

M-S BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY

Coach puts top runners in fresh/soph race at Peoria

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For The Mahomet Citizen

MAHOMET — Mahomet-Seymour only had three upperclassmen available for the loaded 79-team Peoria Notre Dame Invitational last weekend.

So head coach Neal Garrison made the decision to put a majority of his top runners in the freshman/sophomore race.

"We did not have enough runners in the varsity race to get a team score," Garrison said. "We had one upperclassman runner miss for band and another we rested due to being sick this past week. We elected to run many of our runners in the fresh/soph race due to their

age."

The Bulldogs finished 16th out of 53 teams in the freshman/sophomore race. It was one of the highest team scores the Bulldogs have had since joining the meet in 2000. A total of 359 runners raced, and Kyle Nofziger finished third with a time of 15 minutes, 51.1 seconds. Joseph Scheele placed 23rd with a time of 16:26.3.

"Kyle's place is the highest fresh/soph finish our program has had in 20 years," Garrison said. "Joseph's finish was the fourth-highest in our program's history. Kyle broke into the 15s for the first time. His time is the 14th fastest sophomore

time in any race by any sophomore our program has had in 50 years."

Hayden Grotelueschen, Josh Wilcoski, Jonah Singer, Taylor Fan, and Gage Williams all ran season-best times to help the Bulldogs place 16th. All of them placed inside the top 200.

Joe Taylor, David Wilcoski and Caleb Dowers were the lone upperclassmen that ran in the varsity race. Taylor ran a lifetime best time of 17:23.5. It was the first time he had run in the 17-minute range, according to Garrison.

Wilcoski and Dowers both finished the three-mile course in under the 18 minutes too.

"David cut off two minutes and 33 seconds from his season-best," Garrison said. "Caleb cut off 58 seconds."

In the open race, Ben Wallace placed 199th with a time of 18:39.8. Karsten Waisath clocked in at 18:44.1 to take home 206th.

"Ben and Karsten ended up with some of the best places our program has had in the open race in 20 years," Garrison said. "Ben's was the 15th highest place and Karsten's the 16th highest finish our team has had in the open race."

Garrison was also very impressed with some of his younger runners.

"Chase Misenheimer

and John Tender also worked together to both run lifetime best times," Garrison said. "Both have raced with such intensity this year and have been strong influences on our team. Avery Seaman and Alex Carpenter rounded out our open runners. Avery ran his first race of the season with a cast on his arm. Despite the cast on his arm he managed to pull his teammates for the first half of the race helping set them up for lifetime bests. Alex ran his first three-mile high school race."

Overall, 13 Bulldogs ran career-best 3-mile times. Grotelueschen, Williams and Wallace all made it

in the freshmen fastest times list. Grotelueschen was 27th. Williams and Wallace were 36th and 39th, respectively.

Nofziger was the fifth-fastest sophomore. Scheele was 14th. Josh Wilcoski (38th), Jonah Singer (41st) and Taylor Fan (43rd) all cracked the list.

Joe Taylor was 34th among juniors. Dowers was 40th.

Looking ahead

The Bulldogs get a few weeks off to prepare for the Apollo Conference meet on Oct. 15. The Bulldogs will host the meet at Lake of the Woods in Mahomet.