

# Local squads in the running

## Five is enough for Moline girls

By JON HEYMAN  
Dispatch sportswriter

The Moline girls' cross-country runners made a deal with themselves at the beginning of the season. So far, they haven't backed down on the agreement one bit.

And because of it, the Maroons will be running with state power Geneseo and deep and talented United Township when the Sterling Sectional girls' cross-country meet begins at 10:30 this morning at Woodlawn Elementary school on the east end of Sterling.

Moline began the year with only five girls, the minimum number needed for a team, and although a couple more joined the squad in midseason, the Maroons are down to five girls again. They are the same five girls who started the season; Leanne Larson, who finished second to Galesburg's Kris Watters at the Geneseo regional, Sherry Large, Abby Salmon, Kristi Dwyer and Jozette

air. "We made a deal the first day. Don't get sick and don't have any injuries," said coach Gene Shipley, whose team qualified by tying UT for second at Geneseo.

THE MAROONS ARE in the midst of a very healthy season indeed, having lost only one dual meet all season (to

(Please see \*GIRLS, page 19)



—Dispatch photo by Gary Krambeck

Amy Alexander is one reason Geneseo is the favorite in today's cross-country sectional at Sterling.

## \*Girls

(Continued from page 17)

Geneseo). So, when today's state-qualifying race is completed, the Maroons are expected to be one of the teams still alive.

"We look sharp. I don't think we'll do any worse than third," said Shipley.

The Maroons handily advanced to the state meet their first two seasons, but this year it won't be quite as easy considering their incredible lack of depth. They need to finish among the top five teams of the 20 competing to reach the state meet next week at Detweiller Park in Peoria.

"We don't have quite the depth we've had in the past," Shipley said with a laugh. The reason, he said, just might have something to do with the "physicalness" of the five girls on the team. "In school they talk about how far they run every day. I think that may scare some of the others away."

"Most Moline girls haven't decided whether they want to wear perfume or sweat."

AT GENESEO, AT least some of the girls decided they wanted to sweat, and because of it, they're ranked fifth in the state (down a spot from last week). With four top-notch runners like Priscilla Gomez, Connie Gradert, Amy Alexander and Lorri DeBlieck, the Leafs figure to run away with the girls portion of the meet today.

"I would say if we didn't win, the girls would be quite upset," said Geneseo coach Jeff Quick.

The Leafs marched to victory in the Geneseo Regional with three of their top girls not running up to form. DeBlieck, Alexander and Gradert all had viral infections last week, but Quick said all three are healthy now.

United Township, which finished a distant second to Geneseo in the regional, should also qualify for the state meet. The Panthers feature a strong pack, led by Alice McLernon. The team's other top runners include Costella Green, Joann Wilshusen, Julie Kirklin and DeDe McVey.

## Girls

Regional .....	Winner .....	School
Geneseo .....	Kris Watters .....	Galesburg
Rockford .....	Beth Erickson .....	L.P.-Harlem
DeKalb .....	Julie Burger .....	Belvidere
Peoria .....	Karen Love .....	Pekin

Local favorites: Leanne Larson, Moline; Priscilla Gomez, Geneseo; Alice McLernon, United Township; Lorri DeBlieck, Geneseo; Colleen Doak, Alleman; Sherry Large, Moline.

Top five of 20 teams advance to state, as do top seven individual runners not a part of advancing teams.

# They hope to beat 'state' of shock

By JON HEYMAN

Dispatch sportswriter

Moline cross country runner Leanne Larson has been running well ahead of her competition this year, but she knows that doesn't matter much when the state meet gets under way this morning at Detweiller Park in Peoria.

The state meet is different. Larson will not be the favorite as she has been in most of her races this year. She will be just one of 210 girls who have earned the right to participate.

"I'm just hoping for the top 25," said Larson, who finished 76th last year in Peoria. "I was really nervous last year. There will always be that nervousness at the state meet. But I'll be a lot more confident this year."

Her confidence has increased as her times have decreased. She has yet to finish lower than second in any meet this year, and she finished just behind Galesburg's highly-ranked Kris Watters in both the Geneseo Regional and the Sterling Sectional.

ALLEMAN'S COLLEEN Doak will be competing in the state meet for the first time, but the freshman's fourth-place finish in the Sterling Sectional indicates she too, could be ready for a medal (the top 25 finishers get medals).

"Some people are picking Kris Watters to win it, and Colleen finished only 10 seconds behind her and not too many runners could squeeze in there," said Alleman coach Joe Lopez.

However, Lopez is trying to downplay the importance of the race, since Doak is only a freshman. "We want to look at it as a fun race rather than putting any pressure on her," Lopez said.

