

Akers attempts 7 foot sets new school record

Records...records....records....that is about as many records as Todd Akers reset with his 6'11" high jump during the Geneseo Quadrangular held Tuesday, May 3.

Akers is said to have almost cleared 7' when the bar quivered before tumbling to the ground.

His 6'11" jump broke the meet record, school record, Akers' personal record as well as being the highest in the state for Class A, so far this year.

"When I got to the meet Tuesday," Wendell Akers, Todd's father stated, "assistant coach Vic Boblett grabbed me and told me Todd had a great practice. He said he'd jump 6'11".

Earlier in the quadrangular, Akers cleared 6'9", then, on his third attempt at 7 foot, he got his hips over the bar, but nicked it with an ankle.

"It was exciting, and it really hasn't sunk in yet," said Geneseo's school record holder, who had twice cleared 6'8" this spring.

Akers said he deliberately slowed the start of his approach. "I changed my step. I moved back 10 feet and started out slower in the beginning. The wind helped a lot, that plus we moved the pit around to take advantage of it (the wind) and in so doing, we didn't have to take part of the approach on grass," Akers continued.

"I was just barely missing at 6'9" in practice Monday. I stopped, and decided to 'save it' for the meet."

Sterling took the event under windy condition with a team total of 88 points. Geneseo placed second. 77 points,

Clinton, third, 53 points and Bettendorf, fourth, 46 points.

Coach Don Fredericks felt his team made of "solid effort and we competed well."

"Now we're preparing for the Geneseo Invite, NCIC and Sectional competition."

Several other firsts and seconds highlighted the contest.

Derek Allen took first in the discus event followed by Jim Mason in fourth and Steve Nitz in fifth. Curt Seei claimed third in Geneseo's behalf in the shot put event.

Joining Akers in the high jump event were Dean Lewis, third place and Don Turner, fifth.

Phil Walsh also claimed the gold for Geneseo when he ran the 1600 meter race in 4:29.8. Justin VanVooren followed in third for the event while Brad Baker claimed fourth.

Steve Zobrist and Mark Reade claimed one and two in the 300 low hurdles in the victors cause while the 1600 meter relay team of Reade, Shawn

Alexander, Mike Haars and Ted Leamen took second for that event.

Haars also took a silver in the 800 meter race followed by Morris in third while Walsh and Baker split second and third in the 3200 meter event.



Todd Akers

Leafs' Akers high jumps 6-11

By Keith Brake
Staff sports writer

GENESEO — Geneseo high jumper Todd Akers was excited when he came home from practice Monday night, and his father, Wendell, picked up on that right away.

"When I got to the meet Tuesday," said the elder Akers, "Vic Boblett (an assistant track coach) grabbed me and told me Todd had a great practice. He said he'd jump 6-11."

Well, darned if Todd Akers didn't jump 6-11.

Earlier in Tuesday's quadrangular, he cleared 6-9, then, on his third try at 7 feet, he got his hips over the bar, but nicked it with an ankle, and down it fell.

"It was exciting, and it really hasn't sunk in yet," said Geneseo's school record holder, who had twice cleared 6-8 this spring before Tuesday's huge effort in a meet against Sterling, Bettendorf, and Clinton.

"He had been super-aggressive in practice," said Boblett. "His legs just came to life."

The jump was achieved with a strong wind at the athletes' backs. "That wind

helps you to increase your speed on the approach," said Geneseo jumps coach Mel Snook. "You don't have to work so hard on the approach, and you can concentrate on the jump."

Akers said he deliberately slowed the start of his approach. "I changed my step. I moved back 10 feet, and started out slower in the beginning," said the 6-4 senior. "The wind helped a lot, that plus we moved the pit around to take advantage of it, and in so doing, we didn't have to take part of the approach on grass."

"I was just barely missing at 6-9 in practice Monday. I stopped, and decided to 'save it' for the meet," said Akers. "I thought I'd do pretty well."

Akers' leap brought Geneseo head coach Don Fredericks bounding down the track, hands raised in jubilation. It also brought noteworthy handshakes and advice from athletes and coaches from Sterling, Geneseo's arch rival. And, the jump stole the thunder from the meet, which was a good one, bringing together four solid programs.

Sterling won it, 87 to 76 over Geneseo, with Clinton and Bettendorf finishing with 50 and 47, respectively. Sterling swept the

first four places in the pole vault and the first three in the triple jump — the last two recorded events — to grab the win. Other highlights included:

- A one-two finish by Maple Leafs Steve Zobrist (40.26) and Mark Reade (40.66) in the 300-meter low hurdles;

- Geneseo firsts by Phil Walsh in the 1,600 (4:29.8), Derek Allen in the discus (159-6¼), and strong second-place efforts by Walsh in the 3,200 (10:05.29) and by Mike Haars in the 800 (2:01.71)

Sterling sprint star Donnie Dittmar won the 100 (11.28), the 200 (22.70) and the 400 (52.28). Bettendorf's Greg Brown was in on four wins, including the 110-meter high hurdles (15.23), the long jump (21-2¼) and two sprint relays.

