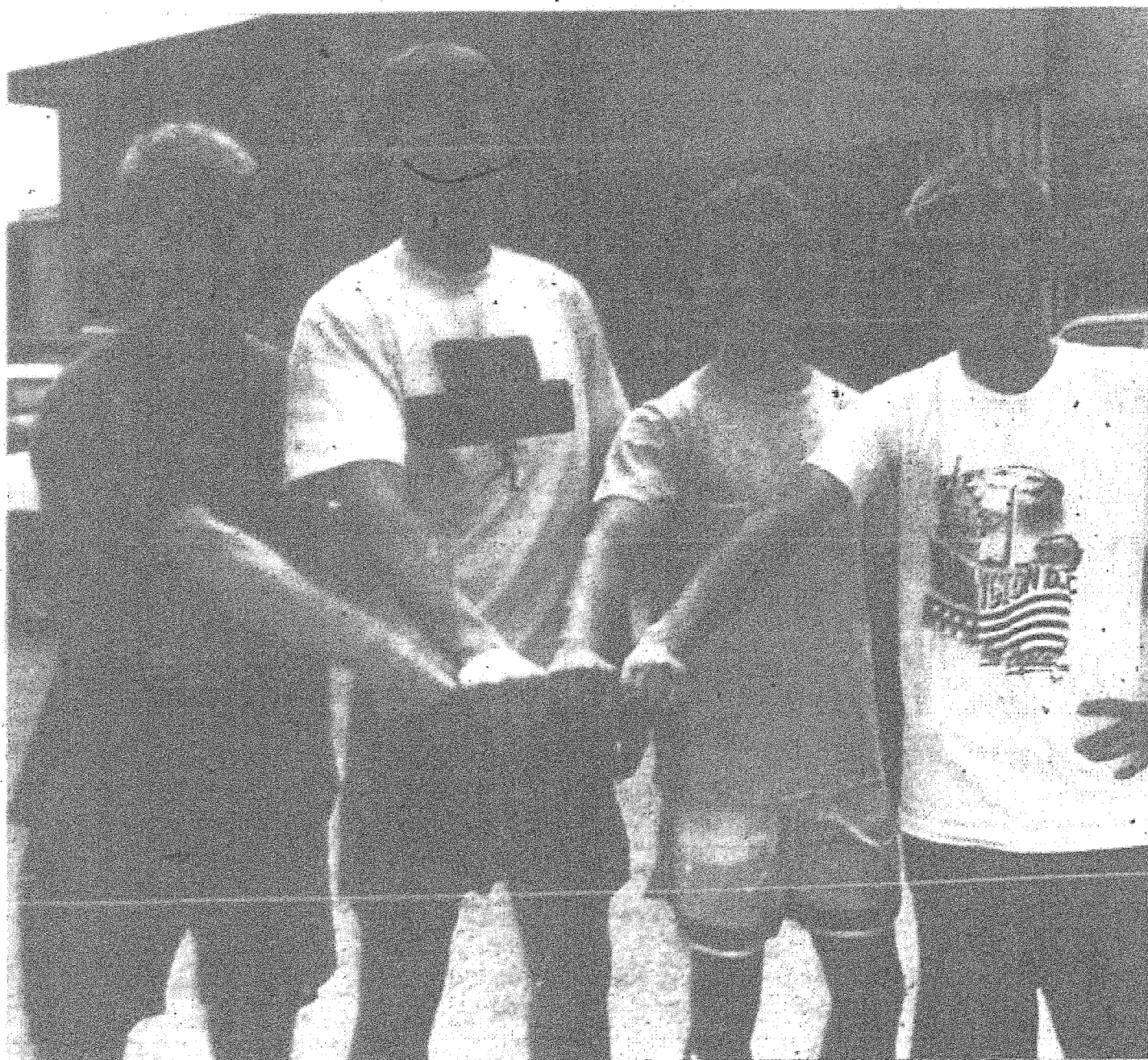




Republic photo

READY FOR SECTIONALS. Geneseo High School's varsity track team took third at the NCIC track meet in Dixon and will compete in the Class AA Sterling Sectionals Friday, May 19. Members of the 2000 varsity team include, from left to right; front row, Tim Nelson, Ian Malmstrom, Andy Beuster, Dave Bopp, Josh Franks and Bill Bean; second row, Mike Roelens, Noel Powers, Ben Mooney, Andy Henry, Mike Sunström, Jeremy Heaton, Travis Puckett, Joe Johnson, Nik Nilsson and Brandon Sandoval; third row, Randy Baugh, Mike Dietsch, Tim Kabatra, Jake Willet, Joel Basken, Brian Haars and Chris Castelein; fourth row, Matt Travis, Gary Jahns, Jeff Bowling, Mike Strohman, Jake Verstraete, Aaron Anderson, Grant Venema, Ben Gerhardt and Bob Ristau and back row, Josh Watson, Joe Curnyn, Corey Rothrock, David Mattie, Pat Schwigen, Mike Gawrysiak, Kyle Reade, Brad Palmgren, Dallas Drummond, Cory Parrish, Marc Brunner and Mike Stone.



Republic photo

HEADED FOR STATE. Geneseo's 3200-meter relay team won the Sterling Sectional and earned a return trip to the coveted IHSA Class AA state track meet Friday, May 26. Members of the relay squad are, from left, Wil McCombs, Grant Venema, Dave Bopp and Andy Beuster.



Regular photo

READY FOR COMPETITION. J. D. Darnall High School will send seven members of its boys track team to state this weekend to compete in six events. Among the Leafs ready for the top meet of the year are, from left, Tim Nelson (3200-meter run), Jeff Bowling (shot put), Cory Parish (100 and 300 hurdles events) and Dave Bopp (400-meter run).

Coveted honor

Seven represent Leafs at IHSA state track meet

Geneseo will be represented in six events at this weekend's IHSA Boys Class AA track meet in Charleston with seven athletes making the trek.

Qualification for the state meet was made at the IHSA Sectional track meet on Friday, May 19 at Sterling.

