

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Big finish against tough teams

Bulldogs hold their own against roster of the top-ranked cross-country teams



Dan Chamness/For the Mahomet Citizen

Senior Alex Keeble dashes his way to a sixth place finish at the Richard Spring Invitational in Peoria on Saturday. Keeble finished in 14 minutes, 36.0 seconds.

By **JASON BROWN**
Citizen sportswriter

The Bulldog boys' cross country team not only competed against some of the best runners in the country during the Richard Spring Invitational at Detweiller Park in Peoria Saturday, but proved they are a top-of-the-pack team.

Senior Alex Keeble rose to the occasion by breaking his own program record with a time of 14:36.0.

"They competed against three of the top 10 A State ranked teams, eight of the top 20 AA State ranked teams, and eight of the top 19 AAA State ranked teams," said coach Neal Garrison.

Keeble was a medal winner at sixth place, and the team finished fourth out of 69 teams (63 full teams and 6 partial teams).

"The only three teams to

beat Mahomet are ranked in the top 25 in the nation," Garrison said.

It wasn't only Keeble setting records. The team scored 178 points, which is the lowest team score the team has had since joining the invitational in 2000. The previous best was 192 points in 2014.

The team also had the lowest top five-team, seven-team, and total-team time averages than any M-S team has had. The top five-team averaged 15:13.2, and the seven-team time averaged at 15:23.6. The total team averaged 16:44.8.

Officials awarded 60 medal winners, and the Bulldogs captured four of them.

Along with Keeble, Andrew Walmer (42nd) and Gabe Pommier (60th), Junior Brian Butcher ran the



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11th fastest time ever by a Mahomet runner at any meet in 46 years. His teammate Walmer ran the 18th fastest time ever.

Jack Hyde ran the 17th fastest senior time at Mahomet.

To continue the record-breaking year, the boys are scheduled to travel to the East Peoria Invitational Saturday.

Right: Junior Brian Butcher finished the race in 15 minutes, 5.8 seconds. The Invitational was held at Detwiller Park in Peoria, which will be the site of the IHSA 2A State Finals on November 7.



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