United Township's Alice McLernon could also make the top 25. She finished eighth last year, right behind Watters, but the UT senior is running at least 10 seconds behind last year's pace.

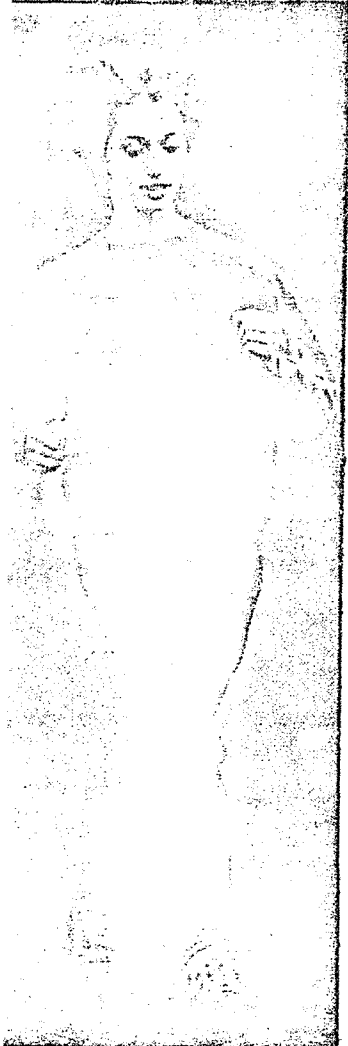
Several other area runners could finish high in the race, including Geneseo's one-two punch of senior Priscilla Gomez and freshman Connie Gradert.

IN THE BOYS' Class AA race, the main local interest will be focused on the Maple Leafs' Tim Arnett, who finished first in both the Geneseo Regional and the Sterling Sectional. Arnett dominated area cross country this year. He won his last three races wire-to-wire, but like Larson, he's had trouble in past state meets.

Arnett finished 110th as a freshman, 66th as a sophomore and 73rd last year, but Geneseo coach Jeff Quick said he should be finishing somewhere in the top 10 this year.

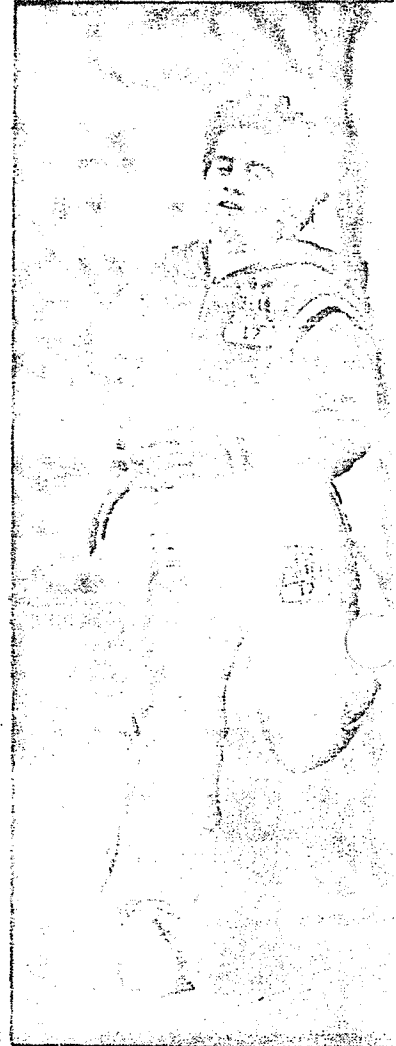
"He's bound and determined not to make the same mistakes he made last year," said Geneseo coach Jeff Quick. "This time, he will try to grab the top spot early. He's not a kicker. He has to force the pace. He told me he's going to go to the front and see if he can hold on."

Quick says that if everything goes right, Arnett could actually win the race because there is no single dominant runner this year. "Anything's possible, but to go from 73rd to winning, that's beyond our wildest dreams," said Quick.



— Dispatch photo by Gary Krambeck

**COLLEEN DOAK**  
..freshman sensation



— Dispatch photo by Gary Krambeck

**ALICE McLERNON**  
...leads UT

# GIRLS SECTIONAL RESULTS

WINNING TIME: 11:59

1. GENESEO	80	( 49 ) ( 99 )
2. BELVIDERE	95	( 37 ) ( 85 )
3. EAST MOLINE	118	( 52 ) ( 70 )
4. MOLINE	138	( 8 ) ( 8 )
5. GUILFORD	161	( 89 ) ( 107 )
6. STERLING	170	( 75 ) ( 78 )
7. HARLEM	210	( 94 ) ( 97 )
8. KANELAND	225	( 103 ) ( 113 )
9. KEWANEE	247	( 120 ) ( 124 )
10. PEKIN	278	( 108 ) ( 119 )
11. DEKALB	311	( 116 ) ( 129 )
12. PRINCETON	319	( 115 ) ( 117 )
13. RICHWOODS	324	( 93 ) ( 98 )
14. WASHINGTON	329	( 123 ) ( 128 )
15. DIXON	331	( 131 ) ( 8 )
16. EAST	332	( 95 ) ( 127 )
17. PEORIA	342	( 104 ) ( 114 )
18. METAMORA	442	( 110 ) ( 125 )
19. HARVARD	517	( 133 ) ( 8 )
20. ELGIN	599	( 135 ) ( 8 )

