

# CROSS COUNTRY



Submitted photo

**Above:** Members of the boys' cross country team celebrate their win at the Lee Halberg Lanphier Invitational on Saturday. **Below right:** Alex Keeble breaks the 15-minute mark.

## Record-setting day for XC boys

By **JASON BROWN**  
*Citizen sportswriter*

The boys cross-country team won the Lee Halberg Lanphier Invitational to continue its dominance as the number-one 2A team in the state.

To stay ranked No. 1, the Bulldogs had to defeat the No. 5 ranked Springfield and No. 12 ranked Chatham Glenwood, which is exactly what they did—in record fashion.

The Lanphier Invitational hosted 110 runners and 21 teams (15 full teams and six partial teams), and the Bulldogs nabbed the first four spots.

Only eight runners have ever broken into the 14s on this challenging course

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since it was created. Alex Keeble joined this elite group.

Keeble was race champion with a time of 14:54, the fastest senior time ever by a Mahomet-Seymour runner at this invitational. The previous best was Jonathan Schaap from 2012 with a time of 15:24.

“Alex Keeble ran the fastest time we have recorded at the Springfield Invitational in the past 12 years,” said Coach Neal Garrison. “He

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ran the second fastest time ever run at this invitation-al by any runner from any school in the past 49 years.”

Andrew Walmer was runner-up with a time of 15:33.

Gabe Pommier finished in third place six seconds behind Walmer, and Brian Butcher crossed the line at 15:40.

“Our varsity looked incredible, taking the first four spots against two AA state-ranked teams and one A state-ranked team,” said Garrison. “They scored the lowest points ever recorded by any team in the past 12 years.”

All four runners earned Elite Performances and Elite Athlete honors as well.

The Bulldogs placed three more runners in the top 15.

Jack Hyde and Ryan Hodge took 11th and 12th place with times of 16:05.

Ben Crow rounded out the top 15 at 16:22.

The Bulldogs missed first place in the open race by one point to Chatham Glenwood.

Garret Williams led the team by placing third.

Not only did the varsity dominate, but also the freshmen, capturing the same first four spots and six out of the top nine.

Bryson Keeble was meet champion and Mathias Powell was runner-up.

Lucas Chittick and Kaelan Davis finished third and fourth, respectively.

Adam Von Holten placed seventh, and Kiel Ledin finished ninth.

Springfield awarded 45 medal winners. The Bulldogs captured 19 of them, more than the team had ever won at this invitational.

The boys’ cross country runners will travel to Peoria for the Notre Dame Invitational on Saturday.

## MEDALISTS

**Alex Keeble** 1st place medal winner, varsity race.

**Andrew Walmer** 2nd place medal winner, varsity race.

**Gabe Pommier** 3rd place medal winner, varsity race.

**Brian Butcher** 4th place medal winner, varsity race.

**Jack Hyde** 11th place medal winner, varsity race.

**Ryan Hodge** 12th place medal winner, varsity race.

**Ben Crow** 15th place medal winner, varsity race.

**Bryson Keeble** 1st place medal winner, freshman race.

**Mathias Powell** 2nd place medal winner, freshman race.

**Lucas Chittick** 3rd place medal winner, freshman race.

**Kaelan Davis** 4th place medal winner, freshman race.

**Adam Von Holten** 7th place medal winner, freshman race.

**Kiel Ledin** 9th place medal winner, freshman race.

**Garret Williams** 3rd place medal winner, open race.

**Riley Fortuner** 6th place medal winner, open race.

**Evan Burge** 7th place medal winner, open race.

**Joey Magyar** 8th place medal winner, open race.

**Joe Churm** 12th place medal winner, open race.

**Kyle Sheehy** 14th place medal winner, open race.