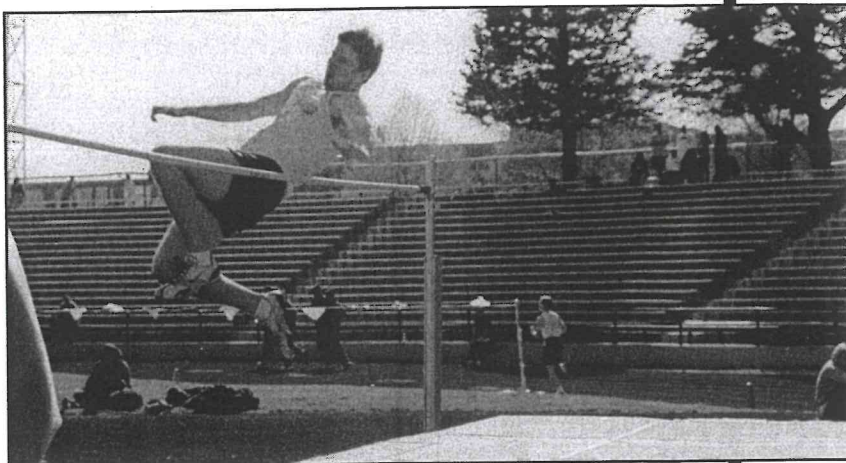


Nathan Schlindwein works hard to stay in the lead of the line of runners.

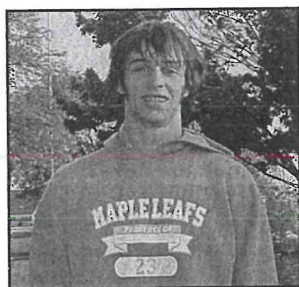


Jim Kiss prepares himself to land on the soft pit.



2003

A Closer Look



Name: Curt Russell,
Junior

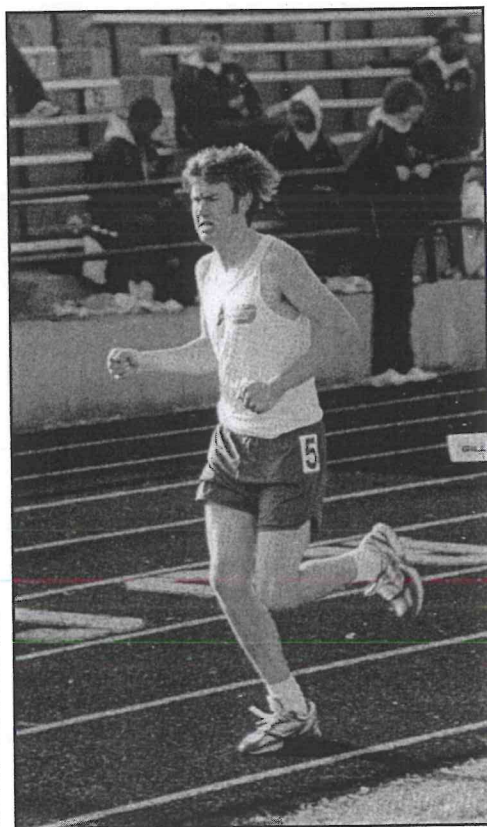
How long have you been in track?: "Since Middle School"

Nickname: "Russ"

