

Title time for M-S

By FRED KRONER

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It was just eight days since the Mahomet-Seymour boys' cross-country team had a humbling experience.

Ranked fourth among the state's Class A schools, a squad with four seniors among its top five wound up fourth in the Corn Belt Conference meet. There were five schools in that race.

Saturday brought a different course, a different race, different stakes.

The Bulldogs successfully defended their regional championship, running past second-ranked Urbana University High, 44-50, in a nine-school event at Paxton.

"To a man, they all stepped up and hung tough," said M-S coach John King, who had six runners among the top 17, including runner-up Josh Mock.

"The kids fell flat at our conference meet and thought they had something to prove."

Exemplifying the effort M-S received was senior Grant Iles, who collapsed 30 meters from the chute, but struggled to his feet and finished, placing 16th, before going down again.

Individual honors went to St. Joseph-Ogden senior Adam Marriott. He ran the 3-mile course in 15 minutes, 53 seconds.

Mock, 1 of 4 sophomores to place among the top six, was timed in 16:05. University High sophomore Jeff Helfrich was third, 16:10.

"I wasn't positive I'd come here and win, but I felt I had a chance," said Marriott. "This is a good mental boost."

SJ-O, Oakwood, which had five underclassmen among its top five finishers, and Paxton-Buckley-Loda secured the other team spots for sectional.

In the 2-mile girls' race, Georgetown-Ridge Farm had three of the first four placers in a meet where the top nine runners were all underclassmen.

G-RF junior Lindsay Newlin's 12:19 time was 21 seconds off the 1991 course record set by Argenta-Oreana's Karen Bloch, and 10 ahead of runner-up Amy Roberts, a freshman from St. Joseph-Ogden.

"This seems to be her part of