

Led by experience

18 lettermen return for '99 track season

The 1999 spring athletic season has begun at J. D. Darnall High School and among the cast of players is the boys varsity track team.

Getting started with their usual opening trips to Westwood's Indoor Track Facility in Sterling, the Leafs have shown promise.

Dixon hosted the opener on Tuesday, March 16 in Sterling. Though Dixon won handily with 72 points, Geneseo was close behind second-place Rochelle with just two points (49-47) separating the two.

Geneseo will host just three events, the first against Sherrard and Princeton on Tuesday, March 30 beginning at 4:30 p.m. The Leafs will return home on Thursday, April 15 for a 4:15 p.m. competition with Galesburg.

The annual John McCormick Invitational is slated for Friday, May 7 at 5 p.m. and is the last home event for the varsity squad.

This year, Head Coach Mel Snook plans to produce a more well-rounded team.

"In past years, the scoring was heavily weighted in the direction of the distance runners," Coach Snook claimed.

"We think this year everybody will be able to contribute to the scoring, as well as the distance runners."

Coach Snook is looking for definite points from everyone on the team ranging from distance to field events, sprints to relay teams.

Heading the high jump pit will be senior Neil Russell. A veteran jumper, Russell will also be looked at for points in the hurdle events.

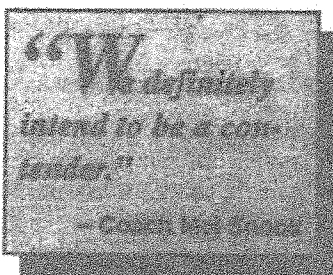
Looking to be the number one man at hurdles is sophomore Mike Sunstrom who, according to Coach Snook, is really showing promise this season.

Leading the pack in the weightman's class are Jake Verstraete and Jeff Bowling, both juniors. Last year, Bowling was the top shot putter and is looking to maintain his title.

As of now, the sole pole vault competitor is junior Andy Henry who held the position last year as well.

Coach Snook noted the progress Henry has made in the event.

"I feel he, as well as the other field eventers, will be able to help the team to meet victories," Coach Snook reflected.



Unfortunately, injuries have played an important part in the success - or lack of - for the Leafs. Going into this second meet, hurdler Cory Parrish is still nursing an injury he received during the basketball season. Along with Parrish, 400 and 800-meter powerhouse Grant Venema is aiding a broken toe. Venema intends to be part of the 3200-meter relay tandem as well.

The relay team has not been set quite yet but, when distance Coach Don Frederichs comes up with the right combination, it's sure to be something special.

Last year's 3200 relay team took first at the NCIC meet and two of those runners, Mark Keplinger and Venema, are back this year. The 1998 foursome earned a berth at the state meeting where they placed 23rd out of 36 competing teams.

In the distance events, seniors Justin Fluck, Chris Studer, Josh Fleming and Keplinger intend to make this year their best.

Fluck, who has been hobbled by injuries in the past, has taken appropriate measures to insure his health for his final season. He was

named Most Valuable last year.

Studer went to the state meet in 1998, competing in the 3200-meter event. He finished 28th overall. It was his second consecutive trip to the IHSA Class AA boys state track and field meet.

Juniors Tim Nelson, Venema and Andy Beuster will aid the senior distance runners as they've done in the past.

As a team, the varsity Leafs were fifth at the conference meet.

This year, Coach Snook hopes to better even last year's accomplishments.

"We definitely intend to be a contender for conference this year," he stressed. "Last year we placed fifth and this year we intend to be in the top three at least."

"Hopefully better than that," he added.

The Leafs' coaching staff, which includes Coach Snook, Coach

Frederichs, Larry Johnson and Jon Murray, is looking forward to an exciting season based on a squad of runners who have been competing at the varsity level since their freshmen year.

Experience could prove to be a definite plus in Geneseo's corner. A total of 18 letterwinners from last year's roster are back for the 1999 season.