	Time	mile aver	2mile
	2.1 miles		
3rd Priscilla Gomez	12:26	5:55.2	11:50.4
8th Connie Gradert	12:44	6:04.7	12:09.4
12th Amy Alexander	12:47	6:05.2	12:10.4
32nd Lorri DeBlieck	13:23	6:22.4	12:44.8
51st Tara Zeitler	13:37	6:29	12:58
65th Michelle Landrum	13:50	6:35.2	13:10.4
118 Kerry Meade	14:30	6:54.3	13:48.6

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>
1	*KRIS WATTERS	11:59	GALESBURG
2	LEANNA LARSON	12:12	MOLINE
3	PRISCILLA GOMEZ	12:26	GENESEO
4	*COLLEEN DOAK	12:28	ALLEMAN
5	BURGER	12:31	BELVIDERE
6	ALICE McLERNON	12:34	EAST MOLINE
7	AMY REECY	12:38	KEWANEE
8	C. GRADENT	12:44	GENESEO
9	METTE BECKSTRAM	12:45	GUILFORD
10	LISA NEVA	12:46	BELVIDERE
11	KARIN LOVE	12:46	PEKIN
12	AMY ALEXANDER	12:47	GENESEO
13	*KARI PARKER	12:47	PUTNAM COUNTY
14	SHERRY LARGE	12:50	MOLINE
15	*TERESA AUSTIN	12:52	NEWMAN
16	AMY EDDINGTON	12:54	KANELAND
17	BETH ERICKSON	12:55	HARLEM
18	KERRY RINK	12:56	KANELAND
19	MICHELLE GEHRKE	12:58	GUILFORD
20	*ELLY WEAR	12:58	WOODRUFF
21	KANDIE WILHELM	13:00	DIXON
22	STACY ALBA	13:02	STERLING
23	*MARY NORTHRIDGE	13:10	FREEPORT
24	*ANN STAHL	13:10	WINNEBAGO
25	DEDE MCVEY	13:11	EAST MOLINE
26	CATHY HYLAND	13:12	BELVIDERE
27	*STEFFIE STUMP	13:13	BERGAN
28	MARCIE LEVERENZ	13:17	EAST
29	JENNY HILL	13:18	HARLEM
30	LIZANNE HUNSBERGER	13:19	STERLING
31	JENNY KHOSHBIN	13:21	PRINCETON
32	LORRI DEBLIECK	13:23	GENESEO
33	*MARY GENDE	13:24	ALLEMAN
34	JULIE KIRKLIN	13:25	EAST MOLINE
35	JENNIFER ROBINSON	13:26	GUILFORD
36	*JENNIFER NIMER	13:26	HALL
37	TINA MARTINEZ	13:27	STERLING
38	*MELINDA SWANK	13:28	LIMESTONE
39	LISA SCHELLENBERG	13:28	PEORIA
40	BECKY SCOTT	13:29	PRINCETON
41	*KELLY YEOCUM	13:30	ROCK ISLAND
42	JULIE SMITH	13:30	BELVIDERE
43	JOANN WILSHUSEU	13:31	EAST MOLINE
44	ABBY SALMON	13:31	MOLINE
45	LESLIE BLANKENBEHLER	13:32	KEWANEE
46	GWENN SHERWOOD	13:32	DIXON
47	*JANICE SHARKEY	13:34	AMBOY
48	BETH RACZ	13:35	BELVIDERE
49	ANNALEE MENZ	13:36	WASHINGTON
50	RIKKI FREE	13:37	BELVIDERE
51	TARA ZEITLER	13:37	GENESEO
52	KRISTI DWYER	13:38	MOLINE
53	*MARGE HARKNESS	13:38	ELMWOOD
54	STACEY TRIPP	13:39	EAST MOLINE
55	JENNY MERFIELD	13:39	HARLEM
56	*JOANNA SHARP	13:43	HONONEGAH

