

Talk ends; sectional arrives

Class AA boys set to settle track state bids

By Ryan Dieckman

Staff sports writer

It's that time of year again. Put up or shut up.

All the hard work endured throughout the winter and spring training periods has come down to Friday's Class AA boys Rock Island Track Sectional.

Individual performances are put to the test as qualifying times will be sought in hopes of heading to state the following weekend at Eastern Illinois' O'Brien Stadium.

Along with the host Rocks, the 15-team field will consist of DeKalb, Dixon, East Moline, Galesburg, Geneseo, LaSalle-Peru, Minooka, Moline, Morris, Ottawa, Princeton, Rochelle, Sterling and Streator.

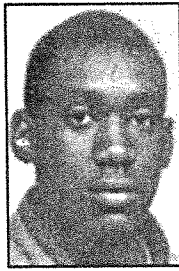
Rock Island, which won its fifth consecutive Western Big 6 title last Friday at Quincy, will look to claim a five-repeat team sectional title this season.

While the Rocks will be favored to win again, the concentration will be on how many athletes can qualify for a trip to Charleston on May 29-30 for the state meet.

Action gets under way at Rock Island High School on Friday at 4 p.m. with the field events, followed by the finals beginning at 6 p.m. The scoring system will be done just like at state, with a 10-8-6-4-2 format for each event.



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Sundfor



Tysonn
Shivers



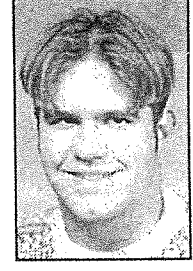
Danny
Tutskey



Tyler
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Adam
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Nick
Ruud



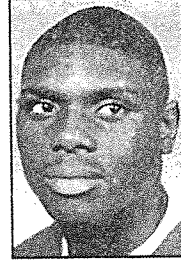
Kurt
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Tim
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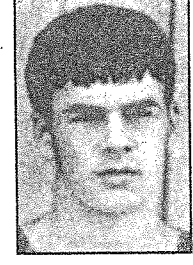
Jason
Connell



Terence
Clark



Bubba
Akers



Justin
Fluck

More importantly, the top two finishers in each event automatically qualify for state, while any performances under the qualifying mark will also get a trip south.

"We've had a really good season up to this point," said Rocky coach Ed Lillis. "I just hope to continue on the same track and qualify a lot of kids for state."

While Rocky will have a big contingent pushing to travel the road to Charleston, here are some key athletes to watch for the Islanders: Lars Sundfor (shot), Tyler Carroll (pole vault), Tysonn Shivers (triple

jump), and Danny Tutskey and Adam Hill in the 100 and 200 sprints.

For Moline, senior Nick Ruud will be gunning for a return to state in the discus. Teammates to watch for are Tim McDonald (110 and 300 hurdles), Ben Schumaker (800) and Kurt Guldner (long jump).

United Township's Jason Connell (discus) tries to better a top-10 finish at state in the discus, while Bubba Akers (triple jump), Nate Paxton (110 and 300 hurdles), Jesse Schroeder (triple and high jump) and Terence Clark (400) also strive

for state for the Panthers.

For Geneseo, the return of star distance runner Justin Fluck hopes to be a bright glimpse of hope for state. Fluck, who runs the 1600 and 3200, has struggled the last month with nagging knee injuries that troubled the senior last season.

Other Maple Leafs to look out for are junior Chris Studer, a 3200 qualifier a year ago, Nick DePauw (110 and 300 hurdles), Tom and Adam Anderson (800), Andy Beuster (1600) and the 3200 relay (A. Anderson, Mark Keplinger, T. Anderson, Grant Venema).

Leafs head to Rock Island for Class AA sectional

Sectional competition for the J.D. Darnall varsity boys track team will begin Friday, May 22.

Rock Island High School will host this year's sectional with athletes from DeKalb, Dixon, United Township in East Moline, Galesburg, Geneseo, LaSalle-Peru, Minooka, Moline, Morris, Ottawa Township, Princeton, Rochelle, Rock Island High School, Sterling High School and Streator Township slated to compete.

First and second place winners in each event, including relay teams from each sectional meet, will advance to the state finals. In addition, any individual or relay team equalling or surpassing the qualifying standard in the finals for their respective class will also advance to the state meet.

The IHSA Boys Track and Field state finals will be held Friday and Saturday, May 29-30 at O'Brien Stadium, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston.

