

Leafs feel the frustration

Geneseo boys track team sets PRs, but fails to advance anyone to state

By SHANNON HEATON
Republic Sports Editor

Want an argument that the IHSA should create a three-class system?

Geneseo boys track and field coach Mel Snook could give you one.

After competing well all

season long, competing perhaps better than some expected, the Leafs finished dead last at last Friday's Class AA sectional meet at Rock Island High School, despite putting up some pretty solid performances.

"Conference (two weeks ago)

was a pretty big high for us, and coming down here (to sectionals) weighed on the kids," Snook said. "The competition is tremendous. Look at the pole vault. It's traditionally the toughest sectional in the state."

So much so that seven vaulters made it to state, with the winner clearing 15 feet. Senior Jeremy Heaton, who cleared 13 feet, was eighth, missing all three attempts at the state-qualifying height of 13-6.

Or, consider the competition in the triple jump, where senior Kyle Wickwire set a personal-best distance of 43 feet, 3 1/2 inches, only to finish sixth. Or Curt Russell's seventh in the 400-meter dash and a pair of sixths from Justin Trujillo in the 800 and 1,600.

Or a 1,600 relay that ran a solid 3:33.04, only to finish sixth. Or Kory Klemmer's PR (personal record) of 147-9 in the discus, only to finish sixth.

You get the idea.

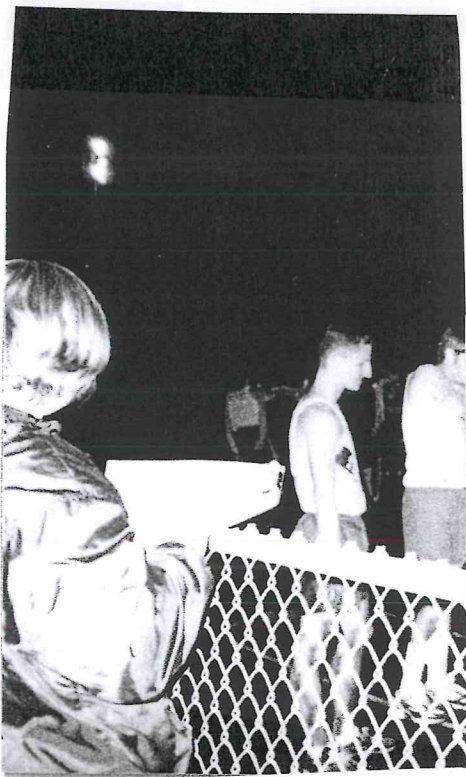
It was a frustrating day in many ways.

And, in many ways, it was a triumph as well for the Leaf boys.

"We have a lot of bright spots to look forward to," Snook said. "We have to keep that in mind when we look back on it. This is a very tough sectional, and our kids competed. We can't fault the effort at all. Hopefully, we'll keep pulling off some surprises and have a little more focus, and look to an even better season next year."