The Leafs had just one title winner at Sectional, the 3200-meter relay team. Dave Bopp and Grant Venema are making a return visit to the state meet in Charleston as members of last year's squad. The pair were members of last year's team which also competed and state. Venema is making his third trip to the top event.

Joining them are Wil McCombs and Andy Beuster.

The foursome took the tape in 8:10.95 for the win. Dixon took the other state transfer spot by placing second in 8:17.18.

Bopp will pull double duty for the Leafs. He also qualified for the state meet with a second-place finish in the 400-meter dash. Terry Westmark of United Township won the dash in 49.70 while Bopp sprinted to second in 50.15.

Tim Nelson has earned a berth in the state meet with a second-place finish in the 1200-meter run. He was

clocked at 9:47.60. Dan Trainor of Freeport will also make the trip for his first-place finish in 9:18.93.

The top two finishers in each event automatically qualified for state.

However, Geneseo earned its right in three events by beating qualifying times.

Cory Parrish will be running two hurdle events for the Leafs. He took fourth in the 100-meter high hurdles at Sectional with a time of 14.60, the last runner in the finals to best the qualifying time. Ellery Stewart of Rock Island (14.08); Matt Commella of Moline (14.12) and Tyler Gaumer of Sterling (14.44) will also be competing in the state meet.

Parrish earned his trip to state in the 300-meter hurdles with a fourth-place time of 39.75. Again, he was the last runner in the event to qualify. Also making the trek will be Stewart (38.39), Gaumer (38.57) and Commella (38.82).

Jeff Bowling is a repeat performer at the Class AA event as well. For the second year in a row, Bowling will compete in the state shot put event. He earned his berth at the coveted meet with a third-place toss of 54'0.5". The top six finishers in the event all qualified for state. Nick Byrnes of Dixon landed a throw of 59' for first followed by Ryan Matha, also of Dixon, in second at 55'2". Others heading to state in the shot put event include Ben Loy of Sterling, 53'8.5"; Matt Fletcher of L.P.,

53'2" and Chris Camos, Rochelle, 52'9".