Class AA preliminary and semifinal track events will begin at 9 a.m. on Friday, May 29. All finals will be held Saturday, May 30 and will start at approximately 11 a.m.

Last year's team earned 12th out of 15 team competing in the IHSA boys track and field sectional at Rock Island.

Chris Studer, a sophomore on the 1997 squad, won the NCIC 3200 run championship with a time of 9:59.9 and went on to claim the sectional crown in 9:48.7 nearly nine seconds ahead of his closest competitor.

Studer was the only Leaf to advance to the state meet in Charleston and came home with a 24th place overall finish out of 43 runners, clocking in with his best time all season, a 9:48.16.

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Off to state

Five to represent Geneseo at state boys track meet

Chris Studer, Adam Anderson, Tom Anderson, Mark Keplinger and Grant Venema are headed to the IHSA Class AA boys state track and field meet this weekend in Charleston.

Preliminary and semi-final heats will be held Friday, May 29 with the finals on Saturday, May 30.

The J. D. Darnall varsity Leaf cindermen earned berths to state with their accomplishments at the Rock Island Sectional on Friday, May 22.

Studer earned his second consecutive trip to state with a second-place finish in the 3200-meter run. Sean Mendoza of Rock Island took the tape at 9:54.00 while Studer came through next at 9:56.60.

A. Anderson, T. Anderson, Keplinger and Venema are members of the the Leafs' 3200-meter relay team. The foursome took second to Rock Island with a time of 8:08.7. Rocky took the title with a time of

8:08.0. The two teams finished nearly eight seconds ahead of the third-place team.

Rock Island High School dominated the sectional event, taking the team title with 124 points. United Township of East Moline finished second with 60 followed by Rochelle, 56; Dixon and Sterling, 50 and Moline High School, 42 points.

Other team standings include, DeKalb, 34 points; Galesburg, 32; Minooka, 28; Ottawa Township, 26; Geneseo 24; Princeton, 10; LaSalle-Peru, 4 and Streator, 0.

Other Leafs placing within the top five places were Andy Beuster and Nick DePauw.

Beuster placed third in the 1600-meter run, finishing in 4:36.50. Craig Lawrence of Rock Island and Nick Anaya of Rochelle finished one, two with times of 4:35.20 and 4:35.30.

DePauw took fifth in the 300 intermediate hurdles, coming through at 40.9. Third and fourth-place finishers tied at 40.7. Tim McDonald won the event at 39.0 while Ellery Stewart of Rock Island placed second at 40.1.

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went through a loss 0-1 and national

