

Doak, Geneseo team loom large in girls cross country action

By Tom Johnston
Staff sports writer

Geneseo's team and Colleen Doak.

That combination will be among the key factors in Saturday's girls sectional cross country meet, scheduled for Woodlawn Elementary School and Hoover Park in Sterling. The girls' 2.1-mile event is scheduled for a 10:30 a.m. start.

Geneseo's team, fresh from victory in its own regional championship and ranked ninth in the latest power rankings, appears to be an odds-on favorite for the team title, while Doak, coming off an impressive individual title at the same regional, should contend for the individual title of the meet.

"Looking at times turned in from last week's regionals, I would have to say that on paper we would have to be favored," said Geneseo coach Don Fredericks of his 9th-ranked Maple Leafs.

"I don't see any way that Geneseo can lose," surmised Moline coach Jeff Quick.

The Leafs are one of only four ranked teams in this sectional. Oswego is ranked 14th, Rockford Guilford 16th and Peoria Bergan 17th in the latest *Best Times Coaches' Power Rankings*.

Most coaches heading into this event are pointing toward those four teams to lock up team berths for the state meet the following weekend at Peoria's Detweiller Park, but that still leaves one team spot open and 16 other teams shooting for it.

Included in that group of hungry hopefuls will be Rock Island, Moline, Galesburg and United Township, which finished in that order behind Geneseo in regional action last week. A team from Belvidere that could surprise.

"I'd like to think that right now we have a confidence factor on our side," said Fredericks. "We've been here for the last three years, and we're finally getting the recognition that we deserve."

Connie Gradert, Geneseo's No. 1 runner, should be a contender for the individual title along with Doak. She finished third to the Alleman ace last Saturday.

The big story could be Doak. She qualified for the state meet as a freshman, when she went on to finish 21st in the state. She also qualified for state last year, but she didn't live up either to her own or to her coach's expectations in either state run.

Now she's facing her final shot, and she's running the best she ever has at this time of year.



COLLEEN DOAK

"She's running the best right now she has in the past three years," said Alleman coach Joe Lopez. "Early in the season her times were off, and a lot of people were asking a lot of questions like 'what's happened to Colleen.' Look at her now. She's showing that nothing is wrong with her."

And it doesn't look like there should be too many obstacles between her and a return engagement at Detweiller Park. "Yes, I think she has a great chance at qualifying,"

said Lopez.

"I think it will be about a ten-girl race, and most of those girls should

be on a qualifying team, leaving her enough spots to make it."

Back in the team race, Rock Island coach Bob Wilson sees Galesburg, Moline, UT, Peoria High and Richwoods as teams to battle it out for that fifth spot and, of course, isn't counting his team out. But it would take another surprise like last week's second-place regional finish to do it.

"We're running pretty close to potential," said Wilson. "If we run as well as we did last week, then I would have to say it's a very good possibility that we will qualify."

It's a flatter course and that favors speed, and I have my entire mile relay team out there. I would say that might favor our girls a little bit."

Even if Rocky doesn't make it as a team, Chris Coolidge and Kristen Kelewae could be individual qualifiers. Those two finished in sixth and seventh places, respectively, last weekend on a much hillier Richmond Hill course, and would benefit from the flatter course this week.

Coach Quick is facing a probable all-or-nothing situation with his Moline girls. Employing a strong pack-running team, all of Moline's girls will have to be right up there near the front to do well.

"We have to run the best race of the season and have all seven girls up there," said Quick. "It's as simple as that."

UT coach Dennis Steinmetz has to worry more about who isn't going to run than who is. Gail Conley, who has been running No. 1, is out with a stress fracture and Chris Hunter, who was the team's No. 3 performer, won't run this week because of a throat infection.

That leaves depleted troops, but not depleted spirits.

"We're thrilled that we're moving on," said Steinmetz. "The girls really showed me some things. Now our goal is to finish in the top 10 teams."

Edmunds leads regional field

At this time a year ago, Eric Edmunds was the number seven runner on the Moline boys' cross country team that qualified for the state meet.

When the boys regional meet starts today at Richmond Hill at Geneseo, not only will Edmunds be the number one runner on his Moline squad — he should be the runner to beat.

"He's really coming into his own," Moline Coach Jeff Quick said of Edmunds.

The last two weeks, Edmunds has gone head-to-head with his rival — Rock Island's Mario Vesey — on two occasions, and has beaten him both times.

In both races — the Sterling Invitational and the Western Big Six conference meet —

Vesey led late in the race, but couldn't hold off Edmunds.

"He has tremendous intensity," Quick says.

"Most of your good runners have a fourth gear — Eric has a fifth."