What events do you participate in?: high jump, triple jump, 4x4 relay

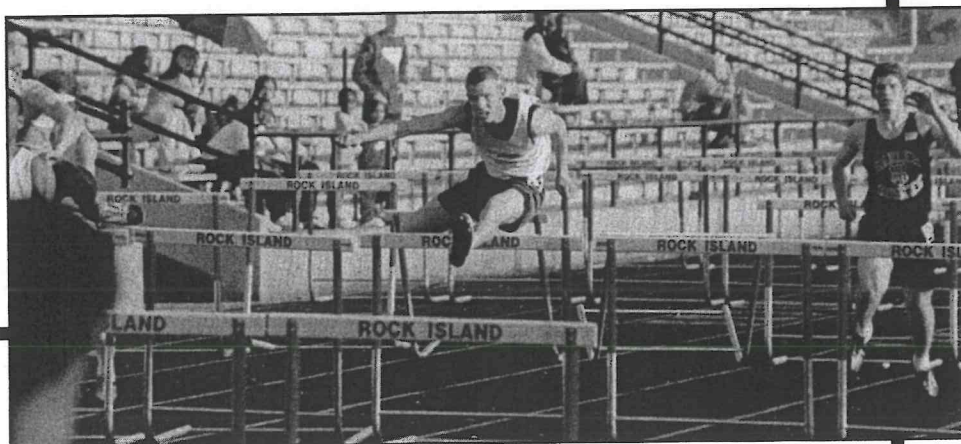
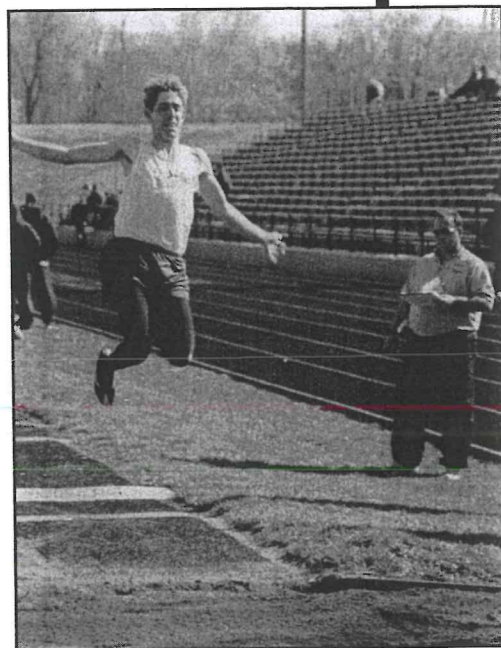
What are your future plans?: "To go to a four year college for law enforcement."

Any advice?: "Eat healthy and have high goals."



Kyle Fluck pushes forward to the end of his race.

Below: Josh Reschke jumps through the air into the sand.

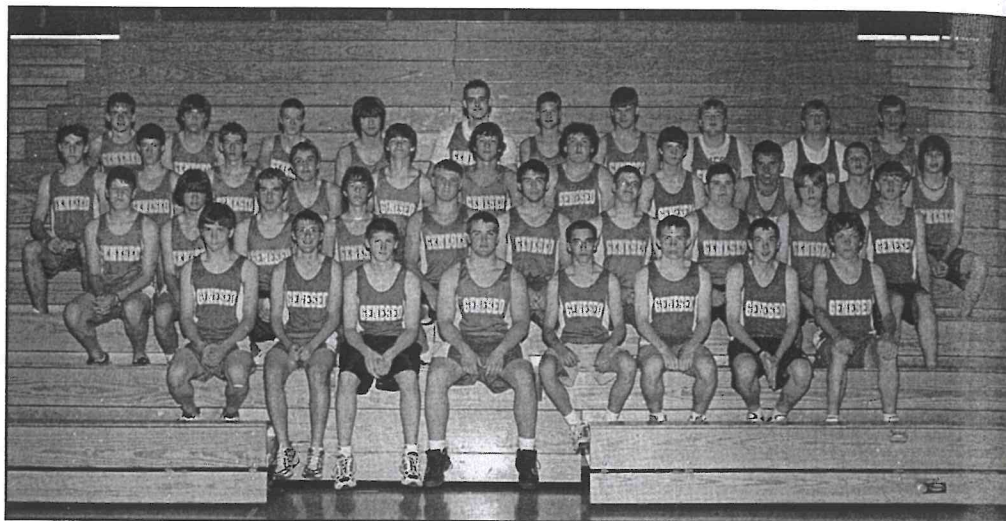
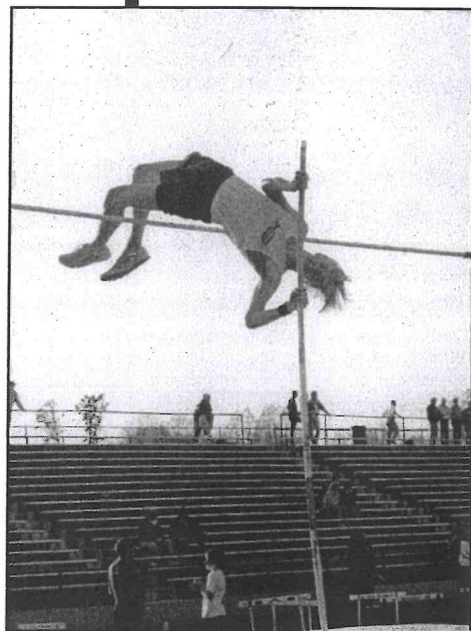


Luke Thompson leaps over the hurdles to the finish line.