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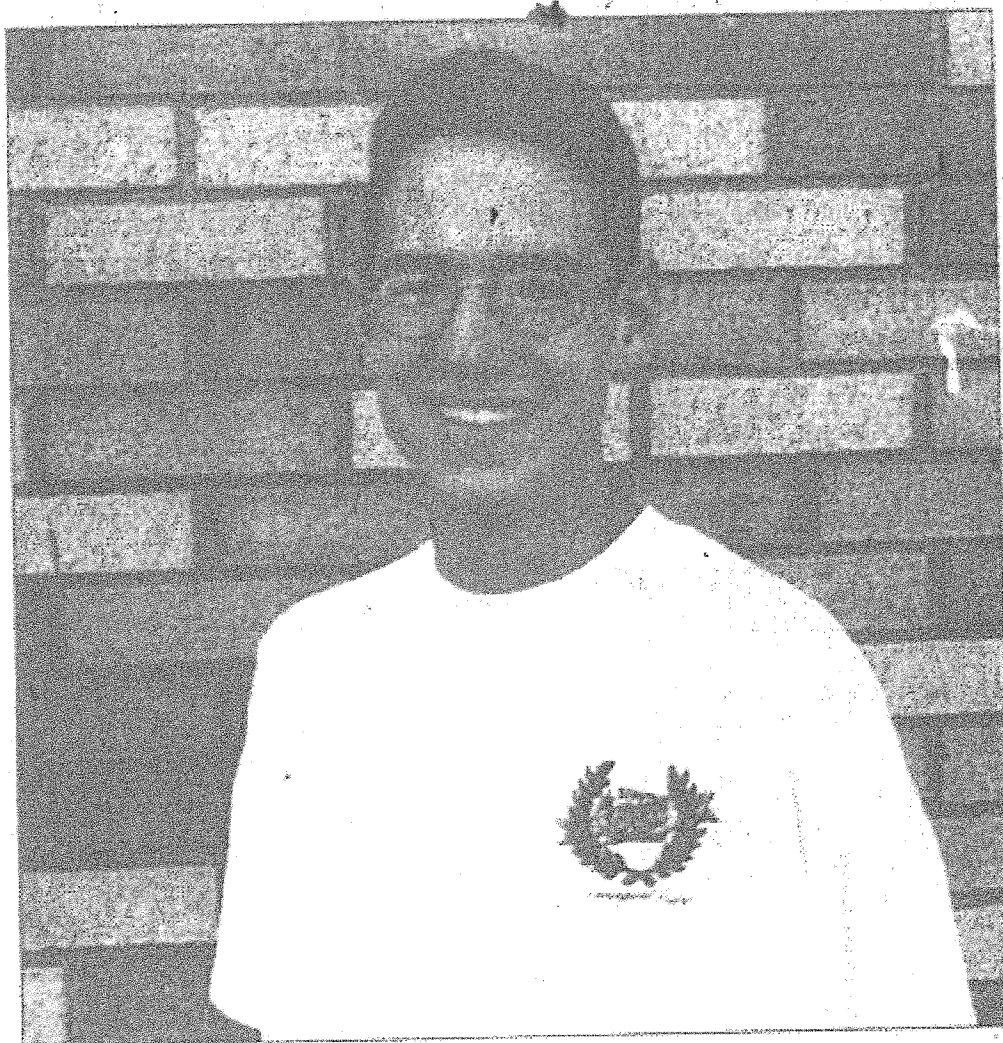
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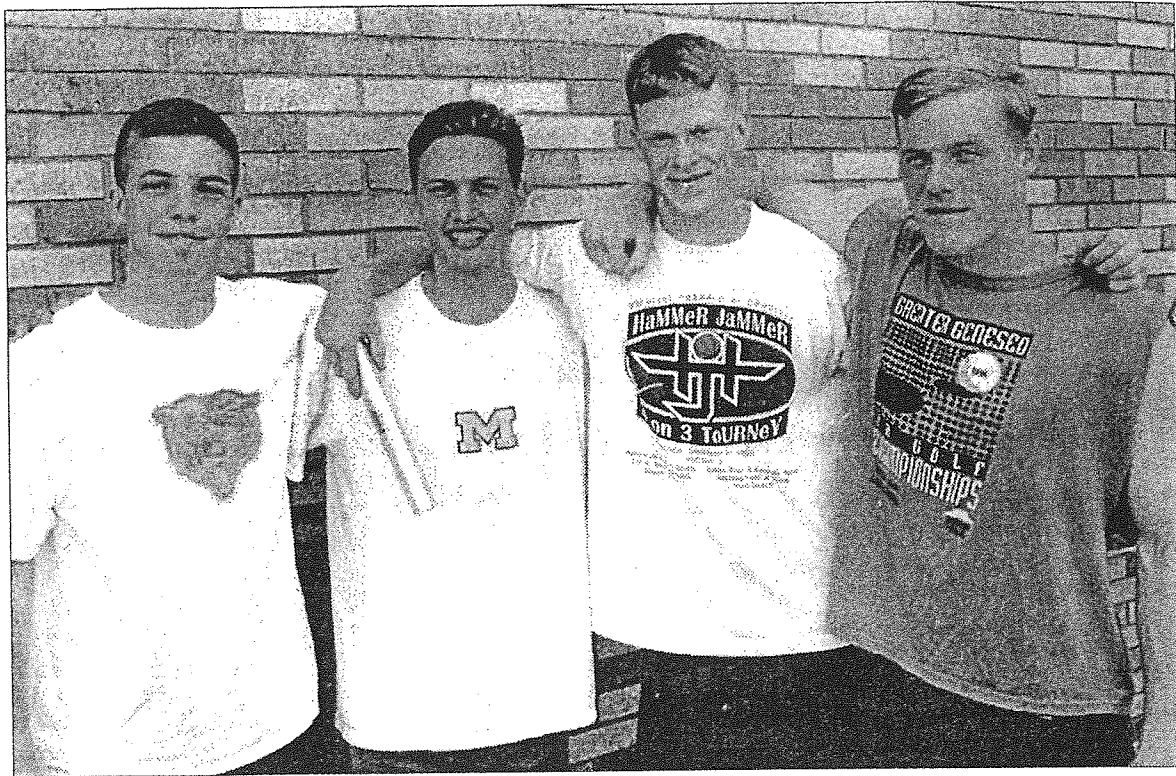
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All-A



Republic photo

RETURN TRIP. Junior Chris Studer will make his second consecutive trip to the boys state track meet this weekend in Charleston. Studer earned his berth with a second place finish in the 3200-meter run at the Rock Island Sectionals. Studer clocked in at 9:56.60.