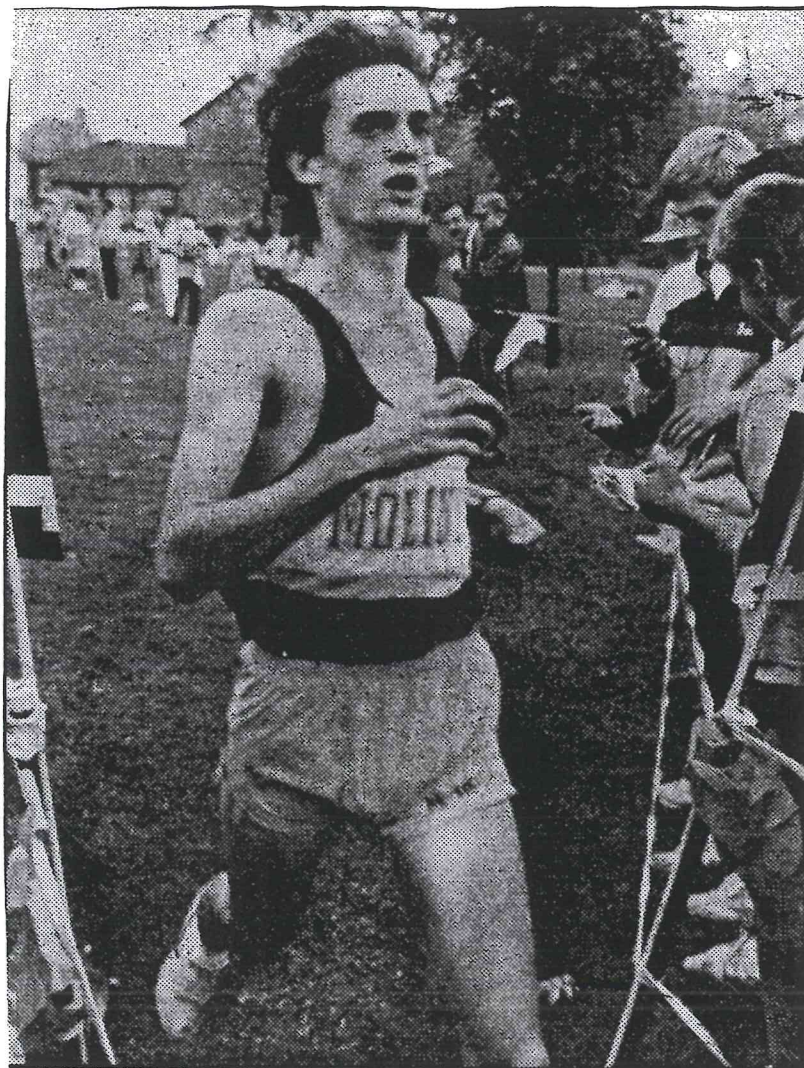
Not only does the junior excel on the cross country path and the track — Edmunds won the mile with a 4:24 clocking at the conference meet last spring — he also does quite well in the classroom.

Edmunds has a grade point average of 3.9 on a four-point scale and ranks 22 out of 600 students in his class.

Heading into the state series, Quick says Edmunds has his goals set.

"He wants to be all-state (top 25 in the state meet)," Quick said.

"Personally, I think he's one of the top 10 in the state the way he's running right now."



BIG WINNER — Eric Edmunds of Moline crosses the finish line after winning the Western Big Six cross country meet. (Quad-City Times photo by Jeff Cook)

Geneseo girls are favored

By Darren Bizarri
FOR THE TIMES

GENESEO, Ill. — Fresh off a near perfect race at the NCIC conference cross country meet, the Geneseo girls figure to be the team to beat this morning at the regional tournament.

The meet will be run on the Maple Leafs home course — Richmond Hill Park. The girls meet will start at 10 a.m.

At their conference meet, the Maple Leafs took the top four places and sixth place.

"Our fifth runner had fifth place most of race," Coach Don Fredricks said.

Most high school cross

three really good runner — Geneseo has seven.

"In the past we've had some good runners, but no depth," Fredricks said.

"This year we have seven outstanding runners."

The thing that is even more amazing about the group is that it is very young — the Maple Leafs run one freshman, four sophomores, one junior, and just one senior.

"We're pretty pleased with our season, to say the least," Fredricks said.

"I think the key to our success is the girls are very dedicated to trying."

Because of the success all season, Fredricks feels pretty

Lady Leafs are determined to win NCIC and regional titles

Dreams, Expectations, Reaching for the stars. That's what school days are made of. And the Geneseo Lady Leaf cross country runners are headed to realizing such a dream during regional competition Saturday, October 24. Sectionals follow the next week, Saturday, October 31 with state finals held in DeWitt Park, Peoria on Saturday, November 7.

The Geneseo squad will host regional competition this year. Other teams in the regionals are Alledo, Amboy, Dixon, United Township of East Moline, Unity Christian of Fulton, Galesburg, Jay-Westmer, Kewanee high school, Knoxville, Moline, Monmouth high school, Orion, Rochelle, Rock Falls, Rock Island Alleman, Rock Island high school, Sherrard, Sterling Newman Central Catholic and Sterling high school.

Sectionals will be held at Sterling high school.

For the past five years the Lady Leaf harriers have placed within the state's top 10 teams.

Last year was the third consecutive NCIC title for the Lady Leaf harriers. Seven finished within the top 17 slots of the NCIC meet.

Three runners claimed All-Conference awards for the 1980 season, Lorri Dellbeck, Gail Perkins and Connie Gradert. Kim Chapman, Tara Zieller and Kirstin Kemmis earned honorable mention All-Conference.

Renee Clifton, a freshman last year, finished in 17th place for her first major race as a varsity cross country runner.

The Lady Leafs have several strong runners this year, most notably senior Connie Gradert, Karmen Roehrs, Wendy Wassell

and Gail Perkins have also given strong performances throughout the season.

But Coach Don Fredericks stresses that "we're state contenders." The coach doesn't want to look too far into the future by predicting a state finish, but he does think his girls have a chance to beat their best-ever finish.

Already this season the Geneseo squad has beaten teams which placed ahead of them at state last year.

With a note of sadness Coach Fredericks told of one of his seniors, Tara Zieller, who won't be traveling to regionals as an active member of the team.

Zieller has run on the last three Geneseo top-10-in-state teams. She had been noting some tightness in her hip but still pushed to run solid races. One most noted was at the Homewood-Flossmoor meet on Saturday, September 12.

