Geneseo's Walter

making up for lost time

By Jeff Wendland

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s his sophomore baseball season was ending two springs ago, Andrew Walter realized his diamond days were numbered.

That's when the Geneseo High School senior decided to see if he still had it on the track.

Instead of trying out for the varsity baseball team last spring, Walter joined the Maple Leafs' track team and learned quickly that he may never have lost it.

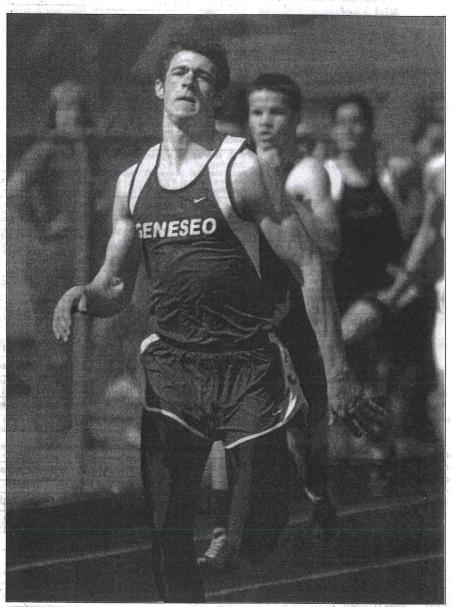
"I knew I didn't have much of a chance of seeing a lot of playing time in baseball," Walter said, "so I figured I ran track in seventh grade and maybe I could do it again."

Could he ever. As Walter and the Leafs prepare for tonight's Class AA Rock Island Sectional, the talented sprinter and jumper already holds two school records and ranks second in another.

His 10.95 FAT in the 100 last Friday at the NCIC boys' meet set his second school record, joining the mark in the 200. He's ranked No. 2 in the long jump. He also won the 400 at the NCIC meet, but won't be running that tonight.

"The long jump was probably the toughest to get back into," Walter said. "Last season, I was hitting the board wrong and scratching a lot. Our coaches have worked hard with me this spring, and, with a better approach, my jumps are a lot farther."

The reason he won't run the open 400 is that the Leafs have a 4x400 relay team that has the



Gary Krambeck / staff

Geneseo sprinter Andrew Walter is in just his second season of track, but the senior already has set school standards in the 100 and 200 and is second in the long jump.

potential to bring home a state medal. Walter is joined by Jacob Kuban, Shane Reschke and Billy Hamer on a squad that has posted the state's 10th best team this season.

"Jacob, Shane and I

ran together last year, and Billy joined us this spring," Walter said. "It's a lot of furfilinking about the potential we have in that event. Shane's brother Josh was great in the 400 at Gene-

seo and he's been helping us a lot."

While United Township is the prohibitive favorite for the team title tonight, Walter warns fans not to count out the Leafs.

Class AA RI Sectional

▶ Lowdown: The Class AA Rock Island Sectional will be contested tonight at Public Schools Stadium. Field events and preliminaries in the 100, 110 high hurdles and 200 start at 4 p.m.; and finals on the track start at 5:30 p.m.

➤ Fast facts: Cost is \$5 and concessions will be available. The top two in each event automatically qualify for next Friday's IHSA state meet in Charleston. Also, any event to equal or exceed state-qualifying standards also will advance.

State standards: 4x800 relay 8:03.24; 4x100 relay 43.14; Discus 155-0; 3,200 9:33.24; 110 high hurdles 14.74; 100 10.84: High jump 6-4; 800 1:57.74; Long jump 22-3; 4x200 relay 1:29.94; 400 49.94; Pole vault 13-9; 300 intermediate hurdles 39.84; 1,600 4:23.74; Shot put 52-9; 200 22.24; 3:24.24; Triple jump 45-0.

"UT is definitely our closest competition," he said, "but we can beat them, no question. Getting the most guys to state is what it's all about at this meet, but we still want that team title. We want to show that we can compete at the highest level."

