

Nofziger earns honors

By ISAAC TROTTER
For The Mahomet Citizen

MAHOMET — Kyle Nofziger might be a year younger than Nick Mies, but Mies certainly models his game after his underclassman.

"Kyle is an incredible runner," Mies said. "I love the kid. His work ethic is on another level. I'm not there yet, but I look up to him. He's someone I want to be."

But age doesn't really matter all that much to the duo. They just want to win. And they're running at an elite level right now for Mahomet-Seymour boys' cross country.

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HONORS

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Nofziger and Mies ran side by side at the Class 2A Bloomington Sectional. Nofziger crossed the line at 16:03. Mies finished at 16:04. Nofziger's 10th-place finish and Mies' 11th-place finish were big reasons why M-S was able to place third as a team and advance to state.

"It was an incredible feeling," Mies said. "We weren't ranked until the seventh week of the season which is conference. We were going under-the-radar but we started making some noise towards the end of the season and it's

really nice to take everyone by surprise."

Nofziger earned All-Sectional honors for his big-time race, but that was in large part due to Mies running right with him.

"Nick has been a great asset to the team," Nofziger said.

The combination of Mies and Nofziger both have a chance to place really high at Saturday's Class 2A state meet. Nofziger has been the rising star, while Mies has been the surprise of the season.

Of the seven M-S runners at the sectional, there



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were no seniors. In fact, Mies and Joe Taylor were the only juniors. The rest are freshmen or sophomores.

Throughout the entire season, M-S has not been a big factor at the state level. Part of that is because many believed the Bulldogs would take a step back with such a young roster and no Mathias Powell. Powell won the Class 2A individual state title last season and is currently running at Villanova.

But the addition of Mies and the explosion of Nofziger has helped the Bulldogs make a really big jump. They aren't under the radar anymore. They have the state's full attention.