Boys' Track

2003

Alex Henry uses his muscles to fling his body over the pole.



Boys' Track F/S

Front: Skylar Miller, Jordan Wildermuth, Doug Adams, Wyatt Brieser, Brian Sandoval, Blake Widick, Tony Lyttles, Corey Hopkey. Second: Andrew Sharp, Ben Arnett, Ryan Norin, Brady Piepenbrink, Brady Schnowske, Augie Anderson, Cody Leamen, Corey McNeil, Joel Butterfield, Kyle Wayne. Third: Bill Barton, Mathew Carton, Robert Reese, Eric Darwin, Shaun Russell, Kyle Glazier, Joe Paradiso, Caleb Diericx, Kevin Powell, Shaun Williams, Justin Ogilvie. Back: Byron Stanley, Jake Stohl, Brandon Rokis, Matt Minnaert, Scott Rule, Justin Heaton, Andrew Hull, Jake Woolsey, Dan Woolsey, Andy Wallace.

Track

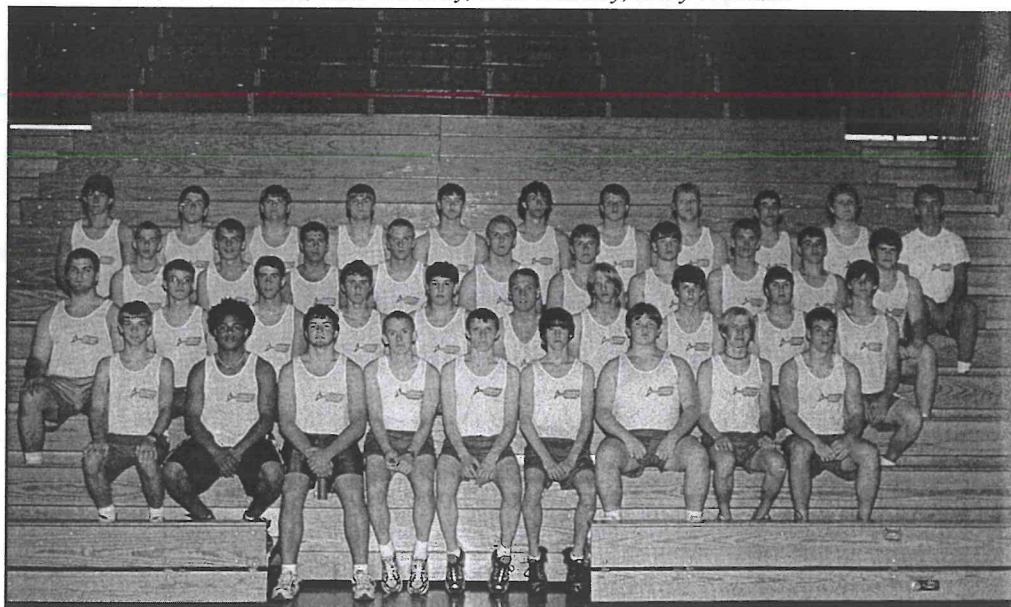
SEASON RECORDS

FROSH/SOPH

Duals 6-1
Indoor NCIC 2nd
Dixon F/S 3rd
Sterling Frosh 2nd
NCIC 3rd
Geneseo F/S 1st

VARSITY

Duals 9-2
Indoor NCIC 4th
Shipley 3rd
Rock Island 5th
McCormick 2nd
NCIC 2nd
Sectionals 5th



Boys' Track Varsity

Front: Brad Mattan, Andre Jackson, Pat Turner, Eric Wallace, Steve Loftus, Nathan Schlindwein, Ryan McLaughlin, Alex Henry, John Kroener. Second: Mike Matakas, Tim Holevoet, Aaron Kuban, Luke Steinkopf, Tim Allison, Kale VanAntwerp, Aaron Borkgren, Caleb Dierecx, Kyle Fluck, Shaun Russell. Third: Luke Thompson, Justin Trujillo, Andrew Fehlman, Jake Swanson, Nate Vorac, Chris Springer, Alan McCormic, Cody Haars, Luke Reschke, Matt Paulson. Back: Ryan Anderson, Jim Kiss, Kory Klemmer, Travis Vandersnick, Derek Wahlheim, Curt Russell, Garrick Wayne, Shane Verstraete, Josh Reschke, Scott Mapes, Jake Glazier.



