

# Cross country takes second at state finals

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Mahomet

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# CITIZEN

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Dan Chamness/For the Mahomet Citizen

**Left:** Alex Keeble (#1276) runs his way to all-state status at the Illinois High School Association Class 2A State Championships.

The Bulldog senior finished 16th overall, running the three-mile race in 15 minutes, 2 seconds. He was one of two Mahomet-Seymour runners to earn all-state status.

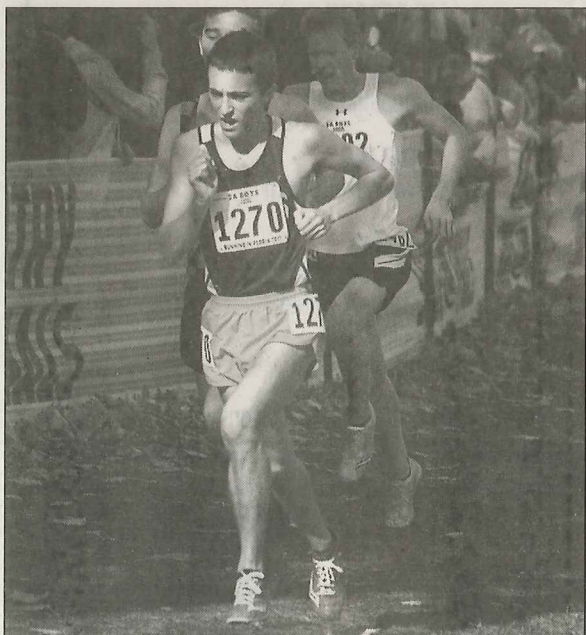
**Below:** MSHS standouts Lauren Whitehouse (#937) and Brisa McGrath (#932) run in Saturday's state final.

Whitehouse placed 55th overall in the girls' race, and her teammate McGrath came in just behind at 58th.

**Below left:** Mahomet Seymour junior Brian Butcher (#1270) runs the second mile. Butcher finished the three-mile course in 15 minutes, 43 seconds, which earned him 61st place. **Below right:** Samira Kassem (#929) runs on the heels of Aurora Rosary's Claire Hengesbaugh. The Mahomet-Seymour junior finished the three-mile race in 19 minutes, 54 seconds and finished 164th overall.



Submitted photo



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five runner average at state by a AA school since 1971.

“Our runners gave so much physically, mentally, and emotionally all season,” said Garrison. “It was great to see them end the season on the podium stand being awarded the second-place trophy and medals around each of our team member’s necks.”

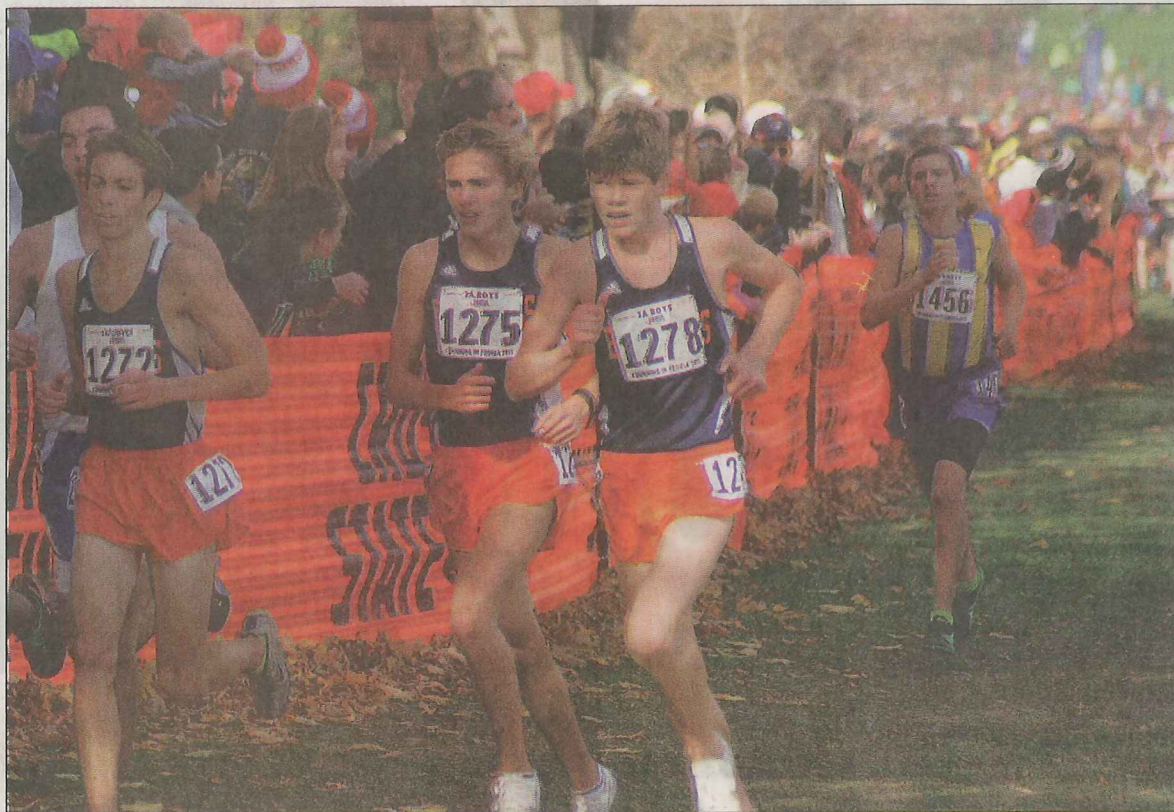
“I am very fortunate to be able to coach runners with such great character and work ethic,” he added.