Geneseo and Sterling are jockeying in advance of the NCIC meet; this was the first Golden Warrior win over the Leafs this spring, but both sides were missing some key personnel.

"Clinton's distance people made a difference. But, we were after good seed times, and it was good competition," said Fredericks. "The biggest thing about this entire day was Todd Akers going 6-11 in the high jump. That was just fantastic."



Geneseo high jumper Todd Akers fails to clear the high jump bar at 7-feet, but the Maple Leaf star did clear 6-11 earlier in the meet Tuesday. (Photo by Keith Brake)

Also earning third place finishes were the 3200 relay of VanVooren, Alexander, Christian Michaelsen and Barry Bassier in addition to the 400 relay team of Bud Bennington, Chad Blunt, Reade and Zobrist.

Blunt earned another third in the 110 high hurdles while Zobrist followed in fifth. Bennington took fourth in the 100 meter dash and led the 800 relay to the same slot. Joining him in the relay were Durick, Leamen and Blunt.

Wachtel and Jackson grabbed on to fourth and fifth places for Geneseo in the 400 meter race. Durick and Akers took fifth in the pole vault and long jump events, respectively while Turner and Durick went four and five in the triple jump.



Just wins

Steve Zobrist wins the 400 relay at the Geneseo-Streator-Princeton triangular on the Leaf cinders April 28. Bud Bennington, Todd Smith and Ben Mayes were the other relay runners.

Republic photo

Geneseo Quadrangular

Team Points
1. Sterling 87; 2. Geneseo 76; 3. Clinton 50; 4. Bettendorf 47.

Individual Results

High jump — 1. Todd Akers, Geneseo, 6'11" (school record); 3. Dean Lewis, Geneseo, 6'4"; 5. Don Turner, Geneseo, 6'0".

1,600 relay — 1. Clinton, 3:32.34; 2. Geneseo, 3:36.04.

Pole vault — 1. Kory Kunde, Sterling, 14'0"; 5. Steve Durick, Geneseo, 12'0".

Triple jump — 1. Neil Wolfe, Sterling, 40'6-3/4"; 4. Turner, Geneseo, 37'4-3/4"; 5. Durick, Geneseo, 37'4-1/4".

3,200 relay — 1. Sterling, 8:32.0; 3. Geneseo, 8:55.4.

400 relay — 1. Bettendorf, :44.56; 3. Geneseo, :46.73.

3,200 — 1. Dave Ladehoff, Clinton, 9:59.08; 2. Phil Walsh, Geneseo, 10:05.29; 3. Brad Baker, 10:13.6.

110 high hurdles — 1. Greg Brown, Bettendorf, :15.23; 3. Chad Blunt, Geneseo, :15.86; 5. Steve Zobrist, Geneseo, :15.92.

Long jump — 1. Brown, Bettendorf, 21'2-1/2"; 5. Akers, Geneseo, 19'3".

800 — 1. Bill Sattler, Clinton, 1:59.94; 2. Mike Haars, Geneseo, 2:01.71; 3. Mike Morris, Geneseo, 2:05.89.

400 — 1. Donnie Dittmar, Sterling, :52.28; 4. Jay Wachtel, Geneseo, :55.0; 5. Tyrone Jackson, Geneseo, :55.71.

800 relay — 1. Bettendorf, 1:32.30.2.

100 — 1. Dittmar, Sterling, :11.28; 4. Bud Bennington, Geneseo, :11.87.

300 low hurdles — 1. Zobrist, Geneseo, :40.26; 2. Mark Reade, Geneseo, :40.66.

1,600 — 1. Phil Walsh, Geneseo, 4:29.80; 3. Jason VanVooren, Geneseo, 4:41.34; 4. Baker, Geneseo, 4:47.76.

Shot put — 1. Kevin Kurtz, Clinton, 50'10"; 3. Curt Seel, Geneseo, 47'3".

Discus — 1. Derek Allen, Geneseo, 159'6-1/2"; 4. Jim Mason, Geneseo, 138'1/2"; 5. Steve Nitz, Geneseo, 136'8-1/2".

200 — 1. Dittmar, Sterling, :22.70.

Boblett, Leaf coaches get new life

By Keith Brake
Staff sports writer

GENESEO — Told that Maple Leaf track star Todd Akers had cleared 6-11 in the high jump Tuesday night, a civic leader said, "Great!...who's gonna' be the football coach?"

That was a pretty common question around Geneseo this winter after football coach Vic Boblett and four other high school head coaches were pink-slipped by the school board.

Now, there's an answer: Vic Boblett is going to be the football coach, just like he was this past year.