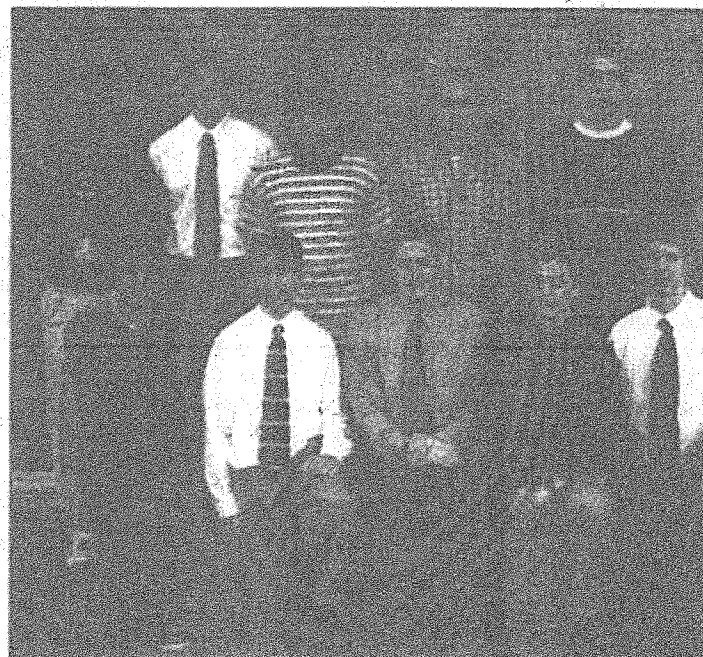
Seniors who earned varsity letters last year include Justin Fluck, Mark Keplinger, Brendan O'Rourke, George Oslager, Neil Russell and Chris Studer.

Returning letter winners that are juniors this year include Aaron Anderson, Andy Beuster, Dave Bopp, Jeff Bowling, Jon Lake, Will McComb, Tim Nelson, Cory Parrish, Matt Travis, Grant Venema and Jake Verstraete.

Kyle Reade is the only sophomore member of the squad who returns with a varsity letter.

A total of 74 athletes are named on this year's track roster for both the varsity and junior varsity roster.

Other's scheduled to compete for Geneseo include Josh Fleming, Brian Mosher, Chris Sanders,



LOOKING FOR A REPEAT. J. D. Darnall High School's varsity boys' team of returning lettermen on the roster. Among those coming back left to right, front row, Andy Beuster, Dave Bopp, Mark Keplinger, Justin Fluck and back row, Brendan O'Rourke, Grant Venema, Russell, Aaron Anderson, Jake Verstraete and Chris Studer.

First of season

Cindermen take on Dixon, Rochelle; Leaflets take first

A triangular meet with Dixon and Rochelle at Westwood in Sterling kicked off the 1999 season for the J. D. Darnall boys track team.

The cindermen will return to Westwood Tuesday, March 23 for a meeting with Sterling. The first home meet is slated for Tuesday, March 30, 4:30 p.m., against Sherrard.

Dixon won the varsity meet with 72 points followed by Rochelle, 49 and Geneseo, 47 points.

Geneseo athletes took first in five events, the 3200-meter relay, 55 low hurdles, 3200-meter run, 800 run and the high jump.

Three seconds, five thirds and one fourth place were also earned.

Taking first for the Leafs in the 3200 relay were Andy Beuster, Mark Keplinger, Brendan O'Rourke and Dave Bopp who finished the race in 8:45.81.

Neil Russell claimed two of Geneseo's firsts, taking the 55 low hurdles in 7.68 and clearing the 6' in the high jump for the top honors. Russell also had a second place, clearing the 5' high hurdles in 8.67 for the silver medal spot.

It was one-two-three to Geneseo in the 3200-meter run with senior Justin Fluck leading the charge. Fluck covered the course in 10:15 for first with Tim Nelson (10:22) and Chris Studer (10:24) following right behind.

The other title finisher for the Leafs was Dave Bopp who won the 800-meter run with a time of 2:06.19. Will McCombs also competed, taking fourth with a time of 2:35.