Republic photo

RIPPIN' RELAY. Adam Anderson, left, Mark Keplinger, Grant Venema and Tom Anderson are on their way to the IHSA boys state track and field meet in Charleston Friday and Saturday, May 29-30. The foursome earned their trip to state with a second-place finish in the 3200-meter relay at the Rock Island Sectionals last weekend.

R.I. coasts to 5th straight sectional

By Ryan Dieckman
Staff sports writer

The red-and-gold struck gold again, leaving everyone else red-faced.

Rock Island came away with its fifth straight Class AA sectional track title Friday en route to sending a field-high 13 individuals to state.

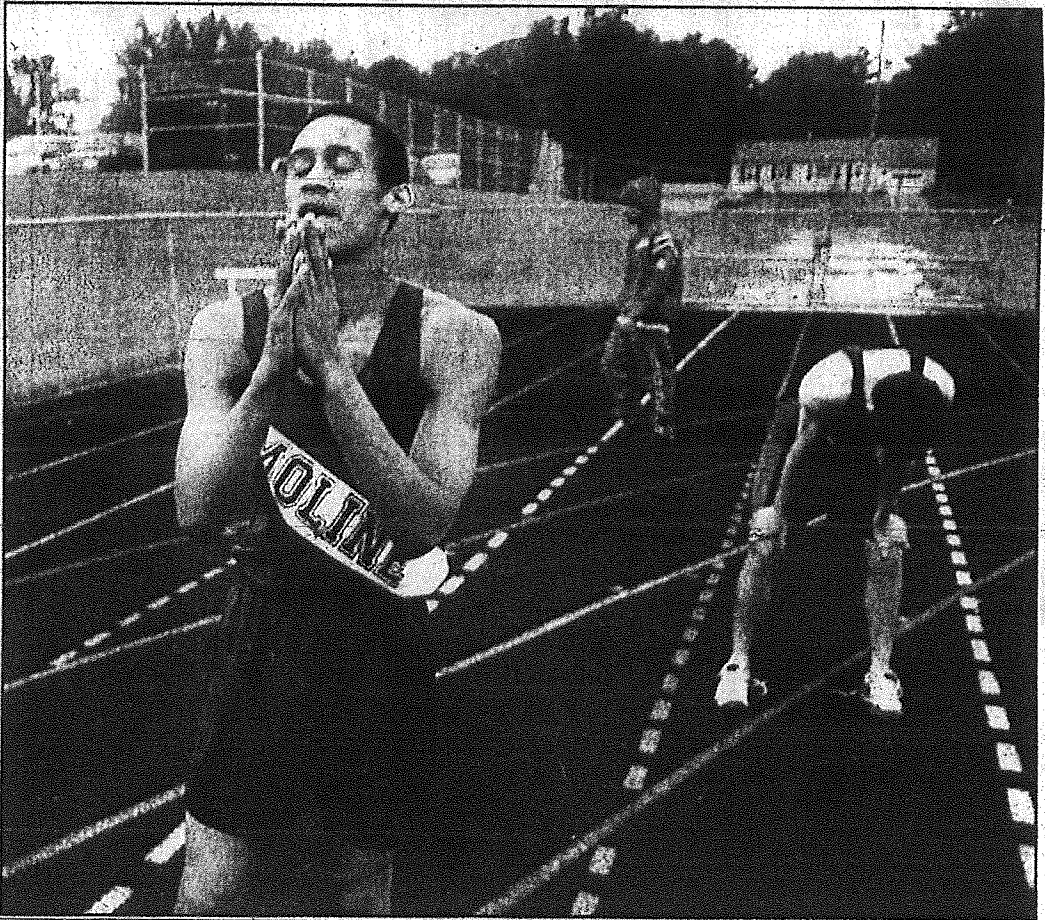
Dominant all season with depth to go along with talent, the Rocks tallied 124 points to outdistance arch-rival and runner-up United Township by a whopping 64 points—at Rocky's Alquist Field.

The Panthers did advance seven to state while Moline (42 points, 6th) got two individuals through and Geneseo (24, 11th) advanced one competitor and one relay to next weekend's state meet.