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>
57	VICTORIA FLEMAL	13:44	DEKALB
58	MISSY BROWN	13:45	HARVARD
59	CENA GAVALDEN	13:45	STERLING
60	LAURA BARNHART	13:46	WASHINGTON
61	*ANN TASTAD	13:47	MENDOTA
62	JEANETTE BLANKENBEHLER	13:48	KEWANEE
63	SHELIA LUNA	13:48	GUILFORD
64	SHELLY MCMAHUS	13:49	KANELAND
65	MICHELLE LANDRUM	13:50	GENESEO
66	LISA DUDLEY	13:51	PEKIN
67	TONYA HURSEY	13:51	RICHWOODS
68	COSTELLO GREEN	13:52	EAST MOLINE
69	AMY MOBECK	13:52	PEKIN
70	DEBORAH RUSSELL	13:53	RICHWOODS
71	JOZETTE BLAIR	13:54	MOLINE
72	SALLY HEIPLE	13:54	PEORIA
73	JULIE ROTTLE	13:55	WASHINGTON
74	STEPHANIE BRIEN	13:56	METAMORA
75	THERESA TOMBLIN	13:56	RICHWOODS
76	*BARB SPRING	13:57	BERGAN
77	CHRISTY POPE	13:58	STERLING
78	*KELLY KINKADE	13:58	STREATOR
79	KATHY BELL	13:59	HARLEM
80	GLENDA BOBO	14:00	DEKALB
81	CATHY OCONNELL	14:01	EAST
82	DAWN ANDERSON	14:01	DEKALB
83	SUE JOSEPHSON	14:02	PRINCETON
84	JAMIE HART	14:02	GUILFORD
85	JULIE WADE	14:03	PEORIA
86	KARA LONGTON	14:04	DIXON
87	DODD	14:05	KANELAND
88	CARLA DUNCAN	14:05	EAST MOLINE
89	LISA BESSERMAN	14:06	DEKALB
90	ERICA ZETTL	14:06	DEKALB
91	SHERI ZWETZ	14:07	WASHINGTON
92	KELLY WESCOM	14:08	HARLEM
93	RHONDA WALDSCHMIDT	14:08	STERLING
94	DONNA TWOROWSKI	14:09	KEWANEE
95	DEBBIE LEVERENZ	14:10	EAST
96	*TAMMY ALWINE	14:11	SANDWICH
97	PAULA HESS	14:11	STERLING
98	WENDY DALTON	14:12	RICHWOODS
99	STEPHANIE RITCHIE	14:13	PEKIN
100	JENNIFER WILLIAMS	14:13	RICHWOODS
101	ANN KEUEGER	14:14	KANELAND
102	ERIN HARDMAN	14:15	METAMORA
103	LAURA SOPPA	14:16	EAST
104	STEPHANIE TOURDOT	14:16	BELVIDERE
105	TRACEY BOERDING	14:17	PEKIN
106	LEEANN HULTEEN	14:18	KEWANEE
107	JENNY WALSH	14:19	EAST
108	KATY DONAHUE	14:20	GUILFORD
109	JESSICA KENNEL	14:20	METAMORA
110	LAURA MILLER	14:21	PEORIA
111	MOIRA FORD	14:22	ELGIN
112	JILL BLACKBURN	14:23	RICHWOODS

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>
113	CHRIS MUELLER	14:23	HARLEM
114	CAROL FRANCIS	14:26	EAST
115	SARA JOSEPHSON	14:27	PRINCETON
116	KRIS METHANY	14:29	HARLEM
117	KAERN BOHNEMANN	14:30	RICHWOODS
118	KERRY MEADE	14:30	GENESEO
119	ANN BALDWIN	14:30	PEORIA
120	TAMMY SOEMSTRA	14:31	DIXON
121	CARLA ROGERS	14:32	METAMORA
122	HEIDI HAGBERG	14:32	KANELAND
123	JEANETTE NAUG	14:33	PEORIA
124	SHERRI FLOURDE	14:34	HARVARD
125	BRENDA WESNER	14:34	PRINCETON
126	JANE DIESNER	14:35	GUILFORD
127	DEBBIE SEVERNS	14:42	PEKIN
128	DEB KUNI	14:43	METAMORA
129	SUE RICCA	14:46	METAMORA
130	HEIDI SCHULZ	14:48	HARVARD
131	TERRESA GILTNER	14:49	DIXON
132	TAMMY CHIDESTER	14:53	KANELAND
133	STEPHANIE WILSEN	14:57	PEORIA
134	MARY TAMMEN	15:00	PRINCETON
135	ESTHER PEREY	15:01	DEKALB
136	CONNIE PIERSON	15:06	PRINCETON
137	SHARON ZWETZ	15:18	WASHINGTON
138	BECKY GORDON	15:21	PEKIN
139	KAROL KOEPKE	15:22	KEWANEE
140	*LISA LOPEZ	15:22	OREGON
141	JOANNE GIER	15:23	ELGIN
142	TARA MAKIJEWSKI	15:24	ELGIN
143	KELLY CLARK	15:49	WASHINGTON
144	SARAH VICKREY	16:13	KEWANEE
145	HEIDI BRADSHAW	16:20	METAMORA
146	DAWN CARLEY	16:36	HARVARD
147	CATHY LOGESON	17:06	EAST
148	KELLIE RENEAU	17:16	WASHINGTON
149	BETH SCHULTZ	17:44	DEKALB
150	PENNY MIGAKI	18:25	ELGIN
151	TAMMY GILTNER	18:59	DIXON
152	LORETTA DAVIS	19:02	HARVARD
153	CHRIS TRAEDER	20:13	HARVARD
154	PATTY BROWN	21:15	ELGIN
155	DEBBIE BROWN	21:20	ELGIN