Beuster and Keplinger claimed second and third positions for the Leafs in the 1600-meter run with times of 4:50 and 5:01.6, respectively.

Jeff Bowling finished in the third-place position in the shot put with his toss of 47'10". O'Rourke earned a bronze finish as well, finishing the 400-meter dash in 54.64. Another runner claiming third for the Leafs was George Ofslager. He clocked in at 24.77 in the 200-meter dash.

With 10 first-place honors and several packed finishes across the field, the Geneseo frosh-soph squad took first in the meet with 59 points. Rochelle came in second with 50 followed by Dixon with 39 points.

David Mattie, Nick Eberhardt, Nathan Ash and Mike Stone combined talents in the 3200-meter relay for the top time of 9:51.8.

Mike Sunstrom claimed three firsts for the Leaflets, taking the number one spot in both the 55 high and 55 low hurdles events. His low hurdles time was 8.10 while he cleared the high hurdles in 8.54. Teammate Jeremy Heaton took third in the low hurdles with a time of 8.53.

Sunstrom's third gold was earned in the 400-meter dash with his time of 57.6. Joe Curnyn wrapped up second place for the Leaflets with a time of 58.69.

Josh Franks took first in the 3200-

meter run with a time of 11:15 while Mark Gleason claimed the number three slot for Geneseo with a time of 13:53.

Josh Watson was the top man in the 55-meter dash, sprinting the track in 7.18. Curnyn also competed in the dash, finishing third with a time of 7.42.

The Leaflets took first in the 800-meter run with the efforts of Nick Ogle who took the event with a time of 2:31.4.

Three runners packed the field in the 1600-meter run. Mattie won the event with a time of 5:09.75 while Nick Eberhardt was second in 5:16. Franks came in fourth with a time of 5:25.63.

The other two firsts for the Leaflets came from Andy Thurman and Heaton. Thurman won the 200-meter dash with a time of 25.82 while Heaton cleared 5'8" in the high jump for the winning position. Watson also ran the dash, claiming third with a time of 26.77.

Watson added a second in the long jump to his day's efforts with a 17'7" effort.

In the triple jump, Pat Mapes took second, 35'1" and Kyle Wickwire finished third, 34'2-1/2".

Adam Possin placed in the shot put for Geneseo, giving a hurdle of 31'10" for fourth place.

The track team is coached by Mel Snook with the assistance of Don Fredericks, Larry Johnsen and Jon Murray. There are 74 currently named to this year's roster.

VARSITY DIXON / ROCHELLE 3/16/99

@ WESTWOOD

3200 RE - 1. GENESEO 8:45.81
 (BEUSTER, KEPLINGER, O'ROURKE, BOPP)
 2. ROCHELLE 9:03.2

HIGH 1. RUSSELL(G) 6"
 JUMP 2. KISSACK(R) 5'10"
 3. LeFEVRE(D) 5'10"
 4. DOEH(D) 5'8"

55 LH 1. RUSSELL (G) 7.68
 2. MANNEL (RO) 8.13
 3. MONK (D) 8.22
 4. WAKELEY (D) 8.59

POLE 1. PRSYZUCHA(D) 12'
 VAULT 2. BRAINERD(D) 12'
 3. DIDIER(D) 10'6"
 4. REYNOLDS(R) 10'

55 HH 1. MONK (D) 8.17
 2. RUSSELL (G) 8.67
 3. WAKELEY (D) 9.09

TRIPLE 1. PRSYZUCHA(D) 37'6 1/2"
 JUMP 2. LeFEVRE(D) 36'7 1/2"
 3. FUNDERBURGH(R) 36'7"
 4. HORNER(R) 36'5 1/2"

3200 1. FLUCK (G) 10:15
 2. NELSON(G) 10:22
 3. STUDER(G) 10:24
 4. ? (R) 10:33

LONG 1. MOELLERING(R) 21'2"
 JUMP 2. DOEH(D) 20'1 1/2"
 3. BELLOWS(D) 19'5"
 4. MARRANDINO(D) 19'2"

