

# Leafs surprise McCormick field with second-place finish

**By Steve Tappa**  
Staff sports writer

GENESEO — Everyone knows Dixon's boys' track team is dangerously deep. Everybody also knows Alleman's distance runners are darned good.

Besides those two absolutes proving out during Friday's McCormick Invitational, a young Geneseo team discovered one other thing that should ring true when the postseason rolls around next weekend.

"We found out at the right time of the year that we're pretty good, too," Geneseo coach Mel Snook said after the hosting Leafs took second in the 12-team field.

Dixon (141 points) easily took the team title ahead of Geneseo (66), Galesburg (55) and Alleman (52, to tie for fourth with Canton).

Kewanee (2) was 12th.

"Realistically, with Dixon's depth, I don't know if anybody can touch them next Friday," Snook said, looking ahead to the NCIC meet at Geneseo.

"But, you're not too bad if you finish second to a team like that. Now, we add (NCIC power) Sterling to the mix next week, but after (Friday), I like our chances of repeating this performance."

Alleman distance star Nick Hird expects even better results with his squad heading into next Friday's Western Big 6 Conference meet.

Hird was one of three multiple individual event winners at McCormick, taking the 3200 and 1600.

"We just started our speed work, and we already dropped a lot," Hird said. "This is a real con-

fidence booster for us. It tells us all we're ready for whatever gets thrown at us from here on out."

In his third race of the night, Hird finished a second off his career-best time in the 1600, leading a 1-2 Alleman sweep and pacing teammate Kile Krol to a state-qualifying time.

Earlier in the evening, Hird bounced back quickly from anchoring Alleman's 3200 relay team to a runner-up finish. Just 10 minutes later, Hird was three seconds shy of a personal-record in a 3200 he won by 41 seconds.

Mike Rettig also took the 800 for Alleman; teammate Corey Cameron was fourth in that event. Rettig was also fifth in the 200.

"Most of the year our distance runners have been disappointed in our times," Hird confessed.

"Not now."

Geneseo had a bevy of personal-records in scoring in 14 of the 19 events. The topper was Geneseo's 1600 relay team blazing to an event-winning 3:31.44.

From that relay team, Curt Russell (4th, 100; 6th, 400) and Kyle Wickwire (4th, triple jump; 6th, high jump) scored in two individual events for the Leafs. Relay mate Dylan Kenney was also second in the long jump.

Also scoring in two events for Geneseo were Justin Trujillo (2nd, 800; 3rd, 1600) and Kyle Fluck (3rd, 3200; 5th, 1600).

The Leafs' other individual point-getters were Kory Klemmer (4th, discus), Christian Rowlands (5th, 3200), Brian Blank (6th, shot put) and Jeremy Heaton (6th, pole vault).



# They're Maple City-bound

Dixon is the favorite in today's NCIC meet, but Leafs could take 2nd

By SHANNON HEATON  
Republic Sports Editor

Geneseo's boys track and field team made its final preparations for today's North Central Illinois Conference varsity and frosh-soph meets.

Both as competitors, and as hosts.

Today's NCIC meet will be contested on the GHS track starting at 3 p.m. with field event preliminaries.

If last weekend's girls meets in Sterling are any indication, competition should wrap up at around 9 p.m. tonight.

Administrators got a chance to work the bugs out of running the meet, while the competitors on the track got one more chance to prepare at last Friday's John McCormick Invitational.

The meet, named after the long-time Leafs track coach and athletic director, found Geneseo edging out five other teams for second place behind runaway winner Dixon, the favorite at today's conference meet.

The Dukes finished with 141 points to win the meet, while the Leafs were second with 66. However, they were only 11 ahead of third-place Galesburg, and the spread between the Silver Streaks' 55 points and the points of the 7th-place team, Rochelle, was just seven points.

It took Geneseo all the way up to the last event to take a

victory in an individual event, and the Leafs finally won that victory in impressive fashion.

The 1,600-meter relay team of Andy Thurman, Dylan Kenney, Kyle Wickwire and Curt Russell toured the four-lap race in 3 minutes, 31.44 seconds, a team-best this year and a continuation of the rapid drop in times the Leafs have experienced in this event.

