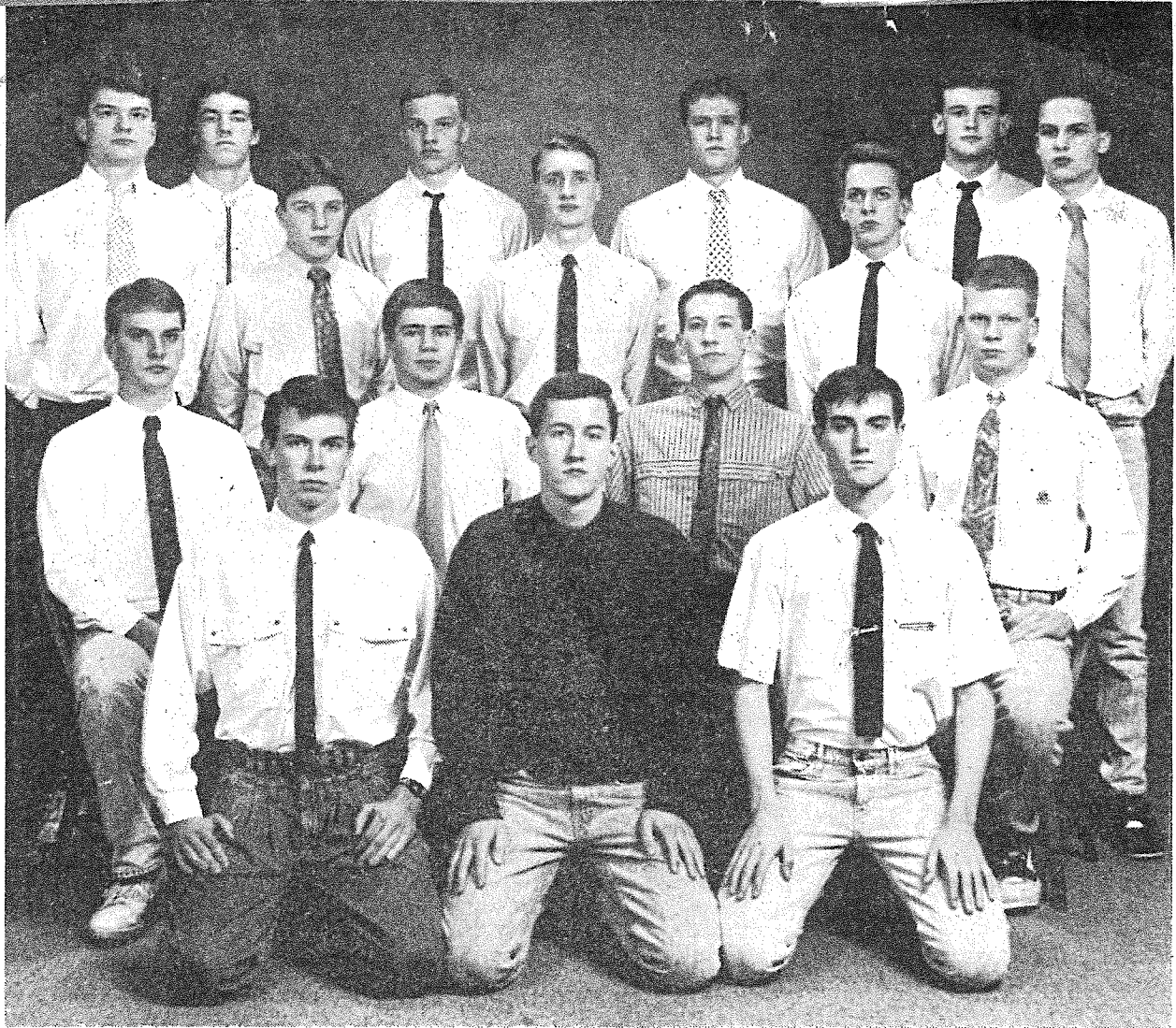


On the right track



RETURNING LETTERWINNERS. Geneseo's varsity boys track team will feature 15 returning letterwinners from last season's North Central Illinois Conference (N.C.I.C.) champion squad. They are, front row, from the left, David Farmer, Ben Hahn and Darin Lavery; second row, Kevin Fuhr, Mark Chaney, Tom Britton and Adam Boardman; third row, Ryan Verbeck, Andy Snook, Bryan Glass, Justin VanVooren and Josh Pierce; fourth row, Shane McKibbon, Mike VanDeVelde, Brad Diericx and Shawn Wehrspann. For more on the Leaf track team, see the adjoining story.

Fifteen lettermen return for 1991 Leaf track team

Varsity boys track coach Don Fredericks and his staff will have a number of key performers returning from a highly successful 1990 season. Among the team's accomplishments were a 13-0 dual meet record, first in the John McCormick Invitational and a decisive victory in the North Central Illinois Conference (N.C.I.C.) meet.

The Leafs will return six athletes who competed in the Class AA state finals from a year ago.

Leading that group is distance runner Adam Boardman. The senior finished fourth in the state at 1600 meters with a swift school record time of 4:19.5. He also qualified in the 800 and was the conference champion in both events.

Cross-country ace Bryan Glass competed in the 3200 meter race and finished 12th with a time of 9:40.16.

Mike VanDeVelde qualified in the 400 and posted a school record time of 50 seconds flat.