Republic photo by Jason Peake

RETURNING SENIORS. Pictured are several returning senior letterwinners for the boys track team. Left to right, are Garrick Wayne, Jake Swanson, Luke Steinkopf, Josh Reschke and Andre Jackson. The team begins its year Tuesday night with a meet in Sterling.

Track season off and running

Snook has talented bunch back

BY JASON PEAKE ,
Republic Sports Editor

For Geneseo boys track coach Mel Snook, the season couldn't begin quick enough.

Snook, in his tenth year as Maple Leafs coach, says he is ready to go.

"I'm looking forward to the season, I think it's going to be an exciting one," Snook said.

"We've got the talent to really make a run at the conference championship this

year. We've good overall balance on the team."

Snook added that so far it has been hard to gauge where his team is at.

"Without having a meet yet it's hard to see where we'll fit in, but overall, I think we have an excellent chance," Snook said.

One main reason Snook mentioned for his positive outlook would have to be the returning letterwinners he

■ Please see TRACK, B2

TRACK: Boys track team begins year Tuesday

Continued from B1

has back.

Snook has 18 returning varsity letterwinners back in action this spring and about ninety total team members.

He added that the seniors on the team have impressed him.

"We've got great senior leadership. There's a lot more seniors out this year than we've had in the past. I basically consider all of them captains right now," Snook said.

The veteran coach added that the team, especially the seniors, desperately want a conference championship. With the cross country team just missing a conference title and the fact that the football, basketball and wrestling teams also didn't win the NCIC crown, Snook said, "these kids want a conference championship."

Snook listed Sterling and Dixon as the top two teams in the Leafs way this season.

"They will both be tough," Snook said, noting that the two have already participated in one meet this year.

Returning senior letterwinners include distance runner Kyle Fluck, who went to state during the cross country season.

Also back is Andre Jackson, who runs sprints and hurdles, Kory Klemmer, who throws the shot put and

discus, is also back.

Sprinters Luke Steinkopf and Jake Swanson are also back for Snook.

Aaron Kuban, Josh Reschke, Derek Wahlheim and Garrick Wayne are also returning letterwinners.

Kuban runs sprints and does the pole vault, while Reschke is a jumper.

Wahlheim and Wayne run the 800 for the team.

Snook also has several junior returning letterwinners back.

Dylan Kenney runs sprints and also is a jumper, while Brad Mattan is a distance runner.

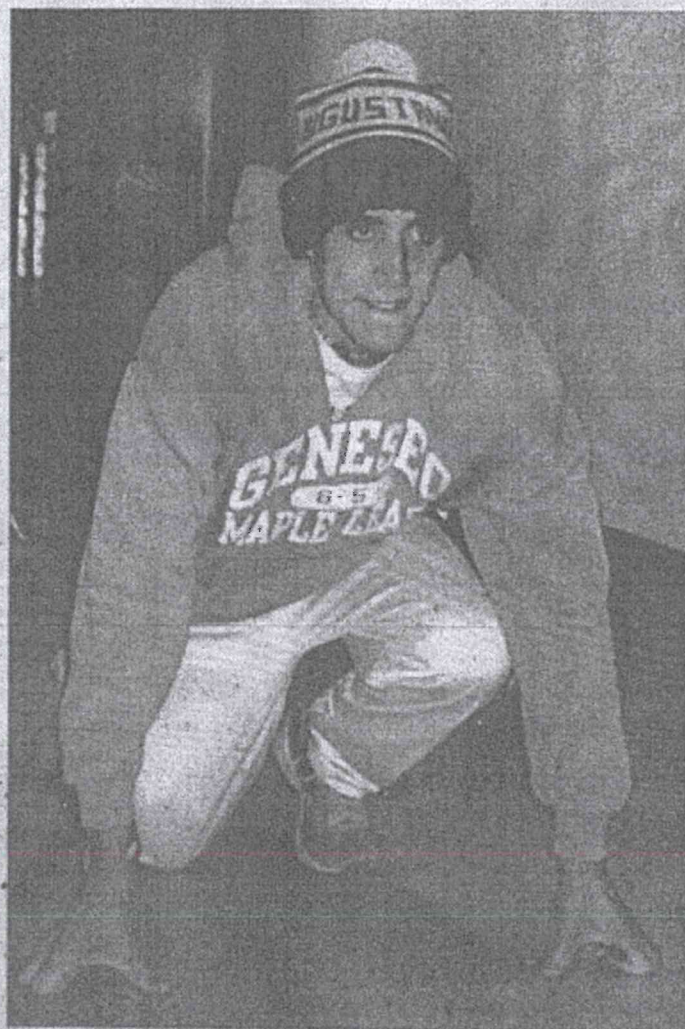
Also back is Curt Russell, who runs sprints and is a jumper.