Don Fredericks will coach track and cross country, like he has done the past two years. And, Ann Jamieson, head softball coach and freshman girls basketball coach, has been re-hired by the board.

Boblett, Fredericks and Jamieson were among five Geneseo head coaches pink-slipped prior to passage of a referendum in March. The other two, girls basketball coach Rich Thurman, and baseball coach Bob Stevens, were re-hired by the school board during April.

The three head coaches re-hired Tuesday night were among a number of teachers re-

hired by the board. Teaching assignments had to be adjusted to facilitate their re-hiring, and none of the teachers said they had been given their new teaching assignments as of Tuesday night.

"Obviously, my reaction is one of relief," said Boblett, who guided the Maple Leafs to a 9-2 record last fall in his first season as Geneseo's head coach.

"After the referendum was passed it was hard for me to believe Geneseo would lose its head football coach in that way (pink-slipping) after the community had rallied in support of the schools. Through the whole thing, I believed in my heart things would turn out OK. But, my brain told me things didn't look very good."

Boblett went job-hunting. He was one of the final three candidates for a vacant job at Evanston High, and reached the final two at rapidly-growing Waubonsie Valley High just outside Aurora.

Fredericks coaches hundreds of boys and girls in his track and cross country programs. Normally, he's upbeat; he claims he hasn't met a student he didn't like. "But this winter was a very stressful time," he said. "Trying to have fun is the most important part of our program, but for a while, it

hasn't been fun. Every day was gray.

"I felt we were just starting to accomplish things," said Fredericks. "I love the town and the people, and I want to stay."

"The sun's out again," said Fredericks, late Tuesday night. "There are a lot of positive things to do."

Jamieson agreed that there was stress to endure during the waiting period. "Every day, you had to do something about looking for a new job," she said. "Now, I feel a weight off my shoulders. I've got the security of knowing I'll have a job. And I'm glad to be able to coach sports I love."

Two athletes contacted late Tuesday night said the news likely would be welcomed today.

Chad Loucks, a sophomore, is a prospective football player for Boblett this fall, and, as a sprinter, already is involved with Fredericks and Boblett. "It's good news," Loucks said. "The guys all like coach Boblett a lot, and coach Fredericks gets along well with everyone, too."

"That's good. It's great. I'm excited," said sophomore Karmen Roehrs when told the news. She's a distance runner, coached by Fredericks. "He cares about the team," said Roehrs. "He cares about everybody."

Sterling 88
Geneseo 77
Clinton 53
Bettendorf 46

Conditions: 70° - Windy

5/3/88

School
Rec'd *

Shot (3rd) Seei 47-3 1/2 Allen 44-6 1/2 Talbot 43-8 Behnkendorf 39-2 3/4 Tlamm
 Ficker 125-5 1/2 Verriker 115-4 Griffitt 107-2

Discus (1st) Allen 159-6 1/2 (4th) Mason 138-1 1/2 (5th) Nitz 136-8 1/2

H.J. (1st) Akers 64-6-6-8 (3rd) Lewis 6-4 (5th) Turner 6-0

P.V. (5th) Durick 12-0 G. Klipp 11-6 B. Klipp 11-6 Erbst 10-6 Johnson 10-6

L.J. (5th) Akers 19-2 Edwards 19-0 Hemm 18-3 1/2 Jackson 17-4

T.J. (4th) Turner 37-4 3/4 (5th) Durick 37-4 1/4 Hemm 37-1 Edwards 34-7 1/2

8:55.4 3200R (3rd) VanVooren 2:08.9 Alexander 2:10.9 Michaelson 2:19.2 Bassier 2:16.2

46.73 400R (3rd) Bennington 11.7 Blunt 11.6 Reide 10.95 Zobrist 10.7

3200 (2nd) Walsh 10:05.3 67-2:22-3:38-4:57-6:15-7:36-8:51 →

(3rd) Baker 10:13.6 68-2:22-3:38-4:57-6:16-7:36-8:55 →

Chavez 11:21.0 73-2:37-4:01-5:29-6:56-8:26-9:58-11:21 →

11044 (3rd) Blunt 15.86 (5th) Zobrist 15.92

100 (4th) Bennington 11.87 Grader 12.51

800 (2nd) Haars 2:01.8 (57) (3rd) Morris 2:05.9 (59)

1:36.35 800R (4th) Bennington 22.9 Durick 23.1 Leamen 23.2 Blunt 22.9

400 (4th) Wachtel 55.0 (5th) Jackson 55.71 Holevoet 57.02

300LH (1st) Zobrist 40.26 (2nd) Reide 40.66

1600 (1st) Walsh 4:29.8 63-2:16-3:23 → (3rd) VanVooren 4:41.34 64-2:17-3:30 →

Chavez 5:16 75-2:37-4:02 →

(4th) Baker 4:47.8 65-2:17-3:34 → Bassier 5:11 67-2:24-3:49 →

200 Bennington 24.28 Grader 25.39

3:36.04 1600R (2nd) Reide 54.0 Alexander 56.13 Haars 52.35 Leamen 53.52

Solid Team Effort — We competed WELL

Let's Go Leafs... Zero in on the (6th IN)
 (((Aim for your Best when it counts)))) NCIC SECT