When the pain didn't subside Zieller sought a doctor's advice who stated it was a stress frac-

ture of the hip.

"She's on crutches, and only four to six weeks of no activity will heal it," Coach Fredericks stressed.

"I just felt so sorry for her," he continued. "I got a little drippy and told the (girls) I just couldn't talk any more. I won't say there wasn't a dry eye when we left the room but there couldn't have been many. (They) really care about each other and I think that's good."

But, the cross country girls have been known to "stick together" and perform as a team as a whole. And Gradert is a

Moline boys, Geneseo

Moline's boys and Geneseo's girls will start their expected runs toward the state cross country meet at regional action in Geneseo this morning.

In boys competition, both in Class AA and in Class A, the first four teams all advance to next weekend's sectional, as do the first five individual runners who are not members of one of those four qualifying teams.

There is just one class of competition in girls cross country, and the top five teams and the top five individuals who are not members of one of those teams will advance.

The hilly, cob-rough Richmond Hill Park course is an issue as the area's runners gather once again here for regional action.

Reason: Detweiller Park in Peoria, site of the state meet, is flat. Hoover Park in Sterling, site of next week's sectional, is a clone of Detweiller. The Chicago suburban courses are flat. And flat courses reward speed. Hilly courses this late in the season "do nothing to improve you," said Moline coach Jeff Quick, one of a number of coaches who is not unhappy Geneseo is hosting, but that the IHSA is allowing the event to be run at Richmond Hill.

Quick, in fact, will not run Chris Wallaert, a regular, on Saturday. He's nursing an injury and Moline should qualify without him, "and he doesn't need to be running hills," said Quick.

The guys will cover 2.75 miles of glacial moraine, starting at 10:30 a.m.

Look for Moline, the state's fourth-ranked team and a legitimate title contender, to place as many as three runners among the top five and run off with the team title.

After the Maroons, the battle for second between Galesburg, Rock Island and Geneseo should be interesting — but all three schools have good chances to get their teams through to the sectional. Others entered are United Township, Dixon, Rochelle, Rock Falls and Sterling.

girls run favorites

Individually, Moline's Eric Edmunds and Rock Island's Mario Vesey should repeat their Western Bfg 6 battle for the title. Dixon has a dandy runner in Rob Dowell. And don't overlook Moline's Rob Harvey and Joe Perez or Galesburg's Jon Leegard.

Rock Island and Galesburg each have two strong runners — Vesey and Steve Tanner for the Rocks; Leegard and Jeremy Foster for the Silver Streaks. Geneseo has a strong pack; how fast that pack, led by seniors Phil Walsh and Steve Haars, moves out on its home course could determine the battle for the runnerup spot in the team race. Individually, United Township has a sectional hopeful in sophomore Mike Gelande.

The ladies start at 10 a.m. and will cover two miles. With no class distinctions, this will be a 20-team affair, including many runners who've never seen or competed against one another.

Geneseo, ranked seventh in the state this week, is in the same position Moline enjoys in the boys race. Connie Gradert of the Maple Leafs figures to be challenged by Alleman's Colleen Doak for the individual title, but the other teams don't have the quality depth to stand up to Geneseo. Leafs Wendy Wassell, Karmen Roehrs and Gail Perkins all could be among the top 10 — maybe higher.

"We're running in control right now," said Geneseo coach Don Fredericks. "I think if we had to

reach back and get more in a race, it would be there."

Galesburg and Moline should battle for second; Rock Island and United Township should go at it for fourth. Again, though, those five should go to sectional; unless someone out of the NCIC can mount a great team effort.

Sherrard's Monica Holliday could give Gradert and Doak a push. Knoxville has three sisters named Gardner, all of whom could finish among the top 10. Heretofore, though, Knoxville has been a four-girl team, meaning the Blue Bullets don't figure in the race for the team title.

Others who could be up there in the individual race include Rock Island's Chris Coolidge, and Moline's Jenny Puck.

Other competing schools are Aledo, Amboy, Dixon, Fulton Unity Christian, Kewanee, Monmouth, Orion, Rochelle, Rock Falls, Sterling, Sterling Newman and Westmer.

Several area boys teams also will be in action today in Class A meet at Princeton. Erie and Prophetstown will grace this 13-team field. Fourth-ranked Princeton rules as team favorite, although Prophetstown's Troy Crady could be at or near the top individually.

Coaches criticize course

By Darren Bizarri
FOR THE TIMES

GENESEO, Ill. — Although the regional meet will be run at Richmond Hill, many coaches feel it is a poor place for this race.

"The state meet is run on a course that is flat and fast — Richmond Hill has many steep hills, rough terrain and it is infested with mole hills," Moline Coach Jeff Quick said.

"It is nothing against Geneseo, it's the course."

"Well, what's cross country?" Geneseo Athletic Director Del Nicklaus facetiously remarked

of the hilly course.

"Del Nicklaus has never been a cross country coach, or had anything to do with it, so he has no idea of what is, or is not cross country," Rock Island boys' Coach John Coolidge said when told of Nicklaus' statement.

"The IHSA has many incompetent, unqualified people in the Bloomington office," Coolidge said when asked why the IHSA would assign a regional race to such a hilly location.

Nicklaus was fast to point out who designed the Richmond Hill course.

"Jeff Quick designed this course when he coached here, so he shouldn't have any com-

Moline runners

pack heavy punch

By Tom Johnston

Staff sports writer

Moline coach Jeff Quick is taking a bunch of lightweights and turning them into a state power.

No, these guys aren't flyweight boxers who pack a heavy punch — although they don't have a team member who weighs over 145 pounds. They're a bunch of greyhound-physi-squed runners who are among the state's elite. This week they are ranked 4th by one Chicago publication and third by one from the Sterling area.

