

Leaf tracksters leave March with good showing

A first and a second sent the varsity Leaf tracksters out of March. Tuesday, March 29 the group took second in East Moline under snowy conditions while on Thursday, March 31 the Leafs grabbed first at Davenport West.

A mild wind prevailed Thursday as the Leafs took a 78 point win over Davenport West, 57 and Davenport North, 37.

Coach Don Fredericks felt as a team "we competed very well. We are well on our way to obtaining a very successful season."

Geneseo held several place finishers at the meet including a second in shot from Curt Seei, 46'9" and third from Derek Allen, 45'3-1/2".

First and second place was wrapped up by the Leafs in the discus with Steve Nitz holding first, 145'9" and Allen second with 145'2".

All three slots were sewn up in the high jump with Todd Akers going 6'6" for first, Dean Lewis 6'2" for second and Justin Reed and Don Turner tying for third with a jump of 6' even.

Reed also took third in the long jump with a distance of 19'3-3/4". Placing in the 3200 were Mike Haars, second, 10:08.9 and Jason VanVooren, third, 10:17.2.

Steve Zobrist took first in the 110 high hurdles with a time of 15.74 while Ben Mayes nabbed a fourth in the 100, 11.70.

The 3200 relay team placed third with a time of 8:47.8. Members were Mike Morris, Shawn Alexander, Christian Michaelson and Barry Bassier.

Steve Fleming placed third in the 200, 24.06, while Phil Walsh took first in the 1600 with a time of 4:36.9. Heath Lowe placed fourth in the event in a time of 5:03.0.

The 800 relay team of Bud Bennington, Todd Smith, Tyrone Jackson and Fleming took second place with a time of 1:40.5 while the 1600 medley relay placed third in 4:08.4. Members of the 1600 were Ryan Edwards, Corey Graderi, Joseph Holevoet and Bassier.

Ted Leamen and Haars took second and third, respectively, in the 400 event. Leamen clocked in at 53.4 while Haars clocked 54.0.

Zobrist earned another first for the Leafs in the 400 low hurdles with his time of 59.1 while Mark Reade took second in the event with a time of 60.4.

First, third and fourth places were nabbed by the Leafs in the 800 with Walsh taking first, 2:02.3, Morris, third, 2:07.9 and VanVooren, fourth, 2:11.2.

The 400 relay and the 1600 relay each earned second place finishes with the 400 clocking 46:73 and the 1600 clocking 3:42.4. Members of the 400 team are Zobrist, Bennington, Smith and Fleming while the 1600 relay was comprised of

Reade, Holevoet, Haars and Leamen.

Snow and wind were major factors in the Tuesday meet in East Moline. Because of the adverse weather conditions, the varsity triple jump and the pole vault events were cancelled. According to Coach Fredericks, Geneseo was favored to win the triple jump and the pole vaulting events.

"We were very proud of the efforts put out by the squad," Coach Fredericks stated.

Second, third and fourth places were taken by the varsity Leafs in the shot event with Seei going 46'4" for second, Allen 44'1/2" for third and Ken Talbot hurling 39'4" for fourth. Allen then placed first in the discus with a distance of 138' with James Mason and Steve Nitz taking the third and fourth place slots.

A clean sweep in the high jump aided in Geneseo's 75 point tally. Akers led the crowd with a first place leap of 5'10" followed by Reed, second, 5'8", Don Turner, third, 5'6" and Mike Campbell, fourth, 5'6". Reed also placed first in the long jump with a distance of 19'3".

Second place finishes were captured by the 3200 and 400 relay teams. The 3200 relay of Morris, VanVooren, Michaelson and Haars clocked in at 8:39.7 while Zobrist, Chad Blunt, Mayes and Steve Fleming combined for the 400 relay which clocked in at 45.1.

In the 110 high hurdles, Zobrist took first 15.96 and Blunt, fourth 16.69.

Mayes took third in the 100, 11.5.

Walsh took first in the 3200 event in 10:10.8 while Alexander took fourth, 10:54.

Haars placed second in the 800, 2:04.9 while the 800 relay team of Bennington, Edwards, Smith and Steve Durick, placed second in 1:42.1.

A third place finish in the 400 was earned by Leamen with his time of 55.4. Zobrist and Blunt took second and fourth, respectively, in the 300 low hurdles with Zobrist clocking 42.5 and Blunt, 43.4.