In the race, the Leafs beat Peoria Richwoods by 1.33 seconds and finished 2.44 seconds ahead of third-place Galesburg.

The Leafs picked up a pair of second-place finishes from a pair of sophomores last Friday.

Justin Trujillo ran the fastest 800 meters he'd run all season, finishing only behind Alleman's Mike Rettig, with a time of 2:00.99.

Meanwhile, Kenney was beaten only by Dixon all-star and four-time winner Friday, Phil Doeh, in the long jump. Kenney had a leap of 20 feet, 2 1/2 inches for his second, very near his personal best for the season and only seven inches behind Doeh.

Geneseo had three third-place finishes in the meet.

Trujillo backed up his showing in the 800 with a solid third in the 1,600, finishing with a time of 4:43.75 in a loaded field.

Junior Kyle Fluck put up his best 3,200 time of the season

in taking third, finishing the two-mile race in 10:22.36, and the Leafs' 800 relay team of Thurman, Jake Swanson, Kenney and Luke Steinkopf was third behind Dixon and Galesburg, finishing in 1:33.92.

Also placing in the meet for Geneseo were Kyle Wickwire (4th in triple jump, 6th in high jump), Curt Russell (4th in 100 and 6th in 400), Kory Klemmer (4th in discus), Christian Rowlands (5th in 3,200), Brian Blank (6th in shot put) and Jeremy Heaton (6th in pole vault).

The Leafs' 400 relay team of Thurman, Steinkopf, Aaron Kuban and Russell finished fifth in that event.

Wickwire cleared 42 feet for the second time all season in the triple jump, and first time in almost a month, while Blank's throw in the shot was his best of the season.

On Monday, the Leafs' freshman track team placed fourth out of six NCIC teams in a freshman-only meet hosted by Sterling.

Princeton won the meet, followed by Dixon, Sterling, the Leafs and then Kewanee and Rochelle in that order.

Geneseo didn't pick up any titles in the meet, but got individual seconds from Greg Reiling (triple jump), Augie Anderson (100), Kyle Wayne (800) and the 3,200 relay team of Nathan Schlindwein, Jordan Weber, Andy Wallace and Tony Lyttles.

Jordan Wildermuth (3,200) and Eric Darwin (pole vault) each took thirds, as did the 1,600 relay team of Ryan Norin, Jon Kushmer, Matt Minnaert and Reiling, while Cody Leamen (shot), Justin Ogilvie (3,200), Weber (1,600) and Anderson (200) were fourth

## McCormick Invitational

**Team scores** — 1, Dixon 141; 2, Geneseo 66; 3, Galesburg 55; 4 (tie), Alleman and Canton 52; 6, Princeton 51; 7, Rochelle 48; 8, Metamora 33; 9, Ottawa 24; 10, LaSalle-Peru 17; 11, Peoria Richwoods 13; 12, Kewanee 2. (Top six finishers score points for their team):

### Individual finals

**Shot put** — 1, Cook, Can, 51-11; 2, Andy Brantner, Dix, 49-2; 3, Jacobs, Roch, 48-4; 4, Bobby Uzumecki, LP, 48-3; 5, Rick Alvis, Met, 48-2; 6, Brian Blank, Gen, 47-9.

**Discus** — 1, Lang, Roch, 151-6; 2, Brantner, Dix, 151-0; 3, Nick Chumbley, Rich, 142-10; 4, Kory Klemmer, Gen, 140-7; 5, Joe Rue, LP, 140-1; 6, Alvis, Met, 138-11.

**Pole vault** — 1, Ben Brokaw, Dix, 14-0; 2, Nathaniel Blazier, Prin, 13-0; 3, Jason Hess, Ott, 13-0; 4, Pete Alba, Dix, 13-0; 5, Aaron Mangold, Ott, 13-0; 6, Jeremy Heaton, Gen, 12-6.

**Long jump** — 1, Phil Doeh, Dix, 20-9.5; 2, Dylan Kenney, Gen, 20-2.25; 3, Jesse Smith, Gal, 20-2; 4, Doug Stichter, Dixon, 20-0.5; 5, Matt Wright, Prin, 20-0.5; 6, Alex Riva, LP, 19-7.5.

