

Republic photo by Jerry Hahn

SPRING LOADED. Jeremy Heaton vaults to 11' for third place at the Geneseo Frosh-Soph Invitational on Monday, April 26. He was just six inches shy of the winning mark.

Ask, they'll come

Geneseo to host annual McCormick Invite Fri., May 7

Thirteen teams are slated to take part in the annual John McCormick Boys Track Invitational at J. D. Darnall High School next Friday, May 7.

Field events will begin at 4:30 p.m. while running events are scheduled for 5 p.m.

Joining the Leafs in the track and field events will be representatives from Canton, Dixon, Peoria Richwoods, Galesburg, Kewanee, LaSalle-Peru, Metamora, Ottawa, Princeton, Rochelle, Rock Falls and Rock Island Alleman.

The McCormick invitational is the last meet for the varsity thinclads before the NCIC meet in Sterling on Friday, May 14.

Nineteen events will be featured at this year's event including a weightman's 400-meter relay. Athletes who throw the shot and discus and are not considered a regular sprintman may compete. The weightman's relay does not count towards the relay championship but is counted for the team standings.

A traveling trophy will be awarded to the first-place team. First, second and third-place team trophies will also be presented.

Individual medals will be given for places one through three in individual events while ribbons will be awarded for fourth, fifth and sixth.

Individual medals will also be pre-

sented for first place in the relay events while second through sixth places will be given ribbons.

Of the 18 events recorded (no weightman's record has been kept), Geneseo holds the invitational title for just one event, the 3200-meter relay.

In 1980, Jeff Renihan, Bryan Colbert, Dave Paxson and Keith Kincaid ran the 3200 relay in 8:04.80 to set the record which has stood for nearly two decades.

Up until last year, former Leaf trackman Ben Hahn held the 400-dash record of 50.10, set in 1992. It was bettered by Lucas Buckley of Canton to 48.77.

The 400 dash was just one record set by Buckley at the 1998 McCormick. He also set the new 200-meter dash mark at 22.00.

All total, four records were set at last year's event. In addition to the two set by Buckley, new records were marked in the 300-intermediate hurdles and the long jump. Seth Frey of Rock Falls holds the hurdles record at 39.15 while Nate Norman of Princeton set the new long jump record at 22'4".

Canton won the 1998 event while the Leafs took fourth behind Kewanee and Dixon.

The only first-place earned by Geneseo came from the 3200-meter relay team of Andy Beuster, Dave Bopp, Mark Keplinger and Grant Venema. The next highest finish was Justin Fluck's second in the 3200-meter run.

Conference condition?

**Bowling, 3200 relay
win at McCormick;
Leafs are at NCIC
on Friday, May 14**



Jeff Bowling

Jeff Bowling and the 3200-meter relay team claimed crowns at this year's John McCormick Invitational held Friday, May 7 at J. D. Darnall High School.

The two titles boosted Geneseo into fourth place in the 13-team event.

Dixon won the title with 80 points followed by Rochelle, 74 and Galesburg, 67 points.

The Leafs tallied 57 points for the win to edge out Metamora which took fifth in the team standings with 53 points.

Peoria Richwoods and Rock Falls tied with 44 points followed by Canton, 41; Kewanee, 33; Princeton, 29; Ottawa, 27 and Alleman, 8. LaSalle-Peru also competed but did not score in the team standings.

Dave Bopp, Andy Beuster, Will McCombs and Chris Schwigen finished the 3200-meter run in 8:20.35 for the title, better than six seconds ahead of second-place Dixon at 8:26.22. Metamora rounded out the top three with a time of 8:27.00.

Bowling claimed his title for the Leafs in the shot put, clearing 53'5.5" for the win. Bowling's closest competition came from a Dixon thrower who cleared 52'11". Derek Fetzer of Princeton was third at 52'1.5".

"It was a very competitive meet," explained Coach Mel Snook.

Galesburg broke two records at the meet. The foursome of Sargent, Pugh, Oppenorth and Pugh teamed for a time of 42.99 in the 400-meter relay to set the new mark which was held by Galesburg's 1996 squad at 43.37.

Silver Streak Alphonso Pugh bettered the record in the long jump, reaching 22'8.5" to win the competition. Nate Norman of Princeton had just set the record at the 1998 meet at 22'4".