Walsh and VanVooren wrapped up first and second in the 1600 event. Walsh took the tape in 4:45.4 while VanVooren crossed the line in 4:48.

In the 200 Mayes placed third, 24.9 and Gradert fourth, 25.8.

A second was obtained by the 1600 relay team. Those clocking the time of 3:47.5 were Jackson, Morris, Haars and Leamen.

United Township won the event with 85 team points followed by Geneseo, 75 and Orion, 4.

Coaches for the track team include Vic Boblett, sprints, Mel Snook, jumps, Denny Diericx, weights and Don Fredericks, distance.

**Geneseo 78, Davenport West 57,
Davenport North 37**

Individual Results

3,200 Run — 1. Moore, West, 10:06.4; 2. Mike Haars, Geneseo; 3. Jason VanVooren, Geneseo.

110 High Hurdles — 1. Steve Zobrist, Geneseo, 15.74; 2. Azzen, North; 3. Bailen, North.

100 — 1. Pay, North, 10.78; 2. Shedd, West; 3. Young, North.

3,200 Relay — 1. West (Roseman, Buckles, Kruse, Miller), 8:32.8; 2. Geneseo.

200 Dash — 1. Shedd, West, 22.5; 2. Willingham, North; 3. Steve Fleming, Geneseo.

1,600 Run — 1. Phil Walsh, Geneseo, 4:36.9; 2. Moore, West; 3. Iverson, West.

800 Relay — 1. North (Daye, Anderson, Young, Sturdivant), 1:32.3.

400 — 1. Orbutt, West, 52.99; 2. Ted Leamen, Geneseo; 3. Mike Haars, Geneseo.

400 Low Hurdles — 1. Steve Zobrist, Geneseo, 59.1; 2. Mark Reade, Geneseo, 50.3; 3. Frazier, West.

1,600 Medley Relay — 1. North (Young, Daye, Anderson, Sturdivant), 3:49.5.

800 — 1. Phil Walsh, Geneseo, 2:02.3; 2. Kruse, West; Mike Morris, Geneseo.

400 Relay — 1. North (Willingham, McNea, Anderson, Sturdivant), 46.0.

1,600 Relay — 1. West (Shedd, Buckles, Lacy, Frazier), 3:39.5; 2. Geneseo.

Shot put — 1. Rommel, West, 48-8; 2. Curt Seer, Geneseo; 3. Derrick Allen, Geneseo.

Discus — 1. Steve Nitz, Geneseo, 145-9; 2. Derrick Allen, Geneseo; 3. Rommel, West.

Long jump — 1. Daye, North, 21-5; 2. Shedd, West; 3. J. Reed, Geneseo.

High jump — 1. Todd Akers, Geneseo, 6-6; 2. Dean Lewis, Geneseo; 3. J. Reed, Geneseo, and Don Turner, Geneseo.

Frosh-Soph — Geneseo 115, Davenport North 20, Davenport West 19.

Frosh-soph team whomps Davenport but falls to UT

Geneseo's frosh-soph track team took to the track for an overwhelming victory Thursday, March 31.

Tuesday, March 29 the squad hung tough but took second to United Township.

Geneseo tallied 115 points for the first place victory at Davenport West March 31. Davenport North mustered just 20 points while Davenport West tallied 19.

Coach Don Fredericks noted the weather was "nice" with 57 degree temps and just a mild wind. He boasted of the efforts of the team but also noted that both North and West were "a bit low on numbers due to spring break."

Geneseo placers in the shot event were James Walker, second, 39' 1-1/2" and Kent Swanson, fourth, 29' 2-1/2". Chad Harder and Jon McAvoy captured first and second place in the discus event with distances of 117'4" and 90'5", respectively.

Ryan Verbeck topped 5'6" for third place in the high jump followed by Steven Campbell in fourth at 5'.

Brad Diericx leaped 18'1/2" in the long jump for first place. David Evans took third at 15'1" while Ryan Kleinau nabbed fourth at a length of 14'9".

First, second and third places were captured by Leafrosh in the 3200 meter race. Jason Leigh clocked in at 10:18.7 for first followed by Brian Walsh in second, 10:54.3 and Neil Radicic in third, 11:53.8.

Chad Blunt and McAvoy tied up the first two spots in the 110 high hurdles. Blunt took first with a time of 16.99 while McAvoy followed at 18.68.

Verbeck recorded a first in the 100 at a time of 12.02 followed by Chad Loucks in second, 12.19.