The Moline boys' cross country team, under the direction of Quick, has been outstanding almost all year. Their accomplishments of the last few weeks have been astounding. Two Saturday's ago they went out and won the very prestigious 65-team Crete-Monee Pow Wow and then last week dominated the 25-team Sterling Invitational.

In fact, this season the Maroons have beaten all the other Top Ten teams except top-ranked York, which they haven't faced.

They also, like the girls' team that Quick coaches, finished their dual-season undefeated in 13 meets.

"There are maybe six teams in the state that are about dead-even in talent," said Quick, "five from the Chicago area and us."

To say the least, the Moline speedsters have proven themselves against quality competition and deserve their ranking.

What is really amazing is that the top three runners for Quick, who took over three years ago when these guys were freshmen, are all juniors. Eric Edmunds, Joe Perez and Rob Harvey are All-Western Big 6 performers. Rounding out the top seven are senior co-captains Chris Wallaert and Jeff Black, senior Brian Mayfield and Julio Raya.

"Here's my basic philosophy," said Quick, "you explain to them everything you're doing and why you are doing it. If they understand that and will do that, then your program will flow from one year to the next."

And the times that his runners are turning in are reflecting that championship flow. Taking last week's times at the Sterling Invitational — which is run on the course used for the local sectional meet — the Moline runners' times dropped dramatically.



ERIC EDMUNDS



JEFF QUICK

Edmunds, who won the meet in record fashion with a time of 14:52, dropped 1:04 off his invite time from last year. Wallaert dropped 45 seconds; Harvey dropped 41 seconds; Mayfield dropped 26 seconds; Black dropped 24 seconds and Perez cut 12 seconds off his clocking.

That is not only a lot of hard work reflected in those times, but also a lot of miles and time spent with each other as teammates. So much so, it has become like a second-family.

Quick reported that most of these kids logged around 5,500 miles over the summer. When they got bored of running in town, they would load up, drive out to their coach's house in Geneseo, run out their, enjoy cook-outs and even stay overnight. And now it's all paying off. Last year at this time, the Maroons were ranked 11th in the state. Now they are fourth and setting their sights on a state title.

"These kids make coaching so much easier," said Quick. "Whether it's the boys or girls, we all just have so much in common, and I think that's part of our success."

It becomes obvious that when you do something properly, you can even gain the respect of a rival. If that's the case, then Quick is a coach gaining a lot of respect from a lot of people — including Rock Island cross country and track coach John Coolidge.

"Jeff proved himself at Geneseo when he coached them to a fifth-place finish in the state (cross country) meet a few years ago," said Coolidge, "and now he has a quality program at Moline to show for a lot of hard work. These kids all paid their dues over the summer and now they are getting their paycheck."

The route to success has not been all that smooth, however. Nearing the end of the 1986-87 school year, Quick was pink-slipped. However, he

was retained as a junior high teacher and able to keep the cross country and track programs in his grasp.

"It was really scary when I was thinking about not getting to come back to this group," said Quick.

Not this group. His group.

Quick has built his group pointing toward this year and next. Last year, almost his same bunch qualified for the state cross country meet. They didn't fare well at state — as Quick quips, "They choked. They choked real bad." But then he always kept saying "Wait until next year — this group is going to be out of sight."

And out of sight they are. And also out of reach of most of the area competition. The Maroons have not lost to any local squad this season — in any meet, anywhere.

Will their success lead to a state championship? That's the big question right now.

"At one time I would have said they were not capable of winning the state title," said Coolidge. "But the way they have run in recent weeks I would have to say that yes, they do have a legitimate chance at it."

And Quick thinks so, too.

"The kids know what they want and that's the state title. But they also know that they have conference, regionals and sectionals before that."

The state meet is still four weeks away and that's a long time for a team to stay on top of its game.

But they could. One thing is for sure — with their desire and drive, and in spite of their size, they shouldn't be taken lightly.



Rock Island's Chris Coolidge (10-1) leads eventual winner Colleen Doak of Alleman (5-1), up the first hill in Saturday's regional cross country meet in Geneseo. Mean-

while, Karmen Roehrs (9-4), Connie Gradert (9-1) and Maple Leaf teammates form the pack which led Geneseo to the team title. (Photo by Keith Brake)

Alleman's Doak, Geneseo team dominate girls regional run

By Keith Brake
Staff sports writer

GENESEO — Geneseo's team dominated Saturday's girls cross country regional meet. So did Alleman's Colleen Doak.

Results: an easy team championship for the state-ranked Maple Leaf girls, and a big individual win — by a full seven seconds over two miles — for Pioneer senior Doak.

Up next: the sectional, next Saturday at Hoover Park in Sterling. The top five teams from Saturday's race in Richmond Hill Park will be in Sterling. Making that trip will be Rock Island, whose second-place finish is the best-ever by the Rocks, third-place Moline, and fifth-place United Township. Doak will be going, too, of course, as one of the top five individuals not a member of one of the advancing teams. Next week, the top five teams and the first seven individuals not on one of those squads will advance to the state meet — which in girls cross country is a single-class affair.

Geneseo, the state's seventh-ranked team, placed four runners among the first eight finishers in this 98-runner race.

An expected battle for the individual title between Doak and Geneseo's Connie Gradert never materialized, though. Doak let others lead up the first hill, then took off, got the lead, and never looked back.

"I decided not to worry about where anybody else was at. You can get caught up in that," said Doak. "I just went out and had a good time."

