Eye opener at Sterling

Warriors send message heading into N.C.I.C. meet

If the Geneseo varsity boys track team needed a wake-up call, it received one in a big way Tuesday, May 5 when the Sterling Golden Warriors handed the Leafs a 92-54 setback in Sterling.

Coach Don Fredericks was impressed with the long-time North Central Illinois Conference (N.C.I.C.) rivals.

"We saw a very powerful team in Sterling and they definitely stamped themselves as favorites at the conference meet next week. The big thing about Sterling is they are balanced across the board. They are loaded in the field events, have developed a fine sprinter and have good hurdlers and relay teams. A team will need a huge effort in the conference meet to knock them off," noted Coach Fredericks.

Ben Hahn and Andy Snook each had big meets against Sterling, winning three and two events, respectively.

Hahn turned in personal best times in winning the 100 (11.12 seconds) and 200 (22.62) and tacked on a victory in the 400 (53.45 seconds) for good measure.

"Ben looked tremendous in winning the 100 and 200. He came through in a big way," noted Coach Fredericks.

Snook won the 1600 (4:38.6) and 3200 (9:49.8) events. The 3200 time was within nine seconds of his personal best and Coach Fredericks is looking for more of the same in the future.

"Andy is ready for a major break-through," predicted Coach Fredericks.

Darin Lavery was the other individual winner for Geneseo, capturing the triple jump with a distance of 41'3-

Placing second for the Leafs were Seth Graham in the discus, Chad Sager in the pole vault, Lavery in the long Josh Inch in the 1600 and Phil Smith in the 200.

Third place finishers were Phil

Gradert and Chris Pobanz in the high jump, Waggoner in the 3200, Pobanz in the 800 and 1600, Wilson in the 400, Spiro Liras in the 300 meter intermediate hurdles and Hudnall in the 200.

The Geneseo frosh-soph team was also in action Saturday, May 2 and earned top honors in the Dixon Frosh-Soph Invitational. Teams and scores in the meet were Geneseo (107), Sterling (104), Belvidere (52), Dixon (43), Princeton (40), United Township (34), Loves Park Harlem (30), Galesburg (26), Rockton Hononegah (18) and LaSalle-Peru (12).

First place finishers for the Leaflets were the high jump team of Boelens, Gradert, Brady Rasmussen and Pobanz (22'), the long jump team of Shoemaker, Johnson, Boelens and Causemaker (72'1/4"), the 1600 team event foursome of Inch, Pobanz, Waggoner and Joe Loftus (24 points) and the 400 meter high-low hurdle shuffle team of Johnson, Phil Smith, Newton and Causemaker (1:08.23).

Second place finishers were the pole vault team of Rasmussen, Wilson, Schnowske and Nissen; the triple jump team of Causemaker, Rasmussen, Boelens and Liras; the 3200 team of Carter, Snyder, Durian and Misfeldt; the 1600 medley team of Flood, Shoemaker, Wilson and Eric Anderson; the 440 low hurdle team of Johnson, Gradert, Causemaker and Newton and the distance medley team to Carter, Flood, Misfeldt and Snyder.

Third place finishers for the Leaflets were the 400 team of Jon Smith, Newton, Phil Smith and Shoemaker and the 1600 team of Anderson, Durian, Wilson and Johnson.

The Leaflets were competing without Durick, who was shaken up in an auto accident the day before the meet. He is one of the frosh-soph team's top triple jumpers, long jumpers and sprint relay team members.

"To win without him was kind of

Newton and Britton each placed first in two individual events. Newton captured the 110 meter high hurdles in 15.63 seconds and the 300 meter intermediate hurdles in 42.8 seconds while Britton was tops in the long jump (19'9-1/2") and the triple jump (41'6").

Single event winners for the Leafs were Culbertson in the shot put (48'6-1/2"), Graham in the discus (151'7"), Pierce in the high jump (6'1"), Rasmussen in the pole vault (11') and Snook in the 1600 (4:36).