# BOYS SECTION.S RESULTS

WINNING TIME: 15:25

1. GUILFORD	40	( 20 ) ( 26 )
2. IVC	97	( 67 ) ( 70 )
3. EAST	130	( 102 ) ( 111 )
4. GALESBURG	146	( 101 ) ( 113 )
5. ROCK ISLAND	154	( 79 ) ( 99 )
6. RICHWOODS	195	( 59 ) ( 61 )
7. MOLINE	203	( 77 ) ( 96 )
8. EAST PEORIA	216	( 80 ) ( 84 )
9. METAMORA	238	( 108 ) ( 0 )
10. FREEPORT	246	( 97 ) ( 104 )
11. ROCK FALLS	249	( 87 ) ( 88 )
12. BELVIDERE	262	( 94 ) ( 0 )
13. L-P	320	( 92 ) ( 0 )
14. PEKIN	324	( 89 ) ( 100 )
15. ROCHELLE	369	( 107 ) ( 0 )
16. HONONEGAH	380	( 109 ) ( 0 )
17. LARKIN	440	( 112 ) ( 0 )

average

TIM ARNETT FIRST PLACE

15:25--4:52--5:18(10:10)--5:15----- 5:08.3

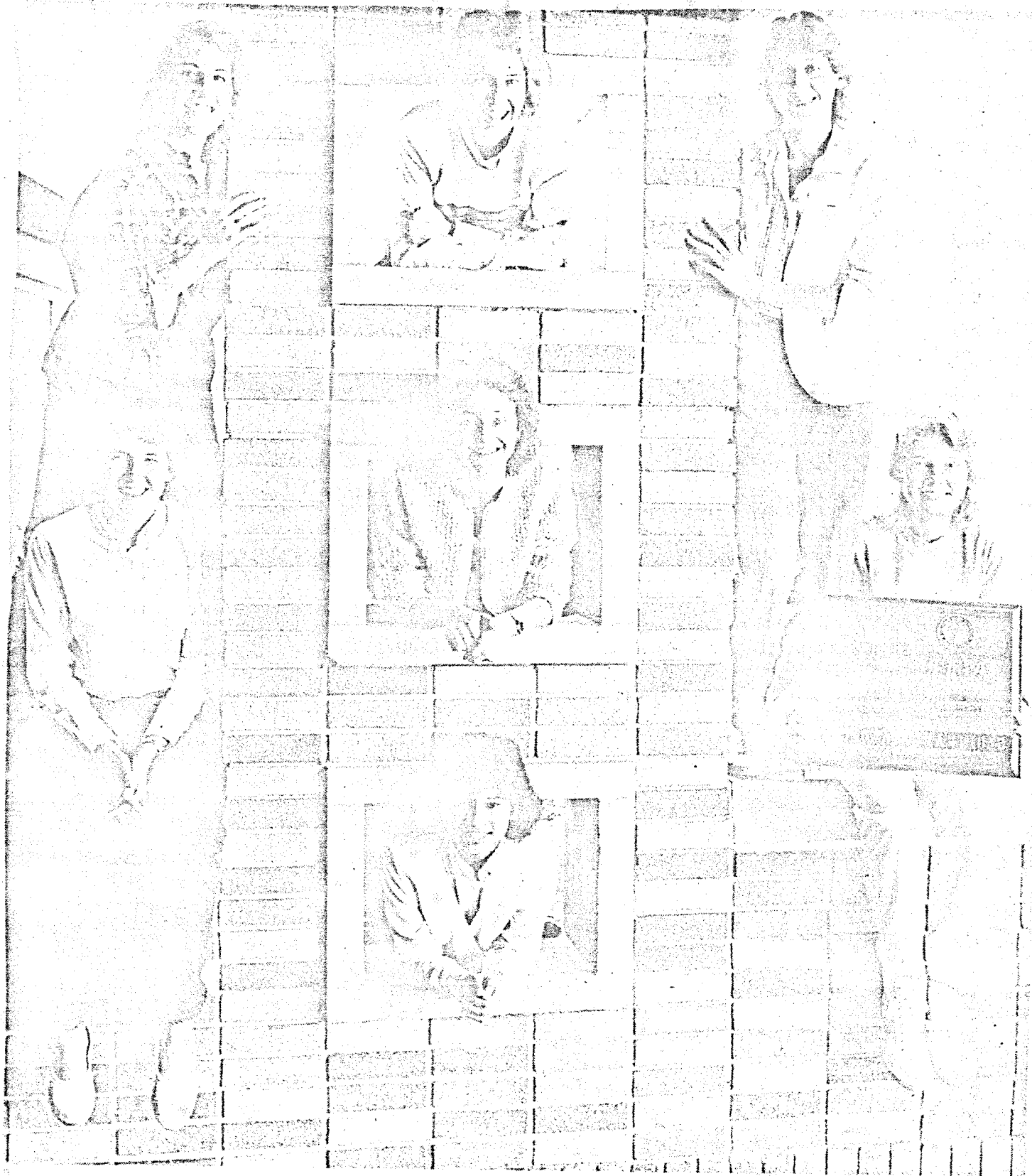
<u>NAME</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>
1 *TIM ARNETT	15:25	GENESEO
2 BART BOUGH	15:26	GUILFORD
3 RICK GASPIRINI	15:32	EAST
4 *SID AURAND	15:33	DIXON
5 GREG GARCIA	15:34	ROCK FALLS
6 DARREN CHRISTI	15:36	EAST
7 RICK LINGENFELTER	15:46	IVC
8 *GEORGE PATTERSON	15:47	WASHINGTON
9 RECK	15:48	GUILFORD
10 MATT BELL	15:49	GALESBURG
11 JOHN TILSON	15:49	GUILFORD
12 ROBERT SOGARD	15:55	GUILFORD
13 *PAT MCCANN	15:55	BOYLAN
14 MARK SANDOVAL	16:00	ROCHELLE
15 MIKE CLOCK	16:05	FREEPORT
16 MARK SCHIERER	16:06	METAMORA
17 *DOUG HEARN	16:06	OTTAWA
