

Bulldogs meet goals at invite

By ISAAC TROTTER

For The Mahomet Citizen

MAHOMET — After a long offseason, the Mahomet-Seymour boys' cross-country team finally got to run a race. The Bulldogs showed out.

Nick Mies, Kyle Nofziger and Joseph Scheele all placed in the top seven individually, and M-S finished second in the 12-team Charleston Invitational last Saturday.

"I was pleased with how the boys ran," M-S head coach Neal Garrison said. "We were hoping to place in the top-3 teams so they did what they needed to do to make that happen."

Mies finished fifth, Nofziger took sixth and Scheele placed seventh. The trio finished the three-mile course in 17 minutes. They were separated by a mere 0.13 seconds. Nofziger and Scheele both finished the course 20 seconds faster than their time last year.

Freshman Hayden Grotelueschen stepped up and placed 22nd out of the 147-man field. Grotelueschen finished in 17 minutes, 39.21 seconds. Joe Taylor placed 29th with a fine time of 18:07.53. M-S actually tied for second with Centennial with 69 team points, but Josh Wilcoski placed 35th. He was five seconds ahead of Centennial's sixth runner, Aaron Hendron, which broke the tie.

"Hayden Grotelueschen and Joe Taylor really stepped it up when the team needed them to in order to round out our team score," Garrison added.

Gage Williams, Karsten Waisath, Ben Wallace and Gabe Difanis all stayed under the 20-minute mark. Peter Slezak, Caleb Dowers, Chase Misenheimer and John Tender rounded out the M-S competitors.

"Chase Misenheimer, Josh Wilcoski, and Karsten Waisath really had the best days," Garrison said. "All three improved well over a minute from last year. This

heimer and Tender all had personal records.

Taylor improved 31 seconds off his time last year. Wilcoski sliced one minute, 21 seconds off his time from last season. Misenheimer and Waisath shaved nearly two minutes off their times.

M-S is a really young team, so many runners were running their first high school race, and they stepped up to the challenge.

"Our freshmen boys really impressed me," Garrison said. "They ran with such confidence and had no problem adjusting to the further race distance and facing racing runners 1-3 years older than them. Hayden Grotelueschen, Gage Williams, Ben Wallace, and Gabe Difanis have really worked hard this pre-season and fall. They have such a strong work ethic. I am lucky to have gotten such a great group of freshmen."

Looking ahead

M-S will compete in their second race of the season Saturday. They will travel to Lincoln Park for the Lanphier Invitational.