"Unfortunately the Canton boy who has had some of the best times in state, pulled a hamstring early on or we could have had more records broken," the Leafs' coach commented.

Justin Fluck and Chris Studer represented the Leafs in the 3200-meter run, claiming the fourth and fifth places, respectively. Joel Bourque of Kewanee took the tape in 9:52.35. It

was tight competition for the rest of the field. Rochelle's runner, Bergeson, took second in 10:00.28 while Nic Rogers of Rock Island captured third in 10:03.24 to edge out Fluck's time of 10:03.69. Studer clocked in at 10:05.20.

Bopp claimed a bronze-medal finish for the Leafs in the 400-meter dash. Travis Barke of Metamora topped the field, clocking in at 51.34 ahead of Rochelle's B. Horner at 51.62.

Bopp was next over the line, stopping the clock at 51.90 ahead of Doug Lindstrom of Galesburg at 52.00.

Beuster added a third-place finish to his stats as well, covering the 1600-meter course in 4:38.84. He was edged by Rogers of Rock Island who claimed second in 4:38.08. Bourque won at 4:27.25.

Bopp, Mark Keplinger, Schwigen and Venema teamed for the 1600-meter relay, claiming fourth overall with a time of 3:34.74 to edge past Metamora's contingent which was timed at 3:34.81.

Galesburg won the relay in 3:27.80.

Neil Russell scored for Geneseo in the 110-meter high hurdles, taking fifth with a time of 15.56. Canton's Giacomo Yanex took the title in 14.78. Russell finished between Galesburg's Calvin Oppenorth at 15.24 and Kewanee's Nathan Daniels at 15.82.

Russell was also part of the competitive field in the high jump. Doch of Dixon took clear title on the event, clearing 6' for the win. The next five athletes marked at 5'10" with three (Kissak of Rochelle, Tom Lendy of Ottawa and Brad Wilke of Metamora) tying for a second-place finish. Jake Maurer earned fifth bumping Russell to sixth in the meet.

Grant Venema also finished fifth, earning the honor with his time of 2'03.69 in the 800-meter run. Anaya of Rochelle won the competition in 2:00.38. Venema's time put him between Jeff Petty of Kewanee, 2:03.00 and Chris Hicks of Metamora at 2:04.02.

Scoring in sixth-place for Geneseo in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles was Cory Parrish who nearly took fifth overall. Calvin Oppenorth of Galesburg won, taking the course in 40.0. Brian Lovingood of Rock Island edged out Parrish for fifth, the pair finishing in 42.32 and 42.34, respectively.

Kyle Reade wrapped up the sixth-place position in the triple jump. Rock athlete Lovingood earned the winning leap at 42'8". Reade cleared 39'10".

There were eight events in which the Leafs did not finish within the top six scoring positions.

In the record-setting 400 relay, Galesburg topped the field in 42.99 followed by Canton, 43.67 and Rock Falls, 43.96 to round out the top three.

The top three slots in the 100-meter dash went to Tom Gilbert of Rock Falls, 11.00; Mark Moellering of Rochelle, 11.11 and Pet Holak, Canton, 11.14.

Galesburg also took the title in the 800-meter relay, clocking at 1:31.09; with Rochelle, 1:32.23 and Canton, 1:33.15 finishing second and third, respectively.

A. Pugh of Galesburg took the tape in the 200-meter dash in 22:12 followed by Tom Gilbert of Rock Falls, 22.37 and Moellering of Rochelle, 22.72.

Dixon won the weightman's relay, in 48.33 with Richwoods, 48.69 and Rock Falls, 50.88 wrapping up the top three positions.

A. Pugh's record-setting mark of 22'8.5" in the long jump was followed by Gilbert's effort of 21'11" and Moellering's mark of 21'4".

Ratha Chum of Ottawa took the crown in the pole vault, clearing 14'0" for the title. Lucas Brainerd of Dixon finished second at 13' while Bob Jackson of Ottawa claimed third overall at 12'6".

Princeton's Mike Ori won the discus with a hurl of 150'9" followed by John Arnold of Alleman, 149'11" and John Young of Rock Island, 144'9".

"Our guys performed well for what they could do that night," Coach Snook commented. "Now we'll look ahead to conference."

