

Rocky brings high hopes to loaded Class AA boys' track sectional

By Steve Tappa
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Somewhere next to the term "cautiously optimistic," there has to be a picture of Rock Island High School boys' track coach Ed Lillis.

The running Rocks have won 18 sectional titles in the past 23 years. The hosts also are coming off a 14th straight Western Big 6 Conference title, winning in dominating fashion last weekend.

Yet, Lillis refuses the favorite's tag heading into tonight's Class AA sectional meet at Rock Island Public Schools Stadium.

The field events and running prelims begin at 4 p.m. Finals for the running events start at 5:30.

"I don't know that anybody can say they're the favorite," the longtime Rocks coach said.

"There are so many teams, 19 in all, and the talent pool is so deep.

"For example, in the high jump, there are probably 10 kids who could win it. There's not much difference between the top two seeds and the 4-5 kids in a lot of events, either. So a lot of things can happen."

The Rocks have high hopes, though, for their six Big 6 champs.

Junior sprint star Richard Lewis is in four of those events — the 100 and 200 besides anchoring the 400 and 800 relay teams.

Paris Dothard (shot put) and Travis Anderson (3200) were Rocky's other Big 6 winners.

"We want to win the sectional title," Lewis said. "But that's not the focus of the meet. We just want to get as many guys downstate (next weekend) as we can.

And, if we do that, the championship will come with that."

The trouble? The Rocks and last weekend's other local Big 6 winners mix with teams from the NCIC and Western Sun conferences.

Moline's Shawn Ledbetter also won three Big 6 events last weekend — both hurdles and the high jump.

United Township's Quinton Musgrow (long jump) and Luke Martinez (pole vault) were joined by Moline's Colby Schulz (800) and Alleman's Vince Ewald (discus) among the other local winners.

Geneseo's NCIC champs include Dan Chenoweth (3200 and 1600), Andrew Walter (400) and Andrew Burnell (discus).

"This is the way a sectional should be," Lillis said. "It's going to be fun to watch."

Rock Island Sectional on Friday



15 year-old Ditka Fredericks isn't able to attend meets due to declining health issues.

He wishes the Leafs the Best of Luck at Sectionals.

STATE FEVER.....CATCH IT!!!!

BACK GENESEO TRACK



Pictured are Geneseo's State Meet Qualifiers. From left to right: Jacob Kuban, Nate Silver, Dan Chenoweth, Shane Reshbke, Andrew Walter. Missing from photo: Jeremy Peters.

6 Leafs Punch State Meet Tickets in 7 Events

On Friday night (5/18) the Leafs traveled to Rock Island to participate in the 19-team IHSA Sectional Track & Field Finals. The teams were treated to magnificent weather (70 with light winds and low humidity.) The Leafs took advantage of the great weather and put on quite a show. Racking up a monstrous total of 82 points the team missed winning the Sectional Title by just 2 points. Geneseo will be well represented in Charleston and the IHSA Track and Field State Championship as six individuals qualified in 7 events. Leading the way were individual event champions Dan Chenoweth, Jeremy Peters, and Shane Reschke. Chenoweth blistered the track in both the 3200 (9:15) and 1600 meter runs (4:14. as Dan's 1600 meter run took 3 seconds off his personal best and established another school record. Jeremy Peters was seeded 10th in the high jump and shocked the field with his winning jump of 6' 03" which established a new personal best for himself by 2 inches and he barely missed clearing 6' 05". Shane Reschke blasted the homestretch in the 400 Meter Dash and came away with the gold. Also qualifying were Jacob Kuban (2nd in the Triple Jump with a monster jump of 45' 03"...close to a 2 foot personal best); Andrew Walter (2nd in Long Jump); and the 1600 Meter Team of Jacob Kuban, Shane Reschke, Nate Silver, and Andrew Walter) who grabbed 2nd as they took over 4 seconds off the season best time.)