Bowling also competed in the discus event at the Sterling Sectional. He placed sixth overall with a distance of 140'10". The top four in the event are headed to state including Kent Williams of Dixon, 163'4"; Don Sheridan, Dixon, 161'2"; Fletcher, 156'2" and Zach Edwards, Rock Island, 154'2".

Rock Island won the team competition of the Sectional meet with 103.5 points. Sterling took second with 86 while Dixon was third with 81.5 points. Moline, 65 and United Township, 60, rounded out the top five.

Other teams and their scores were Freeport, 53; Geneseo, 47; Rochelle, 26; Ottawa, 22; LaSalle-Peru, 9; Princeton, 6 and Sreator, 0.

Kyle Reade boosted Geneseo's tally with a fifth-place finish in the triple jump, registering a distance of 42'1.5". U.T.'s Ron Severisgaard landed at 44'0.25" for the win while Rocky's Quintin Jefferson was marked at 44'0.25" for second.

Parrish, Venema, Mike Sunstrom and Bopp ran the 1600-meter relay in 3:28.44 for fifth-place overall. Moline and Sterling took the top two positions with times of 3:24.14 and 3:24.72, respectively.

The Class AA state track meet is being held in Charleston beginning Friday, May 26.

The last time Geneseo came close to having this many or more state qualifiers was nearly a decade ago.

RI's Stewart redeems last year's nightmare

By Steve Tappa
Staff sports writer

STERLING — For a few frightening moments Friday, Ellery Stewart was worried he was reliving a year-old nightmare.

But as it turned out, the Rock Island senior enjoyed a dream of a night at the Class

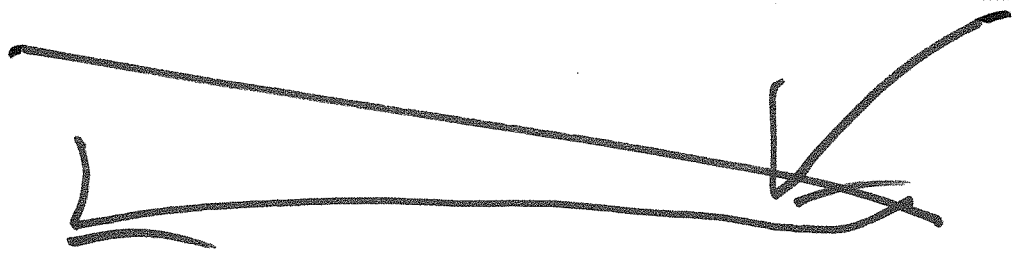
AA boys track and field sectional at Roscoe Eads Field.

Stewart and sophomore teammate Maurice Jones went unbeaten in their four events, pushing the seven-time defending Western Big 6 champions back to the top of the sectional heap. A five-year Rocky reign ended with a second last year.

Now, qualified in four events at next weekend's state meet in Charleston, Stewart and Jones hope to give long-time Rocky coach Ed Lillis a case of *deja vu*, times two.

"That's absolutely phenomenal to have two guys be a

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■ Sectional

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part of victories in seven events," Lillis said.

Stewart also scored victories in the long jump and both hurdling events. Jones won the 100 and 200, in addition to teaming with Burnett, Tyson and Dillon Smith on the 800 relay winner.

"I'm not just going down for the experience," Jones said after besting Sterling speedster Ryan Ptak in each sprint for the first time this season. "It might be my first time down there, but I'd like to bring home some medals. And, of course, the gold kind would be nice."

Stewart has equally high ambitions, though he called Friday's foursome of firsts the perfect reward for a year's worth of work.

"Last year, I was favored to win, but I fell on the first hurdle in the

finals of the 110 highs, and that messed me up for the rest of the meet," said Stewart, who nonetheless made it to state last year with the 400 relay team.