The Leafs will face many of these same athletes this weekend as they prepare for the NCIC meet on Friday, May 14, in Sterling. The prelims and some field events will begin at 3 p.m. while the finals in the running events will begin at 6 p.m. Coach Snook noted three frosh-soph finals will also be run in the afternoon, the 3200 relay, 3200 run and the 300 intermediate hurdles, in an effort to speed up the evening competition.

Coach Snook feels the McCormick is a good gauge for what's ahead for the conference.

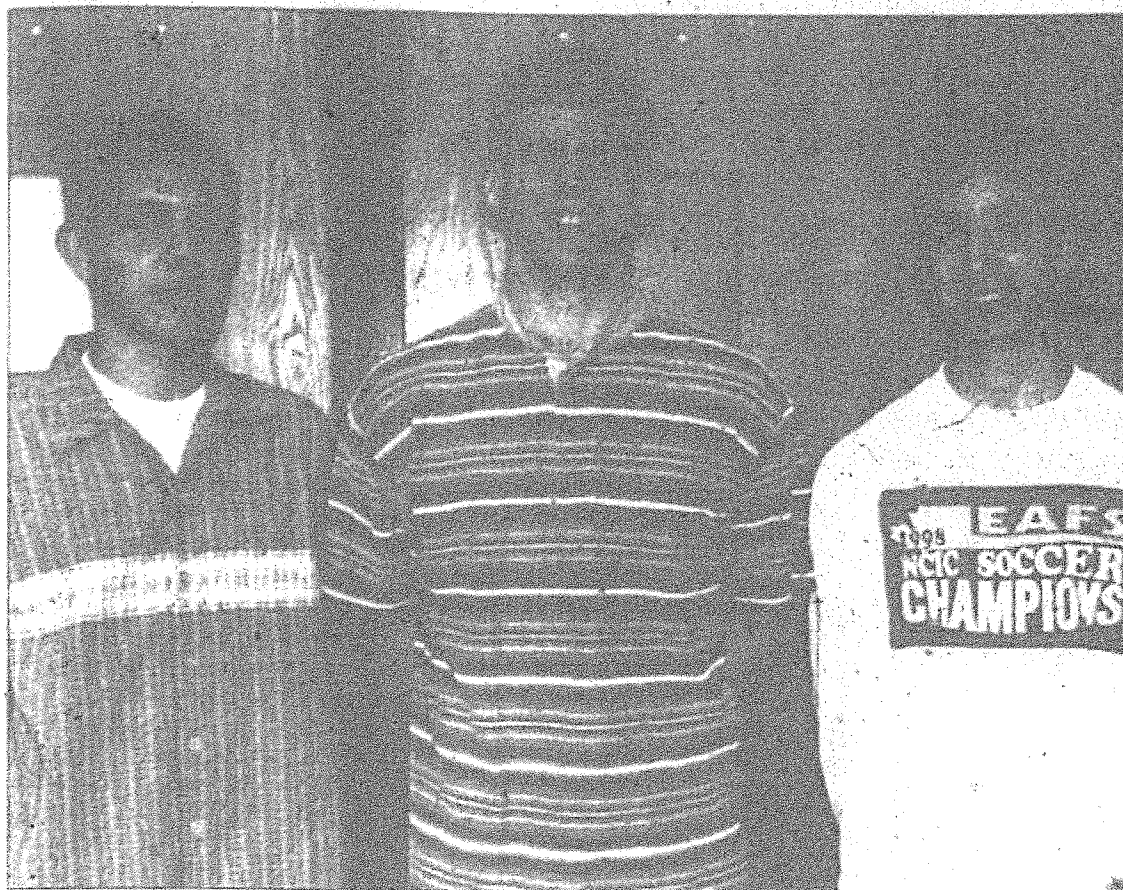
"I attended the seeding meeting (Wednesday) night," he explained. "On points, our varsity is seeded fifth and we're first for the frosh-soph."

"If it pans out that way we'll be very happy," he continued. "I expect our varsity will be better than that and challenge for third or fourth... or maybe higher."

"If the kids perform the way I know they can, we'll do very well," he concluded.

Sectional competition is Friday, May 21 in Minooka at 4 p.m. Coach Snook noted plans are to use a charter bus for the team's trip to sectionals with help from the Booster Club.

