

# Jamison, Kirk take all-state honors

## ■ Tuscola girls 4th in first time at state cross-country meet

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PEORIA — In less than 16 minutes, Jon Jamison wiped out a season's worth of frustration for St. Joseph-Ogden's boys' cross-country team.

With his teammates watching in street clothes, Jamison finished 21st to earn all-state honors at Saturday's Class A boys' state finals at soggy Detweiller Park.

Jamison was one of two area runners to make all-state (top 25). Danville's Kapreia Kirk was ninth in the Class AA girls' race.

Jamison worked solo, the Spartans not qualifying as a team for this first time in coach Jim Acklin's five years. SJ-O was seventh at last week's sectional.

"It's been a real frustrating year in a lot of ways," Acklin said. "This is kind of a nice finish. We couldn't be

here as a team and score team points but this is nice."

Jamison, a junior, rallied with a fast final mile on the sloppy 3-mile course, finishing in 15 minutes, 55 seconds.

"At the 2-mile mark, I knew I had to push it," he said. "In this kind of weather, you want to push it harder than if it was hot and humid. Then you want to die."

Kirk, who was 10th last year, was not as appreciative of the weather conditions. She was second at the midway point but couldn't keep pace the final mile.

She finished in 12:21.

"I just didn't go with the leaders when I should have," the sophomore said. "I should have got higher than ninth place. It was tough to do because people were stepping on my heels and I almost fell twice on the turns. That slowed me down."

Danville's boys' team finished 24th with 604 points.

Tuscola's girls, competing as a team at state for the first time, didn't

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disappoint. The Warriors finished fourth, 132 points behind champion Winnebago.

"A state title wasn't out of the question. We came in with high goals," Tuscola coach Les Sluder said. "Under the conditions, we ran a very good race."

Patty McDaniel, the only Warrior with state experience, led a balanced pack in 42nd (13:28). Freshman Stephanie Reinhart was 59th and Sara Vest was 61st.

"It's more fun with teammates around," McDaniel said. "Last year it was just me, Coach and Frank (Tarantino, a Tuscola boys' qualifier)."

Tarantino was 32nd in the Class A boys' race.

Chrisman, hoping to vie for the Class A boys' title, placed eighth. Chrisman finished third a year ago and came in as the third-ranked team in the state.

Senior Rob Waltz, an all-state performer as a junior, led the way in 33rd (16:13).

"Maybe that was our problem, our goals were too high," Chrisman coach Dave Chandler said.

Urbana University High fared worse, finishing 19th in the 20-team field. The Illineks came in ranked fourth.

"During the season we were running as a group," Uni High coach Bonnie Moxley said. "We were packing very well. We just let go of each other."

Mahomet-Seymour, getting a 27th-place finish from Scott DeWitt, was 10th.

SJ-O's girls' team was 17th. Junior Nicole Goodman was the top Spartan in 56th.