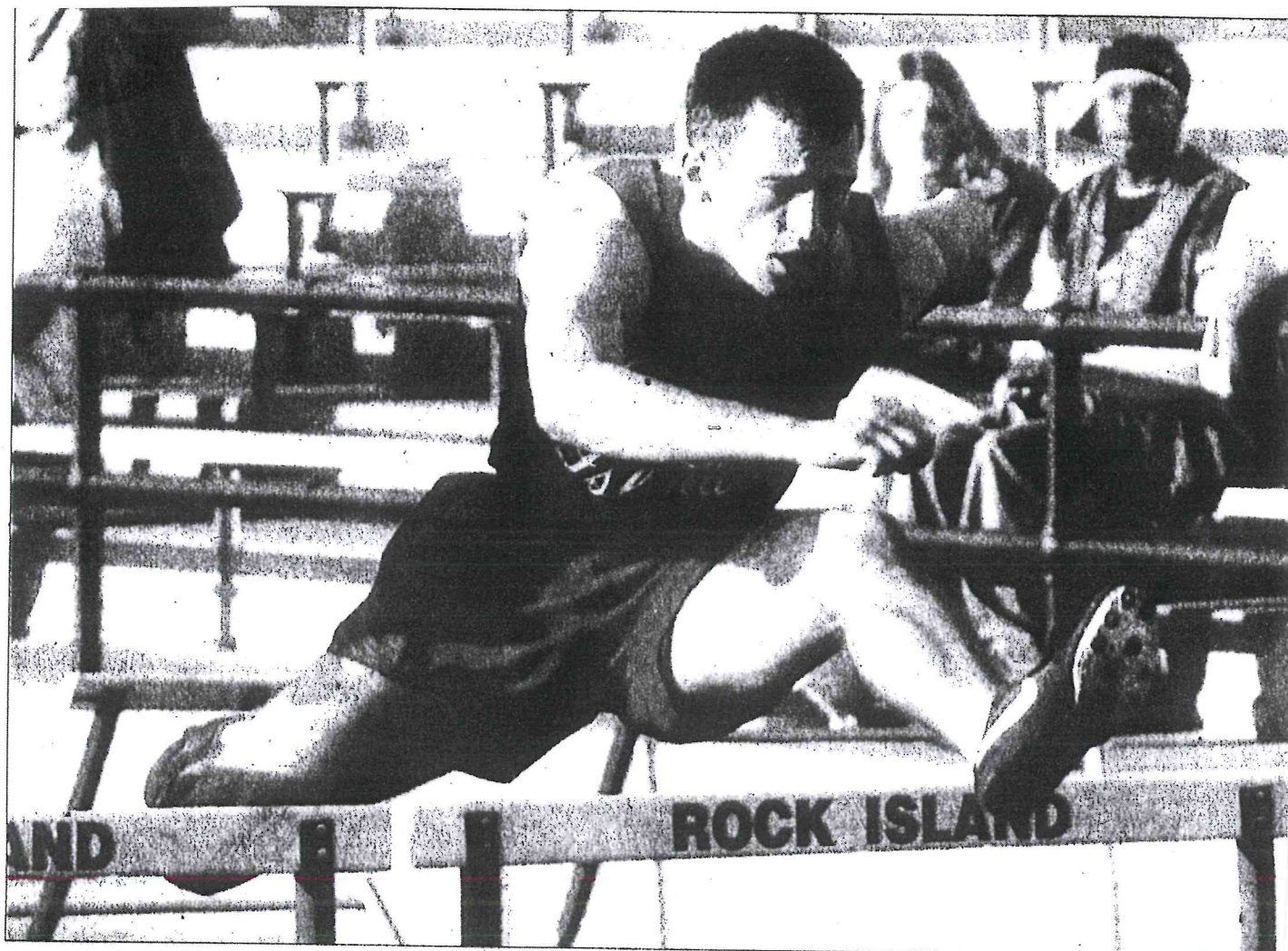
NCIC rival Dixon, which dominated the league all year, was able to outpoint Quad-City metro powers Rock Island and United Township for the team championship, scoring 97 points to Rock Island's 91. United Township was third, with 78.

The boys' track team will have an end-of-season awards presentation at the J. D. Darnall High School auditorium on Thursday, May 30, starting at 5:30 p.m..



Fan Support - J
Go Leafs!!!

Maroons help each other to state track



Gary Krambeck / sta

Rock Island hurdler Andy Parer clears a hurdle during the 110-meter hurdles event at the Class AA boys' track sectional Friday.

By Steve Tappa

Staff sports writer

Kyle Medinger tried to downplay it. However, Moline teammate Erik Steffens said he'll be thanking his friend for the rest of their lives.

Fifth-seeded in the 1600 coming into Friday's Class AA boys track sectional, Steffens nonetheless qualified for next weekend's state meet thanks to Medinger intentionally pulling up in the mile race.

Steffens led most of the way, but was passed in the final 100 meters by UT star Brian Taghon. Medinger was on Taghon's heels until reaching his sophomore teammate, then put on the brakes in the final 30 yards and settled for third.

The top two finishers in each event automatically qualify for state. Those reaching state-qualifying standards also advanced from the meet at Rock Island's Public Schools Stadium.

Like many of Friday's events, the mile race failed to send more than two qualifiers to state.

"I was crying for 15 minutes after the race. I'm still in awe of what Kyle did," said Steffens, the most surprising of the 13 local individuals and four relays headed to state.