Leafs Placers are listed below:

- 1ST High Jump: Jeremy Peters (6' 03")
- 1ST 400 Meter Dash: Shane Reschke (51.48)
- 1ST 1600 Meter Run: Dan Chenoweth (4:14.64)
- 1ST 3200 Meter Run: Dan Chenoweth (9:15.74)
- 2ND Long Jump: Andrew Walter (21' 00 3/4")
- 2ND Triple Jump: Jacob Kuban (45' 03")
- 2ND 1600 Meter Relay: Jacob Kuban, Shane Reschke, Nate Silver, Andrew Walter (3:27.60)
- 3RD 400 Meter Relay: Jacob Kuban, Andrew Walter, Aaron Kotecki, Shane Reschke (44.46)
- 3RD 800 Meter Run: Nate Silver (2:01.02)
- 5TH: Shane Reschke: Long Jump (20' 06 3/4")
- 6TH: Elliott Kenney: Triple Jump (42' 10")
- 6TH: 800 Meter Relay: Jacob Kuban, Jeremy Peters, Elliott Kenney, Jaran Heaton) 1:34.35

RESULTS



Nick Loomis / Staff

Rock Island junior Richard Lewis leads the pack across the finish line during the 100-meter dash finals during Friday's IHSAA Class AA boys' track and field sectional. The host Rocks, led by four state-qualifying efforts from Lewis, edged Geneseo for the sectional title.

Rocks nip Geneseo for sectional title

By Steve Tappa
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Neither Rock Island's Richard Lewis nor Moline's Shawn Ledbetter managed to make individual trips to the boys' state track meet last spring.

However, both juniors turned that disappointment into inspiration, motivation and, finally, elation Friday night at Rock Island Public Schools Stadium.

Lewis, who anchored Rocky's victorious 400 and 800 relay teams again this year, also swept the 100- and 200-meter dashes to help the Rocks edge Geneseo for the team title at the Class AA Rock Island Sectional.

Ledbetter, who battled hamstring problems a year ago in failing to book a repeat trip to Charleston, finally returned in both hurdling events, winning the 300 intermediates.

All-State senior Dan Chenoweth also advanced to next weekend's state meet in two solo events, winning the 3200 and 1600 for Geneseo.

Chenoweth's Leafs came within four points, 85-81, of winning a sectional title for the

first time. Rocky's won the local event 19 of 24 seasons now, including five straight springs.

"I told you it was going to be close," longtime Rock Island coach Ed Lillis said with a big smile. "With 19 teams here, the depth of talent was really incredible. We had a number of kids set personal records and not make it to state."

Indeed, besides the four entrants involving Lewis, the only other Rocky advancer was Clarence Hood, the runner-up in the 400.

Hood and Lewis teamed up on the 400 relay winner with Lonnie Davis and Darnell Evans. Mark Taylor joined Davis, Evans and Lewis on the winning 800 team.

"I made it downstate with the relays last year, too, but I really missed running the (100 and 200)," Lewis said. "Not this time."

Ditto for Ledbetter.

"As tough as it was to walk away from this meet last year, knowing the season that never took off was over, that's how great it feels now," Ledbetter

said.

Sterling (66), United Township (64) and Sycamore (57) round out the top five team finishers. Galesburg, sixth with 46 points, claimed five individual state advancers. Moline was eighth (33.25); Alleman placed 14th (4).

"For a program from a community our size, to come this close to a power like Rock Island, it really doesn't happen that often," said veteran Geneseo coach Don Fredericks. "It really says something about what our guys accomplished."

Besides Chenoweth, the Leafs got victories from Shane Reschke (400) and Jeremy Peters (high jump). Also qualifying for state from Geneseo were event runners-up in the long jump (Andrew Walter), triple jump (Jacob Kuban) and the 1600 relay (Reschke, Walter, Kuban and senior Nate Silver).

"Nobody expected us to do anything in the 4x4," Reschke said. "But, we managed to get another senior downstate."

"Three of us were already going to state in other events," Walter added. "I think that

helped us relax, take the pressure off and just go out and run."

UT's Quinton Musgrove advanced in two events — winning the long jump and teaming up with Airreo Greer, DeMykha Teague and Nate Warden on the runner-up 400 relay.

Also qualifying for state from UT were a pair of event runners-up — pole vaulter Luke Martinez and 800 runner Jerome Harms.

"We're a young team, so the experience of getting downstate will really benefit these kids," UT coach Bob Feller said. "And two seniors, Jerome and Nate, get rewarded for all of their hard work."

"I was especially glad the relay team made it. Nate was about 80-percent healthy (after a groin pull last week knocked him out of the Western Big 6 meet). He spent more time in physical therapy than on the track."

Moline's other advancer was the runner-up 3200 relay team of Colby Schulz, Jonathan Smith, Brian Small and Joe Zahn.

2007 SECTIONAL RESULTS

Host Site: Rock Island High School

Date: 5-18-2007

Timing System: F.A.T.