"I think two events summarize the entire meet and epitomizes the effort and relaxation we had," jubilant Rocky coach Ed Lillis said.

"The effort motivation came with Ellery Stewart, who set a sophomore school record in the 300 hurdles with a 40.1, while practically falling across the finish line for second."

"The relaxation motivation came from Danny Tutskey, who was actually rooting for (teammate) Adam Hill while running along side him in the 200. It was unbelievable how he was cheering him on while finishing with a time of 21.6."



Todd Mizener / staff

Moline's Tim McDonald waits anxiously for the results of the 100-meter hurdles finals while UT's Nate Paxton agonizes over his fourth-place finish at the Rock Island Sectional Friday. McDonald won the event.

SEE ROCKS, D2

▶ ROCKS

FROM PAGE D1

Out of the 27 local individuals heading to Eastern Illinois' O'Brien Stadium in Charleston next weekend, Tutskey stood out with four first-place finishes.

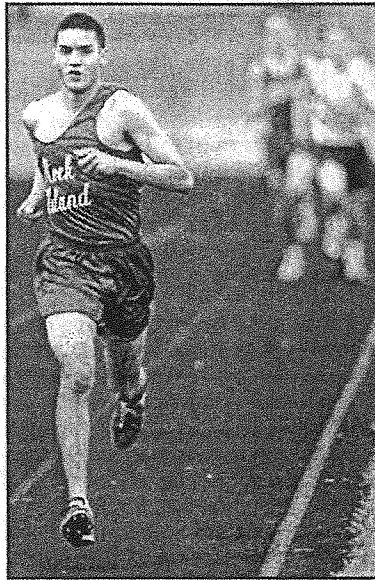
The Rocky senior touched the home track one last time and made it a memorable one. Beginning with the 3200 meter relay championship, Tutskey blazed to winning performances in the 400 meter relay, 100 meter dash and finally the 200 meter run.

"I'm still on cloud nine, but I finally slayed the dragon and will be going down to state as an individual along with the team," said Tutskey, who traveled to Charleston as a junior member of the 4x200 and 4x400 relays.

"I pushed myself as hard as I could. Hard to believe — guess I made a name for myself tonight."

Joining Tutskey for R.I. will be Lars Sundfor (shot), Tom Ryerson and Tyler Carroll (pole vault), Stewart (300 IM hurdles), Craig Lawrence (1600), Sean Mendoza (3200), Hill (100, 200), Ryan Barton (400) and the 4x100 and 4x800 relays.

For Moline, Nick Ruud (discus) and Tim McDonald (110 high and



Todd Mizener / staff

Rock Island's Sean Mendoza is an easy winner in the 3200.

300 IM hurdles) are also headed south next Friday.

"Definitely pleased with the performance," Ruud said. "I placed better at last year's sectional, but I threw 8 feet longer this year. My goal now is to place at state."

Ruud tossed a season-best 160-11 to place third, while McDonald

ran a 14.6 and 39.0 in each race for first.

"Feels good to break the R.I. curse," noted McDonald, referring to last year's sectional when the Maroon junior fell in the 300 IM in the third leg of the race.

"I was running scared — I hate being in second so I caught up and stayed in front. I'm about dead tired now, but I do this for the Lord."

UT was paced with four second-place finishes, led by Bubba Akers in the triple (43-6½) and long jump (21-0½). Jason Connell tossed 152-6 for fourth in the discus, while the 4x100 and 4x200 were runners-up.

"I finally made it," an ecstatic Akers said about his first-ever state trip. "My heart stopped when I realized that the last jumper didn't beat me. I just hope I can continue to improve next week."

Despite not having the services of junior distance runner Justin Fluck, Geneseo was able to send five athletes to state. Fluck, hampered with an injury for the last month and a half, was diagnosed with torn tendons on his top left foot.

The Leafs were led with two second-place showings, highlighted by Chris Studer in the 3200 and the 4x800 relay.

Section 1

Host: Rock Island H.S.