The 3200 relay team also recorded a first place finish by taking the tape in 9:39.2. Members of the squad were Calvin Orwig, Bryan Glass, Campbell and Justin VanVooren.

In the 200 meter event Diericx took the tape in 25.42 while Andrew Hahn placed second with a time of 26.15.

Another cross the board tally was hit by the Leafrosh in the 1600 meter. Leigh took first in 4:59.2 followed by Henderson, second, 5:13.6 and Travis Stroh, third, 5:27.9.

The 800 relay squad of Loucks, Diericx, Verbeck and Hahn took first with a time of 1:41.5. The 400 meter race was a dominated by Geneseo finishers with Harder in first, 56.3, Joseph Rogers, second, 58.6 and Radicic, third, 69.3.

For the 400 low hurdles it was again the Blunt, McAvoy combination with Blunt taking first, 62.9 and McAvoy in second, 63.5.

And the first place finishes continued to roll in. The 1600 medley relay took first in 4:23.9. Team members were Shane McKibbin, Pat Lawrence, Ryan Kleinau and VanVooren.

The 400 relay and the 1600 relays also took first place ribbons. The 400 relay clocked in at 47.27 with members Loucks, Diericx, Verbeck and Blunt while the 1600 relay was timed at 4:01.8 with members VanVooren, J. Rogers, McAvoy and Harder.

Leigh took second in the 800 meters while Walsh took third. Their respective times were 2:15.3 and 2:16.8.

Weather conditions didn't help matters March 29 with 35 degree temperatures topped with windy and snowy conditions.

United Township took the meet which was held in East Moline with 80 points while Geneseo took second with 78 points. Orion rounded out the field with just 14 total points.

Six first place finishes were marked by the Leafrosh tracksters.

Mark Chaney cleared the pole vault event at a height of 8'6" for first. Verbeck also recorded a first in the second-place team effort by clearing the high jump at 5'2".

The 3200 relay also marked a first place finish. The squad of Leigh, VanVooren, Walsh and Henderson took the tape in 9:24. McAvoy kept the winning streak going with his first place time of 19.5 in the 110 high hurdles.

Leigh added two firsts to his tally with a time of 2:15.4 in the 800 meter and a 5:04.9 in the 1600 meter event.

Others placing for the Leafrosh include James Walker, second, in the shot; McAvoy, second and Harder, third, discus; Lawrence, second, Bjork, third and Paul Holder, fourth, pole vault; Diericx, third, long jump; 400 relay, second, with members Loucks, Diericx, Verbeck and Hahn; Verbeck, second, 100; Glass, second and Orwig, fourth, 3200 meter; 800 relay, second, with members Loucks, Verbeck, Diericx and Hahn; VanVooren, third, 800 meters; McAvoy, second and McKibbin, fourth, 300 low hurdles and Glass, second, 1600 meters.

Also placing were Loucks, third and Hahn, fourth, 200 meters; Harder, third and Evans, fourth, 400 meters and the 1600 relay, second, with members VanVooren, Diericx, McAvoy and Harder.

