

# IHSA Sectional

## Sectionals next for Leafs

The Maple Leafs will take their shot at advancing to the state meet tonight at the Sterling Sectional.

The field is full of quality teams, including DeKalb, Dixon, United Township, Freeport, Galesburg, LaSalle-Peru, Maple Park (Kaneland),

Moline, Morris, Ottawa, Rochelle, Rock Island, Sterling, Streator and Sycamore.

Coach Snook said several members of the team have a shot at advancing.

Snook mentioned that Fluck and Trujillo are seeded number-one in the 3200 and 800, respectively, while the 1600 relay team of L. Reschke, Steinkopf, C. Russell and Trujillo are seeded second behind Rock Island.

Klemmer has thrown state qualifying distance in the discs as well, Snook noted.

C. Russell and J. Reschke are also close to the qualifying standard or placing second in their respective jumping events.

"Our goal at the sectional is to have as many state qualifiers as possible," Snook said.

The meet begins at 3:30 p.m.

The finals are scheduled to start at 6 p.m.

## On to state!



Republic photo by Jason Peake

**LEAFS HEADING TO STATE.** These Geneseo boys track team members all qualified for the IHSA Class AA State Meet in Charleston at last Friday's Sterling Sectional. From left, are Justin Trujillo, Luke Reschke, Curt Russell, Luke Steinkopf and Kory Klemmer.



## Five from Geneseo headed to Charleston

BY JASON PEAKE  
*Republic Sports Editor*

On to state!

That's where five members of the Geneseo varsity boys track team will be heading this weekend.

Curt Russell, Justin Trujillo, Luke Steinkopf, Luke Reschke and Kory Klemmer all qualified for the state meet with their showings at the Sterling Sectional Meet last Friday night.

As far as the team, the Maple Leafs placed fifth overall with 53 points.

Rock Island won the meet with 148 points, Moline was second with 62 points and Maple Park Kaneland was third with 61.

Dixon was fourth, just edging the Leafs with 58 points.

Geneseo Coach Mel Snook was definitely pleased with his team's showing.

"We got fantastic efforts from everyone," Snook said.

As far as getting some athletes down to state, Snook said, "we were hoping it would happen and it did. Everybody just had great performances."

One athlete who had a great performance was Russell. The junior advanced in three events.

A highlight of the night has to be Russell's showing in the high jump.

The 6-foot-6 junior came in to the sectional with a season-best jump of 6'2".

At Sterling, Russell surprised the competition first by clearing 6'4".

But he was not done yet, as the field saw, as he

### IHSA Class AA Boys State Track Meet

■ Friday and Saturday, May 30-31 at O'Brien Stadium in Charleston.

cleared 6'6" and then 6'7" to take first place in the event. United Township's Darian Williams also cleared 6'7" but lost the event on misses.

"If he can jump like he did

last Friday night, he could make the finals," Snook said, adding Russell is fourth in the state with his leap.

The school record in the high jump is 6'11", set 15

years ago by Todd Akers.

Russell also had an outstanding showing in the long jump, taking second, while just missing the school record.

In the event, Russell leaped 22'6". Aaron Cook of Moline jumped 22'10".

"He was only off the school record by a half inch," Snook said.

Rick Penney jumped 22' 6-1/2" in 1971.

Russell also ran a leg of the 1600 relay team that qualified.

Snook said he looks for Russell to do well at state.

He should have good recovery time between his events, so he should be fresh," Snook said.

Another highlight of the meet was the exciting finish in the 1600 relay.

Against a talented Rock Island team, the Leafs showed they can compete with the best in the state.

The Leafs were right with their Rocky counterparts the whole way, but the Rocks edged the Leafs at the end.

Rocky finished in 3:22.06 and Geneseo was second with a time of 3:22.64. That time is a new school record.

"I think we showed them we're for real," Snook said.

Besides Russell, the other members of the relay team moving on to state are Reschke, Steinkopf and Trujillo, the anchor who nearly caught Rocky's Dillon Smith.