18 PHIL PALMER	16:07	EAST PEORIA
19 KEITH VANDERMEULEN	16:08	GALESBURG
20 PAT DONLAN	16:11	RICHWOODS
21 CHARLES SMITH	16:13	GUILFORD
22 *DALE ELLIOT	16:13	STREATOR
23 JOSE SALAZAR	16:18	ROCK ISLAND
24 CLEMENTE SALAZAR	16:18	ROCK ISLAND
25 TOBI PETERS	16:19	IVC
26 RONALD KOSCH	16:19	GUILFORD
27 DAN JOHNSON	16:19	IVC
28 ISAAC JOHNSON	16:20	EAST
29 JEFF MCMORROW	16:20	IVC
30 *KENNITH ANDREWS	16:22	HARLEM
31 JOHN SANDERS	16:23	MOLINE
32 *MIKE BLONME	16:23	ALLEMAN
33 *BRUCE NIE	16:24	STERLING
34 ANDY KOLVEK	16:25	EAST PEORIA
35 PAT DONAVAN	99:99	GUILFORD
36 BARNEY OLSON	99:99	GALESBURG
37 JACK WEHERSKI	99:99	L-P
38 *DAVID NORDHIELM	99:99	WASHINGTON
39 RICK LEVENTRY	99:99	IVC
40 WILLIE TAYLOR	99:99	MOLINE
41 TODD HURSEY	99:99	RICHWOODS
42 *JOHN LAROSA	99:99	BOYLAN
43 *JOHN GATES	99:99	JEFFERSON
44 *RAY CAMPOS	99:99	ALLEMAN
45 DARREN KERSCHIETER	99:99	ROCK ISLAND
46 JESSE GONZALES	99:99	BELVIDERE
47 BRIAN WINTERS	99:99	PEKIN
48 BRYAN SWORDS	99:99	METAMORA
49 PAUL PERRYMAN	99:99	MOLINE
50 ODD SKOGEN	99:99	EAST PEORIA
51 KENDALL REED	99:99	ROCK ISLAND
52 TODD FUCHS	99:99	HONONEGAH
53 ERIC HESS	99:99	BELVIDERE
54 ROBERT WETECAMP	99:99	FREEPORT
55 JOHN KLUTH	99:99	EAST
56 JEFF KOLLMEYER	99:99	PEKIN

Times not available after 34th place.