Geneseo 78 At Davenport West 3/31 57' Mild Wind
 Davenport West 57
 Davenport North 37
 Shot: Seei ^③ 2nd 46-9 Allen ^② 3rd 45-3 1/2 Behnkendorf 40-9 1/2
 Talbot 38-9 1/2 Timmerman 31-8
 Discus: Nitz ^⑤ 1st 145-9 Allen ^③ 2nd 145-2 Eaker 116-2 Versluys 108-5
 Griffith 93-10 Wachtel 81-10
 High Jump: Akers ^⑤ 1st 6-6 Lewis ^③ 2nd 6-2 Reed ^② & Turner ^② tie 3rd 6-0
 Long Jump: Reed ^② 3rd 19-3 3/4 Jackson 17-7 1/2 Bennington 17-3
 Edwards 16-4 1/4 Anderson 16-3 1/2
 3200: Haars ^③ 2nd 67-2:23-3:42-5:02-6:32-7:43-8:59-10:08.9
 VanVooren ^② 3rd 69-2:24-3:41-5:02-6:32-7:43-9:03-10:17.2
 Chavez 72-2:32-4:01-5:31-7:02-8:33-10:01-11:26.2
 110 High Hurdles: Zobrist ^⑤ 1st 15.74
 100: Mayes ^① 4th 11.70
 3200 Relay: 3rd 8:47.8 Morris 63-2:07.7 Alexander 61-2:09.4
 Michaelson 62-2:14.1 Bassier 63-2:16.3
 200: Fleming ^② 3rd 24.06
 1600: Walsh ^⑤ 1st 62-2:14-3:27-4:36.9 Lowe ^① 4th 67-2:28-3:46-503.0
 800 Relay: 2nd 1:40.5 Bennington ^④ 25.4 Smith ^④ 24.2 Jackson ^④ 23.9
 Fleming ^④ 27.0
 400: Leamen ^③ 2nd 53.4 Haars ^② 3rd 54.0 Michaelson 59.1 Jackson 62.0
 400 Low Hurdles: Zobrist ^⑤ 1st 59.1 Reade ^③ 2nd 60.4
 1600 Med. Relay: 3rd 4:08.4 Edwards 25.4 Gradert 25.8 Holevoet 56.4
 Bassier 63-2:20.8
 800: Walsh ^⑤ 1st 58-2:02.3 Morris ^② 3rd 60-2:07.9 VanVooren ^① 4th 61-2:11.2
 Lowe 67-2:11.4 Alexander 62-2:17.4 Chavez 69-2:26.1
 400 Relay: 2nd 46;73 Zobrist ^④ 12.4 Bennington ^④ 11.7 Smith ^④ 11.3
 Fleming ^④ 11.2
 1600 Relay: 2nd 3:42.4 Reade ^④ 54.8 Holevoet ^④ 58.2 Haars ^④ 54.4 Leamen ^④ 54.6

Overall Observation: As a team we competed very well. We are well
 on our way to obtaining a very successful season.
 Keep working hard....it will pay huge rewards.

Way to go Leafs.

TRACK-MEET

~~South Shore~~
Varsity

POINTS: Single Events 5-3-2-1 Relays 5-3 Date 3-31-88

Varsity

GENESEO VS. NORTH VS. WEST VS.

EVENT	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH	RECORD	SCORE		
							West	North	Gen
3200 M RUN	W 10:06.33 Moore	G 10:08.81 Haars	G 10:17.11 VanHoren	W 10:48.53 Iverson			6 6	0 0	5 5
110 M H H	15.74 ZOBRIK	16.37 Atzen	17.19 Ballen	18.36 Fraizer			1 7	5 5	5 10
100 M DASH	N 10.78 Pau	W 10.84 Shedd	N 11.65 Young	G 11.7 Mayes			3 10	7 12	1 11
3200 M RELAY	8:32.54 W	8:47.78 G			1st Roseman Buckles Krusse Miller		5 15	0 12	3 14
200 M DASH	W 22.50 Shedd	N 23.95 Willingham	G 24.06 Fleming	N 24.30 McNeal	25.9 Lacy		5 20	4 16	2 16
1600 M RUN	G 43.68 Walsh	W 45.71 Moore	W 45.78 Iverson	G 50.29 Lowie			5 25	0 16	6 22
800 M RELAY	N 1:32.29	G 1:40.47	W 1:48.35		N- Daye 1st Anderson Young Sturdivant		0 25	5 21	3 25
400 M DASH	W 52.98 Orcutt	G 53.40 Leamen	G 53.94 Haars	N 54.09 55.68 Willingham			5 30	1 22	5 30
400 M L H	G 59.09 Zobrist	1:00.32 Reade	1:02.75 Fraizer	1:07.71 Griffin			3 33	0 22	8 38
1600 M MED. RELAY	N 3:49.51	W 3:52.65	G 4:08.31		N 1st Young Daye Anderson Sturdivant		3 36	5 27	0 38
800 M RUN	G 2:02.26 Walsh	W 2:04.51 Krusse	G 2:07.87 Morris	2:11.15 VanHoren			3 39	0 27	8 46
400 M RELAY	N 46.0	G 46.73	W 53.37		N Willingham 1st McNeal Anderson Sturdivant		0 39	5 32	3 49
1600 M RELAY	G 3:39.59	W 3:42.38			W Shedd 1st Buckles Lacy		5 44	0 32	3 52
SHOT PUT	W 48'8" Rommel	G 46'9" Seei	G 45'3.5" Allen	W 42'9.5" Daily	N 42' Fraizer Uatish		5 50	0 32	5 57
DISCUS	G Nitz 145'9"	G 145'2" Allen	W 134'11" Rommel	W 118'10" Daily			3 53	0 32	8 65
LONG JUMP	N 21'5" Daye	W 20'10" Shedd	G 19'8.75" Reed	W 18'2.5" Lacy			4 57	5 37	2 67
HIGH JUMP	G 6'6" Akers	G 6'5" Lewis	G 6' Reed	G 6' Turner			0 57	0 37	11 78