UT track dominance one for the books

By Steve Tappa

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Members of the Rock Island High School boys' team were busy tearing away pieces of the track Friday night, beating Monday's wrecking ball for lasting mementos, after their home surface hosted the last of many memorable meets.

However, the squad that made the biggest of Friday's final memories, before a \$1.3 million renovation at Public Schools Stadium, accidentally exited the Class AA Rocky Sectional without claiming their many medals.

A week after winning the Western Big 6 Conference crown for the first time since 1993, United Township blew away the sectional field, winning eight events to breeze to the Panthers' first and only sectional crown since that same year.

With East Moline's 1933 District record-setter Don Cathcart in attendance, UT advanced 10 individuals and three relay teams to next weekend's state meet in Charleston.

East Moline did win District titles back in 1970 and '71. The Panthers placed as high

as second at state in 1969 and

"These kids far-exceeded my expectations," UT coach Bob Feller said after the Panthers piled up 129 points to easily outdistance the pack of pursuers.

Geneseo (51 points) and Moline (50) settled for third and fourth, respectively, with Maple Park Kaneland (52) edging both for runner-up honors. Rocky (5th at 48) and Alleman (8th at 32) also were in the 16-team field.

"We knew the last time we won conference, we also had a team win the sectional, so we wanted to do that, too," UT junior Aierro Greer said after winning the 100 and 200, and anchoring the victorious 400 and 800 relay teams. "We wanted to do something for the history books. We wanted to do something memorable."

The Panthers certainly did that, with Quinton Musgrow (long jump), Luke Martinez (pole vault), Michael Crabtree (high jump) and the 3200 relay also winning events. (The 3200 team includes Brent VanLanduyt, Jordan Johanson, Andy Wright and Andy Martinez).

Musgrow added a second in the triple jump after running

with Greer on the sprint relay winners. Josh Pope also was a state-qualifying runner-up in both hurdle events.

Feller might have been happiest, though, seeing senior shot-putter Matt Wendt (3rd) and sophomore pole-vaulter Chase Pavelonis (4th) also book state dates after hitting qualifying standards.

"No expectations now," Feller said. "The pressure's off. All we wanted to do was get as many as we could down state, and we did that."

However, not every local competitor is thinking that way

Moline's Shawn Ledbetter and Alleman's Tim Hird have high hopes after winning two events Friday. Ledbetter won the hurdles (110 and 300); Hird took the distance runs (1600 and 3200).

"I've been down there three years before this, so it's not enough to just qualify any more," said Ledbetter, a senior signed with Illinois to run track starting in the fall.

"I couldn' believe I made it as a freshman, then I got hurt as a sophomore, and I fell last year as a junior. So I'm due. I want to bring back a Top 3 medal."

Hird also hopes he's in the running, after finishing sixth in Class 2A's cross-country state meet last fall.

"I didn't run the times I wanted, but it's been a crazy spring, with the weather canceling meets and keeping us inside sometimes," said Hird, a junior. "I feel like I'm a couple of weeks from where I'd want to be, but maybe some other people feel like that, too. We'll see."

Also qualifying from Moline was Joe Zahn (2nd, 800), who also ran on the runnerup 3200 team with Ian Miller, Jonathan Smith and Nic Mizeur.

Geneseo's state-qualifiers included Jacob Kuban (2nd, 400) and Andrew Walter (2nd, long jump). The Maple Leafs also qualified in two relays — winning the 1600 with Kuban and Walter teamming with Shane Reschke and Billy Hamer. The same group finished second in the 400 relay, with Aaron Kotecki replacing Hamer.

Rocky's only state-qualifier was Triple Jump champ Julian Mayfield. Nobody besides Hird qualified from Alleman.



Geneseos Sectional Champion 1600 Meter Relay team members: Jacob Kuban, Shane Reschke, Billy Hamer, and Andrew Walter celebrate following their win.

Leafs 3rd in Sectional Finals

On Friday night, the Leafs participated in the 17-team IHSA sectional meet hosted by Rock Island High School. Leading the team to a strong 3rd place team showing were Billy Hamer, Aaron Kotecki, Jacob Kuban, Shane Reschke, and Andrew Walter who qualified for state in 4 events.