	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>
57	JEREMY FOSTER	99:99	GALESBURG
58	MIKE HURSEY	99:99	RICHWOODS
59	BOB CRACKER	99:99	BELVIDERE
60	RICHIE CAIN	99:99	ROCK FALLS
61	ALFREDO TORRES	99:99	MOLINE
62	*TONY HURTADO	99:99	STREATOR
63	STEVE CARLSON	99:99	ROCK ISLAND
64	PAUL LASKONIS	99:99	BELVIDERE
65	JEFF PHILLIPS	99:99	RICHWOODS
66	STEVE DANNER	99:99	METAMORA
67	JEFF COOK	99:99	RICHWOODS
68	KURT GEER	99:99	GALESBURG
69	MARK JOHNSON	99:99	FREEPORT
70	*KEP LASOTA	99:99	WOODRUFF
71	*NATHAN CIOTA	99:99	MANUAL
72	DAVID BRODST	99:99	FREEPORT
73	BILL WELSH	99:99	METAMORA
74	MARK TRUESDALL	99:99	ROCK FALLS
75	STEVE LACROIX	99:99	RICHWOODS
76	THOMAS CUNNINGHAM	99:99	EAST
77	SCOTT RUNKLE	99:99	RICHWOODS
78	JOSE ALMAREZ	99:99	L-P
79	JOE HAMILTON	99:99	EAST PEORIA
80	MIKE WENZEL	99:99	HONONEGAH
81	RAY MARTINEZ	99:99	MOLINE
82	ALAN KASIBA	99:99	LARKIN
83	GARY SPENCER	99:99	IVC
84	*SCOTT BELZER	99:99	MORTON
85	DAMON KUSE	99:99	HONONEGAH
86	DANNY IVEY	99:99	ROCK FALLS
87	STEVE SWAN	99:99	IVC
88	KIMBLE HARPER	99:99	LARKIN
89	JAY STANLEY	99:99	ROCK FALLS
90	CLAUDIO RAMOS	99:99	ROCHELLE
91	BRUCE PRYBLINSKI	99:99	L-P
92	BOB CASFORD	99:99	L-P
93	LUKE NGUYEN	99:99	PEKIN
94	BRAD GRIFFIN	99:99	MOLINE
95	JOHN ASTLE	99:99	EAST PEORIA
96	LANCE RICCIO	99:99	ROCK ISLAND
97	SHAWN WHITE	99:99	EAST PEORIA
98	JOE FILIPPI	99:99	L-P
99	BOB LOGSDON	99:99	METAMORA
100	BRIAN ETHRIDGE	99:99	FREEPORT
101	MAX SHUTE	99:99	EAST PEORIA
102	ERIC ARNETT	99:99	PEKIN
103	KIM SUMNER	99:99	PEKIN
104	*BRIAN ELLIS	99:99	ELGIN
105	PAT JANSEN	99:99	ROCK FALLS
106	DAN HANDEL	99:99	ROCK FALLS
107	BRAIN DISNEY	99:99	PEKIN
108	MONTY MICKY	99:99	ROCHELLE
109	*DARREN CORIROSSI	99:99	JEFFERSON
110	JIM WITHERS	99:99	ROCHELLE
111	LUKE OLIVERO	99:99	L-P
112	PARKER FORSELL	99:99	BELVIDERE

Times not available after 34th place.



### *Sectional champs*

Republic photo

The girls' cross country team swept to its first ever sectional team title on Saturday, November 3, qualifying the entire squad for the November 10 state meet.

Michelle Landrum and Kerry Meade; middle row, Amy Alexander, Lorri DeBlieck and Priscilla Gomez and right row, Connie Gradert and Tara Zeitler.

Jeff Quick is the team's coach.

In the photo are, from top to bottom; left row,

# Arnett, Lady Leafs capture sectional titles

## Harriers qualify for state races

It may seem like a broken record but no complaints are being heard as Geneseo harrier Tim Arnett added the sectional cross country title to his lengthening list of accomplishments while the girls' team continues its dominance by capturing the sectional title. Arnett and the girls' team qualified for the state tournament by their efforts.

The sectional was at Sterling on Saturday, November 3, covered the 2.1-mile course in

The state meet will be Saturday, November 10 at Peoria's Dettwiler park with the girls stepping off at 11:15 a.m. followed by the boys at 12:30 p.m.



Tim Arnett

Geneseo's girls were led by Priscilla Gomez, the only Leaf with state-meet experience. She finished third behind Kris Watters of Galeburg, who covered the 2.1-mile course in 11:59, and Leanne Larson of Moline. However, the Leaf pack wasn't as strong as it's been in the past and second-place Belvidere came relatively close, 80-95.

"The pressure is getting to them a little bit," noted Leaf coach Jeff Quick.