Doak's good time over the two-mile Richmond Hill roller coaster was 12:23 on a raw, damp morning. "I like wet weather," said Doak, who said she got nervous late in the race when she heard second-place Karen Gardner of Knoxville behind her. Gardner — one of three sisters who qualified for the sectional as an individual — finished seven seconds back.

Then came Geneseo, in strong packing fashion. Gradert was third in 12:31, freshman Wendy Wassell was fourth in 12:36, Gail Perkins was fifth in 12:47, and Karmen Roehrs was eighth with a time of 12:52.

"We got out slow, except for Wassell," said Geneseo coach Don Fredericks. "Gradert got boxed in, and got too far back to catch up, although she probably ran faster during the second half of the race than anyone."

Wassell was running third halfway through the race, but was the lead Leaf. "That's the first time she has done that, and it was exciting to see," said Fredericks about his ninth-grade flyer. Gradert passed Wassell down the stretch, but Wassell won points from her coach for her aggressive style.

Geneseo's team total was 28 points. That's a lot better than 105 — but that score got Rock Island a second place finish, and made coach Bob Wilson's day.

"That was maybe the best cross country race I've ever gotten from a team," he said. Leading Rocky's charge were Chris Coolidge in sixth place in 12:49 and Kristen Kelewae

with seventh place in 12:51.

"We ran three freshmen, and the key was coming out here Wednesday night to practice," said Wilson. "This course is intimidating, and I didn't want our younger girls to be seeing it for the first time on race day."

Moline's third-place effort was solid, with less than nine seconds separating the Maroons' first three runners. Junior Jane Johnson was 11th in 13:00.16, senior Jenny Puck was 17th in 13:08.97, and coach Jeff Quick got a fine 18th-place run (13:09) from ninth-grader Joellyn Gentry.

Sometimes, it's not how fast you run, but how close you come to running your fastest. That's why United Township coach Dennis Steinmetz might just have been the happiest guy in the park.

"Chris Lammers," said Steinmetz. "She's a freshman. She just started running three weeks ago, and she finished ninth (12:59.24) in the regional."

What's more, UT, competing without its fastest runner, Gail Conley, is moving on to the sectional after a fifth-place finish. Conley has a stress fracture of a leg, and is doubtful for next week. Lammers and others made up for Conley's absence, though. Lammers started her season late after breaking a collarbone in August.

Knoxville might have made some noise as a team had the Blue Bullets had two runners to go with the Gardner trio. After Karen Gardner's second-place effort, sisters Kathy and Karri placed 13th and 14th, respectively.

Edmunds, Moline run away from regional harrier field



Moline's Eric Edmunds, left, charges past Dixon's Rob Dowell (partially hidden behind Edmunds), Maroon teammate Joe Perez and Rock Island's Mario Vesey to win an

exciting sprint to the finish in Saturday's regional cross country meet in Geneseo. Edmunds and Perez led Moline to the team title. (Photo by Keith Brake)

GENESEO — After almost three rugged, slippery miles of arduous uphill toil, downhill flying and all-out flatlands racing, a two-second margin is no more than a gnat's eyelash.

And just two seconds separated first place from fourth as a quartet of superb runners battled for the individual championship of the boys Class AA regional cross country meet on a damp Saturday morning in Geneseo's Richmond Hill Park.

Light years separated team champion Moline, the state's fourth-ranked team, from the rest of the field. That had been expected.

The speed of Moline junior Eric Edmunds prevailed over the final, flat 150 yards, as he out-kicked Rock Island's Mario Vesey, Maroon teammate Joe Perez and Dixon's Rob Dowell.

Credit, too, goes to Geneseo senior Phil Walsh, who ran the race of his life, actually led twice, and was with the front four until the final downhill plunge, about 200 yards from the finish chute.

Edmunds' time: 14:00. Then came Vesey (14:01.23), Perez (14:01.95), Dowell (14:02), with Walsh fifth at 14:10.

Moline's winning team total was 35 points, which is miles better than Galesburg's second-place 69. But that total enabled the Silver Streaks to advance to the next leg of the state se-

Hoover Park in Sterling. Going, too, are third-place Rock Island, and fourth-place Geneseo.

The first four teams advanced; so did the first five individuals who were not members of one of those advancing teams.

Moline placed four runners among the top 10 of this 60-runner race. Backing the one-three finish by Edmunds and Perez were Rob Harvey (sixth) and Jeff Black (tenth).

The Maroons charged up the first long hill and dominated the team race. Coach Jeff Quick thought his team wasn't running real well during the middle portion of the race, "but I was very happy with the way we finished. We showed some pride. I think our state ranking helps us. The kids are proud of it."

Perez took the lead at the start, in an attempt to repeat the kind of effort that won him last year's regional title. "He (Perez) held the lead longer than I thought he would," said Rock Island's Vesey. "Out on the back side, I heard coach (John Coolidge) tell me to go get him."

Vesey made his move; but so did NCIC champion Dowell, and Edmunds, Perez and Walsh were right there, too. Coming down the last hill, Edmunds was closing in on the lead, then his great sprint speed took over.

"Eric has a fifth gear," said Quick. "There are few in the state who can stay with him if they're running even with him on flat ground."

"I think it helped that Joe (Perez) was ahead," said Edmunds. "I like to

being the leader early. I felt sluggish this week, and I couldn't get going during the middle of the race. But I feel good now."

Vesey had some stomach problems and Coolidge called his effort, "courageous. He was a little tentative at the start, but I was delighted with his ability to reach down at the end. I think both he and Eric know they'll be better athletes for having run the kind of races they're running against each other.

