champion, with 140. Normal U-High was ninth with 240, Kankakee Bishop McNamara 10th with 266.

The top five among Class A girls were Chrisman with 74, Tolono Unity 103, Urbana Uni High 121, Chicago Luther North 146 and Winnebago 147. The first four had finished in the same order at Paxton's sectional.

Eric Detmer of Breese Mater Dei was the Class A boys winner with a time of 15:05. Chris Salisbury of Genoa-Kingston was the first girl across the line in 12:22.

"It was a pretty good year," summed up Coach King. "Next year? We have enough holdover talent to have pretty fair teams. Jankowski and Busey of the boys, and Batsie and Jacqui Harland of the girls are our only seniors.

"That means Nielsen, Easter, Waters, Huddleston, Yost and Short of the boys squad, and Barbara King, Tara Treat, Jill Yost, Mindy Carpenter and Sarah Brucker of the girls will be back."