

# STATE-LEVEL RUNS

## Boys, girls give their all at contest

By ISAAC TROTTER

For The Mahomet Citizen

MAHOMET — Neal Garrison did it again. The star Mahomet-Seymour cross country coach got the most out of his group at the Class 2A State meet. It shouldn't be a surprise anymore. This is just what he does.

The young Bulldogs finished 11th as a team out of 26 at Saturday's Class 2A finals.

"It was a great finish to the season," Garrison said. "They started off unranked in the state rankings in the preseason rankings. They remained unranked until late in the season. They finished higher in almost every meet than they were ranked throughout the season to conclude the season by proving they were one of the strongest teams in the state."

Maple Park (74 points) cruised to the state title. Four of their runners finished inside the top-13. Dixon placed second. But the Bulldogs proved that they'll be serious contenders for the next few years.

Junior Nick Mies erupted for a massive performance. Mies finished 47th overall with a time of 15 minutes, 49 seconds. Mies cut off 15 seconds from his previous lifetime best.

It was extra special for Mies because his father, Tim Mies, ran at Detwiler Park when he was in high school.

"The addition of Nick to the team has really helped push our team to the next level," Garrison said. "His time was the 17th fastest time of any M-S junior that has run in the state meet in the past 50 years. He was the 20th fastest junior from any team in the state meet and is the 23rd fastest time of any returning runner going into next year's season."

Sophomore Kyle Nofziger ran right with Mies all day. Nofziger finished 53rd overall with a time of 15:54.

"Kyle led our team all season and even at state he continued to do so," Garrison said. "Kyle broke into the 15s again at the state meet where he ran within four seconds of his lifetime 3-mile best. His time was fast enough to earn the 10th fastest time of any M-S sophomore at the state meet in the past 50 years. Kyle showed great leadership the entire season in both meets and practices."

Jonah Singer was the third Bulldog to cross the finish line at 16:06. Singer placed 72nd overall and it was the 12th-fastest time of any M-S sophomore in the last 50 years. Singer sliced 30 seconds off his time.

"Jonah's improvement throughout the season really helped make the team great," Garrison said.

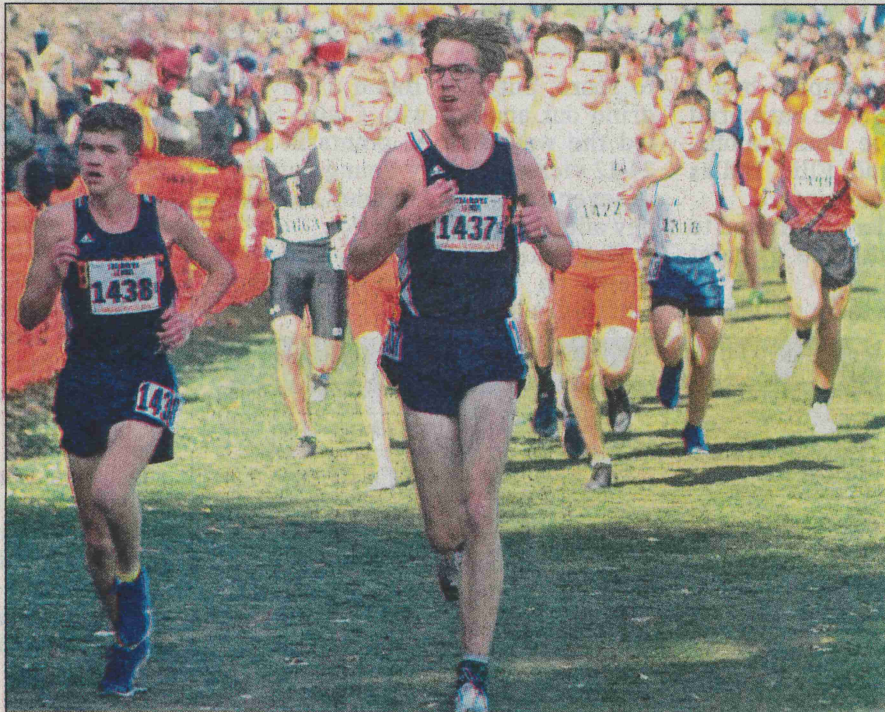
Joseph Scheele fought through an injury to get back for the state meet. Scheele placed 115th with a time of 16:27. The sophomore is going to be another big contributor for Garrison and the Bulldogs next year.

Hayden Grotelueschen became just the 10th freshman to get the call to run at state. Grotelueschen placed 159th overall and took off 20 seconds from his three-mile best. Grotelueschen was a big reason why M-S finished 11th.

"He ran more miles than any of our team during the summer," Garrison said. "His discipline and hard work paid off. He showed he is one of the toughest freshmen in the State."

Joe Taylor and Josh Wilcoski rounded out the Bulldog lineup. Taylor ran a 17:09 to finish 182nd. Wilcoski placed 215th.

"The thing I most enjoyed about the team was how much they invest-



Dan Chamness/for The Mahomet Citizen

ABOVE: Mahomet-Seymour High School's Kyle Nofziger (1438) and Nick Mies (1437) compete in state cross-country Saturday. BELOW: Freshman Klein Powell (1075) had a solid finish in the girls' competition.



## Freshman Powell stands out

By ISAAC TROTTER

For The Mahomet Citizen

MAHOMET — Klein Powell ran the race of her life on Saturday at Detwiler Park in Peoria.

The Mahomet-Seymour freshman placed 69th overall with a time of 19:09. Sophomore teammate Elizabeth Sims crossed the finish line 4 seconds behind Powell to place 71st.

The Bulldogs used the gritty runs to place 18th as a team. Over 25 teams competed in the Class 2A state meet. The Bulldogs were one of the youngest teams in the race.

Sophomore Grace Lietz placed 128th overall with a time of 19:35. Chloe Allen and Ella Scott both

were in the top-150. Allen placed 140th at 19:44 and Scott was two seconds behind her to take home 142nd.

Freshman Callie Jansen was 160th with a rock-solid time of 20:04. Olivia Bunting cruised to a 184th-place finish. Bunting completed the three-mile course in 20:45.

A total of 209 runners competed in the race. It concluded another fantastic season for Kristin Allen and the M-S girls' cross country team.

With Sims, Powell, Jansen, Lietz, Scott, Allen and Bunting all returning next season, M-S will be one of the top competitors in Class 2A yet again.

ed into each other," Garrison said. "Our program has had some teams with tight bonds and that has led to these teams' success. This 2019 group ranks among the top of our program's teams with the tightest team bond."

"They had runners that stepped up throughout the year when we

needed them including during the State series as alternates. The runners not running gave so much so to their teammates in the State series both as training partners, alternates, and as their most active supporters during the races. It was so great to watch how much they cared about each other."