Other returning juniors include Luke Thompson, who runs hurdles and sprints, Justin Trujillo, who is a distance runner, and Shane VerStraete, who throws the shot and discus.

Sophomore running letterwinners are Luke Reschke, who runs sprints and is a jumper, and distance runner Nathan Schlindwein.

Other seniors members on the team are: Alex Henry, Jim Kiss, John Kroener, Steve Loftus, Chris Springer and Eric Wallace.

Juniors members are: Tim Allison, Ryan Anderson, Aaron Borkgren, Andrew Fehlman, Jake Glazier, Cody



Republic photo by Jason Peake

READY TO RUN. Josh Reschke gets set to take off during a preseason practice at J.D. Darnall High School. Reschke is one of 18 returning letterwinners for Coach Snook.

Haars, Tim Holevoet, Scott Mapes, Mike Matakas, Alan McCormick, Ryan McLaughlin, Matt Paulson, Pat Turner, Kale VanAntwerp, Travis Vandersnick and Nate Vorac.

Snook's assistants are Don Fredericks, Larry Johnsen, Dan Rakestraw and Neal Russell.

The team opens the year Tuesday night at Sterling. Meet time is 5 p.m.

Half a century with the Maple Leafs

Geneseo native Dale Lodge reflects on his fifty years helping out the Geneseo track teams

BY JASON PEAKE
Republic Sports Editor

As the memories of athletes and coaches from long ago came to mind, Geneseo's Dale Lodge realized something.

He has reached a milestone.

Lodge, 84 years young, has now been helping out the Geneseo track programs for 50 years.

"This is the way I found it out. My old friend Vernie Holevoet asked me a couple weeks ago how many years I've been going to track meets.

"I told him, 'oh, 40 to 45 years.' He said, 'No Dale, I graduated in 1953 and you were there that year.'"

Lodge then thought about it and remembered that must have been his first year helping out.

"I've been at it a long time, but I guess I didn't realize it was that long.

"I guess I've got a mark now, 50 years," Lodge laughed.

Lodge then recalled that he began helping out his friend John McCormick, who was the boys track coach at the time.

"I just wanted to help out any way I could," Lodge said.

When Lodge first began to help out, he was the official timer of the events.

Currently, Lodge is the "official string holder."

The 1936 graduate of Geneseo High School now holds the string at the finish line at every home track meet.

For Geneseo track fans, Lodge has become a fixture on the sidelines.

"I've missed very few track meets over the years," he said.

"I've only missed one home meet that I can recall," Lodge added.

One might ask why Lodge has been willing to volunteer his time for so many years.

"That's an easy one," Lodge quickly replied. "The biggest thing is that I like to do it and I like the events."

He added the personal satisfaction of helping out the program is also a reason he attends the meets.

Another reason Lodge likes to attend the meets is to be around the athletes.

"I like to see the kids per-

form and you get to meet a lot of nice young people," he said.

Lodge also mentioned that he's made a lot of friends by talking to people on the sidelines.

A turning point for Lodge came in the early seventies when the girls track program was introduced.

He said when the girls began to run, they were "very green."

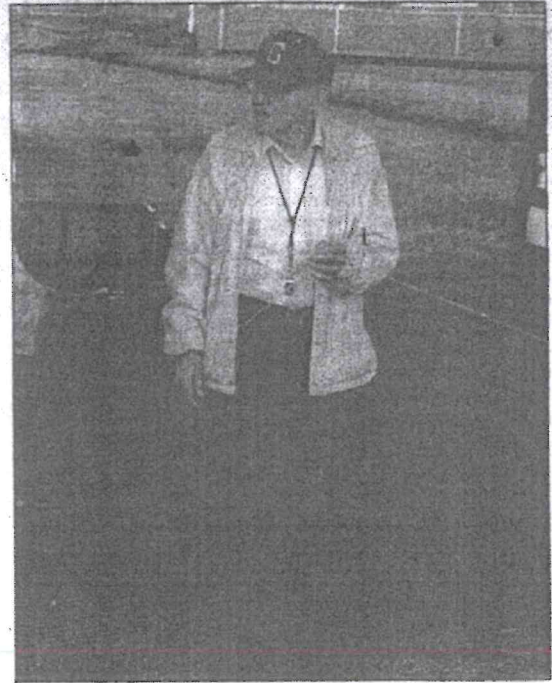
He added that girls track has come along way and now he actually prefers girls track to boys.