"Then, this year, it's the same situation in the 110s — I'm favored again, I ran the same exact qualifying time, I'm in the same exact lane, and a Moline guy is again right next to me.

"It was like a bad case of *deja vu*, and I was saying to myself, 'Don't fall again, whatever you do.'

"This is sweet redemption for last year," Stewart said. "This makes up for all that, and then some."

Also winning for Rock Island was Boomer Creger, who pulled a surprise in the 1600.

Zach Edwards (discus) and Quentin Jefferson (triple jump)

also qualified for the Rocks, who piled up 103.5 points to run past a pack of pursuers that included in order NCIC powers Sterling (86) and Dixon (81.5), and Big 6 rivals Moline (65) and United Township (60). Geneseo was seventh in the 12-team field with 47 points.

Matt Comella led the way for the Maroons, qualifying in four events. The junior finished second in the long jump and 110 high hurdles, and exceeded the qualifying standard in a third-place finish in the 300 IM hurdles.

Comella's lone victory came in the 1600 relay, where he teamed with Ben Shumaker, Nate Medinger and Joe Manning. Shumaker also won the 800, and would have also qualified with the winning 3200 relay, if not for a controversial

disqualification.

Geneseo wound up winning the 3200 relay, with Dave Bopp and Grant Venema returning to state in the event with two new teammates — Will McCombs and Andy Beuster.

The Leafs didn't win another event, but did qualify three others for Charleston. The seven state qualifiers is the most since Geneseo had a dozen in 1991.

Also making it for the Leafs were Cory Parrish (both hurdles), Tim Nelson (3200) and Jeff Bowling, a repeat qualifier in the shot put. Bopp also made it in the 400.

United Township's strong team performance only translated into two state qualifiers — Ron Severtsgaard (triple jump) and Terry Westbrook (400). Both won their events.

Class AA boys

Sterling Sectional

At Roscoe Eads Stadium

Team standings — 1, Rock Island 103.5. 2, Sterling 86. 3, Dixon 81.5. 4, Moline 65. 5, United Township 60. 6, Freeport 53. 7, Geneseo 47. 8, Rochelle 26. 9, Ottawa 22. 10, LaSalle-Peru 9. 11, Princeton 6. 12, Streator 0.

Individual events

(Scoring through six places; Top 2 finishers automatically qualify for state; ** notes those qualifying by equalling or exceeding times/distances)

Pole vault — 1, Tyler Gaumer, Sterling, 13-6. 2, Bob Jackson, Ottawa, 13-6. 3, Ben Brokaw, Dixon, 13-0. 4, Brian Jackson, Sterling, 13-0. 5, Toby Inman, Rochelle, 13-0. 6, Steve Burnett, Rock Island, 12-6 (state qualifying distance: 13-6).

High jump — 1, Aaron Dillard, Freeport, 6-3. 2, Marty LeFevre, Dixon, 6-3. 3, Andy Kanosky, Freeport, 6-3. 4, Eric Bontz, Sterling, 6-1. 5, Rodney Blue, UT, 5-11. 6 (tie), Bryan Tyson, Rock Island, and Joe DeBates, Dixon, 5-11 (state qualifying distance: 6-5).

Long jump — 1, Elery Stewart, Rock Island, 21-9 1/2. 2, Matt Comella, Moline, 21-0 3/4. 3, Laron Martin, UT, 20-9 1/2. 4, Matt Wright, Princeton, 20-3 1/4. 5, Alex Barajas, Sterling, 20-2 3/4. 6, Alex Riba, LaSalle-Peru, 19-10 1/4 (state qualifying distance: 22-0).

Triple jump — 1, Ron Savertagaard, UT, 44-6 1/4. 2, Quentin Jefferson, Rock Island, 44-0 1/4. 3, James Hood, UT, 43-6. 4, Rob Willey, Dixon, 42-11 1/4. 5, Kyle Reede, Geneseo, 42-1 1/2. 6, Deandre Hill, Freeport, 41-8 1/4 (state qualifying distance: 45-0).