**High jump** — 1, Greg Folmer, LP, 6-4; 2, Jon Debates, Dix, 6-2; 3, Brad Kaufmann, Prin, 6-2; 4, George Gray, Prin, 6-0; 5, Will Mardaus, Dix, 6-0; 6, Kyle Wickwire, Gen, 6-0.

**Triple jump** — 1, Albert Greene, Gal, 45-4; 2, Stichter, Dix, 42-6; 3, Blazier, Prin, 42-4; 4, Wickwire, Gen, 42-2.5; 5, Goodyear, Met, 42-2; 6, Mardaus, Dix, 41-1.5.

**3200** — 1, Nick Hird, All, 9:35.63; 2, Jacobson, Roch, 10:16.45; 3, Kyle Fluck, Gen, 10:22.36; 4, Emery Burdette, Ott, 10:35.93; 5, Christian Rowlands, Gen, 10:41.33; 6, Ryan Jandrey, Dix, 10:41.63.

**1600** — 1, Nick Hird, All, 4:30.81; 2, Kile Krol, All, 4:32.99; 3, Justin Trujillo, Gen, 4:43.99; 4, Ben Huebner, Ott, 4:45.18; 5, Fluck, Gen, 4:46.00; 6, Kel Bond, Dix, 4:48.56.

**800** — 1, Mike Rettig, All, 2:00.08; 2, Trujillo, Gen, 2:00.99; 3, Bond, Dix, 2:04.08; 4, Corey Cameron, All, 2:04.16; 5, Schummer, Roch, 2:06.60; 6, Keith King, Gales, 2:06.69.

**400** — 1, Nass, Roch, 51.31; 2, Robert Ayers, Can, 51.42; 3, Jeff Fritts, Dix, 51.51; 4, Dougherty, Roch, 52.15; 5, Matt Wright, Prin, 52.38; 6, Curt Russell, Gen, 52.97.

**200** — 1, Cody Zotti, Can, 23.00; 2, Dusty Smith, Dix, 23.03; 3, Robert Ayers, Can, 23.07; 4, Dougherty, Roch, 23.52; 5, Rettig, All, 23.61; 6, Joel Stocking, Prin, 23.75.

**100** — 1, Doeh, Dix, 11.20; 2, Zotti, Can, 11.67; 3, Smith, Dix, 11.69; 4, Russell, Gen, 11.81; 5, Dougherty, Roch, 11.97; 6, Terrence Smith, Gal, 11.98.

**300 hurdles** — 1, Slover, Met, 40.37; 2, Alba, Dix, 40.81; 3, Kyle Wolf, Prin, 41.48; 4, Matt Johann, Can, 41.80; 5, Goodyear, Met, 41.83; 6, Nate Vanloon, Gal, 42.49.

**110 hurdles** — 1, Slover, Met, 14.93; 2, Vanloon, Gal, 15.24; 3, Trevin Ziel, Ott, 15.64; 4, Goodyear, Met, 15.74; 5, Wolf, Prin, 16.52; 6, Ryan Arch, Kew, 16.72.

**3200 relay** — 1, Dixon (Fritts, Cox, Wheeler, Bond) 8:05.96; 2, Alleman 8:10.34; 3, Galesburg 8:16.03; 4, Princeton 8:38.10; 5, Metamora 8:46.50; 6, Kewanee 8:49.41.

**1600 relay** — 1, Geneseo (Thurman, Kenney, Wickwire, Russell) 3:31.44; 2, Princeton 3:32.77; 3, Galesburg 3:33.88; 4, Ottawa 3:34.93; 5, Dixon 3:35.09; 6, Peoria Richwoods 3:37.00.

**800 relay** — 1, Dixon (Mardaus, Wheeler, Smith, Doeh) 1:31.09; 2, Galesburg

1:33.56; 3, Geneseo 1:33.92; 4, Princeton 1:35.12; 5, Peoria Richwoods 1:35.42; 6, Rochelle 1:36.34.

**400 relay** — 1, Dixon (Mardaus, Alba, Smith, Doeh) 43.33; 2, Galesburg 44.03; 3, Canton 44.17; 4, Peoria Richwoods 44.89; 5, Geneseo 45.18; 6, Rochelle 45.34.

