

Bulldogs, SJO advance to state championship

■ Unity finishes 10th at sectional

Last Saturday the St. Joseph-Ogden High School boys' cross country accomplished their big mission of the season by placing fourth in the IHSA Class A Sectional Championship at Mahomet to move on in the state series.

The Bulldogs took one more step to their ultimate goal by finishing third as a team to advance to the IHSA Class A State Championship.

Unity High School, the surprise team of the year, could not pull out another shocker as they came in 10th as a team. The top

five teams qualify for the state meet.

■ M-S still following pre-season mission plan.

At the beginning of the year the Bulldogs had one goal in mind, to finish in the top five at state. Their sectional performance showed that they are right on schedule.

"As a team we couldn't ask for anything more," M-S Head Coach John King said, "Our pack was behind at the start, but they did a good job working up to the front."

M-S had a 37 second

split between their number one and six runners.

Phil Alexander led the way with a 17th place finish in 16:44. Teammates Neil Banwart, Chad Avery, and Scott Dewitt came in 22nd, 25th, and 29th in times of 16:55, 17:02, and 17:09.

Other Bulldog runners were Josh Smith 36th in 17:17, Josh Mock 38th in 17:21, and Jesse Schweig 83rd in 18:12.

The Bulldogs top five runners have been getting the job done all year, however, it was the performance of the other



The 1995 IHSA Class A State Qualifying St. Joseph-Ogden High School boys' cross country team

two runners that impressed King.

"Josh (Mock) ran super," King said, "Jesse ran well again, giving it everything he had."

Banwart and Avery both felt good about the direction of the team.

"We ran great today," Avery said, "We packed real well."

Banwart sees the team stepping it up this week, "Our main goal was to make it to state. I think we can run a little bit better and accomplish our goal of a top five finish at state."

■ Don't count SJO's Jamison out.

Jon Jamison entered the meet, on paper, as one of

race twice.

"We've never seen Jon run a bad race," SJO Head Coach Jim Acklin said, "He still finished in the top 10."

"He's mentally tough. He'll bounce back. Hopefully he can get what he's got out of his system by state."

Jamison had an off day as he finished 10th in 16:31. Teammates Adam Marriott and Josh Hale had on days as they came in 15th and 12th in times of 16:39 and 16:36 respectively.

"The real story today was Josh Hale," Acklin said, "It's the first time all season that he's beaten Adam. He really stepped

Brad Hart 107th in 18:41, and Mike McDannald 118th in 19:08.

■ Watch out for Unity in two years.

The Rockets entered the meet hoping that their pack could lead them into the fifth spot, but it was not meant to be.

The pack had a 51 second difference between the number one and five runners.

Matt Gray led the way with a 49th place finish in 17:34.

Andy Mohr was 58th in 17:41, Bubba Morris 63rd in 17:46, Tim Hogan 68th in 17:52, James Thompson 92nd in 18:25, Andy Burwell 101st in