Geneseo 115

At Davenport West 3/31 57' Mild Wind

Davenport North 20

Davenport West 19

Shot: Walker 2nd 39-1 1/2 Swanson 4th 29-2 1/2 Mitchell 27-8 Sweeley 27-
Plumley 25-4 1/2 Hungate 24-8 1/2 Johnson 19-9 Bassier 18-4

Discus: Harder 1st 117-4 McAvoy 2nd 90-5 Bassier 70-3 Mitchell 69-1
Sweeley 65-1 Swanson 62-6 Johnson 61-3

High Jump: Verbeck 3rd 5-6 Campbell 4th 5-0 Evans N.H.

Long Jump: Diericx 1st 18-1/2 Evans 3rd 15-1 Kleinau 4th 14-9
Lawrence 14-6 Redding 12-6 3/4

3200: Leigh 1st 68-2:24-3:42-5:03-6:32-7:43-9:03-10:18.7
Walsh 2nd 70-2:31-3:53-5:17-6:42-8:10-9:39-10:54.3
Radacic 3rd 76-2:44-4:15-5:50-7:22-8:55-10:20-11:53.8

110 High Hurdles: Blunt 1st 16.99 McAvoy 2nd 18.68

100: Verbeck 1st 12.02 Locuks 2nd 12.19

3200 Relay: 1st 9:39.2 Orwig 69-2:21.8 Glass 69-2:25.3 Campbell 72-2:30.
VanVooren 66-2:21.8

200: Diericx 1st 25.42 Hahn 2nd 26.15

1600: Leigh 1st 73-2:32-3:48-4:59.2 Henderson 2nd 74-2:33-3:52-5:13.6
Stroh 3rd 78-2:44-4:07-5:27.9 Barnes 78-2:45-4:14-5:40.4
Collis 88-3:10 4:55-6:24.2 Sheets 86-3:10-4:55-6:35.7

800 Relay: 1st 1:41.5 Loucks 24.6 Diericx 23.9 Verbeck 28.1 Hahn 26.7

400: Harder 1st 56.3 J. Rogers 2nd 58.6 Radacic 3rd 69.3

400 Low Hurdles: Blunt 1st 62.9 McAvoy 2nd 63.5

1600 Med Relay: 1st 4:23.9 McKibbon 28.9 Lawrence 28.0 Kleinau 60.6
VanVooren 67-2:26.0

800: Leigh 2nd 65-2:15.3 Walsh 3rd 65-2:16.8 Henderson 75?-2:20
Glass 67-2:25 Orwig 67-2:26 Barnes 76-2:31 Campbell 75-2:32
Stroh 86-2:38 Sheets 85-2:55 Collis 85-2:59

400 Relay: 1st 47.27 Loucks 11.8 Diericx 12.4 Verbeck 11.9 Blunt 11.3

1600 Relay: 1st 4:01.8 VanVooren 59.4 J. Rogers 62.8 McAvoy 61.6
Harder 58.1

Overall Observations: A tremendous team effort. Don't let it go to your heads Leafs!!!! Both West and North were a bit low on numbers due to spring break. Oh well. We are very proud of your efforts and most importantly, your team spirit. Keep up the great job.....