"I've been wanting to go to state so bad for so long, and I ran the best (mile) of my life, but I should have come up short. Kyle should have beaten me. But, the 800 is his race, and he's going after that, and he was not even planning to run (the 1600) at state.

"We're more than teammates, we're great friends. He lives by me and I pick him up for school every day. But it's not like we planned this. He never told me he was going to do this."

Some opposing coaches were calling Medinger's gesture the classiest thing they've seen in a long time. Medinger, though, said it was no big deal.

Medinger won the 800 title, and teamed with Steffens, Drew Patterson and Mike Verre on the second-place 3200 relay.

Additionally, Patterson made

it in the 800, finishing second, and Ben Amundsen threw a state-qualifying distance in the discus to round out Moline's qualifiers.

Rock Island ruled the local roost again with Waylond Ryan qualifying in four events, and winning two — the 100 and 200. Andy Parer (hurdles) and Marcus King (throws) also qualified in two events, winning one each.

However, NCIC champ Dixon managed to keep the Rocks from a sectional title threepeat. The Western Big 6 Conference champions tallied 91 points and finished six back of Dixon.

United Township (78) was third, Moline (50) was fourth and Geneseo (8) last in the 15-team field.

"We're not disappointed. We came together as a team, overcame another obstacle set in our path and made a good run at (the title). We just came up short," said Ryan, whose club lost all-state sprinter Maurice Jones to a suspension two weeks ago.

Friday, the curveball for the Rocks was the loss of pole vault

state-title hopeful and relay sprinter Steve Burnett.

Rocky coach Ed Lillis dismissed Burnett for what he called "an internal issue." Ryan confirmed Burnett was let go because he wanted to concentrate on the pole vault, and did not want to run the 4x200 relay, which finished second Friday despite the absence of Burnett and Jones.

Ryan, Lawrence Davis, Nathan Gibbs and Dillon Smith ran on the 400 relay. Ken Martin replaced Gibbs on the 800 relay, with Smith skipping the 400, where he was expected to qualify. Instead, Mike Adamson ran the 400 and qualified in Smith's place.

The 1600 relay of Davis, Adamson, Smith and Jason Reda was the third Rocky relay to make it.

Taghon won the 3200 and 1600 for UT, and teammate Rodney Blue also qualified in two events.

UT's other state qualifiers were James Hood (second, long jump), Dustin Freeman (second, 3200) and Jon Banks (hit state-qualifying time in the 110 hurdles).

BOYS TRACK

Friday, May 17

Varsity

At Rock Island

IHSA CLASS AA SECTIONAL

Team scores: Dixon 97, Rock Island 91, United Township 78, Moline 50, Sycamore 48, DeKalb 42, Quincy 32.5, Freeport 28, Galesburg 19, Ottawa 15, Rochelle 14, Sterling 13.5, LaSalle-Peru 12, Streator 10, MAPLE LEAFS 8.

Individual events (state qualifiers marked with an x)

Long jump: 1. x-Phil Doeh (Dixon), 23-1; 2. x-James Hood (United Township), 21-10 1/2; 3. Alexander Douglas (Quincy), 21-6 1/2; 4. Doug Stichter (Dixon), 20-6 1/2; 5. Laron Martin (United Township), 20-4 1/2; 6. Alex Riva (LaSalle-Peru), 20-4 1/2.

LEAFS results: 15. Dylan Kenney, 18-1; 17. Josh Reschke, 17-7 1/2.

3,200 relay: 1. Sycamore, 7:58.19; 2. Moline, 8:01.77; 3. Freeport, 8:09.57; 4. Dixon, 8:15.28; 5. Quincy, 8:21.64; 6. Sterling, 8:22.44.

400 relay: 1. Dixon, 43.04; 2. Rock Island, 43.11; 3. DeKalb, 43.45; 4. United Township, 43.67; 5. Galesburg, 44.10; 6. Sterling, 44.37.

LEAFS results: 7. (Andy Thurman, Jake Swanson, Aaron Kuban, Luke Steinkopf), 45.66.