"I was just thinking—keep going and finish," Trujillo said.

"We were as close as we were hoping," he added.

Speaking of Trujillo, he also qualified in the 800-meter run. He finished third overall with a time of 1:57.59.

For Trujillo, advancing to state is nothing new, as the junior qualified in cross country last fall.

"I know the feeling already and I'm just glad that I'm not the only one going," Trujillo said.

Another Geneseo athlete on the relay team who said he's thrilled to be going to state is Steinkopf.

"It's a really good feeling because I wasn't expecting to make it," Steinkopf, a senior, said.

The Leafs are ranked 8th in the state in the 1600 relay and Steinkopf added, "if we run like we can, we'll do all right."

"I know we're all ready to go," he added.

Another Geneseo senior who advanced to the meet is Klemmer.

His showing in the discus,



# BOYS: Several Leafs heading to state

in which he took third place overall with a qualifying throw of 161'05", helped him accomplish a season-long goal.

"It feels really good. My main goal all year has been to go to state in the discus," Klemmer said.

"Two of my uncles went to state too, so I'm kind of following in their footsteps," he added.

Klemmer, who is ranked 17th in the state, said his work is not done yet.

"I really want to break the school record," Klemmer said. Derek Allen holds the record with a throw of 165'09", which he reached in 1989.

Snook said Klemmer could reach the school record at state.

"He's really coming on. And 12 guys get to the finals, so he's right there," Snook said.

Overall, Snook said it has been a "long time" since Geneseo has sent so many guys down to state.

"They've proven they belong there. We went to the Rock Island Invitational with Rocky, Moline and Thornwood and placed fifth. In two other meets, we placed third to Rock Island and Moline, so I've told them they belong and they have no reason to fear anybody," Snook said.

Down at state, Snook added, "anything can happen."

For seniors Kyle Fluck and Josh Reschke, the season ended at Sterling.

Both just missed qualifying



Republic photo by Jason Peake

**JUSTIN TRUJILLO** shakes hands with Rock Island's Dillon Smith after the two battled it out for first place in the 1600-meter relay at the Sterling Sectional last Friday night.

in their respective events.

Snook said the two have nothing to hang their heads about.

"They're great team guys. They gave it their all Friday night, but it just didn't happen. Here in Illinois, there is a lot of quality competition out there," he said.

Reschke took fifth in the triple jump with a leap of 43'5", which was his best jump of the season.

Fluck was fourth in the 3200 with a time of 9:54.90.



Sectional results are listed below:

**Team Scores:** 1.) Rock Island 148; 2.) Moline 62; 3.) Maple Park (Kaneland) 61; 4.) Dixon 58; 5.) Geneseo 53; 6.) Galesburg 29; 7.) Freeport 26; 8.) United Township 20; 9.) Ottawa 19; 10.) Rochelle 16; 11.) Sterling 13.66; 12.) Sycamore 13.33; 13.) Streator 10; 13.) Morris 13; 13.) DeKalb 13; 16.) LaSalle-Peru 9.

**Discus:** (153' 00" is state qualifying): 1.) Williams (Rock Island) 166' 08"; 2.) King (Rock Island) 165' 09"; 3.) Kory Klemmer (Geneseo) 161' 05"; 4.) Amundsen (Moline) 157' 00"; (Top four qualify).

**High Jump:** (6' 04" is s.q.): 1.) Curt Russell (Geneseo) 6' 07" (6' 06", 6' 05", 6' 04"); 2.) Williams (U.T.) 6' 07"; 3.) DeBates (Dixon) 6' 05"; (Top three qualify) Other Geneseo Athletes: Jim Kiss 5' 10").