Aaron Kotecki, Andrew Walter, Jacob Kuban, and Shanre Reschke got things rolling with a ROARING 43.18 (FAT) clocking to grab 2nd place in the 400 meter Relay. Their FAT converted to hand-held time of 42.94 is the 4th fastest time in school history.

Andrew Walter continued his strong long jumping this season by grabbing 2nd to qualify for the state finals next week. His qualifying jump was a strong 21' 04".

Jacob Kuban booked the next trip to Charleston in the 400 meter dash as he busted out a personal best of 50.64 (FAT) which converts to 50.40 (hand-held) and is the 7th fastest time in school history. Jacob placed a close 2nd in his event after barely missing in the triple jump (3rd in 44' 03".)

Jacob Kuban, Shane Reschke, Billy Hamer, and Andrew Walter closed out the evening by running away with the 1600 meter relay. Their first place time of 3:25.00 (FAT) converts to 3:24.76 and is the 7th fastest time in school history. The following Leafs placed in the team scoring earning All-Sectional Honors:

- Long Jump: Andrew Walter (2nd); Shane Reschke (6th)
- Pole Vault: Jaran Heaton (6th)
- Triple Jump: Jacob Kuban (3rd)
- 400 Meter Relay: Aaron Kotecki, Jacob Kuban, Andrew Walter, Shane Reschke (2nd)
- 100 Meter Dash: Andrew Walter (3rd)
- 800 Meter Relay: Jaran Heaton, Collin DeBuysere, Luke Lembke, Billy Hamer (6th)
- 400 Meter Dash: Jacob Kuban (2nd); Shane Reschke (5th)
- 1600 Meter Relay: Jacob Kuban, Shane Reschke, Billy Hamer, Andrew Walter (1st)

RESULTS

2008 SECTIONAL RESULTS

Host Site: Rock Island High School

Date: 5-16-2008

Timing System: F.A.T. Scoring: 10-8-6-4-2-1

Weather Conditions: 75 Degrees with 15 mph wind

Team Scores: 1.) United Township (129; 2.) Maple Park (Kaneland) 52; 3.) Geneseo 51; 4.) Moline 50; 5.) Rock Island 48; 6.) Sycamore 37; 7.) Rochelle 35; 8.) Rock Island (Alleman) 32; 9.) Dixon 26; 10.) Sterling 20; 11.) Ottawa 18; 12T.) LaSalle-Peru 17; 12T.) Sandwich 17; 14.) Minooka 15; 15.) DeKalb 8; 16.) Rock Falls 3; 17.) Morris 0

Please Note: State meet qualifiers performances are underlined

Discus 155' 00": 1.) Phil Christensen-12 (Kaneland) 171' 10"; 2.) Adam Myers-12 (Dixon) 154' 08"; 3.) Jason Schepler-12 (Sycamore) 154' 08"; 4.) Kevin Sabock-12 (Sycamore) 149' 11"; 5.) Zach Bolte-12 (Minooka) 145' 02"; 6.) Juan Barron-12 (Rock Falls) 144' 05"

Additional Geneseo Athletes: 11.) Shane Miller-12: 132' 10"; 26.) Austin Ryan-12: 104' 09"

High Jump 6' 04": 1.) Michael Crabtree-10 (U.T.) 6' 04"; 2.) Craig Mathes-12 (Ottawa) 6' 02"; 3.) Shawn Ledbetter-12 (Moline) 6' 02"; 4T.) Jacob DeJaegher-09 (U.T.) 6' 02"; 4T.) Josh Artman-12 (Sandwich) 6' 02"; 6T.) Tony Lassiter-11 (Rochelle) 6' 00"; 6T.) Ben Schwartz-11 (Rochelle) 6' 00"