Scoring: 10-8-6-4-2-1

Weather Conditions: 75 Degrees with 10 mph wind

Team Scores: 1.) Rock Island 84; 2.) Geneseo 82; 3.) Sterling 66; 4.) East Moline (U.T.); 5.) Sycamore 57; 6.) Galesburg 46; 7.) Dixon 36; 8.) Moline 33.25; 9.) Maple Park (Kaneland) 30; 10.) Rochelle 21.25; 11.) Minooka 16; 12.) LaSalle-Peru 9.25; 13.) Streator 5; 14.) Rock Island (Alleman) 4; 15.) Ottawa 3.25; 16.) DeKalb 1; 17.) Morris 0; 17T.) Rock Falls 0; 17T.) Sandwich 0

Please Note: State meet qualifiers performances are underlined

Discus 155' 00": 1.) Andrew Burnell-12 (Dixon) 170' 11"; 2.) Phil Christensen-11 (Kaneland) 159' 04"; 3.) Joey Johnson-12 (Rochelle) 158' 00"; 4.) Nathan Swope-12 (Sterling) 157' 10"; 5.) Ryan Freed-12 (Sterling) 147' 00"; 6.) Kevin Sabock-11 (Sycamore) 146' 00"

Additional Geneseo Athletes: 9.) Curt Jensen-10 144' 05"; 10.) Chris Brooks-12 141' 10"

High Jump 6' 05": 1.) Jeremy Peters-12 (Geneseo) 6' 03"; 2.) Austin Andrews-12 (Galesburg) 6' 01"; 3T.) Shawn Ledbetter-11 (Moline) 5' 11"; 3T.) Jerrick Hughes-12 (L-P) 5' 11"; 3T.) Matt Walker-11 (Ottawa) 5' 11"; 6.) Zach Young-11 (Rochelle) 5' 11"

Additional Geneseo Athletes: 11T.) Tom Peal-11 5' 09"

Long Jump 22' 00": 1.) Quintn Musgrow-11 (U.T.) 21' 09 3/4"; 2.) Andrew Walter-11 (Geneseo) 21' 00 3/4"; 2.) 3.) John Gunter-12 (Rock Island) 21' 00"; 4.) Mark Taylor-12 (Rock Island) 20' 10 3/4"; 5.) Shane Reschke-11 (Geneseo) 20' 06 3/4"; 6.) Cody Lahey-11 (Dixon) 20' 00"

Additional Geneseo Athletes: None

Pole Vault 13' 09": 1.) Sam Kranz-12 (Kaneland) 16' 00"; 2.) Luke Martinez-11 (U.T.) 14' 00"; 3.) Derrick Wells-12 (Sycamore) 14' 00"; 4.) Justin Lee-12 (Kaneland) 13' 09"; 5.) Eric Chalus-12 (Rochelle) 13' 09"; 6.) Logan Pflibsen-09 (Streator) 13' 09"

Additional Geneseo Athletes: M.O.H. Rob Barton-10 MOH

Shot Put 52' 09": 1.) Peyton Lumzy-12 (Dixon) 55' 03 1/2"; 2.) Adam Devine-11 (Dixon) 54' 02"; 3.) Nathan Swope-12 (Sterling) 53' 11"; 4.) Miles Ripsly-12 (Sterling) 52' 09"; 5.) Chris Brooks-12 (Geneseo) 52' 05 1/4"; 6.) Paris Dothard-12 (Rock Island) 51' 08"

Additional Geneseo Athletes: 12.) Curt Jensen-10 46' 02 1/2"

Triple Jump 45' 00": 1.) Andrew Thierry-12 (Galesburg) 45' 05 1/2"; 2.) Jacob Kuban-11 (Geneseo) 45' 03"; 3.) Joe Schneiderbauer-12 (Sterling) 45' 03"; 4.) Quinton Musgrow-11 (U.T.) 43' 08"; 5.) Andre Patterson-12 (Rock Island) 43' 07"; 6.) Elliott Kenney-12 (Geneseo) 42' 10"

Additional Geneseo Athletes: none

3200 Meter Relay 8:04.24: 1.) Sycamore (Hans Anderson-10, Peter Grimson-11, Adam Behrens-12, A.J. Dickerson-12) 8:02.96; Moline (Jonathan Smith-10, Joe Zahn-10, Brian Small-11, Colby Schultz-12.) 8:05.22; 3.) Sterling (Tim Noll-12, Ben Schott-11, David Gonzalez-12, Sam Megli-12) 8:21.13; 4.) Minooka (Jim Kelly-11, Andrew Santillo-11, Matt Powers-09, Ryan Zarley-11) 8:21.55; 5.) Galesburg (Zack Yeager-12, Lucas Junk-09, Danny Stafford-12, Josh Bailey-12) 8:25.64; 6.) Dixon (Saul Capilla-12, Hugh Bratt-11, Matt Logan-10, Kasey Ferrigan-10) 8:37.23

