

**RIGHT:** The boys' field takes off at the start of the Mahomet-Seymour Invitational. **BELOW:** Schlarman's Scott Krapf nears the finish. Krapf placed second to help lead the Hilltoppers to the team title Saturday at Lake of the Woods.

John Dixon/  
The News-Gazette

# Hitting their stride

## Krapf leads Schlarman runners to team title in tuneup for state meet

By **FRED KRONER**

News-Gazette Staff Writer

It started as an 18-school race but quickly evolved into a 17-school chase.

Individually, Schlarman's opponents had some success in Saturday's Mahomet-Seymour cross-country **BOYS' ROUNDUP** invitational at Lake of the Woods, but collectively there was no

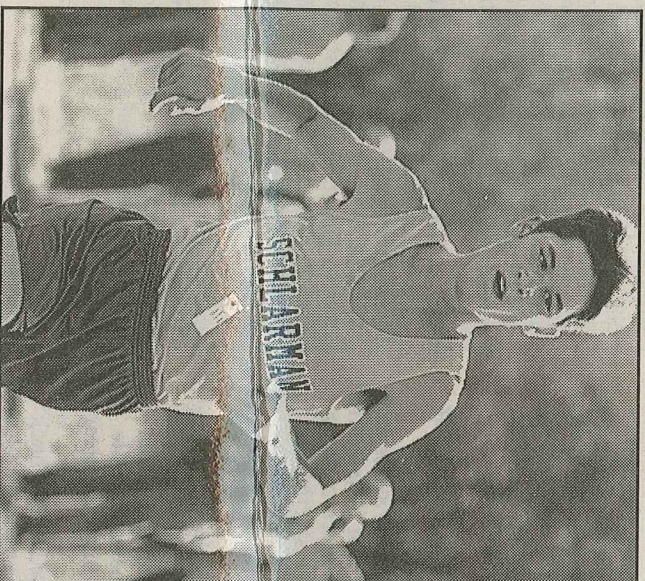
catching the Hilltoppers. Schlarman had four of the top nine finishers and had its fifth runner place 13th to outdistance a field that included six Class AA teams and the school (Cumberland) with which it was tied for fourth in this week's Class A state rankings. Schlarman's top five all entered the chute before Cumberland's third runner.

The Hilltoppers' point total was 36. Runner-up Cumberland had 87 points and was followed by Rochester (90), Normal U-High (95), Mahomet-Seymour (162), Urbana (224) and St. Joseph-Ogden (231).

"A fantastic performance, easily beyond my expectations," said Schlarman coach Brian Rohrbach, whose team repeated as team champion.

Individual runner-up Scott Krapf came in at 15 minutes, 22 seconds and was 33 seconds ahead of the third-place finisher, while three teammates ran their best 3-mile times of the season: Aaron Golden (fourth in 15:55), Brendan Smith (ninth in 16:11) and Josh Fulton (13th in 16:37).

Krapf was the top junior finisher, and Golden, who rushed for 137 yards in a Friday night football game,



came back to place fourth in the 123-runner field. Teammate Jeff Miller was eighth in 16:07. Smith cut 24 seconds off his previous best.

"The team is right where we want to be," Golden said. "We're putting it together at the right time. Maybe we can give the state title a run."

Going against Class AA runners two weeks before

## Hogan hero for freshmen

By **FRED KRONER**

News-Gazette Staff Writer

**MAHOMET** — In team sports, coaches whose squads aren't doing well might turn to underclassmen late in the season to start preparing for the future.

### M-S GIRLS' INVITTE

In area girls' cross-country, the youth movement has taken a different turn. Varsity teams are being led by ninth-graders because they are the fastest distance runners at their schools.

Three of the top five finishers in Saturday's Mahomet-Seymour girls' invitational were freshmen. Of the top six schools in the team standings, four had a freshman as the No. 1 runner, and another school had two ninth-graders among its top three.

The area leaders in the 3-mile event were St. Joseph-Ogden's Hannah Hogan (second in 18 minutes, 30 seconds) and M-S' Julie Jarrett (fifth in 19:11). Both are freshmen.

Hogan, who frequently trains with the boys' team at practice, and Rochester's Abby Shunk pulled away from the field in the 108-runner event. Hogan finished nine seconds behind Shunk but 26 seconds ahead of the third-place finisher, Rochester freshman Kelsey Surbeck.

"I'm pretty satisfied, but second means there's room for improvement," said Hogan, who didn't get unnerved by the hilly nature of the Lake of the Woods course while running her best time of the season.

"It's a tough course, but if there's an uphill, there's a

downhill," she said.

The kicker, however, is there are two separate uphill inches during the final 800 meters, which is where Shunk surged ahead of Hogan.

SI-O sophomore Jill Purcell said as runners approach the final stage of the race, "you feel like a little goat going up that hill and you've got to be strong." Purcell placed 12th (19:48).

Jarrett and her teammates train regularly on the course. Though she said, "it's not my favorite," she ran her career best at the site by more than a minute.

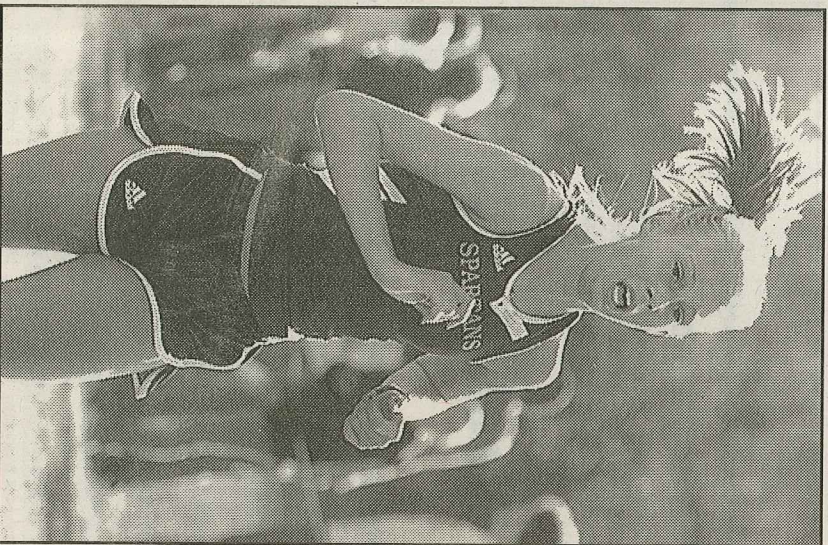
Rochester won team honors (72 points) and was followed by Decatur St. Teresa (93), Normal U-High (94), M-S (140), SI-O (173), Uni High (179) and Centennial (207). U-High had freshmen as its No. 2 and No. 3 runners.

Uni's leader was freshman Shivani Khanna (17th in 20:06). Overall, six of the first 17 finishers were freshmen. Saturday's race was the first for Khanna in the nearly three weeks since she twisted an ankle.

Other area runners in the top 20 were Monticello sophomore Kerby Waddell (sixth in 19:11), M-S sophomore Abby May (10th in 19:42), Centennial junior Uma Patel (14th in 20:01) and Salt Fork junior Brittany Catlett (20th in 20:09).

May, a top-10 finisher at the meet as a freshman and sophomore, had a season-best time on her home course by a half-minute, and Waddell exceeded her premeet goal of "a top-20 finish."

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St. Joseph-Ogden's Hannah Hogan competes during the Mahomet-Seymour Invitational. Hogan, a freshman, finished second Saturday.