**Long Jump:** (s.q.—22' 00"): 1.) Cook (Moline) 22' 10 1/4"; 2.) Curt Russell (Geneseo) 22' 06" (22' 03 1/2", 21' 07 1/2", 21' 06 1/2"); (Other Geneseo Athletes: Luke Reschke 18' 11 1/2")

**Pole Vault:** (s.q.—13' 06"): (Geneseo Athletes: Aaron Kuban 11' 06"; Shaun Russell 11' 06").

**Triple Jump:** (s.q.—45' 00"): 1.) Cook (Moline) 44' 11 1/4"; 2.) Lloyd (Rock Island) 44' 01"; 3.) Mardaus (Dixon) 44' 00 1/2"; 4.) Curt Russell (Geneseo) 43' 08" (43' 03", 42' 02 1/2"); 5.) Josh Reschke (Geneseo) 43' 05" (43' 03 1/2", 43' 00 1/4"); (Top two qualify).

**400 Meter Relay:** (s.q.—43.14 FAT): 1.) Rock Island (Ryan, Martin, Adamson, D. Smith) 42.58; 2.) Galesburg 43.23; 3.) Kaneland 43.65; 4.) Geneseo (Luke Steinkopf 12.18, Shaun Russell 10.81, Aaron Kuban 10.60, Luke Reschke 10.39) 44.28; (Top two qualify).

**3200 Meter Run:** (s.q.—9:37.24 FAT): 1.) Stouffer (Kaneland) 9:42.05; 2.) Cebula (DeKalb) 9:43.54; 3.) Jacobson (Rochelle) 9:48.46; 4.) Kyle Fluck (Geneseo) 9:54.90; (Top two qualify) (Other Geneseo Athletes: Nathan Schlindwein 10:21.12).

**110 Meter High Hurdles** (s.q.—14.74 FAT): 1.) Parer (Rock Island) 14.28; 2.) Atkins (Kaneland) 14.62; 3.) Cook (Moline) 14.66; 4.) Kennedy (Morris) 14.67; (Top four qualify) (Geneseo Athletes: Luke Thompson 15.84 finals, 15.88 prelims).

**800 Meter Relay:** (s.q.—1:30.24 FAT): 1.) Rock Island (Ryan, Martin, Adamson, Smith); 1:28.96; 2.) Galesburg 1:29.17; 3.) Kaneland 1:30.67; 4.) Freeport 1:31.19; 5.) Dixon 1:32.35; 6.) Geneseo (Luke Reschke 24.25, Shaun Russell 22.20, Aaron Kuban 23.12, Luke Steinkopf 22.79) 1:32.80.

**300 Meter Intermediate Hurdles:** (s.q.—40.04 FAT) (Geneseo Athletes: Luke Thompson 43.87; Caleb Diericx 45.67).

**1600 Meter Run:** (s.q.—4:24.74 FAT): (Geneseo Athletes: Bill Barton 4:58.46.

**1600 Meter Relay:** (s.q.—3:24.24 FAT): 1.) Rock Island (David, Adamson, Branigan, Smith) 3:22.06; 2.) Geneseo (Luke Reschke 50.95, Luke Steinkopf 51.19, Curt Russell 50.11, Justin Trujillo 50.04) 3:22.64; 3.) Galesburg 3:28.22; 4.) Kaneland 3:30.26; 5.) Sycamore 3:30.26; 6.) Sterling 3:32.44; (Top two qualify).

# Rocks romp at Sterling, send plenty to state

By Jeff Wendland  
Staff sports writer

**STERLING** — It was a foregone conclusion that the Rock Island Rocks were going to run away with the Class AA Sterling Sectional boys' track meet Friday night.

However, not even RI coach Ed Lillis could fathom what his team would do to the rest of the field en route to qualifying 11 individuals and three relay teams to next weekend's state finals.

"I think every coach would tell you the same thing," Lillis said, "the team points are nice, but it's the number of individuals you send on to state that matters. Then, it's the rankings you take with you to state."

"This is a great team and I mean that — team. Every guy is there rooting for each other in every event."

While the Rocks were the big winners with 148 team points to outdistance second-place Moline by 82 points the Maroons had a very strong showing with six individual qualifiers and one relay team. Geneseo had four individual qualifiers and a relay team and United Township's Darian



Andy  
Parer

Williams (high jump) will be his team's lone representative in Charleston next week.