"It will allow the athletes to stretch out and make the two-plus hour trip in a little more comfort," Coach Snook concluded.



Republic photo

EARNING TRACK HONORS. The varsity Leafs took two events at the annual John McCormick Invitational on Friday, May 7, the 3200-meter relay and the shot put. Handing off for Geneseo in the relay were, from left, Andy Beuster, Will McCombs and Dave Bopp. Chris Schwigen, the other leg of the relay, was not present for the photo. Jeff Bowling claimed the shot put title for Geneseo.



Republic photo by Jerry Hahn

PLANTED. Brian Mosher plants his feet firmly in the pit during the McCormick Invite.



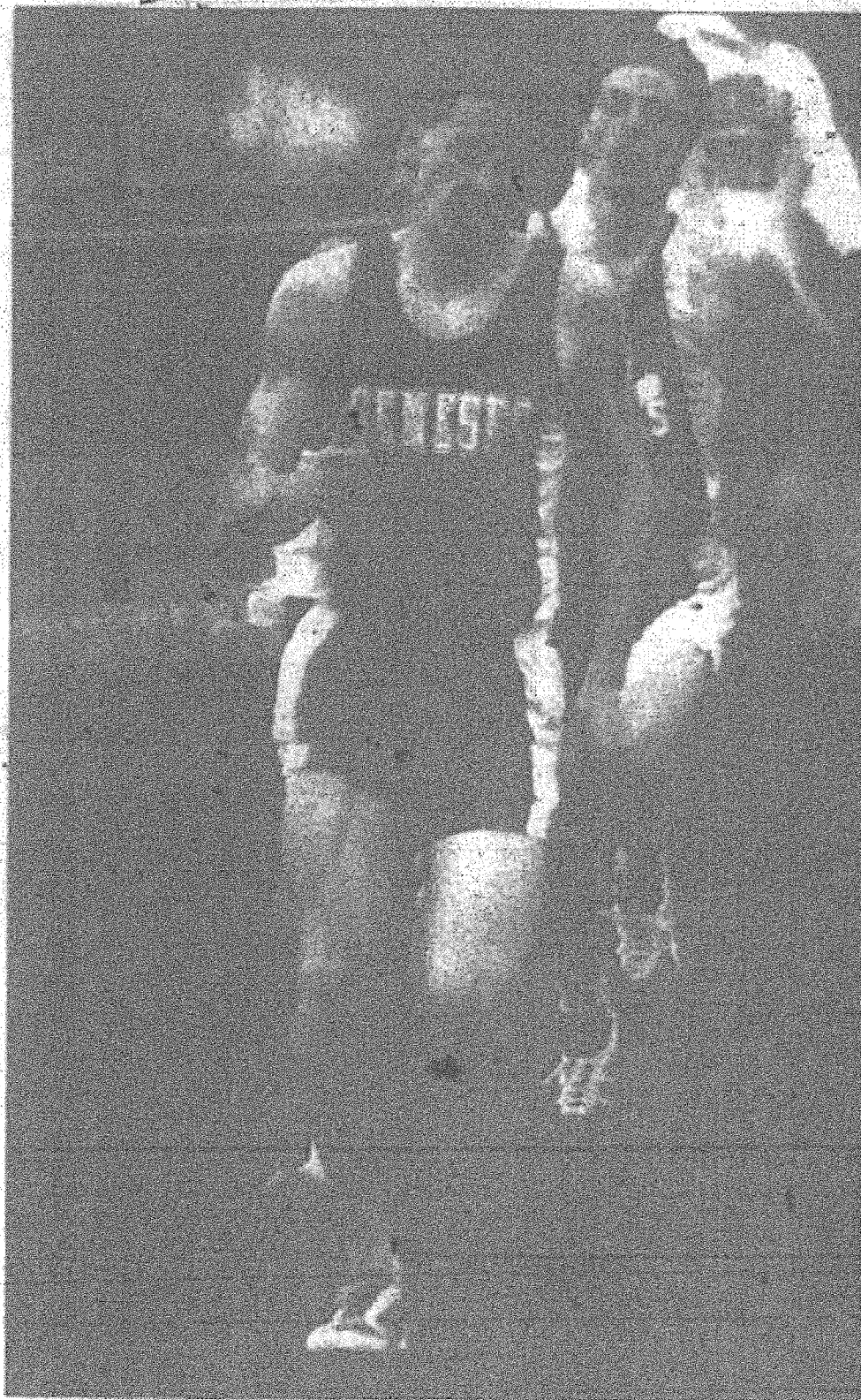
Republic photo by Jerry Mahn

EYING HIS MARK. Andy Henry sprints down the strip in the pole vaulting event at Genesee's annual John McCormick Track Invitational Friday, May 7.