"They're all young," continued Mr. Quick. "A lot was expected from them and that was their first sectional championship. The first time is maybe the hardest."

Last season, Gomez also finished third at sectional and then advanced to state where she came in 40th. She is a junior. As an eighth grader, Gomez won the state mile title.

Arnett, the regional and sectional champ, led the entire race. Rockford East's Rick Gaspirini made a challenge at the two-mile mark for the lead and the final 400 yards, Guilford's Bart Bodoh chased him. Bodoh tried four or five times to catch Arnett in the homestretch but the Leaf runner held him off, completing the three-mile course in 15:24, two seconds better than Bodoh.

A year ago, Arnett finished 15th at sectional and went on to finish 73rd at state. A senior, Arnett has run in the state finals every year.

# Four local teams run to glory

STERLING — As expected, the Geneseo girls' cross-country team out-distanced 19 other teams to finish first in the Sterling Sectional Saturday at Woodlawn Elementary School. The United Township girls' team came in third in the same meet.

But after talking with the head coaches, one would think the orders were reversed. You see, a bigger victory was expected from a Geneseo team that's ranked fifth in the state, while UT wasn't expected to do quite so well.

Both teams are happy about one thing. They will be on the course Saturday when the state track meet takes place next at Detweiller Park in Peoria. It's the first time the Leafs will be going as a team and the first time UT will be going since 1979. Moline will make its third straight appearance in Peoria after finishing fourth in Sterling.

"The pressure is getting to them a little bit," theorized Leaf coach Jeff Quick, after his squad's narrow 15-point margin of victory. Geneseo finished with 80 points, while second-place Belvidere had 95. UT had 118. Moline was fourth with 138 and Rockford Guilford fifth with 161 in the 20-team field.

"We had two goals. Our first was to make it to the state tournament, our second to beat Moline," said UT's Dennis Steinmetz, whose team beat seven teams which had defeated the Panthers earlier in the year. "This team looks like the best one we've ever had."

Joining the three local girls teams will be the Rock Island boys' team, which earned the final qualifying spot by finishing fifth of 17 teams in the

boys race at Sterling. The Rocks finished with 154 points, 39 better than sixth-place Peoria Richwoods, but 114 behind winning Rockford Guilford.

Two area individual runners, Geneseo's Tim Arnett, the winner of the boys' race, and Allemen's Colleen Doak, the fourth-place finisher in the girls' meet, also earned a trip to Peoria next week.

Geneseo was led by Priscilla Gomez, the only Leaf with state-meet experience. She finished third behind Kris Watters of Galesburg, who covered the 2.1-mile course in 11:59, and Leanne Larson of Moline. However, the Leaf pack wasn't as strong as it's been in the past and Belvidere nearly pulled off an upset. They might have pulled it off had the Leafs No. 5 runner Tara Zeitler not come through with a big race.

"They're all young," said Quick. "A lot was expected from them and that was their first sectional championship. The first time is maybe the hardest."

UT is more than content just to move on to the next, and final, round. The team's top runner, Alice McLernon, came in 6th, but it was two lesser-known runners who provided the difference for UT. "DeDe McVey (25th) and Stacey Tripp (54th) surprised everyone with the way they ran. They beat girls they had never beaten before," said Steinmetz.

Moline's finish was of no surprise. The Maroons have been running well all year despite having only five girls, the minimum number needed to field a team.

Colleen Doak pulled off the big individual sur-

prise in the race, finishing fourth. Although she came in only seventh in the regional last week at Geneseo, her finish Saturday was not a surprise to first-year coach Joe Lopez. "She went out a little too hard last week, and she struggled the last part of the race," Lopez said of the freshman. "Today she ran her race. She never really lost contact with the leaders."

In the boys' race, Rock Island managed to survive despite a sub-par all-around performance. "We were pleased in a sense; it's the first time we qualified since 1979," said Rocky coach John Coolidge. "But it wasn't our best race. Our guys were extremely nervous and wound up tight."

"Last year we missed the bubble, and I was afraid we'd miss it again."

This time, it was Moline which missed. The Maroons finished a disappointing seventh in the 17-team field. Moline had been among the local leaders all year, but Coach Gene Shipley's troops didn't have their best performance on arguably the most important day of the cross-country season. The team's No. 1 runner, Alfredo Torres, had side pains and came in 61st.

There was no disappointment for Geneseo's Arnett, although the regional and sectional champ didn't run his best race. He led the entire race, though Rockford East's Rick Gaspirini made a challenge at the two-mile mark for the lead. In the final 400 yards, Guilford's Bart Bodoh chased him home. Bodoh tried four or five times to catch Arnett in the homestretch, but the Leaf runner held him off, completing the three-mile course in 15:24, two seconds better than Bodoh.