The Rock Island team concept starts with its big guy — senior thrower Marcus King, who qualified by winning the shot put and finishing second to teammate Eddie Williams in the discus.

"I could have popped a few better ones, but that will come next weekend," King said. "I think the best thing is that we got so many guys through. We are different from a lot of teams in that we all care for each other like brothers and pull for each other every time."

King's teammates can't help but notice his presence around the track, rooting them on to

great performances.

"It all starts with Marcus and the throwers. We feed off them from the start," said hurdler Andy Parer, who won both the 110 highs and 300 intermediates. "This is like one big family and we're starting to get the taste of a state championship because we're working so well together."

Mixed in with the "expected" performances Friday, Lillis got a couple of huge bonuses. Triple jumper Anthony Lloyd went nearly two feet better than his career best to capture second place and a trip to state and 400 dash sophomore Darin Holmes stepped in at the last

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## ■ AA boys

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second and finished behind teammate Dillon Smith for a 1-2 finish in that event.

Holmes filled in for Davarus Branningan, who was suspended from school for a school-rules violation.

"Coach dropped a real bombshell on me there," said Holmes. "I just wanted to run my best race and not let the team down. This is just a team that challenges each other. When one guys does something well, the next guy has to step up and take on that challenge."

Other multi-event state qualifiers for the Rocks were sprinter Waylond Ryan (100, 200, 400 relay and 800 relay); Smith (400 and on the winning 400 and 1600 relay teams); and K.C. Martin (on the winning 400 and 800 relay teams).

For Moline, Aaron Cook got the night started in fine fashion when he won the long jump and then doubled the pleasure with a 44-11 1/4 on his final attempt to win the triple jump. He finished off his fine evening with a third-place finish and state-qualifying time in the 110 high hurdles.

"This is all about gaining momentum from the adrenaline that's pumping," said Cook.

"The long jump felt awesome. Then, coming to the final jump in the triple, I just looked at the pit and knew what had to be done."

Geneseo did much of its damage early with junior Curt Russell leaping 6-foot-7 to win the high jump and then finishing second in the long jump. Russell just missed in the triple jump.

"All three would have been great," he said, "but this is nice. The coach wanted me to just qualify at 6-2, but I wanted to go at least 6-4. Then, once I made that, I decided not to stop."

Williams equalled Russell's 6-7 leap, but lost the title on misses.

"I was pretty excited to get down to state in three events. It would have been nice to go in four, but I'll get to concentrate now on the 100, which is my favorite event to run," Foes said. "I had good starts today, which I didn't have at (conference). I thought I had it on the money (in the 200) too."

Braves teammate Nick Mitro, who along with Shane Stout ran on both the 400 and 800 relays, also qualified with a first-place effort in the long jump.

"It felt good. I felt like I gave it my all," Mitro, whose specialty is the high jump, an event he failed to qualify for state in, said. "With doing long jump at the same time, I was putting too much speed in the high jump."

Rockridge's Justin Martin was the Rockets' lone state qualifier, winning the triple jump and



# 2003 Sectional

## Results

(All Running Times are FAT)

**Host Site:** Sterling      **Conditions:** 65 and nice

**Team Scores:** 1.) Rock Island 148; 2.) Moline 62; 3.) Maple Park (Kaneland) 61; 4.) Dixon 58; 5.) Geneseo 53; 6.) Galesburg 29; 7.) Freeport 26; 8.) United Township 20; 9.) Ottawa 19; 10.) Rochelle 16; 11.) Sterling 13.66; 12.) Sycamore 13.33; 13.) Streator 10; 13.) Morris 13; 13.) DeKalb 13; 16.) LaSalle-Peru 9

**Discus (153' 00"): 1.) Williams (Rock Island) 166' 08"; 2.) King (Rock Island) 165' 09"; 3.) Kory Klemmer (Geneseo) 161' 05" (160' 02", 159' 06"); 4.) Amundsen (Moline) 157' 00"; 5.) Jacobs (Dixon) 151' 00" 6.) Rue (L-P) 149' 00"; (Top 4 qualify)**