Discus — 1, Kent Williams, Dixon, 163-4. 2, Don Sheridan, Dixon, 161-2. **3, Matt Fletcher, LaSalle-Peru, 156-2. **4, Zach Edwards, Rock Island, 154-2. 5, Adam Lewis, Ottawa, 145-1. 6, Jeff Bowling, Geneseo, 140-10 (state qualifying distance: 153-0).

Shot put — 1, Nick Byrnes, Dixon, 59-0. 2, Ryan Matha, Dixon, 55-2. **3, Bowling, Geneseo, 54-0 1/2. **4, Ben Loy, Sterling, 53-8 1/2. **5, Matt Fletcher, LaSalle-Peru, 53-2. **6, Chris Campos, Rochelle, 52-9 (state qualifying distance: 52-9).

3200 relay — 1, Geneseo (Will McCombs, Andy Bouser, Grant Venema, Dave Bopp) 8:05.95. 2, Dixon 8:07.08. 3, Rock Island (Boomer Creger, Jerrod Roessler, Bill Schwab, Jeremy Shirk) 8:18.70. 4, Freeport 8:28.63. 5, Rochelle 8:28.65. 6, Ottawa 8:35.7 (state qualifying time: 8:05.5).

400 relay — 1, Rock Island (Stewart, Tyson, Burnett, Maurice Jones) 41.88. 2, Sterling 42.47. 3, Moline (Jared Moss, Brad Hines, Patrick Wren, Joe Manning) 43.56. 4, United Township (Josh Schatteman, Justin Schatteman, Aaron Frazier, Terry Westbrook) 43.62. 5, Freeport 44.37. 6, Dixon 44.63 (state qualifying time: 42.9).

3200 — 1, Dan Trainor, Freeport, 9:18.93. 2, Tim Nelson, Geneseo, 9:47.60. 3, David Bergeson, Rochelle, 9:58.34. 4, Brian Taghon, UT, 10:06.73. 5, Austin Smith, Freeport, 10:10.89. 6, Jeff Decker, Moline, 10:17.50 (state qualifying time: 9:37.0).

110 high hurdles — 1, Stewart, Rock Island, 14.08. 2, Comella, Moline, 14.12. **3, Gaumer, Sterling, 14.44. **4, Cory Parrish, Geneseo, 14.60. 5, Matt Schmidt, Freeport, 15.56. 6, Jeff Holden, Rochelle, 15.88 (state qualifying time: 14.6).

100 — 1, Jones, Rock Island, 10.75. 2, Ryan Ptak, Sterling, 10.82. 3, Frazier, UT, 11.22. 4, Moss, Moline, 11.26. 5, Josh Reinstra, Dixon, 11.28. 6, Nate Davidson, Dixon, 11.53 (state qualifying time: 10.7).

800 — 1, Ben Shumaker, Moline, 1:55.70. 2, Adam Faupl, Ottawa, 1:57.12. 3, Jeremy Lima, Rochelle, 2:00.00. 4, Jerrod Paquette, UT, 2:00.34. 5, Tony Perez, Sterling, 2:01.00. 6, Jason Gavin, UT, 2:04.20 (state qualifying time: 1:57.5).

800 relay — 1, Rock Island (Dillon Smith, Tyson, Burnett, Jones) 1:28.91. 2, Sterling 1:29.04. 3, Dixon 1:32.01. 4, Freeport 1:33.47. 5, Princeton 1:34.62. 6, Rochelle 1:35.36 (state qualifying time: 1:30.3).

400 — 1, Terry Westbrook, UT, 49.70. 2, Bopp, Geneseo, 50.15. 3, Manning, Moline, 50.88. 4, Jefferson, Rock Island, 52.88. 5, Mike Sunstrom, Geneseo, 53.38. 6, Faupl, Ottawa, 53.39 (state qualifying time: 49.9).