Additional Geneseo Athletes: 9T.) Jake Ballegeer-11: 5'10"; Tom Peal-12: MOH

Long Jump 22' 03": 1.) Quintn Musgrow-12 (U.T.) 22' 04 1/2"; 2.) Andrew Walter-12 (Geneseo) 21' 04"; 2.) 3.) Ben Sparkman-11 (Rock Island) 20' 10 1/2"; 4.) DeQuarious Johnson-11 (Rock Island) 20' 09 3/4"; 5.) Earnest Reed-12 (Rochelle) 20' 05 1/4"; 6.) Shane Reschke-12 (Geneseo) 20' 03 1/2"

Additional Geneseo Athletes: None

Pole Vault 13' 09": 1.) Luke Martinez-12 (U.T.) 14' 00"; 2.) Colton VanKirk-11 (Rochelle) 13' 09"; 3.) Logan Markunson-10 (Kaneland) 13' 09"; 4.) Chase Pavelonis-10 (U.T.) 13' 09"; 5.) Tim Gaumer-12 (Sterling) 13' 03"; 6.) Jaran Heaton-12 (Geneseo) 12' 09"

Additional Geneseo Athletes: none

Shot Put 52' 09": 1.) Adam Devine-12 (Dixon) 55' 06 1/2"; 2.) Phil Christensen-12 (Kaneland) 53' 08"; 3.) Matt Wendt-12 (U.T.) 53' 04"; 4.) Kevin Sabock-12 (Sycamore) 53' 03 1/4"; 5.) Macarthe Folkers-12 (Sterling) 50' 11 1/2"; 6.) Jason Schepler-12 (Sycamore) 49' 08 1/2"

Additional Geneseo Athletes: 16.) Austin Ryan-12: 43' 06"; 17.) Shane Miller-12: 42' 01"

Triple Jump 45' 00": 1.) Julian Mayfield-11 (Rock Island) 47' 06 1/2"; 2.) Quinton Musgrow-12 (U.T.) 47' 00"; 3.) Jacob Kuban-12 (Geneseo) 44' 03"; 4.) DeMetrius Singleton-10 (U.T.) 42' 01"; 5.) DeQuarious Johnson-11 (Rock Island) 41' 05 1/2"; 6.) Mark Snyder-11 (Sycamore) 41' 00"

Additional Geneseo Athletes: 16.) Tom Peal-12: 38' 00"

3200 Meter Relay 8:03.24: 1.) United Township (Jordan Johanson-11, Brent VanLanduyt-12, Andy Wright-11, Andy Martinez-10) 8:01.33; Moline (Joe Zahn-11, Nic Mizeur-11, Ian Miller-10, Jonathan Smith-11) 8:04.31; 3.) Dixon (Kasey Ferrigan-11, Kyle Boone-11, Matt Logan-11, Eric Dewey-11) 8:10.13; 4.) Minooka (Jim Kelly-12, Chris Devier-11, Matt Powers-10, Joe Schuett-12) 8:25.23; 5.) Kaneland (Nathan Short-12, Sean Paulick-10, Derek Bus-10, Dominic Furco-10) 8:42.24; 6.) Alleman (Marco Torres-12, Josh Lpeez-12, Matt Billingsley-09, Ryan Bush-09) 8:56.51

Additional Geneseo Athletes: none

400 Meter Relay 43.14: 1.) United Township (DeMykhal Teague-10, Quinton Musgrow-12, Josh Pope-12, Airreo Greer-11) 42.55; 2.) Geneseo (Aaron Kotecki-10, Andrew Walter-12, Jacob Kuban-12, Shane Reschke-12) 43.18; 3.) Rock Island (Jerraco Johnson-10, Ben Sparkman-11, DeQuarious Johnson-11, Julian Mayfield-11) 43.66; 4.) Kaneland (Lucas Ross-11, Colin Zagal-11, Brendan McCarthy-11, Tommy Whittaker-09) 44.70; 5.) Sandwich (Bobby Tassone-12, Josh Artman-12, Cody Arnett-12, Jaelen McWilliams-10) 45.28; 6.) Alleman (John Filazewski-12, Cale Raisbeck-11, Justin Quintana-09, John Michaletti-12) 45.46

