

• **JUNIOR HIGH CROSS-COUNTRY**

Boys', girls' teams headed to state

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For the Mahomet Citizen

Saturday was a special day for both the boys' and girls' Mahomet-Seymour Junior High cross-country teams. Thanks to big-time performances up and down the lineup, both squads finished in the top five at the Parkland College Sectional and advanced to state.

The M-S girls' team finished third out of 13 teams with a score of 69. Normal Parkside (39) finished first. Normal Kingsley was the runner-up (44). Champaign Edison and Bloomington also qualified for state.

Seventh-grader Ava Boyd paced the Bulldogs

with a 2-mile time of 11 minutes, 34 seconds. Boyd finished eighth individually out of 94 runners. Eighth-grader Ella Scott finished ninth. Durbin Thomas (16th), Abby Bunting (20th), Avah Turner (21st), Callie Jansen (26th) and Reese Gallier (56th) all were key contributors.

On the boys' side, M-S finished second with a team score of 79, thanks to the heroics of eighth-grader Gabe Difanis. Normal Kingsley won the meet (56) while Champaign Edison, Champaign Jefferson and Normal Parkside also qualified for state.

Difanis finished fourth

individually out of 96 runners with a time of 11 minutes, 11 seconds. Gabe Williams also had a strong day, finishing in 11th place individually, but the race was won by Mitchell McAnally, Tyler Clark and Finn Randolph. The trio fought back to all finish in the top 25. McAnally placed 18th, Clark was 22nd and Randolph was 24th. Kai Jones (34th) and Hayden Grotelueschen (55th) also had clutch performances.

M-S will now compete in the Class 3A state meet at Normal Parkside on Saturday. The girls' race starts at 12:30 p.m. The boys' race will begin at 1:15 p.m.