"The girls have come on so strong since 1974. And the girls are such fantastic competitors. They seem to want to win so bad," he said.

He added that he has seen several great runners in his time on the sidelines.

Lodge listed Jeanine White, Ann Gustafson, Jackie Carton-Russell, Diane Anderson, Lori Pettit-Ward and Kelley Timmerman as some of the top runners he has seen in Geneseo.

Amazingly, Lodge can still recall specific times that several of the runners have



Republic photo by Jason Peake

HOLDING THE STRING. Geneseo's Dale Lodge holds the string at the finish line at a girls track race Tuesday night. Lodge has now been helping out the program for 50 years.

recorded and the events they participated in.

But the one track athlete he said is the best Geneseo runner he has ever seen would be Jenny Lake.

"She was the most outstanding girl I've ever seen," Lodge said.

"I watched her come up

through the grade school level and she was something.

"I remember when she was in the eighth grade, they ran the boys and the girls together in the same race. It was the mile run and she went out there and beat all the boys."

■ Please see LODGE, B2

LODGE: Helping the Leafs for 50 years

■ Continued from B1

Lodge said.

"My dear little friend who went to South Carolina was thirty seconds better than the first boy that day," Lodge said.

"Can you imagine that? That has always stuck in my mind," he said.

As the memories flooded back to Lodge, he paused, smiled and said, "Jenny Lake—wow, she was something."

"That's another reason I do it, to get acquainted with people like her."

So why track?

"I've always liked track. I used to run myself," Lodge said.

"It's a team sport, but it comes down to you and the other kid," Lodge said.

Lodge then recalled his most memorable moment as a runner. He said the best race of his life came at a sports festival in Champaign in 1936.

"I used to run with three of my friends and they would always beat me; I mean every

time, I would lose," he said.

"The summer after I graduated from high school I knew there was this festival in August that we were all going to participate in.

"On the farm, we were a half mile out from the mailbox, so everyday that summer I ran to get the mail," he said.

"I like to see the kids perform and you get to meet a lot of good people."

—Dale Lodge,

On helping the track team.

"We first had to run at the Cambridge Fairgrounds and I just whipped those guys' butts," Lodge laughed.

"I got to go down to Champaign and I'll never forget it.

"There were 48 guys running in the half mile. We had three lines of 16 guys lined up and of course, I was on the last spot on the back outside edge of the track.

"But I came in third place

overall and finished in just over two minutes," Lodge said. "I'll never forget it," he repeated.

In addition to helping the track program, Lodge said he began timing wrestling events years ago.

"I timed wrestling meets for 30 years," Lodge said.

"Elmer Reedy and I were a team back then timing wrestling meets," he said.

He said he became even more interested in wrestling when his son, Scott took up the sport in 1966.

"That really got me into wrestling," Lodge said.

To date, Lodge has seen five NCAA wrestling meets in person.

Most recently, he traveled to Kansas City to watch Moline's Matt Lackey.

He said he spent three days straight at the event watching the wrestling.

"I'm just nuts on sports," he said, mentioning that he likes to attend the Green Machine football games, too.

Lodge, who worked as a sales clerk for Lindsey

Brothers auction service for 40 years, said he likes to stay involved in other things as well.

"I'm always involved in something," he said.

He lists his other hobbies as raising money for causes he believes in.

With help from his wife Ann, Lodge said he has helped raise money for the Geneseo band program, the indoor swimming pool at the Community Center and the Geneseo museum.

He also noted that he loves to fix up old houses in his spare time.

When talking to Lodge, though, it becomes obvious that he is a true sports fan.

Thinking back to the many, many years he has witnessed Geneseo track meets firsthand, Lodge's face lit up.

"I've enjoyed every year," he said.

And when asked how long he would continue to help out the team, Lodge didn't hesitate a bit.

His response, "as long as I can stand up."