Geneseo Splits: 2.) Aaron Kotecki: 10.66; Andew Walter:: 11.03; Jacob Kuban: 10.16; Shane Reschke: 11.09

3200 Meter Run 9:35.24: 1.) Tim Hird-11 (Alleman) <u>9:31.24</u>; 2.) Derek Campbell-12 (Sycamore) <u>9:37.23</u>; 3.) Brian McGuire-12 (Alleman) 9:59.43; 4.) Nick Schrader-10 (DeKalb) 10:00.16; 5.) Alex Stojanovic-09 (Moline) 10:10.65; 6.) Josh Keck-11 (Minooka) 10:11.53

Additional Geneseo Athletes & Splits:

- 11.) Josh Lodge-11 (70 2:26 (86) 3:41 (75) 4:59 (78) 6:19 (80) 7:40 (81) 9:02 (82) 10:23.31 (81)
- 25.) Chris Bisom-11 (74 2:35 (81) 3:59 (84) 5:29 (90) 7:01 (92) 8:34 (93) 10:07 (93) 11:28.57 (81)

110 Meter High Hurdles 14.74: 1.) Shawn Ledbetter-12 (Moline) 14.44; 2.) Josh Pope-12 (U.T.) 14.55; 3.) Bryce Banks-12 (Rock Island) 15.07; 4.) Tim Gaumer-12 (Sterling) 15.08; 5.) Micah Duvick-12 (Sandwich) 15.18; 6.) none

Additional Geneseo in Prelims: Tom Peal-12: 15.88; Ben Koenig-12: 17.55

100 Meter Dash 10.84: 1.) Airreo Greer-11 (U.T.) 10.82; 2.) Earnest Reed-12 (Rochelle) 11.02; 3.) AndrewWalter-12 (Geneseo) 11.05; 4.) DeMykhal Teague-10 (U.T.) 11.30; 5.) Jaelen Williams-10 (Sandwich) 11.51; 6.) Eric Jenkins-10 (L-P) 11.52

Additional Geneseo in Finals & Prelims: 7.) Aaron Kotecki-10: 11.53 (11.49 prelim); Andrew Walter: 11.22 (prelim)

800 Meter Run 1:57.74: 1.) Coree Woltering-12 (Ottawa) 1:57.73; 2.) Joe Zahn-11 (Moline) 1:58.40; 3.) John Gaffney-11 (Rock Island) 2:01.05; 4.) Hans Anderson-11 (Sycamore) 2:01.18; 5.) Will Stafstrom-12 (DeKalb) 2:01.95; 6.) Casey Ferrigan-11 (Dixon) 2:02.39

Additional Geneseo Athletes & Splits:

- 12) Ryan Kotecki-12: 2:05.46 (60 65)
- 13.) Jon Fleming-12: 2:06.02 (61 65)

800 Meter Relay 1:29.24: 1.) United Township (DeMykhal Teague-10, Quinton Musgrow-12, DeMetriyone Singleton-10, Airreo Greer-11) 1:29.14; 2.) Kaneland (Lucas Ross-11, Colin Zagel-11, Brendan McCarthy-11, Tommy Whittaker-09) 1:32.42; 3.) Sandwich (Bobby Tassone-12, Josh Artman-12, Cody Arnett-12, Jaelen McWilliams-10) 1:33.62; 4.) Sterling (Ryan Coppetelli-10, Soctt Koster-12, Jordan Rodriguez-12, Josh Kunde-11) 1:34.87; 5.) Rock Falls (Zohar Burciaga-11, Quentin Smith-12, Rian Nailor-12, Brian Diaz-09) 1:34.99; 6.) Geneseo (Jaran Heaton-12, Collin DeBuysere-12, Luke Lembke-10, Billy Hamer-09) 1:35.30

Geneseo Splits: Jaran Heaton: 23.41; Collin DeBuysere: 23.06; Luke Lembke: 24.44; Billy Hamer: 23.59