High jump: 1. Charles Williams (Quincy), 6-6; 2. (tie) Rodney Blue (United Township) and Greg Folmar (LaSalle-Peru), 6-6; 4. Jon DeBates (Dixon), 6-4; 5. Adam Smith (Ottawa), 6-2; 6. Trevin Ziel (Ottawa), 6-0.

LEAFS results: 9. (tie) Kyle Wickwire, 5-10.

Pole vault: 1. Ben Brokaw (Dixon), 15-0; 2. Joel Hillman (Sycamore), 14-0; 3. David Cluver (Sterling), 13-6; 4. Jason Hess (Ottawa), 13-6; 5. (tie) Charles Williams (Quincy) and Adam Rude (Sterling), 13-6.

LEAFS results: 8. Jeremy Heaton (Geneseo), 13-0.

110 high hurdles: 1. John Battista (DeKalb), 14.0; 2. Matt Schmidt (Freeport), 14.1; 3. Andy Parer (Rock Island), 14.4; 4. (tie) Jon Banks (United Township) and Dan Cordes (DeKalb), 14.6; 6. Evander Jordan (Rock Island), 15.10.

LEAFS results: 19. Luke

800: 1. Kyle Medinger (Moline), 1:57.64; 2. Drew Patterson (Moline), 1:58.58; 3. Bill Johnson (Galesburg), 1:59.09; 4. Jason Manning (Freeport), 1:59.89; 5. Carson Smith (Quincy), 2:00.70; 6. Justin Trujillo (LEAFS), 2:01.59.

LEAFS results: 6. Trujillo; 22. Matt Arkell, 2:11.15.

100: 1. Waylond Ryan (Rock Island), 11.17; 2. Nate Davidson (Dixon), 11.29; 3. Walter Moton (Streator), 11.44; 4. Dusty Smith (Dixon), 11.48; 5. Kyle Ali (DeKalb), 11.71; 6. Jesse Smith (Galesburg), 11.72.

LEAFS results: 15. Luke Steinkopf, 12.13; 17. Aaron Kuban, 12.18.

400: 1. Jay Simonds (Sycamore), 49.98; 2. Michael Adamson (Rock Island), 51.24; 3. Kyle Nass (Rochelle), 51.59; 4. Kenny Dougherty (Rochelle), 52.67; 5. Eric Rodriguez (Moline), 52.68; 6. William Marquart (Quincy), 52.93.

LEAFS results: 7. Curt Russell, 53.18.

300 intermediate hurdles: 1. Andy Parer (Rock Island), 39.09; 2. John Battista (DeKalb), 39.33; 3. Danaro Thomas (Freeport), 39.45; 4. Ross Welch (Quincy), 40.79; 5. Peter Alba (Dixon), 41.91; 6. Jeffery Beck (Rock Island), 42.17.

LEAFS results: 17. Luke Thompson, 44.88.

1,600: 1. Brian Taghon (United Township), 4:32.7; 2. Erik Steffens (Moline), 4:34.7; 3. Kyle Medinger (Moline), 4:34.9; 4. Brian Horst (Sycamore), 4:36.3; 5. Kel Bond (Dixon), 4:39.3; 6. Justin Trujillo (LEAFS), 4:40.9.

LEAFS results: 6. Trujillo; 13. Kyle Fluck, 4:48.9.

Shot put: 1. Marcus King (Rock Island), 54-10 1/2; 2. Matt Harding (Ottawa), 52-1; 3. Greg Lorence (Sycamore), 50-9 1/2; 4. Bobby Uzumecki (LaSalle-Peru), 49-11 1/2; 5. Brandon Woodward (Dixon), 49-4; 6. Quentin Neal (Sterling), 48-7 1/2.

200: 1. Waylond Ryan (Rock Island), 22.25; 2. Nate Davidson (Dixon), 22.73; 3. Jon Banks (United Township), 22.86; 4. Walter Moton (Streator), 22.87; 5. Kyle Pierce (Sterling), 23.75; 6. Joe Robertson (United Township), 23.77.

Triple jump: 1. Rodney Blue (United Township), 44-11; 2. Albert Greene (Galesburg), 44-10; 3. Doug Stichter (Dixon), 44-7 1/2; 4. James Hood (United Township), 44-6; 5. Aaron Cook (Moline), 44-2 1/2; 6. Kyle Wickwire (LEAFS), 43-3 1/2.