300 intermediate hurdles — 1, Stewart, Rock Island, 38.39. 2, Gaumer, Sterling, 38.57. **3, Comella, Moline, 38.82. **4, Parrish, Geneseo, 39.75. 5, Justin Neal, Sterling, 41.03. 6, Peter Alba, Dixon, 41.28 (state qualifying time: 39.8).

1600 — 1, Creger, Rock Island, 4:26.16. 2, Trainor, Freeport, 4:26.56. 3, Bergeson, Rochelle, 4:30.48. 4, Jon Martin, Sterling, 4:38.13. 5, Brent Clawson, Moline, 4:39.99. 6, Ammon Paquette, UT, 4:40.55 (state qualifying time: 4:25.0).

200 — 1, Jones, Rock Island, 21.61. 2, Ptak, Sterling, 22.15. 3, Rienstra, Dixon, 22.93. 4, Moss, Moline, 23.13. 5, Jeremy Schillings, Ottawa, 23.56. 6, Dusty Smith, Ottawa, 23.79 (state qualifying time: 22.1).

1600 relay — 1, Moline (Comella, Nate Medinger, Manning, Shumaker) 3:24.14. 2, Sterling 3:24.72. 3, UT (Justin Schatteman, Josh Schatteman, Frazier, Westbrook) 3:24.95. 4, Freeport 3:28.40. 5, Geneseo (Parrish, Sunstrom, Venema, Bopp) 3:28.44. 6, Dixon 3:30.57 (state qualifying time: 3:24.5).

IIISA SECTIONAL BOYS' TRACK MEET
May 19, 2000

****State Qualifiers**

HIGH JUMP **1) Freeport (Aaron Dillard) 6'3" **2) Dixon (Marty LeFevre) 6'3" 3) Freeport (Andy Kanosky) 6'3" 4) Sterling (Eric Bontz) 6'1" 5) United Township (Rodney Blue) 5'11" TIE 6) Dixon (Joe DeBates) 5'11" Rock Island (Bryan Tyson) 5'11"

DISCUS **1) Dixon (Kent Williams) 163' 4" **2) Dixon (Don Sheridan) 161' 2" **3) LaSalle-Peru (Matt Fletcher) 156' 2" **4) Rock Island (Zach Edwards) 154' 2" 5) Ottawa (Adam Lewis) 145' 1" 6) Geneseo (Jeff Bowling) 140' 10"

LONG JUMP **1) Rock Island (Ellery Stewart) 21' 9 1/2" **2) Moline (Matt Comella) 21' 0 3/4" 3) United Township (Laron Martin) 20' 9 1/2" 4) Princeton (Matt Wright) 20' 3 1/4" 5) Sterling (Alex Barajas) 20' 2 3/4" 6) LaSalle-Peru (Alex Riba) 19' 10 1/4"

POLE VAULT **1) Sterling (Tyler Gaumer) 13' 6" **2) Ottawa (Bob Jackson) 13' 6" 3) Dixon (Ben Brokaw) 13' 4) Sterling (Brian Jackson) 13' 5) Rochelle (Toby Inman) 13' 6) Rock Island (Steve Burnett) 12' 6"

TRIPLE JUMP **1) United Township (Ron Severtsgaard) 44' 6 1/4" **2) Rock Island (Quintin Jefferson) 44' 1/4" 3) United Township (James Hood) 43' 6" 4) Dixon (Rob Willey) 42' 11 1/4" 5) Geneseo (Kyle Reede) 42' 1 1/2" 6) Freeport (Deandre Hill) 41' 8 1/4"

3200M RELAY **1) Geneseo (McCombs, Beuster, Venema, Bopp) 8:05.95 **2) Dixon 8:07.08 3) Rock Island 8:18.70 4) Freeport 8:28.63 5) Rochelle 8:28.65 6) Ottawa 8:35.7

400M RELAY **1) Rock Island (Stewart, Tyson, Burnett, Jones) 41.86 **2) Sterling 42.47 3) Moline 43.56 4) United Township 43.62 5) Freeport 44.37 6) Dixon 44.63