**High Jump (6' 04"): 1.) Curt Russell (Geneseo) 6' 07" (6' 06", 6' 05", 6' 04"); 2.) Williams (U.T.) 6' 07"; 3.) DeBates (Dixon) 6' 05"; 4.) Day (Sycamore) 6' 00"; 4.) Bright (Sterling) 6' 00"; 4.) DeJonge (Sterling) 6' 00"; (Top 3 qualify) (Additional Geneseo Athletes: Jim Kiss 5' 10")**

**Long Jump (22' 00"): 1.) Cook (Moline) 22' 10 1/4"; 2.) Curt Russell (Geneseo) 22' 06" (22' 03 1/2", 21' 07 1/2", 21' 06 1/2"); 3.) Mardauss (Dixon) 21' 05 3/4"; 4.) Williams (Rock Island) 21' 05 1/2"; 5.) Lloyd (Rock Island) 20' 09 1/24; 6.) Daivs (DeKalb) 20' 09"; (Top 2 qualify) (Additional Geneseo Athletes: Luke Reschke 18' 11 1/2")**

**Pole Vault (13' 06"): 1.) Mangold (Ottawa) 15' 00"; 2.) Hollis (Freeport) 14' 06"; 3.) Deking (Kaneland) 14' 00"; 4.) Hinds (Kaneland) 13' 06"; 5.) Megli (Sterling) 12' 06"; 6.) Wakely (Dixon) 12' 06"; (Top 4 qualify) (Additional Geneseo Athletes: Aaron Kuban 11' 06"; Shaun Russell 11' 06")**

**Shot Put (52' 09"): 1.) King (Rock Island) 56' 09 1/2"; 2.) West (L-P) 52' 10"; 3.) Tomman (Dixon) 52' 09 1/4" 4.) Jacobs (Rochelle) 52' 02 1/4"; 5.) Clark (Freeport) 52' 01 1/2"; 6.) Thoms (Ottawa) 51' 07 1/2"; (Top 3 qualify) (No Geneseo Entry)**

**Triple Jump (45' 00"): 1.) Cook (Moline) 44' 11 1/4"; 2.) Lloyd (Rock Island) 44' 01"; 3.) Mardauss (Dixon) 44' 00 1/2"; 4.) Curt Russell (Geneseo) 43' 08" (43' 03", 42' 02 1/2"); 5.) Josh Reschke (Geneseo) 43' 05" (43' 03 1/2", 43' 00 1/4"); 6.) Horde (Freeport) 42' 04 1/4"; (Top 2 qualify)**

**3200 Meter Relay (8:04.24 FAT): 1.) Moline (Verre, Steffens, Patterson, Medinger) 7:58.57; 2.) Sycamore 8:01.43; 3.) Morris 8:11.07; 4.) Sterling 8:13.76; 5.) U.T. 8:23.92; 6.) Kaneland 8:24.76; (Top 2 qualify) (No Geneseo Entry)**

**400 Meter Relay (43.14 FAT): 1.) Rock Island (Ryan, Martin, Adamson, D. Smith) 42.58; 2.) Galesburg 43.23; 3.) Kaneland 43.65; 4.) Geneseo (Luke Steinkopf 12.18, Shaun Russell 10.81, Aaron Kuban 10.60, Luke Reschke 10.39) 44.28; 5.) Freeport 44.28; 6.) Dixon 44.55; (Top 2 qualify)**

**3200 Meter Run (9:37.24 FAT): 1.) Stouffer (Kaneland) 9:42.05; 2.) Cebula (DeKalb) 9:43.54; 3.) Jacobson (Rochelle) 9:48.46; 4.) Fluck (Geneseo) 9:54.90 (4:58); 5.) Huebner (Ottawa) 9:59.20; 6.) Simmons (U.T.) 10:07.98; (Top 2 qualify) (Additional Geneseo Athletes: Nathan Schlindwein 10:21.12 (4:58)**