LONG JUMP				
Athlete	Yr.	Town	Distance	Place
Norman, Nate	12	Princeton	22 07.00	1
Akers, Rawlando	12	East Moline	21 00.50	2
Hodge, Davis	12	Galesburg	20 11.50	3
Moellering, Mark	11	Rochelle	20 08.00	4
Barajas, Alex	10	Sterling	20 08.00	5

TRIPLE JUMP				
Athlete	Yr.	Town	Distance	Place
Sayles, Andre	12	Dixon	43 11.00	1
Akers, Rawlando	12	East Moline	43 06.50	2
Shivers, Tysonn	12	Rock Island	42 11.50	3
Lehan, Jon	12	DeKalb	41 10.50	4
Schroeder, Jesse	11	East Moline	41 05.50	5

HIGH JUMP				
Athlete	Yr.	Town	Height	Place
Sayles, Andre	12	Dixon	6 03	1
Howe, Travis	12	Galesburg	6 03	2
Lehan, Jim	10	DeKalb	6 01	3
Woods, Pierre	11	Galesburg	6 01	4
LeFevre, Brad	12	Dixon	6 01	5

SHOT PUT				
Athlete	Yr.	Town	Distance	Place
Nurczyk, John	12	Minooka	59 03.00	1
Smith, Nick	12	Sterling	56 05.25	2
Lee, Ryan	12	Minooka	53 06.50	3
Shiaras, Paul	12	Dixon	53 01.50	4
Sundfor, Lars	12	Rock Island	52 09.00	5

DISCUS				
Athlete	Yr.	Town	Distance	Place
Nurczyk, John	12	Minooka	168 09.00	1
Shiaras, Paul	12	Dixon	163 05.00	2
Ruud, Nick	12	Moline	160 11.00	3
Connell, Jason	12	East Moline	152 08.00	4
Sundfor, Lars	12	Rock Island	140 02.00	5

POLE VAULT				
Athlete	Yr.	Town	Height	Place
Burns, Larry	12	Ottawa	14 06	1
Chum, Ratha	11	Ottawa	14 06	2
Ryerson, Tom	11	Rock Island	13 06	3
Carroll, Tyler	12	Rock Island	13 06	4
Gaumer, Tyler	10	Sterling	13 00	5

110 H HURDLES				
Athlete	Yr.	Town	Time	Place
McDonald, Tim	11	Moline	14.6	1
Gaumer, Tyler	10	Sterling	14.7	2
Lehan, Jim	10	DeKalb	15.0	3
Paxton, Nate	12	East Moline	15.0	4
Stewart, Ellery	10	Rock Island	15.0	5

300 IM HURDLES				
Athlete	Yr.	Town	Time	Place
McDonald, Tim	11	Moline	39.0	1
Stewart, Ellery	10	Rock Island	40.1	2
Lehan, Jim	10	DeKalb	40.7	3
Paxton, Nate	12	East Moline	40.7	4
DePauw, Nick	12	Geneseo	40.9	5

100 METER DASH				
Athlete	Yr.	Town	Time	Place
Tutskey, Danny	12	Rock Island	10.8	1
Moellering, Mark	11	Rochelle	11.0	2
Hill, Adam	12	Rock Island	11.0	2
Harris, Jamar	12	East Moline	11.4	4
Little, Cedrick	10	DeKalb	11.5	5

200 METER DASH				
Athlete	Yr.	Town	Time	Place
Tutskey, Danny	12	Rock Island	21.6	1
Moellering, Mark	11	Rochelle	21.8	2
Hill, Adam	12	Rock Island	21.8	2
Schillings, Jeremy	10	Ottawa	22.7	4
Eaton, Adam	12	DeKalb	22.8	5

400 METER DASH				
Athlete	Yr.	Town	Time	Place
Barton, Ryan	11	Rock Island	51.8	1
Kissack, Kyle	11	Rochelle	51.6	2
Clark, Terence	12	East Moline	51.8	3
LeFevre, Brad	12	Dixon	52.0	4
McDonald, Tom	11	Moline	52.3	5

800 METER RUN				
Athlete	Yr.	Town	Time	Place
Sherman, Dan	12	Sterling	1 59	1
Brown, Mike	9	DeKalb	2 00	2
Eissens, Mark	12	Sterling	2 01	3
Mudge, Mike	12	LaSalle	2 02	4
Foster, Joel	11	Dixon	2 03	5