3200M RUN **1) Freeport (Dan Trainor) 9:18.93 **2) Geneseo (Tim Nelson) 9:47.60 3) Rochelle (David Bergeson) 9:58.34 4) United Township (Brian Taghon) 10:06.73 5) Freeport (Austin Smith) 10:10.89 6) Moline (Jeff Decker) 10:17.50

100M DASH **1) Rock Island (Maurice Jones) 10.75 **2) Sterling (Ryan Ptak) 10.82 3) United Township (Aaron Frazier) 11.22 4) Moline (Jarrod Moss) 11.26 5) Dixon (Josh Reinstra) 11.28 6) Dixon (Nate Davidson) 11.53

110M HIGH HURDLE FINALS **1) Rock Island "(Ellery Stewart) 14.08 **2) Moline (Matt Commella) 14.12 **3) Sterling (Tyler Gaumer) 14.44 **4) Geneseo (Cory Parrish) 14.60 5) Freeport (Matt Schmidt) 15.56 6) Rochelle (Jeff Holden) 15.88

800M RUN **1) Moline (Ben Schumaker) 1:57.70 **2) Ottawa (Adam Faupl) 1:57.12 3) Rochelle (Jeremy Lima) 2:00.00 4) United Township (Jerrod Paquette) 2:00.34 5) Sterling (Tony Perez) 2:01.00 6) United Township (Jason Gavin) 2:04.20

800M RELAY **1) Rock Island (Smith, Tyson, Burnett, Jones) 1:28.91 **2) Sterling 1:29.04 3) Dixon 1:32.01 4) Freeport 1:33.47 5) Princeton 1:34.62 6) Rochelle 1:35.36

400M DASH **1) United Township (Terry Westbrook) 49.70 **2) Geneseo (Dave Bopp) 50.15 3) Moline (Joe Manning) 50.88 4) Rock Island (Quintin Jefferson) 52.88 5) Geneseo (Mike Sunstrom) 53.38 6) Ottawa (Adam Faupl) 53.39

SHOT PUT **1) Dixon (Nick Byrnes) 59' **2) Dixon (Ryan Matha) 55' 2" **3) Geneseo (Jeff Bowling) 54' 1/2" **4) Sterling (Ben Loy) 53' 8 1/2" **5) LaSalle-Peru (Matt Fletcher) 53' 2" **6) Rochelle (Chris Campos) 52' 9"

300M HURDLE FINALS **1) Rock Island (Ellery Stewart) 38.39 **2) Sterling (Tyler Gaumer) 38.57 **3) Moline (Matt Comella) 38.82 **4) Geneseo (Cory Parrish) 39.75 5) Sterling (Justin Neal) 41.03 6) Dixon (Peter Alba) 41.28

1600M RUN **1) Rock Island (Mark Creger) 4:26.16 **2) Freeport (Dan Trainor) 4:26.56 3) Rochelle (David Bergeson) 4:30.48 4) Sterling (Jon Martin) 4:38.13 5) Moline (Brent Clawson) 4:39.99 6) United Township (Ammon Paquette) 4:40.55

200M DASH **1) Rock Island (Maurice Jones) 21.61 *2) Sterling (Ryan Ptak) 22.15 3) Dixon (Josh Rienstra) 22.93 4) Moline (Jarrod Moss) 23.13 5) Ottawa (Jeremy Schillings) 23.56 6) Dixon (Dusty Smith) 23.79

1600M RELAY **1) Moline (Comella, Medinger, Manning, Shumaker) 3:24.14 **2) Sterling 3:24.72 3) United Township 3:24.95 4) Freeport 3:28.40 5) Geneseo 3:28.44 6) Dixon 33:0.57

PARRISH, VENEMA, SUNSTROM, BOPP

1) Rock Island	103.5
2) Sterling	86
3) Dixon	81.5
4) Moline	65
5) United Township	60
6) Freeport	53
7) Geneseo	47
8) Rochelle	26
9) Ottawa	22
10) LaSalle-Peru	9
11) Princeton	6
12) Streator	0