LEAFS results: 6. Wickwire; Josh Reschke, 40-10.

Discus: 1. Andy Brantner (Dixon), 165-2; 2. Marcus King (Rock Island), 160-11; 3. Dave Windelborn (Sycamore), 154-7; 4. Ben Amundsen (Moline), 154-1; 5. Greg Lorence (Sycamore), 148-1; 6. Kory Klemmer (LEAFS), 147-9.

LEAFS results: 6. Klemmer.

1,600 relay: 1. Rock Island, 3:22.50; 2. Dixon, 3:23.36; 3. DeKalb, 3:24.21; 4. Freeport, 3:27.14; 5. Sycamore, 3:31.41; 6. LEAFS (Dylan Kenney, Andy Thurman, Kyle Wickwire, Curt Russell), 3:33.04.

**2002 Sectional
Host Site: Rock Island**

Team Scores: 1.) Dixon 97; 2.) Rock Island 91; 3.) United Township 78; 4.) Moline 50; 5.) Sycamore 48; 6.) DeKalb 42; 7.) Quincy 32.5; 8.) Freeport 28; 9.) Galesburg 19; 10.) Ottawa 15; 11.) Rochelle 14; 12.) Sterling 13.5; 13.) LaSalle-Peru 12; 14.) Streator 10; 15.) Geneseo 8

Discus: 1.) Brantner (Dixon) 165' 02"; 2.) King (Rock Island) 160' 11"; 3.) Windelborn (Sycamore) 154' 07"; 4.) Amundsen (Moline) 154' 01"; 5.) Lorence (Sycamore) 148' 01"; 6.) Kory Klemmer (Geneseo) 147' 09" (Top 4 qualify)

High Jump: 1.) Williams (Quincy) 6' 06"; 2.) Blue (U.T.) 6' 06"; 2.) Folmer (L-P) 6' 06"; 4.) DeBates (Dixon) 6' 04"; 5.) Smith (Ottawa) 6' 02"; 6.) Ziel (Ottawa) 6' 00" (Top 4 qualify)

Long Jump: 1.) Doeh (Dixon) 23' 01"; 2.) Hood (U.T.) 21' 10 1/2"; 3.) Douglas (Quincy) 21' 06 1/2"; 4.) Stichter (Dixon) 20' 06 1/2"; 5.) Martin (U.T.) 20' 04 1/2"; 6.) Riva (L-P) 20' 04 1/2" (Top 2 qualify)

Pole Vault: 1.) Brokaw (Dixon) 15' 00"; 2.) Hillman (Sycamore) 14' 00"; 3.) Culver (Sterling) 13' 06"; 4.) Hess (Ottawa) 13' 06"; 5.) Williams (Quincy) 13' 06"; 5.) Rude (Sterling) 13' 06"; 5.) Mangold (Ottawa) 13' 06" (Top 7 qualify)

Shot Put: 1.) King (Rock Island) 54' 10 1/2"; 2.) Harding (Ottawa) 52' 01"; 3.) Lorence (Sycamore) 50' 09 1/2"; 4.) Uzumecki (L-P) 49' 11 1/2"; 5.) Woodward (Dixon) 49' 04"; 6.) Neal (Sterling) 48' 07 1/2" (Top 2 qualify)

Triple Jump: 1.) Blue (U.T.) 44' 11"; 2.) Greene (Galesburg) 44' 10"; 3.) Stichter (Dixon) 44' 07 1/2"; 4.) Hood (U.T.) 44' 06"; 5.) Cook (Moline) 44' 02"; 6.) Kyle Wickwire (Geneseo) 43' 03 1/2" (Top 2 qualify)

3200 Meter Relay: 1.) Scyamore (Stoddard, Lalowski, Horst, Simmonds) 7:58.19; 2.) Moline (No names listed) 8:01.77; 3.) Freeport (No names listed) 8:09.57; 4.) Dixon (No names listed) 8:15.28; 5.) Quincy (No names listed) 8:21.64; 6.) Sterling (No names listed) 8:22.44 (Top 2 qualify)