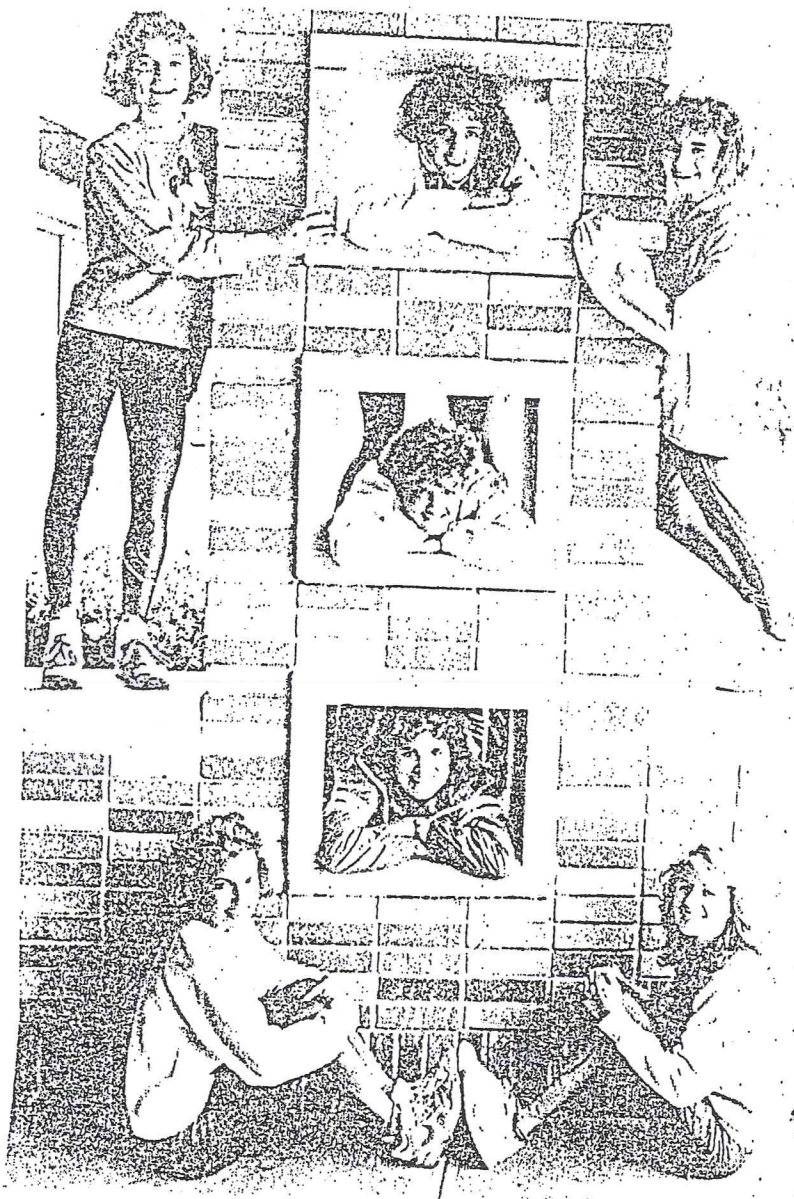
"And," said Coolidge, "we're ecstatic about getting third."

Another happy coach was Geneseo's Don Fredericks, whose team advanced despite not running with its number three man. "I found out at 6 this morning that Jason VanVooren was having stomach problems," said Fredericks. The other Leafs just turned up their efforts a few RPM's — especially Walsh.

"It was my best race, by far," said Walsh. "Without Jason, we knew we had to pick up the slack. I felt good today."

"I shook his hand," said Moline's Quick, who observed that perhaps no one on the course came closer than Walsh to realizing his full potential on this particular day.

Next week at Sterling, the top five teams and the top seven individuals not on one of those squads will go on to the state meet. But with the best runners coming in from the Peoria and Rockford areas to join the locals, the RPM's will be turned on another



Four for four

Republic photo

This is the fourth regional title in four years for the Geneseo cross country Lady Leafs. The girls earned the honor during competition held at Richmond Hill, Geneseo, Saturday, October 24. The team tallied 28 points for first place with the nearest competitor, Rock Island, earning 105 team points.

Pictured above are the seven harriers

taking the Lady Leafs into sectional competition Saturday, October 31. They are seated in front, left to right, Kirstin Kemmis and Karmen Roehrs; standing, left to right, are Renee Clifton and Wendy Wassell and peering through the blocks, from top to bottom, are Connie Gradert, Gail Perkins and Kim Chapman.

Lady Leafs claim fourth regional title in four years; Leafs advance

Geneseo's cross country Lady Leafs claimed first place during the IHSA cross country regionals in Geneseo Saturday, October 24. This is the fourth regional title for the Lady Leafs in four years.

The Leaf boys finished fourth overall.

Sectional competition will be held Saturday, October 31 at Sterling Hoover Park. The top five regional teams will advance to the sectionals. The top seven individuals, not members of the teams, will also advance into the sectional meet.

Geneseo tallied 28 total points for the crown with its nearest opponent being Rock Island at 105 points. Taking the bronze medal slot was Moline, tallying 109 points for the honor. In fourth and fifth places were Galesburg (124) and East Moline (146).

"It was a good win, but we need to concentrate more," Coach Don Fredericks summarized. And the "good" was shown in the stats. Geneseo's Lady Leafs claimed four of the top 10 slots for the field. Ninety-eight runners covered the 2-mile course.

Colleen Doak of Alleman took the tape in 12:23 with Karen Gardner claiming second place for Knoxville in 12:30.