Additional Geneseo Athletes: 9.) (Chance Nordstrom-11, Jon Fleming-11, Kenny Collis-09, Josh Lodge-10) 8:55.45
 Geneseo Splits: Chance Nordstrom: 2:06.24 (58 - 68); Jon Fleming: 2:12.15 (59 - 73); Kenny Collis: 2:17.09 (61 - 76); Josh Lodge: 2:19.66 (63 - 76)

400 Meter Relay 43.14: 1.) Rock Island (Lonnie Davis-11, Darnell Evans-12, Clarence Hood-11, Richard Lewis-11) 43.20; 2.) United Township (Airreo Greer-10, DeMykhal Teague-09, Quinton Musgrow-11, Nate Warden-12) 43.84; 3.) Geneseo (Jacob Kuban-11, Andrew Walter-11, Aaron Kotecki-09, Shane Reschke-11) 44.46; 4.) Sycamore (Scott Miller-11, Alex Bourge-10, Brian Hutsler-12, Brett Gulke-10) 45.21; 5.) LaSalle-Peru (Sam Mayszak-10, Tristan Lumpkins-10, Gavin Aubry-10, Eric Jenkins-09) 45.47; 6.) Kaneland (Boone Thorgesen-12, Adam Blazek-12, Charlie Kahl-11, Lucas Ross-10) 45.72

Geneseo Splits: 3.) Jacob Kuban-11: 10.88; Andrew Walter-11: 11.40; Aaron Kotecki-09: 10.88; Shane Reschke-11: 11.00

3200 Meter Run 9:35.24: 1.) Dan Chenoweth-12 (Geneseo) 9:15.74; 2.) Derek Campbell-11 (Sycamore) 9:32.23; 3.) Travis Anderson-10 (Rock Island) 10:01.44; 4.) Tim Hird-10 (Alleman) 10:02.24; 5.) Nick Rousonelous-12 (Minooka) 10:05.99; 6.) Michael Hernandez-11 (U.T.) 10:07.68

Additional Geneseo Athletes & Splits: 7.) Ryan Kotecki-11 10:09.36
 -Dan Chenoweth: (70) - 2:18 (68) - 3:26 (68) - 4:37 (71) - 5:46 (69) - 6:56 (70) - 8:07 (71) - 9:15 (68)
 -Ryan Koteck: (72 - 2:23 (71) - 3:38 (75) - 4:56 (78) - 6:15 (79) - 7:35 (80) - 8:55 (80) - 10:09 (74)

110 Meter High Hurdles 14.74: 1.) Brian Hutsler-12 (Sycamore) 14.46; 2.) Shawn Ledbetter-11 (Moline) 14.52; 3.) Josh Pope-11 (U.T.) 14.89; 4.) Evan Hackbarth-12 (Dixon) 15.00; 5.) Tim Gaumer-11 (Sterling) 15.27; 6.) Bryce Banks-11 (Rock Island) 15.28

Additional Geneseo in Prelims: Drew Croegaert-12: 16.35; Tom Peal-11: 16.43

100 Meter Dash 10.84: 1.) Richard Lewis-11 (Rock Island) 10.73; 2.) Cory Renner-12 (Sterling) 11.25; 3.) Earnest Reed-11 (Rochelle) 11.34; 4.) Airreo Greer-10 (U.T.) 11.37; 5.) DeMykhal Teague-09 (U.T.) 11.52; 6.) Bryan Kosusnik-10 (Sycamore) 11.74

Additional Geneseo in Prelims: Aaron Kotecki-09: 11.96; Logan Patton-10: 12.11

800 Meter Run 1:57.74: 1.) Sam Megli-12 (Sterling) 1:54.95; 2.) Jerome Harms-12 (U.T.) 1:56.87; 3.) Nate Silver-12 (Geneseo) 2:01.02; 4.) Colby Schulz-12 (Moline) 2:01.86; 5.) Andrew Santillo-11 (Minooka) 2:01.97; 6.) Casey Ferrigan-10 (Dixon) 2:02.16

Geneseo Splits: Nate Silver 2:01.02 (57 - 64)