**110 Meter High Hurdles (14.74 FAT): 1.) Parer (Rock Island) 14.28; 2.) Atkins (Kaneland) 14.62; 3.) Cook (Moline) 14.66; 4.) Kennedy (Morris) 14.67; 5.) Williams (U.T.) 15.03; 6.) Panther (Galesburg) 15.65; (Top 4 qualify) (Additional Geneseo Athletes: Luke Thompson 15.84f, 15.88p)**

**100 Meter Dash (10.84 FAT): 1.) Davidson (Dixon) 10.72; 2.) Ryan (Rock Island) 10.75; 3.) Martin (Rock Island) 11.04; 4.) Moton (Streator) 11.14; 5.) Westerlin (Kaneland) 11.32; 6.) Hood (U.T.) 11.41; (Top 2 qualify) (No Geneseo Entry)**

**800 Meter Run (1:57.74 FAT): 1.) Bond (Dixon) 1:56.93; 2.) Medinger (Moline) 1:57.17; 3.) Trujillo (Geneseo) 1:57.59 (58); 4.) Cummins (Freeport) 2:03.25; 6.) Lowery (Rochelle) 2:03.84; 6.) Ross (Dixon) 2:06.64; (Top 3 qualify) (Additional Geneseo Athletes: Cody Haars 2:18.35 (68)**

**800 Meter Relay (1:30.24 FAT): 1.) Rock Island (Ryan, Martin, Adamson, Smith); 1:28.96; 2.) Galesburg 1:29.17; 3.) Kaneland 1:30.67; 4.) Freeport 1:31.19; 5.) Dixon 1:32.35; 6.) Geneseo (Luke Reschke 24.25, Shaun Russell 22.20, Aaron Kuban 23.12, Luke Steinkopf 22.79) 1:32.80; (Top 2 qualify)**

**400 Meter Dash (50.14 FAT): 1.) D. Smith (Rock Island) 49.16; 2.) Holmes (Rock Island) 51.39; 3.) Cameron (Ottawa) 52.47; 4.) Rodriguez (Moline) 53.17; 5.) Smith (Kaneland) 53.32; 6.) Hollins (Freeport) 54.03; (Top 2 qualify) (No Geneseo Entry)**

**300 Meter Intermediate Hurdles (40.04 FAT):**

1.) Parer (Rock Island) 38.80; 2.) Williams (Rock Island) 39.98; 3.) Hartman (Freeport) 40.71; 4.) Atkins (Kaneland) 40.87; 5.) Rodriguez (Sterling) 41.13; 6.) Chamberlain (Sycamore) 42.20; (*Top 2 qualify*) (Additional Geneseo Athletes: Luke Thompson 43.87; Caleb Diericx 45.67)

**1600 Meter Run (4:24.74 FAT):** 1.) Steffens (Moline)

4:30.63; 2.) Etienne (Kaneland) 4:31.10; 3.) Tate (Galesburg) 4:39.29; 4.) Jacobson (Rochelle) 4:41.80; 5.) Getz (U.T.) 4:42.22; 6.) Cebula (DeKalb) 4:43.34; (*Top 2 qualify*) (Additional Geneseo Athletes: Bill Barton 4:58.46 (2:27))

**200 Meter Dash (22.24 FAT):** 1.) Ryan (Rock Island) 21.96; 2.) Davidson (Dixon) 22.20; 3.) Moton (Streator) 22.34; 4.) Hood(U.T.) 23.16; 5.) Martin (Rock Island) 23.17; 6.) Winebaugh (Rochelle) 23.87; (*Top 2 qualify*) (No Geneseo Entry)

**1600 Meter Relay (3:24.24 FAT):** 1.) Rock Island (David, Adamson, Branigan, Smith) 3:22.06; 2.) Geneseo (Luke Reschke 50.95, Luke Steinkopf 51.19, Curt Russell 50.11, Justin Trujillo 50.04) 3:22.64; 3.) Galesburg 3:28.22; 4.) Kaneland 3:30.26; 5.) Sycamore 3:30.26; 6.) Sterling 3:32.44; (*Top 2 qualify*)