**Weight relay** — 1, Ottawa (Harsted, Harding, Beldon) 47.39; 2, Kewanee 50.21; 3, Princeton 50.84; 4, LaSalle-Peru 52.12; 5, Alleman 58.30.





Republic photo by Shannon Heaton

**THE LANDING.** Geneseo junior Josh Reschke completes a triple jump Friday afternoon at the John McCormick Invitational on the high school track. Although Reschke didn't place in the event, the Leafs finished second as a team.

# Geneseo

## John McCormick INV.

### 10-8-6-4-2-1

EVENT	PERF.	FIRST	SCH	SECOND	SCH	THIRD	SCH	FOURTH	SCH
High Jump	6'4"	Folmer	LP	Debatas 6'2"	DX	Kaufmann 6'2"	PR	Gray 6'0"	PR
3200 Relay	8:05.96	Fritts, Cox, Wheeler, Bond	DX	8:10.34	AL	8:16.03	GA	8:38.10	PR
Triple Jump	45'4"	Greene	GA	Stichter 42'6"	DX	Blazier 42'4"	PR	Wickwire 42'2 1/2"	GE
400 Relay	43.33	Mardaus, Alba, Smith, Doeh	DX	44.03	GA	44.17	CA	44.89	RI
Shot Put	51'11"	Cook	CA	Brantner 49'2"	DX	Jacobs 48'4"	RO	Uzumeckr 48'3"	LP
Long Jump	20'9 1/2"	Doeh	DX	Kenney 20'2 1/2"	GE	Smith 20'2"	GA	Stichter 20'1 1/2"	DX
3200	9:35.63	Hird	AL	Jacobson 10:16.45	RO	Fluck 10:22.36	GE	Burdette 10:35.93	OT
Pole Vault	14'0"	Brokaw	DX	Hess (3rd) 13'0" <	OT	Blazier (2nd) 13'0"	PR	Alba 13'0"	DX
Discus	151'6"	Lang	RO	Brantner 151'0"	DX	Chumbley 142'10"	RI	Klemmer 140'7"	GE
110 HH	14.93	Slover	MT	Vanloon 15:24	GA	Ziel 15:64	OT	Goodyear 15:74	MT
100	11.20	Doeh	DX	Zotti 11:67	CA	Smith 11:69	DX	Russell 11:81	GE
800	2:00.08	Rettig	AL	Trujillo 2:00.99	GE	Bond 2:04.08	DX	Cameron 2:04.16	AL
800 Relay	1:31.09	Mardaus, Wheeler, Smith, Doeh	DX	1:33.56	GA	1:33.92	GE	1:35.12	PR
400	51.31	Nass	RO	Ayers 51.42	CA	Fritts 51.51	DX	Dougherty 52.15	RO
300 IH	40.37	Slover	MT	Alba 40.81	DX	Wolf 41.48	PR	Johann 41.80	CA
1600	4:30.81	Hird	AL	Krol 4:32.99	AL	Trujillo 4:43.75	GE	Huebner 4:45.18	OT
200	23.00	Zotti	CA	Smith 23.03	DX	Ayers 23.07	CA	Dougherty 23.52	RO
Weight Relay	47.39	Harsted, Harding, Beldon	OT	50.21	KN	50.84	PR	52.12	LP
1600 Relay	3:31.44	Thurman, Kenney, Wickwire, Russell	GE	3:32.77	PR	3:33.88	GA	3:34.93	OT