800 Meter Relay 1:30.24: 1.) Rock Island (Lonnie Davis-11, Darnell Evans-12, Mark Taylor-12, Richard Lewis-11) 1:30.01; 2.) Sterling (Matt Hughes-11, Joe Schneiderbauer-12, Cory Renner-12, Josh Kunde-10) 1:30.79; 3.) United Township (Airreo Greer-10, DeMykhal Teague-09, Quinton Musgrow-11, Nate Warden-12) 1:31.04; 4.) LaSalle-Peru (Sam Mayszak-10, Tristan Lumpkins-10, Gavin Aubry-10, Eric Jenkins-09) 1:33.51; 5.) Rochelle (Devon Mancillas-10, Earnest Reed-11, Tom Milroy-12, Ben Walter-12) 1:34.15; 6.) Geneseo (Jacob Kuban-11, Jeremy Petters-12, Elliott Kenney-12, Jaran Heaton-11) 1:34.35

Geneseo Splits: Jacob Kuban: 23.47; Jeremy Peters 23.35; Elliott Kenney 24.46; Jaran Heaton: 22.84

400 Meter Dash 49.94: 1.) Shane Reschke-11 (Geneseo) 51.48; 2.) Clarence Hood-11 (Rock Island) 51.78; 3.) Adam Blazek-12 (Kaneland) 52.72; 4.) Andrew Marshall-11 (Streator) 53.39; 5.) Nate Ponton-09 (Minooka) 53.69; 6.) Brent VanLanduyt-11 (U.T.) 53.75

Additional Geneseo Athletes: 7.) Andrew Walter-11 53.78

300 Meter Intermediate Hurdles 39.84: 1.) Shawn Ledbetter-11 (Moline) 39.04; 2.) Craig Hall-12 (Galesburg) 39.34; 3.) Brian Hutsler-12 (Sycamore) 39.60; 4.) Bryce Banks-11 (Rock Island) 40.77; 5.) Josh Pope-11 (U.T.) 40.85; 6.) Boone Thorgesen-12 (Kaneland) 41.10

Additional Geneseo Athletes: 16.) Drew Croegaert-12 43.39; 19.) Tom Peal-11: 44.89

1600 Meter Run 4:24.74: 1.) Dan Chenoweth-12 (Geneseo) 4:14.64; 2.) Josh Bailey-12 (Galesburg) 4:22.97; 3.) Derek Campbell-11 (Sycamore) 4:25.10; 4.) Peter Grimson-11 (Sycamore) 4:26.05; 5.) Kyle Staley-12 (Rock Island) 4:27.35; 6.) Jon Mascote-10 (DeKalb) 4:28.92

Additional Geneseo Athletes: 22.) Josh Lodge-10: 4:47.40

Geneseo Splits:

-Dan Chenoweth: 62 - 2:07 (65) - 3:12 (65) - 4:14 (62)

-Josh Ldge: 68 - 2:19 (71) - 3:32 (73) - 4:47 (75)

200 Meter Dash 22.24: 1.) Richard Lewis-11 (Rock Island) 21.74; 2.) Cody Mixon-12 (Galesburg) 22.70; 3.) Darnell Evans-12 (Rock Island) 22.82; 4.) Airreo Greer-10 (U.T.) 22.98; 5.) Devon Mancillas-10 (Rochelle) 23.25; 6.) Bryan Kosusnik-10 (Sycamore) 23.31

Additional Geneseo Athletes: no entry

1600 Meter Relay 3:24.24: 1.) Sterling (Cory Renner-12, Joe Schneiderbauer-12, David Gonzalez-12, Sam Megli-11) 3:26.53; 2.) Geneseo (Jacob Kuban-11, Shane Reschke-11, Nate Silver-12, Andrew Walter-11) 3:27.60; 3.) Minooka (Andrew Santillo-11, Jim Kelly-11, Eric Hopman-12, James Hoffman-11) 3:28.18; 4.) Rock Island (Lonnie Davis-11, Clarence Hood-11, John Gunter-12, Curtis Lewis-12) 3:28.91; 5.) Galesburg (Lucas Junk-09, Andrew Thierry-12, Josh Thomas-09, Craig Hall-12) 3:31.33; 6.) Dixon (Alex Wakeley-11, Derek Hubbell-11, Kasey Ferrigan-10, Saul Capilla-12) 3:31.58;

Geneseo Splits: Jacob Kuban-11: 52.31; Shane Reschke-11: 51.12; Nate Silver-12: 53.41; Andrew Walter-11: 50.47

This is a Geneseo Track & Field Manila site.