Van V
Blunt
G. Klipp

Sterling, Clinton, + Bettendorf (Uar) (503-88)

Varsity				Fresh-John			
EVENT *	Time and Distance	First Place	School	Second Place	School	Third Place	School
3200R	8:32.0	Wilkinson Porter Nicholaus Canas	St	8:33.4	CL	8:55.4	G
400R	:44.56	Brown Pitzele Banks Holm	B	:45.17	S	:46.73	G
3200	9:59.08	Ladehoff	C	10:05.29 Walsh	G	10:13.6 Baker	G
110HH	:15.23	BROWN	B	:15.28 Holme	B	:15.86 BLUNT	G
100	:11.28	Ditmer	S	:11.35 Green	C	:11.45 Van Osdel	S
800	1:59.94	Sattler	C	2:01.71 Haars	G	2:05.89 Morris	G
800R	1:32.3	Brown Pitzele Banks Holm	B	1:33.26	C	1:36.01	S
400	52.28	Ditmar	S	53.45 Nicholaus	S	53.68 Solis	B
300UH	40.26	Zobrist	G	40.66 Reade	G	42.11 Wolf	S
1600	4:29.80	Walsh	G	4:39.0 Ladehoff	C	4:41.34 Van Vooren	G
200	22.70	Ditmer	S	23.12 Banks	B	23.44 Van Osdel	S
1600R	3:32.34	Senior Green Ernst Sattler	C	3:36.01	G	3:37.84	B
SHOT	50'10"	Kurtz	C	48'8 3/4" Thompson	B	47'3 1/2" Seel	G
DISC	159'6 1/2"	Allen	G	141'6 1/2" Frazier	S	143'3" Klahn	C
HJ	6'11"	Akers	G	6'6" Kuehl	C	6'4" Lewis	G
PV	14'6"	Kunde	S	13'6" Gebhardt	S	13'6" Setelo	S
LJ	21'2 1/2"	BROWN	B	19'10" Totten	S	19'9" Banks	B
TJ	40'6 3/4"	Wolfe	S	38'10 1/2" Totten	S	38'5 1/2" Sullivan	S

Scoring		Team	②	③	④
Ind.		5-3-1	5-3-2	6-4-3-2-1	
Relay		5-0	5-3-0	5-3-1-0	

Sterling, Clinton, + Bettendorf

(Var) (ps. 2)

Team Scores

	Fourth Place	School	Fifth Place	School
3200R	9:42	B		
400R	1:47.49	C		
320	10:35.64 Wilson	B	10:55.11 Herrington	S
1100H	1:15.91 Wolf	S	1:15.92 Zobrist	G
100	1:11.87 Bennington	G	1:12.01 Pitzler	B
800	2:07.76 Sharkness	B	2:11.95 Canal	S
800R	1:36.35	G		
400	55.0 Nachtel	G	55.71 Jackson	G
300LH	42.32 Tollen	S	42.88 Jungen	C
1600	4:47.76 Baker	G	4:48.2 Pords	S
200	23.35 Seymour	C	23.33 Davis	C
1600R	3:42.47	S		
Shot	47' 1/2" Frazier	S	45' 1/2" Burlan	S
Disc	138 1 1/2 Mason	G	136 8 1/2 Nitz	G
H.J.	6 2 Ronzelle	S	6 0 Turner	G
P.U.	12 6 Schwab	S	12 0 Durick	G
L.J.	19' 8" Seymore	C	19' 2" Akers	G
T.J.	37 4 1/2 Turner	G	37 4 1/2 Durick	G

Geneseo	Sterling	Clinton	Bettendorf
1/1	5/5	3/3	0/0
1/2	3/8	0/3	5/5
7/9	1/9	6/9	2/7
4/3	2/11	0/9	10/17
2/22	9/22	4/22	1/25
7/20	1/12	6/15	2/19
0/20	1/13	3/18	5/24
3/35	10/37	0/23	3/28
10/32	5/27	1/23	0/25
11/46	1/38	4/27	0/28
0/46	9/47	3/30	4/32
3/49	0/47	5/35	1/33
3/53	3/50	6/44	4/37
9/62	4/54	3/41	0/37
10/72	2/56	4/51	0/37
1/73	15/71	0/51	0/37
1/74	4/75	2/53	9/46
3/77	13/88	0/53	0/46
(77)	(88)	(53)	(46)

TOTAL SCORE