# McCormick Inv. (Page 2)

	FIFTH	SCH	SIXTH	SCH
HJ	Mardauss <sup>6'0"</sup>	DX	Wickwire <sup>6'0"</sup>	GE
300R	8:46.50	MT	8:49.41	KW
TJ	Goodyear <sup>42'2"</sup>	MT	Mardauss <sup>41'1½"</sup>	DX
400R	45.18	GE	45.34	RO
Shot	Alvis <sup>48'2"</sup>	MT	Blank <sup>47'9"</sup>	GE
LJ	Wright <sup>20'½"</sup>	PR	Riva <sup>19'7½"</sup>	LP
300W	Rowlands <sup>10:41.33</sup>	GE	Jandrey <sup>10:41.63</sup>	DX
PV	Mangold <sup>13'0"</sup>	OT	Heaton <sup>12'6"</sup>	GE
Disc	Rue <sup>140'1"</sup>	LP	Alvis <sup>138'11"</sup>	MT
110/H	Wolf <sup>16:52</sup>	PR	Arch <sup>16:72</sup>	KW
100	Dougherty <sup>11:97</sup>	RO	Smith <sup>11:98</sup>	GA
800	Schummer <sup>2:06.60</sup>	RO	Kung <sup>2:06.69</sup>	GA
800R	1:35.42	RI	1:36.34	RO
400	Wright <sup>52.38</sup>	PR	Russell <sup>52.97</sup>	GE
300 IH	Goodyear <sup>41.83</sup>	MT	Vanloon <sup>42.49</sup>	GA
1600	Fluck <sup>4:46.00</sup>	GE	Bond <sup>4:48.50</sup>	DX
200	Rettig <sup>23.61</sup>	AL	Stocking <sup>23.75</sup>	PR
Weight Relay	58.30	AL		
1600R	3:35.09	DX	3:37.00	RI

SCORING 10-8-6-4-2-1 ALL EVENTS	ALLEMAN	CANTON	DIXON	GALESBURG	GENESEO	KENAMER	LASALLE-HOU	METAMORA	OTTAWA	PRINCETON	RICHMONDS	ROCHELLE		
High Jump	0	0	8	0	1	0	10	0	0	6	0	0		
	0	0	2	0	1	0	10	0	0	4	0	0		
3200 Relay	8	0	10	6	0	1	0	2	0	4	0	0		
	8	0	20	6	1	1	10	2	0	14	0	0		
Triple Jump	0	0	8	10	4	0	0	2	0	6	0	0		
	8	0	1	16	5	1	10	4	0	20	0	0		
400 Relay	0	6	10	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	1		
	8	6	39	24	7	1	10	4	0	20	4	1		
Shot Put	0	10	8	0	1	0	4	2	0	0	0	6		
	8	16	47	24	8	1	14	6	0	20	4	7		
Long Jump	0	0	10	6	8	0	1	0	0	2	0	0		
	8	16	4	30	16	1	15	6	0	22	4	7		
3200 Run	10	0	1	0	6	0	0	0	4	0	0	8		
	18	16	62	30	24	1	15	6	4	22	4	15		
110 HH	0	0	0	8	0	1	0	10	3	2	0	0		
	18	16	62	38	24	2	15	20	7	24	4	15		
100 DASH	0	8	10	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2		
	18	24	6	39	28	2	15	20	7	24	4	17		
Pole Vault	0	0	10	0	1	0	0	0	7	7	0	0		
	18	24	4	39	29	2	15	20	2	16	31	4		
800 Run	10	0	6	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	2		
	4	32	24	98	40	37	2	15	20	16	31	4		
Discus	0	0	8	0	4	0	2	1	0	0	6	10		
	32	24	106	40	41	2	17	21	16	31	10	29		
800 Relay	0	0	10	8	6	0	0	0	0	4	2	1		
	32	24	116	48	47	2	17	21	16	35	12	30		
400 Run	0	8	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	10		
	32	32	122	48	48	2	17	21	16	37	12	4		
300 IH	0	4	8	1	0	0	0	10	0	6	0	0		
	32	36	130	49	48	2	17	2	33	16	42	12		
1600 Run	10	0	1	0	6	0	0	0	4	0	0	0		
	8	50	36	131	49	2	17	33	20	42	12	44		
200 DASH	2	10	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4		
	52	52	139	49	56	2	17	33	20	43	12	48		
1600 RE	0	0	2	6	10	0	0	0	4	8	1	0		
	52	52	141	55	66	2	17	33	24	51	13	48		
TOTAL	52	52	141	55	66	2	17	33	24	51	13	48		
PLACE	4	4	1	3	2	12	10	8	9	6	11	7		

JOHN McCORMICK INVITATIONAL - GENESEO - MAY 3, 2002