~~VARSITY~~

TRACK MEET

POINTS: Single Events 5-3-2-1

Relays 5-3

Date 3-31-88

SOPHOMORE

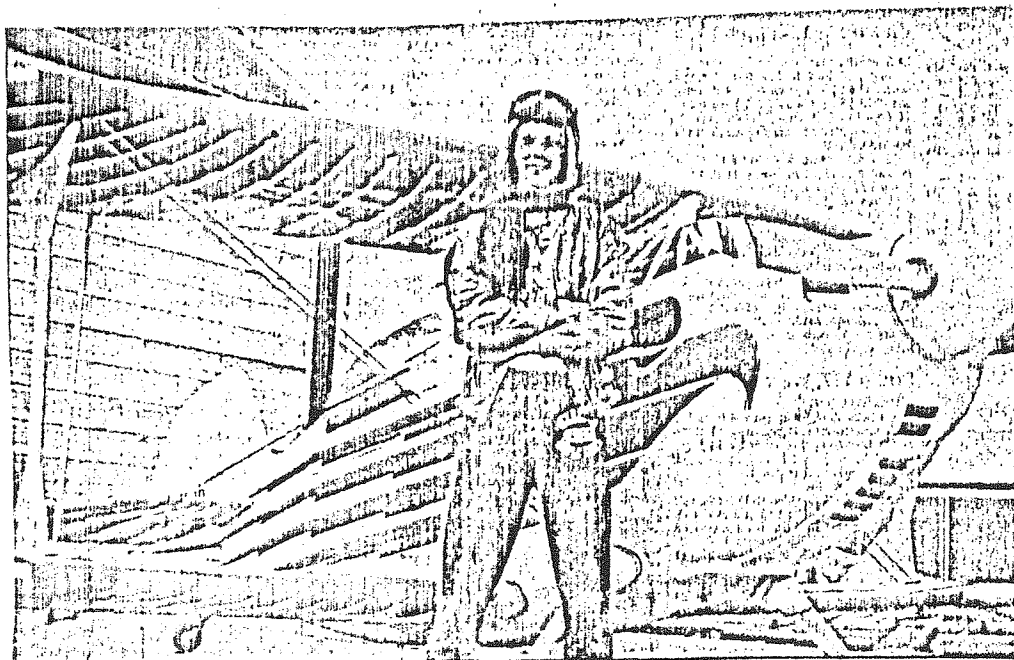
GENESEO

VS. NORTH

VS. WEST

VS.

EVENT	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH	RECORD	SCORE		
							West	North	Gen
3200 M RUN	G 10:18.67 Leigh	G 10:54.22 Walsh	G 11:53.8 Radicic				0 0	0 0	10 10
110 M H H	G 16.99 Blunt	G 18.68 McAvoy	W 21.01 Sierra				2 2	0 0	8 18
100 M DASH	G 12.02 Verbeck	G 12.19 Lourks	W 12:38 Vanner				2 4	0 0	8 26
3200 M RELAY	G 9:39.19 Campbell	G 9:39.19 Campbell	G 9:39.19 Campbell				0 4	0 0	5 31
200 M DASH	G 25.42 Diericks	G 26.15 Hahn	W 27.40 McNeal				0 4	2 2	8 39
1600 M RUN	G 4:59.12 Lee	G 5:14 Henderson	G 5:27.81 Stroh	W 5:29.34 Mosier			1 5	0 0	10 49
800 M RELAY	G 1:41.41 Campbell	G 1:41.41 Campbell	G 1:41.41 Campbell				0 5	0 2	5 54
400 M DASH	G 56.21 Harder	G 58.55 Rogers	G 1:09.22 Radicic				0 5	0 2	10 64
400 M L H	G 1:02.88 Blunt	G 1:03.50 McAvoy	W 1:11.69 Sierra				2 7	0 2	8 72
1600 M MED. RELAY	G 4:23.87 Campbell	G 4:23.87 Campbell	G 4:23.87 Campbell				0 7	0 2	5 77
800 M RUN	G 2:13.44 Atzen	G 2:15.23 Leigh	G 2:16.78 Walsh	N 2:19.62 Elvert			0 7	6 8	5 82
400 M RELAY	G 47.27 Campbell	G 47.27 Campbell	G 47.27 Campbell				0 7	0 8	5 87
1600 M RELAY	G 5:39.59 Campbell	G 5:39.59 Campbell	G 5:39.59 Campbell				3 10	0 8	5 92
SHOT PUT	W 39'1 1/2" Powe	G 36'4 1/2" Walker	N 32'7" Willingham	G 29'2 1/2" Swanson			5 15	2 10	4 96
DISCUS	G 117'4" Harder	G 90'5" McAvoy	N 88'1" Willingham	W 81'6" Gillespie			1 16	2 12	8 104
LONG JUMP	G 18' 1/2" Diericks	W 17'6 1/2" Reinhardt	G 15'1" Evans	G 14'9" Kleinow			3 19	0 12	8 110
HIGH JUMP	N 5'8" Willingham	N Atzen	G 5'6" Verbeck	G 5' Campbell			0 19	8 20	3 #3



Todd Akers, Geneseo's jumper who is ready to soar. (Photo by Keith Brake)

PACSETTERS



Todd Akers

6-4, 180 pounds.
Favorite movie: Top Gun.
Favorite music group: Rush.
Favorite food: Spaghetti-O's.
Person most admired: A brother, Kevin.