400 Meter Dash 49.94: 1.) Devon Mancillas-11 (Rochelle) 50.48; 2.) Jacob Kuban-12 (Geneseo) 50.64; 3.) Gavin Aubry-11 (L-P) 51.04; 4.) Andrew Santillo-12 (Minooka) 51.10; 5.) Shane Reschke-12 (Geneseo) 51.65; 6.) Shawn Carpenter-12 (Sandwich) 52.19

Additional Geneseo Athletes: none

300 Meter Intermediate Hurdies 39.84: 1.) Shawn Ledbetter-12 (Moline) 38.97; 2.) Josh Pope-12 (U.T.) 39.79; 3.) Logan Markuson-10 (Kaneland) 40.11; 4.) Charles Nunn-11 (Rock Island) 40.41; 5.) Jerraco Johnson-10 (Rock Island) 40.57; 6.) Josh Calkins-12 (Dixon) 40.58

Additional Geneseo Athletes: 14.) Tom Peal-12 43.33; 16.) Ben Koenig-12: 43.75

1600 Meter Run 4:24.74: 1.) Tim Hird-11 (Alleman) 4:27.74; 2.) Matt Gilmer-11 (Sycamore) 4:28.40; 3.)

Jonathan Smith-11 (Moline) 4:29.43; 4.) Scott Clark-12 (L-P) 4:34.36; 5.) Jon Mascote-11 (DeKalb) 4:36.87; 6.)

Nick Fagan-12 (Sycamore) 4:37.67

Additional Geneseo Athletes & Splits:

- 20.) Thomas Sigwalt-09: 4:52.68 (69 2:26 (77) 3:43 (77) 4:52 (69)
- 23.) Chad Ford-10: 5:01.54 (69 2:26 (77) 3:43 (77) 5:01 (78)

grandade sauthirdas

200 Meter Dash 22.24: 1.) Airreo Greer-11 (U.T.) 21.87; 2.) Corey Hartz-09 (Sterling) 22.76; 3.) Eric Jenkins-10 (L-P) 23.20; 4.) John Michaletti-12 (Alleman) 23.41; 5.) DeMetriyone Singleton-10 (U.T.) 23.45; 6.) Jaelen McWilliams-10 (Sandwich) 23.60

Additional Geneseo Athletes: 11.) Collin DeBuysere-12: 23.82 (prelims); 26.) Luke Lembke-10: 24.92 (prelims)

1600 Meter Relay 3:24.24: 1.) Geneseo (Jacob Kuban-12, Shane Reschke-12, Billy Hamer-09, Andrew Walter) 3:25.00; 2.) Kaneland (Hayden Johnson-11, Tommy Whittaker-09, Edgar Valle-10, Logan Markuson-10) 3:27.55; 3.) Rochelle (Trent Butler-12, Ben Schwartz-11, Ross Ellis-12, Je Torres-09) 3:20.34; 4.) Minooka (Andrew Santillo-12, Nate Ponton-10, Joe Schuett-12, James Hoffman-12) 3:31.23; 5.) Rock Island (John Gaffney-11, Ben Sparkman-11, Taylor Bobbykins-11, Bryce Banks-12) 3:31.38; 6.) United Township (DeMykhal Teague-10, Brent VanLanduyt-12, Jordan Johanson-11, Josh Pope-12) 3:32.21

Geneseo Splits: Jacob Kuban: 51.60; Shane Reschke: 50.81; Billy Hamer: 52.50; Andrew Walter: 49.99

This is a Geneseo Track & Field Manila site.