Republic photo by Jerry Hahn

ALL IN STRIDE. Dave Bopp strides ahead of the opposition in the opening leg of a relay during Geneseo's invitational on Friday. Bopp ran in both the 3200-meter and 1600-meter relay events.



Republic photo by Jerry Hahn

ALL-OUT EFFORT. Mark Keplinger rounds the corner in one of the track events held at the John McCormick Invite on Friday.

May, May 14, 1999



Republic photo by Jerry Hahn

EDGING OVER. Neil Russell squeaks over the high jump bar during the annual John McCormick Track Invitational on Friday afternoon, May 7 at J. D. Darnall High School. Russell was one of five athletes to clear 5'10" in the competition. He finished sixth overall.

Prep boys

John McCormick invite

At J.D. Darnall H.S., Geneseo

Team standings

1, Dixon 80. 2, Rochelle 74. 3, Galesburg 67. 4, Geneseo 57. 5, Metamora 54. 6, (Tie) Peoria Richwoods and Rock Falls 44. 8, Canton 41. 9, Kewanee 33. 10, Princeton 29. 11, Ottawa 27. 12, Alleman 8. 13, LaSalle-Peru 0.

3200-meter relay — 1, Geneseo (Bopp, Bauster, McCombs, Schwigen) 8:20.35. 2, Dixon 8:26.22. 3, Metamora 8:27.0. 4, Ottawa 8:33.24. 5, Canton 8:44.16.

400 relay — 1, Galesburg (Sargent, Pugh, Opgenorth, Pugh) 42.99 (meet record). 2, Canton 43.67. 3, Rock Falls 43.96. 4, Metamora 44.10. 5, Dixon 45.32.

3200 run — 1, Bourque, Kewanee, 9:52.35. 2, Bergeson, Rochelle 10:00.28. 3, Rogers, Richwoods, 10:03.24. 4, Fluck, Geneseo 10:03.69. 5, Studer, Geneseo, 10:05.20.

110 high hurdles — 1, Yanez, Canton, 14.78. 2, Hamilton, Metamora, 14.84. 3, Lovingood, Richwoods, 15.00. 4, Opgenorth, Galesburg, 15.24. 5, Russell, Geneseo, 15.56.

100 dash — 1, Gilbert, Rock Falls, 11.00. 2, Moellering, Rochelle, 11.11. 3, Holak, Canton, 11.14. 4, Barke, Metamora, 11.40. 5, James, Richwoods, 11.52.

800 run — 1, Anaya, Rochelle, 2:00.38. 2, Holmes, Richwoods, 2:00.89. 3, Kepfinger, Geneseo, 2:02.45. 4, Petty, Kewanee, 2:03.00. 5, Venema, Geneseo 2:03.69.

800 relay — 1, Galesburg (Banzali, Pugh, Watson, Pugh) 1:31.09. 2, Rochelle 1:32.23. 3, Canton 1:33.15. 4, Dixon 1:33.66. 5, Kewanee 1:36.08.

400 dash — 1, Barke, Metamora, 51.34. 2, Horner, Rochelle, 51.62. 3, Bopp, Geneseo, 51.90. 4, Lindstrom, Galesburg, 52.00. 5, James, Richwoods, 52.37.

300 intermediate hurdles — 1, Opgenorth, Galesburg, 40.0. 2, Yanez, Canton, 40.98. 3, Monk, Dixon, 41.76. 4, Daniels, Kewanee, 42.24. 5, Lovingood, Richwoods, 42.32.

1600 run — 1, Bourque, Kewanee, 4:27.25. 2, Rogers, Richwoods, 4:38.08. 3, Buester, Geneseo, 4:38.84. 4, Hicks, Metamora, 4:42.00. 5, Matheson, Richwoods, 4:43.79.