Then the Lady Leafs came on strong. Connie Gradert was just shy of the second place finish, earning third with a time of 12:31. Wendy Wassell and Gail Perkins took the fourth and fifth place slots. Freshman runner Wassell ran "her best race" according to Coach Fredericks, earning fourth with 12:36. Perkins timed a 12:47.

"We got out slow, except for Wassell," recalled Fredericks. "Gradert got boxed in, and got too far back to catch up, although she probably ran faster during the second half of the race than anyone."

Wassell was running third halfway through the race, but was the lead Lady Leaf. "That's the first time she has done that, and it was exciting to see," said Mr. Fredericks. Gradert passed Wassell down the stretch, but Wassell won points from her coach for her aggressive style.

Renee Clifton rounded out the scoring effort for Geneseo, being the fifth Lady Leaf to cross the finish line. Clifton finished 15th overall with a time of 13:03.97. All times from ninth place through

down to a tenth of a second. Several finishes up to the 46th place slot had to be timed very accurately, showing the close intensity of the race.

Geneseo fielded seven harriers in the regional competition. Kim Chapman and Kirstin Kemmis filled out the team. Chapman's time of 13:22 earned her a 30th place finish while Kemmis' time of 13:31 earned a 38th place slot overall.

The Leafs finished fourth, advancing them into sectional action, in the regional action Saturday at Richmond Hill. Moline earned the crown, tallying 35 points for the title. Galesburg took second place with 69 points with Rock Island in third with 83 points, all leading fourth place Geneseo with 86 points. Finishing the top five for the field was Dixon with 150 points.

The Leafs were running without sophomore "sensation" Jason VanVooren who was out with stomach problems, but Coach Fredericks was sure VanVooren would "be okay for sectionals."

Again, Phil Walsh carried the Leafs toward victory. Coach Fredericks marveled that Walsh "ran the race of his life."

He clocked in fifth overall in 14:10, just 10 seconds behind the leader.

Just two seconds separated first place from fourth place runners battling for the individual championship of the boys class AA cross country regionals.

Eric Edmunds took the 2.75 mile course in 14:00 for the gold title followed by Rock Island's Mario Vesey in second at 14:01.23.

Third place runner Joe Perez of Moline clocked in at 14:01.95 while Rob Dowell claimed fourth for Dixon in 14:02.

Perez led most of the race but Vesey passed him with just a quarter-mile left in the course.

At the time second place finisher Vesey took the lead, Edmunds, who ended in first, was in fifth place, about 10 to 15 yards behind. As the harriers started down the last hill, Edmunds sprinted ahead to overtake Vesey, earning Edmunds the crown.

Walsh led twice over the course and was with the front four until the final downhill plunge, nearly 200 yards from the finish line.

In the boys' division of sectional competition, which will be held Saturday, October 31 in Sterling Hoover Park, the top

four teams and the top five individuals who are not members of those teams, will compete.

Joining Walsh in sectional competition for the Leaf team are Mike Haars, Adam Boardman, Brad Baker, Jason Leigh, Tim Moran and Health Lowe.

Rounding out Geneseo's scoring efforts during regionals were Haars, Boardman, Baker and Leigh.

Haars took 14th place overall and was Geneseo's second runner with a time of 14:45 while Boardman, a freshman on the varsity squad, earned 16th place overall in 14:51. Baker, the Leafs' fourth leg, took 23rd spot overall in 15:05, while Leigh, a freshman running his first varsity race, claimed 28th place in 15:18.

Moran and Lowe finished in 32nd and 33rd places respectively. Moran timed at 15:27 while Lowe clocked a 15:28. Sixty runners participated in the race.

IHSA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY REGIONAL 1987

HOSTED BY GENESEO HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	POINTS	PLACE
Aledo	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Amboy	56	54	73	76	87	88	70	545	13 TH
Dixon	23	26	36	45	62	66	78	286	7 TH
East Moline	8	18	36	41	43	47	55	146	5 TH
Fulton (UC)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Galesburg	11	20	24	25	44	54	---	124	4 TH
Geneseo	2	3	4	7	12	27	35	255	15 TH
Joy (Westmer)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Kewanee	13	38	67	72	75	82	89	265	11 TH
Knoxville	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Moline	16	14	15	22	48	54	68	165	3 RD
Monmouth	44	61	77	79	81	86	---	317	14 TH
Orion	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Rochelle	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Rock Falls	9	21	28	58	65	70	71	181	6 TH
R.I. Alleman	1	22	64	74	86	---	---	257	10 TH
Rock Island	5	6	17	37	40	56	69	165	2 ND
Sherrard	19	29	63	83	85	---	---	279	12 TH
Sterling	31	34	39	42	46	51	60	192	8 TH
Sterling Newman	16	33	52	53	57	---	---	211	9 TH

4th year in a row



Wow



IHSA REGIONAL GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Oct. 24, 1987