55 1. BELLOWQS(D) 6.54
 2. MOELLERING(R) 6.58
 3. SWEGER(R) 6.62
 4. DOEH(D) 6.78

DIXON - 72

800 1. BOPP(G) 2:06.1
 2. FOSTER(D) 2:06.46
 3. COTES(D) 2:14
 4. McCOMBS(G) 2:15

ROCHELLE - 49

GENESEO - 47

800 RE. 1. ROCHELLE 1:39.19
 2. DIXON

400 1. BRAINERD(D) 52.43
 2. HORNER(R) 53.28
 3. O'ROURKE(G) 54.64
 4. MARRANDINO(D) 57.0

1600 1. ANAYA(RO) 4:45.48
 2. BEUSTER(G) 4:50
 3. KEPLINGER(G) 5:01.60
 4. BERGESON(R) 5:01.72

200 1. MOELLERING(R) 24.1
 2. SWEGER(R) 24.53
 3. OFSLAGER(G) 24.77
 4. MONK(D) 24.94

1600 RE. 1. DIXON 3:44.44
 2. ROCHELLE 3:48.11

SHOT 1. BYRNES(D) 53'6 1/2"
 PUT 2. SHERIDAN(D) 48'2"
 3. BOWLING(G) 47'10"
 4. WILLIAMS(D) 46'7"

F/S DIXON / ROCHELLE 3/16/99

@ WESTWOOD

3200 RE -	1. GENESEO 9:51.8 (MATTIE, EBERHARDT, ASH, STONE) 2. ROCHELLE 10:40.2	HIGH JUMP	1. HEATON(G) 5'8" 2. APPLEQUIST(D) 5'4" 3. BROKAW(D) 5' 4. MUHSENN(R) 5'
55 LH	1. SUNSTROM (G) 8.10 2. DALE (RO) 8.11 3. HEATON (G) 8.53 4. ALBA (D) 8.55	POLE VAULT	1. MUHSENN(R) 12' 2. BROKAW(D)
55 HH	1. SUNSTROM (G) 8.54 2. INMEN (RO) 8.89 3. DALE (RO) 10.07 4. BROKAW (D)	TRIPLE JUMP	1. MOELLERING(R) 38'5 1/2" 2. MAPES(G) 35'1" 3. WICKWIRE(G) 34'21/2" 4. ALBA(D) 33'10 1/2"
3200	1. FRANKS (G) 11:15 2. KUHN (D) 11:17 GLEASON (G) 13:53	LONG JUMP	1. MOELLERING(R) 18'2 1/2" 2. WATSON(G) 17'7" 3. APPLEQUIST(D) 16'5 1/2" 4. ECHELBERGER(R) 16'1 1/2"
55	1. WATSON(G) 7.18 2. WICKENS(D) 7.22 3. CURNYN(G) 7.49 4. ? (D) 7.49	GENESEO - 77 ROCHELLE - 47	
800	1. OGLE(G) 2:31.4 2. STOUFFER(R) 2:32 3. RYAN(R) 2:35 4. HIPPLE(D) 2:36	DIXON - 39	
800 RE.	1. DIXON 1:46 2. ROCHELLE 1:47.48		
400	1. SUNSTROM(G) 57.6 2. CURNYN(G) 58.69 3. BERGESON(R) 58.95 4. RAINWATER(R) 1:00.55		
1600	1. MATTIE(G) 5:09.75 2. EBERHARDT(G) 5:16 3. KUHN(D) 5:24.76 4. FRANKS(G) 5:25.63		
200	1. THURMAN(G) 25.82 2. DAUGHERTY(R) 26.22 3. WATSON(G) 26.77 4. ECKELBERGER(R) ?		
1600 RE.	1. DIXON 4:05.63 2. GENESEO 4:07.57 (CURNYN, SULLIVAN, KEMPHER, SUNSTROM)		
SHOT PUT	1. McBRIDE(D) 34'9" 2. JOHNSON(R) 33'41/2" 3. SHIARAS(D) 32'2 1/2" 4. POSSIN(G) 31'10"		