1600 METER RUN				
Athlete	Yr.	Town	Time	Place
Lawrence, Craig	12	Rock Island	4:35.20	1
Anaya, Nick	11	Rochelle	4:35.30	2
Beuster, Andy	10	Geneseo	4:36.50	3
Patterson, Reed	10	Moline	4:41.10	4
Marshall, Brian	9	Minooka	4:42.30	5
3200 METER RUN				
Athlete	Yr.	Town	Time	Place
Mendoza, Sean	11	Rock Island	9:54.00	1
Studer, Chris	11	Geneseo	9:56.60	2
Allen, Chris	12	Dixon	10:01.50	3
Crowhurst, Eric	10	Ottawa	10:12.80	4
Bergeson, David	9	Rochelle	10:18.50	5
4X100 RELAY				
Athlete		Town	Time	Place
D. Tutskey, A. Hill, J. Austin, R. Muskeyvalley		Rock Island	:42.4	1
R. Frazier, T. Clark, J. Hoggard, J. Harris		East Moline	:43.7	2
P. Wren, J. Estell, T. Palos, T. McDonald		Moline	:43.9	3
N. Green, J. Fargher, G. Bontz, A. Barajas		Sterling	:44.4	4
		Rochelle	:44.5	5
4X200 RELAY				
Athlete		Town	Time	Place
D. Tutskey, A. Hill, J. Austin, R. Muskeyvalley		Rock Island	1:29.6	1
S. Banks, T. Clark, R. Grazier, J. Harris		East Moline	1:31.5	2
D. Bryant, M. Fillman, D. Horner, M. Moellering		Rochelle	1:31.5	3
J. Brown, P. Woods, C. Ogenorth, D. Lindstrom		Galesburg	1:31.8	4
A. Rhyne, J. Estell, P. Wren, J. Manning		Moline	1:33.0	5
4X400 RELAY				
Athlete		Town	Time	Place
J. Brown, L. Pugh, P. Woods, D. Lindstrom		Galesburg	3:26.1	1
A. Barajas, J. Fargher, M. Elsen, D. Sherman		Sterling	3:27.6	2
M. Fillman, K. Kissack, D. Horner, A. Thompson		Rochelle	3:28.9	3
B. LeFevre, J. Foster, B. Bellows, L. Brainerd		Dixon	3:29.9	4
T. McDonald, J. Estell, A. Rhyne, J. Manning		Moline	3:32.7	5
4X800 RELAY				
Athlete		Town	Time	Place
C. Belby, R. Allen, C. Lawrence, R. Barton		Rock Island	8:08.0	1
A. Anderson, T. Anderson, M. Keplinger, G. Venema		Geneseo	8:08.7	2
N. Anaya, R. Laas, M. Dubois, A. Thompson		Rochelle	8:16.4	3
L. Westbrook, C. Dalton, D. Hood, E. Wesselmann		East Moline	8:40.3	4
T. Williams, A. Amezola, J. Bittork, T. Perez		Sterling	8:59.2	5

1998 ROCK ISLAND SECTIONAL RESULTS

1. Rock Island 124
2. United Township 60
3. Rochelle 56
4. Dixon 50
4. Sterling 50
6. Moline 42
7. DeKalb 34
8. Galesburg 32
9. Minooka 28
10. Ottawa 26
11. Geneseo 24
12. Princeton 10
13. Streator 0

Class AA boys

R.I. Sectional

At Almqvist Field Team results

1. Rock Island 124, 2. United Township 60, 3. Rochelle 56, 4. (tie) Sterling and Dixon 50, 6. Moline 42, 7. DeKalb 34, 8. Galesburg 32, 9. Minooka 28, 10. Ottawa 26, 11. Geneseo 24, 12. Princeton 10, 13. LaSalle 4, 14. Streator 0.

Pole vault (SQ 13-6) 1. Larry Burns, OT, 14-6. 2. Ratha Chum, OT, 14-6. 3. Tom Ryerson, RI, 13-6. 4. Tyler Carroll, RI, 13-6. 5. Tyler Gaumer, ST, 13-0. (Top four advance to state).

Long jump (SQ 22-0) 1. Nate Norman, PR, 22-7. 2. Bubba Akers, UT, 21-0½. 3. Davis Hodge, GA, 20-11½. 4. Mark Moellering, RO, 20-8. 5. Alex Barajas, ST, 20-8. (Top two advance to state).

Discus (SQ 152-0) — 1. John Nurczyk, MI, 168-9. 2. Paul Schiaras, DX, 163-5. 3. Nick Ruud, MO, 160-11. 4. Jason Connell, UT, 152-6. 5. Lars Sundfor, RI, 140-2. (Top four advance to state).

High jump (SQ 6-5) — 1. Andre Sayles, DX, 6-3. 2. Travis Howe, GA, 6-3. 3. Jim Lehan, DK, 6-1. 4. Pierre Woods, GA, 6-1. 5. Brad LeFevre, DX, 6-1. (Top two advance to state).