Grade Point Average: 3.2 on a 4.0 scale.
Favorite subject: pre-calculus.
Favorite TV show: M*A*S*H.
Hobbies: most sports, watching TV.

Things looking up for Leafs' Akers

By Keith Brake
Staff sports writer

GENESEO — Back in 1950, when Don Hilmer won Geneseo High's only track and field state championship with a leap of 6 feet, not many could have envisioned a Maple Leaf someday eying a 7-foot jump.

And in the early 60s, when Geneseo struggled to win a handful of basketball games every year, who would have imagined a Maple Leaf practicing hoops AFTER a day's worth of football practice?

Time passes, things change. Todd Akers personifies the new Maple Leaf of the 80's, one who is unafraid to succeed at a variety of things.

Last week in a meet against two Davenport schools, Akers cleared 6 feet, 6 inches. That's a good jump any time; it's really up there this early in the track season. And it's already the second time this season Geneseo's senior jumper has cleared 6-6. For his effort, Akers earns this week's Dispatch and Argus Pacesetter award.

Akers' leap of 6-6 at last spring's NCIC meet tied the league record and established a new school mark. He didn't get that high at the sectional or state meets, and had to settle for ninth place in the state finals in Charleston.

This season, "my goal is 7 feet," said Akers. "I've got the height right now for 6-10; it's a matter of timing."

Akers was a blocking tight end for Geneseo's football team, and the 6-4, 180-pounder was the co-MVP and shared honors for the best free-throw percentage on this year's 16-9 Leaf basketball team.

Basketball seems special to Akers. He was sunburned — on April 4 from playing basketball all day in a tournament in Geneseo — when he posed in front of Clyde Johnson's airplane for the Pacesetter picture just before sunset. Last fall, Akers went through Geneseo's tough football practices, but was back working on his shot it night. "I love that 3-

point line," said Akers, who shot most of Geneseo's "threes" late in the season.

It's track, though, that may pay the freight for Akers to a Division 1 school. Eastern Illinois, Southern Illinois, and Colorado have shown early interest in his high-jumping ability. "Eastern has offered a partial scholarship," said Akers. "Really though, I'd like to go to Colorado. I have two cousins there. The surroundings are gorgeous; eventually, I'd like to live out there."

Akers said an "Olympic Day" during his sixth grade year at Millikin Elementary School in Geneseo piqued his interest in the high jump. "In grade school, everybody wants to high jump," said Akers.

In eighth grade, Akers was fifth in the junior high state meet, and had a season's best of 5-8. He cleared 6 feet as a ninth-grader and 6-2 as a sophomore. He made 6-4 early last season, and kept going up.

"I peaked toward the end," said Akers. "At sectional, I only went 6-4 — you need 6-5 to qualify for state, unless you finish first or second in the event, and I tied for second."

"At state, I needed 6-6 in the prelims to make the finals, and I made it. The next day, I cleared 6-4, but then there was a rain delay, and I didn't jump well at all after the event was resumed. Had I cleared 6-6 again, I would have gotten third."

Akers is eyeing some fierce competition in his own conference this spring, and is appreciative of some strong jumpers in Geneseo's own stable.

"Randy Allen of Princeton has gone 6-9, and Ken Ronzone of Sterling and I have gone 6-6, and those are the best three jumps reported in the state so far," said Akers. "On our own team, Dean Lewis has gone 6-2, and Don Turner and Jay Reed have been over 6 feet. That all helps. Lewis really keeps me going," said Akers. "Otherwise, it can be tough to psyche up for some of the dual and triangular meets, especially when I'm running other events in those meets."

Akers said he has drawn inspiration from his brother, Kevin. The elder brother — by three years — plays linebacker at Western Illinois, and also was a multi-sport athlete at Geneseo. He said he gets encouragement, but never pressure, from the rest of his family.

Akers, who wants to get into business management, said he has been impressed by the emphasis head football and assistant track coach Vic Boblett has placed on being a role model. "How you act off the field is important," said Akers. "Little kids look up to us; I remember I sure looked up to athletes when I was a little kid."

These days, any little kid in Geneseo who looks up in the sky stands a pretty good chance of seeing Todd Akers fly by.