400 Meter Relay: 1.) Dixon (Davidson, Alba, Smith, Doeh) 43.04; 2.) Rock Island (No names listed) 43.11; 3.) DeKalb (No names listed) 43.45; 4.) United Township (No names listed) 43.67; 5.) Galesburg (No names listed) 44.10; 6.) Sterling (No names listed) 44.37 (Top 2 qualify)

3200 Meter Run: 1.) Taghon (U.T.) 9:53.87; 2.) Freeman (U.T.) 9:54.41; 3.) Haines (Quincy) 10:06.02; 4.) Jacobson (Rochelle) 10:06.47; 5.) Kyle Fluck (Geneseo) 10:09.96; 6.) Moroni (Rock Island) 10:22.93 (Top 2 qualify)

110 Meter High Hurdles: 1.) Battista (DeKalb) 14.00; 2.) Schmidt (Freeport) 14.10; 3.) Parer (Rock Island) 14.40; 4.) Banks (U.T.) 14.60; 4.) Cords (DeKalb) 14.60; 6.) Jordan (Rock Island) 15.10 (Top 5 qualify)

100 Meter Dash: 1.) Ryan (Rock Island) 11.17; 2.) Davidson (Dixon) 11.29; 3.) Moton (Streator) 11.44; 4.) Smith (Dixon) 11.48; 5.) Ali (DeKalb) 11.71; 6.) Smith (Galesburg) 11.72 (Top 2 qualify)

800 Meter Run: 1.) Medinger (Moline) 1:57.64; 2.) Patterson (Moline) 1:58.58; 3.) Johnson (Galesburg) 1:59.09; 4.) Manning (Freeport) 1:59.89; 5.) Smith (Quincy) 2:00.70; 6.) Justin Trujillo (Geneseo) 2:01.59 (Top 2 qualify)

800 Meter Relay: 1.) Dixon (Davidson, Alba, Smith, Doeh) 1:29.52; 2.) Rock Island (No names listed) 1:29.87; 3.) DeKalb (No names listed) 1:30.09; 4.) United Township (No names listed) 1:31.77; 5.) Galesburg (No names listed) 1:33.13; 6.) Sterling (No names listed) 1:34.29 (Top 3 qualify)

400 Meter Dash: 1.) Simonds (Sycamore) 49.98; 2.) Adamson (Rock Island) 51.24; 3.) Nass (Rochelle) 51.59; 4.) Daugherty (Rochelle) 52.67; 5.) Rodriguez (Moline) 52.68; 6.) Marquart (Quincy) 52.93 (Top 2 qualify)

300 Meter Intermediate Hurdles: 1.) Parerr (Rock Island) 39.09; 2.) Battista (DeKalb) 39.33; 3.) Thomas (Freeport) 39.45; 4.) Ross (Quincy) 40.79; 5.) Alba (Dixon) 41.91; 6.) Beck (Rock Island) 42.17 (Top 3 qualify)

1600 Meter Run: 1.) Taghon (U.T.) 4:32.70; 2.) Steffens (Moline) 4:34.70; 3.) Medinger (Moline) 4:34.90; 4.) Horst (Sycamore) 4:36.30; 5.) Bond (Dixon) 4:39.30; 6.) Justin Trujillo (Geneseo) 4:40.90 (Top 2 qualify)

200 Meter Dash: 1.) Ryan (Rock Island) 22.25; 2.) Davidson (Dixon) 22.73; 3.) Banks (U.T.) 22.86; 4.) Moton (Streator) 22.87; 5.) Pierce (Sterling) 23.75; 6.) Robertson (U.T.) 23.77 (Top 2 qualify)

1600 Meter Relay: 1.) Rock Island (David, Adamson, Reda, Smith) 3:22.50; 2.) Dixon (No names listed) 3:23.36; 3.) DeKalb (No names listed) 3:24.21; 4.) Freeport (No names listed) 3:27.14; 5.) Sycamore (No names listed) 3:31.41; 6.) Geneseo (Dylan Kenney, Andy Thurman, Kyle Wickwire, Curt Russell) 3:33.04 (Top 3 qualify)