Also placing first was the 3200 team of Misfeldt, Anderson, Snook and Pierce (8:21.5).

Second place finishers were Van Acker in the shot put; Porter in the discus; Britton in the high jump; Sager in the pole vault; Lavery in the long jump and triple jump; Taets in the 3200; Farmer in the 110 meter high hurdles; Hahn in the 100, 200 and 400; Anderson in the 800 and Wright in the 300 meter intermediate hurdles.

Third place finishers were Porter in the shot put; Culbertson in the discus; Bill Campbell in the triple jump and Neumann in the 400.

The Geneseo frosh-soph track team was also in action against Moline and picked up a 118-27 win over the Maroons.

Durick placed first in three individual events to pace the Leaflets. He earned wins in the long jump (18'2-1/2"), triple jump (39'10") and 200 (24.8 seconds).

Double event winners for Geneseo were Carter in the 1600 (5:05.5) and 3200 (10:53.8) and Johnson in the 110-meter high hurdles (16.4 seconds) and 300 meter intermediate hurdles (45.04 seconds).

Earning single wins for Geneseo against Moline were Poppen in the shot put (42'8-1/2"), Kevin Wachtel in the discus (118'7"), Boelens in the high jump (5'8"), Schnowske in the pole vault (10'), Hudnall in the 100 (12.55 seconds) and Flood in the 400 (56.5' seconds).

Placing second for the Leafs were Seth Graham in the discus, Chad Sager in the pole vault, Lavery in the long jump, Andy Snyder in the 3200, Eric Newton in the 110 meter high hurdles and Derek Wright in the 300 meter intermediate hurdles.

Third place finishers were Nate Culbertson in the shot put, Nate Durick in the triple jump, David Farmer in the 110 meter high hurdles and 300 meter, intermediate hurdles, Nick Sable in the 100, Karl Taets in the 800, Landon Neumann in the 400 and Eric Misfeldt in the 1600.

The Geneseo frosh-soph track team was successful in its meet against Sterling, picking up an 84-62 triumph.

Brad Johnson and Ryan Carter each had big meets for the Leaflets, winning three and two events, respectively.

Johnson earned first in the long jump (19'5"), 110 meter high hurdles (16.82 seconds) and 300 meter intermediate hurdles (44.59 seconds) while Carter earned top honors in the 1600 (4:57.6) and 3200 (10:34.1).

Also earning an individual win for the

Leaflets was Mike Poppen, who heaved the shot 41'4".

Relay wins were earned by the 800 team of Shane Hudnall, Jeff Cause-maker, Phil Smith and Jeremiah Shoemaker (1:42.8) and the 1600 team of Matt Wilson, Eric Durian, Poppen and Dan Flood (4:00.5).

Earning second place finishes in the meet were Poppen in the discus, Troy Boelens in the high jump, Andy Nissen, Brad Schnowske and Wilson in the pole vault, Shoemaker in the long jump and 100, Causemaker in the triple jump, 110 meter high hurdles and 300 meter intermediate hurdles, Chad Sellman in the 800, Flood in the 400,

jumpers, long jumpers and sprint relay team members.

"To win without him was kind of amazing. Every kid on the team performed very well in this meet. It was a true team victory," noted Coach Fredericks.

On Friday, May 1 the Geneseo varsity squad ventured to Sterling and placed fourth in the Sterling Invitational. Teams and scores in the meet were Sterling (80), Rock Island (72), UT (70), Geneseo (57), Dixon (45), Rockford Guilford (42), Ottawa (36), Moline (30), Freeport and Rock Falls (16) and Galesburg and Morton (eight).

Coach Fredericks was glad to see some of his back-up performers step in the meet.

"A meet like this is a true test of team depth because the distances and times of the back-ups count just as much as the top kid's distances and times. Our second and third place kids were in the spotlight and it was good to see them shine." he said.