Five tracksters headed to state

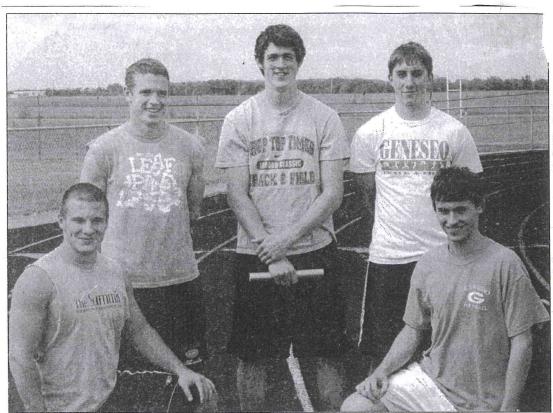


Photo by Amy Boldt

STATE BOUND are five members of the Geneseo boys' track and field team including front row, from left: Aaron Kotecki and Billy Hamer. Back row, from left: Jacob Kuban, Andrew Walter and Shane Reschke.

Sports Editor

The Geneseo boys' track and field continue to strive during championship meet season as the Leafs punched tickets to state in four events May 16 at the Rock Island sectional. The squad also nabbed a third-place finish overall out of 17 teams.

"They all competed at a very high level," said head coach Don Fredericks. "Our sectional is highly competitive and it was very fortunate to qualify in four events."

Andrew Walter qualified in the long jump with a leap of 21-4, while teammate Jacob Kuban took second in the 400-meter dash with a time of 50.64 seconds to advance.

Geneseo's 4x100-m relay of Aaron Kotecki, Walter, Kuban and Shane Reschke captured second to advance in 43.18. The Leafs' 4x400-m relay of Kuban, Reschke, Billy Hamer and Walter capped off the night with a first-place finish,

taking the tape 3:25.00.

Just missing the qualifying marks were Kuban in the triple jump with a mark of 44-03 and Walter in the 100-m dash in 11:05. Both took third in their respective events.

Additional Track Results
3200-m run- Josh Lodge,
11th, 10:23.31 and Chris
Bisom, 25th, 11:28.57.
100-m dash- Aaron Kotecki,
seventh, 11.53.

800-m run- Ryan Kotecki, 12th, 2:05.46 and Jon

4x200-m relay- Jaran Heaton, Collin DeBuysere, Luke Lembke and Hamer, sixth, 1:35.30.

400-m dash- Reschke, fifth, 51.65.

300-m intermediate hurdles- Peal, 14th, 43.33 and Ben Koenig, 16th, 43.75.
1600-m run- Thomas Sigwalt, 20th, 4:52.68 and Chad Ford, 23rd, 5:01.54.

Additional Field Results

Discus- Shane Miller, 11th,
132-10 and Austin Ryan,

26th, 104-9. High jump- Jake

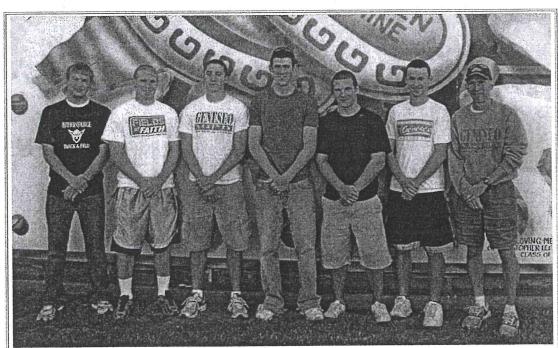
Ballegeer, ninth, 5-10. Long jump- Reschke, sixth, 20-3 1/2. Pole vault- Heaton, sixth, 12-9. Shot put- Ryan, 16th, 43-6 and Miller, 17th, 42-1. Triple jump- Tom Peal, 16th, 38-0.

"We had a tremendous conference meet and the guys just exploded," said Fredericks. "I was really proud of the kids we still had standing with us at the end. It was a very challenging season and we had to make massive adjustments due to the weather. The kids did a great job overcoming and peaked where we should be."

The Leafs will compete for

a state title this weekend, May 23 and 24, on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

"We will see ferocious competition," said Fredericks. "It will be great to see season bests, which is not easy to do and will be a tremendous accomplishment."



Five Leafs Headed to Charleston

Pictured heading to the State Track meet in Charleston, Illinois are: Coach Wickwire, Jacob Kuban, Shane Reschke, Andrew Walter, Aaron Kotecki, Billy Hamer, and Coach Fredericks.