Ryan Verbeck and VanDeVelde return from the 400 meter relay team that finished eighth in the state with a time of 43.31 seconds. They, along with the graduated Chad Blunt and Ben Mayes, own the school record time of 42.8.

Boardman, Justin VanVooren and Josh Pierce return from the state qualifying 3200 meter relay team.

Returning letterwinners, besides those listed above, include hurdlers David Farmer, Shane McKibbin, Tom Britton and Darin Lavery, sprinters Ben Hahn and Kevin Fuhr, pole vaulter Mark Chaney, distance runner Andy Snook, weight man Brad Diericx and jumper Shawn Wehrspann.

Coach Fredericks will specialize in the distance events and will be assisted by jump coach Mel Snook, weights coach Denny Diericx and sprint/hurdles coach Vic Boblett.

The success of the fall and winter sports teams will help the track team, according to Coach Fredericks.

"The football team finished second in state, the cross-country team finished fifth and golf, basketball and wrestling teams all had their usual good seasons. This school is filled with winners and athletes who know what it takes to win. That can only help us," said Coach Fredericks.

Dixon and Sterling, which fielded strong frosh-soph squads last season, will be among the teams to beat in the conference, though the Leafs should be in the hunt as well.

"There is no question that after winning the title last season and two of the last three years, there will be some teams hungry to beat us. It will take a lot of work in the next two months but I feel we have the kids to challenge again this season," noted Coach Fredericks.

The Leaf distance runners competed in a non-scoring meet held Saturday, March 2 in Macomb.

Andy Snook placed first in the 3200 with a time of 10:11 against a field that

included five all-state cross-county runners. Glass, who was fighting a case of bronchitis, finished fourth with a time of 10:30. Andy Snyder turned in a time of 11:28.

Boardman ran a strong early season 1600 and placed first with a time of 4:30.9. Scott Durian (5:17.5) and Jason Jolly (5:44.4) also competed for the Leafs.

Lavery, Karl Taets, Jason Gibson and Patrick Robinson placed sixth in the 3200 meter relay with a time of 9:32.

As in previous years, the Leafs will compete in a pair of meets at the Westwood Sports Complex in Sterling before opening the outdoor season. While all meets are important, Coach Fredericks does not emphasize the early indoor meets.

"We want to win every meet we enter but not at the expense of peaking too early. Our program is geared toward getting the top performances from our athletes in the big meets at the end of the season," he said.

The Lady Leaf track team competed in a non-scoring meet held Thursday, February 28 at Westwood. Moline and Pleasant Valley were the other competing teams.

Michelle Eagles turned in a strong effort in the 3200 with a time of 12:26.8, good for first place. Kristy Windy was second with a time of 12:27.

Suzanne Patton claimed first in the 1600 with a time 6:00 while Dawn Yarger was third with a time of 6:27.

Amy Diericx finished fifth in the 800 with a time of 2:59.

A preview of the Lady Leafs will be in next week's *Republic*.

Six state qualifiers

return for Leafs

GENESEO - Last year's track season was a year to remember for Geneseo's varsity track team when it sent its largest number of qualifiers to the state meet, and brought home an eighth place finish in the 400 relay as well as an individual fourth in the 1600 meter.

To add to its list of accomplishments, the Leafs surprised a lot of teams when they finished second at

the always-tough Rock Island Invitational. Sixth year coach Don Fredericks' wrecking crew blaster its way through the conference to claim the NCIC title before heading into sectionals.

Balanced athletic ability in the running and field events will be the key for Geneseo against its NCIC counterparts, especially Sterling and Dixon who promise to be a strong contender.

The return of six state qualifiers will spark the Leafs to a repeat season. They include seniors Justin VanVooren (3200 relay), Ryan Verbeck (400 relay), Mike VanDeVelde (400, 400 relay), Bryan Glass (3200), Adam Boardman (1600, fourth in state); and sophomore Josh Pierce (3200 relay).

Other returning letterwinners are seniors, Kevin Fuhr (long jump, sprints), Mark Chaney (pole vault,

400), Shane McKibbin (hurdles, relays), Brad Diericx (weights), and Shawn Wehrspann (sprints, jumps). Juniors are David Farmer (hurdles, sprints, relays), Darin Lavery (long jump, triple jump, sprints), and Tom Britton (sprints, sprint relays).

Sophomores include Ben Hahn (sprints, sprint relays) and Andy Snook (distance).

Macomb Inv 3/02/91

3200 Relay (6th) 9:32.0

Lavery 2:19.4 32-67 → (72)

Trefts 2:24.6 32-68 → (76)

Gibson 2:18.6 28-62 → (76)

Robinson 2:29.5 32-69 → (80)

3200 (2-mile) (-3.1 to get 3200)

(1st) Snook 10:11.5 33-73-2:32-3:51-5:09-6:27-7:43-9:02-10:11.5

(4th) Gless 10:30.5 33-73-2:34-3:52-5:10-6:38-7:52-9:15-10:30.5

Snyder 11:28.9 37-78-2:42-4:08-5:35-7:04-8:34-?-11:28.9

1600 (1-mile) (-1.4 to get 1600)

(1st) Boardman 4:30.9 31-65-2:13-3:22 →

Durian 5:17.5 33-68-?-3:54 →

Jolly 5:44.4 36-76-2:42-4:11 →