Triple jump (SQ 45-0) — 1. Andre Sayles, DX, 43-11. 2. Bubba Akers, UT, 43-6½. 3. Tysonn Shivers, RI, 42-11½. 4. Jon Lehan, DK, 41-10½. 5. Jesse Schroeder, UT, 41-5½. (Top two advance to state).

300 IM hurdles (SQ 39.8) — 1. Tim McDonald, MO, 39.0. 2. Ellery Stewart, RI, 40.1. 3. Jim Lehan, DK, 40.7. 4. Nate Paxton, UT, 40.7. 5. Nick DePauw, GE, 40.9. (Top two advance to state).

Shot (SQ 52-6) — 1. John Nurczyk, MI, 59-3. 2. Nick Smith, ST, 56-5½. 3. Ryan Lee, MI, 53-6½. 4. Paul Schiaras, DX, 53-1½. 5. Lars Sundfor, RI, 52-9. (Top five advance to state).

4 x 100 (SQ 42.9) — 1. Rock Island (D. Tutskey, A. Hill, J. Austin, R. Muskeyvalley) 42.4. 2. UT (R. Frazier, T. Clark, J. Hoggard, J. Harris) 43.7. 3. Moline (P. Wren, J. Estell, T. Palos, T. McDonald) 43.9. 4. Sterling (N. Green, J. Fargher, G. Bontz, A. Barajas) 44.4. 5. Rochelle (M. Fillman, D. Bryant, D. Horner, K. Kissack) 44.5. (Top two advance to state).

3200 (SQ 9:40.0) — Sean Mendoza, RI, 9:54.00. 2. Chris Studer, GE, 9:56.60. 3. Chris Allen, DX, 10:01.5. 4. Eric Crowhurst, OT, 10:12.8. 5. David Bergeson, RO, 10:18.5. (Top two advance to state).

4 x 800 (SQ 8:06.0) — 1. Rock Island (C. Balby, R. Allen, C. Lawrence, R. Barton) 8:08.0. 2. Geneseo (A. Anderson, T. Anderson, M. Keplinger, G. Venema) 8:08.7. 3. Rochelle (N. Anaya, R. Laas, M. Dubois, A. Thompson) 8:16.4. 4. UT (L. Lestbrook, C. Dalton, D. Hood, E. Wesselmann) 8:40.3. 5. Sterling (T. Williams, A. Amezola, J. Bittork, T. Perez) 8:59.2. (Top two advance to state).

100 (SQ 10.8) — 1. Danny Tutskey, RI, 10.8. 2. Mark Moellering, RO, 11.0. 3. Adam Hill, RI, 11.0. 3. Jamar Harris, UT, 11.4. 4. Cedrick Little, DK, 11.5. 5. Tim Palos, MO, 11.7. (Top two advance to state).

110 high hurdles (SQ 14.7) — 1. Tim McDonald, MO, 14.6. 2. Tyler Gaumer, ST, 14.7. 3. Jim Lehan, DK, 15.0. 4. Nate Paxton, UT, 15.0. 5. Ellery Stewart, RI, 15.0. (Top two advance to state).

800 (SQ 1:58.0) — 1. Dan Sherman, ST, 1:59.40. 2. Mike Brown, DK, 2:00.2. 3. Mark Eissens, ST, 2:00.9. 4. Mike Mudge, LA, 2:02.4. 5. Joel Foster, DX, 2:03.4. (Top two advance to state).

400 (SQ 49.9) — 1. Ryan Barton, RI, 51.5. 2. Kyle Kissack, RO, 51.6. 3. Terence Clark, UT, 51.8. 4. Brad LeFevre, DX, 52.0. 5. Tom McDonald, MO, 52.3. (Top two advance to state).

4 x 200 (SQ 1:30.3) — 1. Rock Island (D. Tutskey, A. Hill, J. Austin, R. Muskeyvalley) 1:29.5. 2. UT (S. Banks, T. Clark, R. Frazier, J. Harris) 1:31.5. 3. Rochelle (D. Bryant, M. Fillman, D. Horner, M. Moellering) 1:31.5. 4. Galesburg (J. Brown, P. Woods, C. Oppenorth, D. Lindstrom) 1:31.8. 5. Moline (A. Rhyne, J. Estell, P. Wren, J. Manning) 1:33.0. (Top two advance to state).

1600 (SQ 4:26.0) — 1. Craig Lawrence, RI,