200 dash — 1, Pugh, Galesburg, 22.12. 2, Gilbert, Rock Falls, 22.37. 3, Moellering, Rochelle, 22.72. 4, Irwin, Rock Falls, 23.07. 5, Humke, Metamora, 23.57.

Weightmen's 400 relay — 1, Dixon 48.33. 2, Richwoods 48.69. 3, Rock Falls 50.88. 4, Rochelle 50.96. 5, Kewanee 51.93.

1600 relay — 1, Galesburg (Brown, Pugh, Opgenorth, Lindstrom) 3:27.80. 2, Rochelle 3:28.10. 3, Dixon 3:29.11. 4, Geneseo 3:34.74. 5, Metamora 3:34.81.

Long jump — 1, Pugh, Galesburg 22-8.5. (meet record) 2, Gilbert, Rock Falls, 21-11. 3, Moellering, Rochelle, 21-4. 4, Doeh, Dixon, 21-0. 5, Bellows, Dixon, 19-7.5.

Triple jump — 1, Lovingood, Richwoods, 42-8. 2, Vance, Rock Falls, 42-0. 3, Przysucha, Dixon, 41-6. 4, Funderberg, Rochelle, 41-4. 5, Watson, Galesburg, 40-1.

Pole vault — 1, Chum, Ottawa, 14-0. 2, Brainerd, Dixon, 13-0. 3, Jackson, Ottawa, 12-6. 4, Przysucha, Dixon, 12-6. 5, Dana, Kewanee, 12-0.

Shot put — 1, Bowling, Geneseo, 53-5.5. 2, Byrnes, Dixon, 52-11. 3, Fetzner, Richwoods, 52-1.5. 4, Ori, Richwoods, 50-5. 5, VerStrate, Geneseo, 49-7.5.

Discus — 1, Ori, Richwoods, 150-9. 2, Arnold, Alleman, 149-11. 3, Young, Richwoods, 144-9. 4, Matha, Dixon, 141-1. 5, Williams, Dixon, 140-7.

High jump — 1, Doeh, Dixon, 6-0. 2, (Tie) Kissak, Rochelle, Lendy, Ottawa, and Witke, Metamora, 5-10. 5, Maurer, Metamora, 5-10.

John McCormick Invitational

TEAM SCORES

1st place	DIXON	Pts. 80
2nd place	ROCHELLE	Pts. 74
3rd place	GALESGURG	Pts. 67
4th place	GENESEO	Pts. 57
5th place	METAMORA	Pts. 53
Tie for 6th place { 6th place	RICHWOODS	Pts. 44
	ROCK FALLS	Pts. 44
8th place	CANTON	Pts. 41
9th place	KEWANEE	Pts. 33
10th place	PRINCETON	Pts. 29
11th place	OTTAWA	Pts. 27
12th place	ALLEMAN	Pts. 8
13th place	LA SALLE-PERU	Pts. 0
14th place		Pts. _____

1600m Relay

1.	Brown, Pugh, Oppenorth, Lindstrom	GA	3:27.80
2.		RO	3:28.10
3.		DX	3:29.11
4.	BOPP, KEPLINGER, SCHWIGEN, VEREMA	GE	3:34.74
5.		MT	3:34.81
6.		CA	3:38.45

Shot Put

1.	Jeff Bowling	GE	53'5½"
2.	Byrnes	DX	52'11"
3.	Derek Fetzner	PR	52'1½"
4.	Mike Ori	PR	50'5"
5.	Jake VerStraete	GE	49'7½"
6.	Tobias Dickerson	GA	49'1"

Discus

1.	Mike Ori	PR	150'9"
2.	John Arnold	AL	149'11"
3.	John Young	RI	144'9"
4.	Matha	DX	141'1"
5.	Williams	DX	140'7"
6.	Brandon Graves	MT	135'9"

High Jump

1.	Doeh	DX	6'0"
2.	Kissak	RO	5'10"
3.	Tom Lendy	OT	5'10"
4.	Brad Wilke	MT	5'10"
5.	Jake Maurer	MT	5'10"
6.	Neil Russell	GE	5'10"

3-way tie for 2nd {

John McCormick Invitational
Geneseo, IL

3200m Relay

1.	Bopp, Buester, McCombs, Schwigen	GE	8:20.35
2.		DX	8:26.22
3.		MT	8:27.00
4.		OT	8:33.24
5.		CA	8:44.16
6.		RO	8:48.09