The team also had six

runners earn Illinois Elite Status at the State meet by dyestat: Keeble, Pommier, Hyde, Butcher, Craw and Hodge.

“I couldn’t have done it without the constant support of our volunteer coaches Todd Lafond and Gary Garrison,” said Garrison. “Todd has given up his time to coach with us for seven years. It has made a huge impact on our program’s success and how well the runners are taken care of.”

# CROSS COUNTRY



Dan Chamness/For the Mahomet Citizen

Mahomet-Seymour runners Ben Crow (#1272), Jack Hyde (#1275) and Gabe Pommier (#1278) work together as a group during the IHSAA 2A Cross Country State Championships. Pommier, a junior, finished 42nd overall, finishing the three-mile race in 15 minutes, 27 seconds. Hyde would finish four seconds later in 47th with a time of 15:31.

# TWO FOR TWO

## *Team takes second in state for second year*

By **JASON BROWN**  
*Citizen sportswriter*

For the second year in a row, the Mahomet-Seymour boys' cross country team took runner-up in the 2A Cross Country State Championship.

The final was held at Detweiller Park in Peoria on Saturday.

Grayslake Central finished first with 54 points, while Yorkville, who won the 2014 title, finished third with 150 points.

Mahomet-Seymour finished the season with a final record of 199-4 and set several records on its way.

All 25 Bulldog runners earned a state meet medal for being part of a state-placing team, and Andrew Walmer and Alex Keeble earned another medal for placing in the top 25 runners.

Walmer finished 10th with a time of 14:48, and Keeble placed 16th at 15:02. Walmer ran the fastest junior time ever by a Mahomet-Seymour runner at the State meet with a 14:47.45.

Keeble became one of only four Mahomet runners ever to qualify for state all four years. He also became one of only five Mahomet runners ever to be a two-time All-State runner.

Walmer, Keeble, junior Gabe Pommier, senior Jack Hyde, junior Brian Butcher, junior Ben Craw, and sophomore Ryan Hodge were the seven Bulldog finishers.

Sophomore Riley Fortune, freshman Bryson Keeble, fresh-

### LOOKING BACK

The team competed in only nine races this season.

Here are those results:

- 2015 Charleston Invitational Team Champions.
- 2015 Springfield Invitational Varsity Race Team Champions.
- 2015 Springfield Invitational Open Race Runner up Team.
- 2015 Springfield Invitational Freshman Race Team Champions.
- 2015 Peoria Notre Dame Invitational (4th out of 69 teams).
- 2015 East Peoria Invitational Team Champions.
- 2015 East Peoria Invitational Fresh/Soph Team Champions.
- 2015 Metamora Invitational Team Champions.
- 2015 Conference Varsity Race Team Champions.
- 2015 Conference Open Race Team Champions.
- 2015 Regional Meet Team Champions.
- 2015 Sectional Meet Team Champions.
- 2015 State Meet Runner-Up Team, scoring the lowest points a Mahomet team has ever scored at the State meet.

## *Mahomet-Seymour girls take 19th at State* *STORY and PHOTOS, page B5*

man Mathias Powell, sophomore Garret Williams, and sophomore Joe Churm were the state alternates.

"We had so much support from our students, teachers, administration, runners' parents, alumni and alumni parents that it made it a very memorable day," Coach Neal Garrison said. "Our athletic director, Matt Hensley, arranged for us to have a fan bus. This was the first time we had enough

students coming to the meet to make it possible. We had so many alumni and alumni parents give up their weekend to come out to support the team. It was just amazing. I can't thank the community enough for their support."

The team only suffered one loss to a 2A team all season — the eventual state champions. Grayslake ran the second-fastest top



Dan Chamness/For the Mahomet Citizen

The Mahomet-Seymour boys' cross country team celebrates their second-place finish at the state finals on Saturday.