The Leafs did not earn any first place finishes in the meet but did have several seconds and thirds.

Earning second place were the shot put team of Jim Van Acker, Culbertson and Andy Porter (140'2-1/2"), the long jump team of Lavery, Tom Britton and Shoemaker (57'9-1/2") and the 1600 team of Snook, Josh Pierce and Misfeldt (25 points). Snook ran a 4:27.4 anchor leg to boost his team.

Placing third were the high jump team of Pierce, Britton and Gradert and the triple jump team of Britton, Durick and Lavery.

On Wednesday, April 29 the Leafs visited Moline and picked up a 93-52 dual meet victory. Keying the win was a 51-2 scoring bulge in the field events.

seconds) and Flood in the 400 (56.5 seconds).

Earning relay race wins were the 400 team of Hudnall, Johnson, Flood and Phil Smith (49.65 seconds), the 800 team of Hudnall, Johnson, Durick and Phil Smith (1:43.9) and the 1600 team of Wilson, Sellman, Poppen and Flood (3:54.8).

Second place finishers for the Leaflets were Graden in the high jump; Wilson in the pole vault; Boelens in the long jump; Causemaker in the triple jump, 110 meter high hurdles and 300 meter intermediate hurdles; Inch in the 1600 and 3200 and Wilson in the 400.

Earning third place were Todd Capps in the shot put; Nissen in the pole vault; Causemaker in the long jump; Liras in the triple jump; Steve Jerbi in the 100 and Phil Smith in the 300 meter intermediate hurdles.

The annual John McCormick Invitational will be held Friday, May 8 at Sterling high school. The change in sites was necessitated by the work being done to the track at J.D. Darnall high school.

The finishing touches on the track were made on Wednesday, May 6, after the plans to switch McCormick sites were already made.

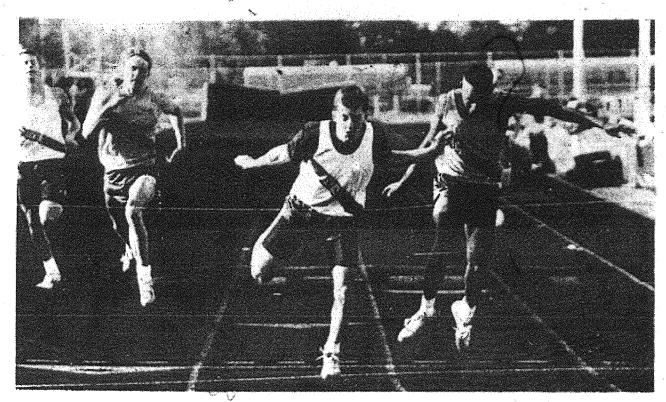
The new track will be officially opened Friday, May 15 when the Leafs host the N.C.I.C. meet.

Now that work on the track is completed, Coach Fredericks is looking for a strong finish from his team.

"We're basically about three weeks behind all of the other teams because we haven't had a facility to practice on. We'll just have to make a mad dash to the finish to catch up," he concluded.



SPREADING OUT. Nate Durick claimed third place in the triple jump during the Tuesday, May 5 dual meet at Sterling. The Warriors sent a strong message they are the favorites in next week's conference meet by topping the Leafs 92-54. See the adjoining story for details.



BREAKING THE TAPE. Ben Hahn (center), shown above winning the 200 meter dash, also placed * first in the 100 and 400 meter events during the Tuesday, May 5 dual meet against Sterling. The Warriors scored a resounding 92-54 win over the Leafs. Also shown for Geneseo is Jon Smith (left). For more on the meet, see the adjoining story.



WATCH IT SAIL. Leaf weightman Seth Graham earned second place in the discus during the Tuesday, May 5 dual meet with Sterling. The Warriors topped the Leafs 92-54 in the meet. See the accompanying story for more information.

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