400m Relay

** 1.	Sargent, Pugh, Opgenorth, Pugh	GA	42.99
2.		CA	43.67
3.		RF	43.96
4.		MT	44.10
5.		DX	45.37
6.		RO	45.39

OLD RECORD 43.37 - GA - 1996 - CROPP, TURNER, JOHNSON, HUNIGAN

3200m Run

1.	Joel Bourque	KW	9:52.35
2.	Bergeson	RO	10:00.28
3.	Nic Rogers	RI	10:03.24
4.	Justin Fluck	GE	10:03.69
5.	Chris Studer	GE	10:05.20
6.	Nick Clementz	MT	10:21.94

110m High Hurdles

1.	Giacco Yanez	CA	14.78
2.	Zack Hamilton	MT	14.84
3.	Brian Lovingood	RI	15.00
4.	Calvin Opgenorth	GA	15.24
5.	Neil Russell	GE	15.56
6.	Nathan Daniels	KW	15.82

100m Dash

1.	Tom Gilbert	RF	11.00
2.	Mark Moellering	RO	11.11
3.	Pet Holak	CA	11.14
4.	Travis Barke	MT	11.40
5.	Jerry James	RI	11.52
6.	Lucas Buckley	CA	DNF

800m Run

1.	Anaya	RO	2:00.38
2.	Nathan Holmes	PR	2:00.89
3.	Mark Keplinger	GE	2:02.45
4.	Jeff Petty	KW	2:03.00
5.	Grant Venema	GE	2:03.69
6.	Chris Hicks	MT	2:04.02

800m Relay

1.	Banzali, Pugh, Watson, Pugh	GA	1:31.09
2.		RO	1:32.23
3.		CA	1:33.15
4.		DX	1:33.66
5.		KW	1:36.08
6.		MT	1:36.25

400m Dash

1.	Travis Barke	MT	51.34
2.	B. Horner	RO	51.62
3.	Dave Bopp	GE	51.90
4.	Doug Lindstrom	GA	52.00
5.	Jerry James	RI	52.37
6.	Lucas Brainerd	DX	52.80

300m Intermediate Hurdles

1.	Calvin Opgenorth	GA	40.0
2.	Giacco Yanez	CA	40.98
3.	Monk	DX	41.76
4.	Nathan Daniels	KW	42.24
5.	Brian Lovingood	RI	42.32
6.	Cory Parrish	GE	42.34

1600m Run

1.	Joel Bourque	KW	4:27.25
2.	Nic Rogers	RI	4:38.08
3.	Andy Buester	GE	4:38.84
4.	Chris Hicks	MT	4:42.00
5.	Aaron Matheson	RI	4:43.79
6.	Jeremy Smith	OT	4:44.47

200m Dash

1.	Alphonso Pugh	GA	22.12
2.	Tom Gilbert	RF	22.37
3.	Moellering	RO	22.72
4.	Jason Irwin	RF	23.07
5.	Dave Humke	MT	23.57
6.	Doeh	Dx	23.58

weightman Relay

1.	Dixon	48.33
2.	Richwoods	48.69
3.	Rock Falls	50.88
4.	Rochelle	50.96
5.	Kewanee	51.93
6.		

Long Jump

** 1.	Alphonso Pugh	GA	22'8½"
2.	Tom Gilbert	RF	21'11"
3.	Mark Moellering	RO	21'4"
4.	Phil Doeh	DX	21'0"
5.	Brian Bellows	DX	19'7½"
6.	Jake Maurer	MT	19'5"

OLD RECORD - 22'4" - NATE NORMAN - PR. - 1998

Triple Jump

1.	Brian Lovingood	RI	42'8"
2.	Brian Vance	RF	42'
3.	Mike Przysucha	DX	41'6"
4.	Funderburgh	RO	41'4"
5.	Jordan Watson	GA	40'1"
6.	Kyle Reade	GE	39'10"

Pole Vault

1.	Ratha Chum	OT	14'0"
2.	Lucas Brainerd	DX	13'0"
3.	Bob Jackson	OT	12'6"
4.	Przysucha	DX	12'6"
5.	Nick Dana	KW	12'0"
6.	Jason Walowski	PR	11'6"