Hosted by Geneseo High School

	PLACE	NAME	SCHOOL	TIME	TIME/TEAM	
					PLACE	
	1.	Colleen Doak	Alleman	12:23	1	
	2.	Karen Gardner	Knoxville	12:30	X	
Nice	3.	Connie Grader 6:22	Geneseo	12:31	2	
Pick	4.	Wendy Wassel 6:12	Geneseo	12:36	3	
	5.	Gail Perkins 6:35	Geneseo	12:47	4	
	6.	Chris Coolidge	Rock Island H.S.	12:49	5	
	7.	Kristen Kelewae	Rock Island H.S.	12:51	6	
	8.	Karmen Roerhs 6:22	Geneseo	12:52	7	
	9.	Chris Lammers	United Township	12:59:24	8	
	10.	Amy Matthews	Rock Falls	12:59:73	9	
	11.	Jane Johnson	Moline	13:00:16	10	
	12.	Jen Watters	Galesburg	13:00:60	11	
	13.	Kathy Gardner	Knoxville	13:00:92	X	
	14.	Karri Gardner	Knoxville	13:03:04	X	
Solid	15.	Renee Clifton 6:24	Geneseo	13:03:97	12	
	16.	Leslie Blankenbehler	Kewanee	13:08:28	13	
	17.	Jenny Puck	Moline	13:08:97	14	
	18.	Joellyn Gentry	Moline	13:09	15	
	19.	Chris Stern	Sterling Newman	13:10:01	16	
	20.	Kris Braet	Rock Island H.S.	13:10:35	17	
	21.	Amber Turf	United Township	13:11:30	18	
	22.	Monica Holiday	Sherrard	13:11:73	19	
	23.	Kristen Olson	Galesburg	13:12	20	
	24.	Tanya Gribbons	Rock Falls	13:15	21	
	25.	Jenny Witcomb	Moline	13:17	22	
	26.	Teresa Giltner	Dixon	13:19	23	
	27.	Jodi Schroeder	Galesburg	13:20	24	
	28.	Beth Hardy	Galesburg	13:21:04	25	
	29.	Tammy Giltner	Dixon	13:21:69	26	
	30.	Kim Chapman 6:22	Geneseo	13:22	27	
	31.	Dee Dee Olson	Rock Falls	13:24	28	
	32.	Amber Inch	Sherrard	13:25	29	
	33.	Dawn Castle	Dixon	13:27:03	30	
	34.	Jenny Swab	Sterling H.S.	13:27:86	31	
	35.	Maria Espejo	Alleman	13:28	32	
	36.	Amy Grennan	Sterling Newman	13:29	33	
	37.	Amy Osborn	Sterling	13:30	34	
	38.	Kirstin Kemmis 6:28	Geneseo	13:31	35	
	39.	Stephanie Polios	United Township	13:37	36	
	40.	Shelly Reed	Rock Island	13:40	37	
	41.	Sheri Murphy	Kewanee	13:43	38	
	42.	Missy Hess	Sterling	13:46:00	39	
	43.	Pricilla Perez	Rock Island	13:46:93	40	
	44.	Dorene Mohr	United Township	13:47	41	
	45.	Stephanie Quitno	Rochelle	13:53:02	42	
	46.	Angie Kent	Sterling	13:53:86	43	
	47.	Darlene Davis	United Township	13:54	44	
	48.	Michelle Billeter	Galesburg	13:55	45	
	49.	Tracy Howard	Dixon	13:56	46	
	50.	Dawn Schuetz	Sterling	13:59	47	

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Girls Regional Cross Country - Page 2

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>TIME/TEAM PLACE</u>
51.	Kris Hunter	United Township	14:00	48
52.	Nicky Van	Moline	14:01	49
53.	Judy Tatman	Monmouth	14:03	50
54.	Jenny Dinges	Amboy	14:07	51
55.	Tammy Sheehan	Sterling	14:10	52
56.	Julie Francoso	Sterling Newman	14:12	53
57.	Amy Stern	Sterling Newman	14:13	54
58.	Deanne Day	Moline	14:14	55
59.	Julie Giers	United Township	14:16	56
60.	Ali Miner	Rock Island	14:22	57
61.	Dawn Sheppard	Sterling Newman	14:27	58
62.	Eilien Ramirez	Rock Falls	14:28	59
63.	Ann Keller	Amboy	14:29	60
64.	Amy Johnson	Sterling	14:30	61
65.	Rosie Cavanaugh	Monmouth	14:33	62
66.	Deanne Heilgeist	Dixon	14:39	63
67.	Susie VanName	Sherard	14:40	64
68.	Kristen Lolonek	Alleman	14:41	65
69.	Anrea Evans	Rock Falls	14:42	66
70.	Lisa Alter	Dixon	14:44	67
71.	Sandy Schindler	Kewanee	14:47	68
72.	Keerstin Woods	Moline	14:48	69
73.	Shella McReynolds	Rock Island	14:49	70
74.	Emma Miller	Rock Falls	14:53	71
75.	Patty Torres	Rock Falls	14:55	72
76.	Jenny Salisburg	Kewanee	15:00	73
77.	Tammy Youngerg	Orion	15:05	X
78.	Michele Novak	Amboy	15:07	74
79.	Katy Adlfinger	Alleman	15:10	75
80.	Jenny Janey	Kewanee	15:18	76
81.	Mandy Johnson	Amboy	15:23	77
82.	Johanna Weegar	Monmouth	15:30	78
83.	Amy Lynch	Dixon	15:50	79
84.	Pam Roller	Monmouth	15:53	80
85.	Jennifer King	Rochelle	15:58	X
86.	Becky Arnold	Alleman	15:59	81
87.	Bobbie Jo Hathaway	Monmouth	16:04	82
88.	Denise Schmacht	Orion	16:16	X
89.	Tami Faroto	Kewanee	16:20	83
90.	Vanessa Grundstien	Joy-Westmer	16:23	X
91.	LeAnne Mourisse	Sherrard	16:39	84
92.	Amy Kimble	Galesburg	17:16	85
93.	Laura Runge	Sherrard	17:27	86
94.	Debbie Renken	Monmouth	17:30	87
95.	Susan Keller	Amboy	17:37	88
96.	Shari Edwards	Amboy	18:00	89
97.	Jill DeValkenaere	Kewanee	18:06	90
98.	Angie Coers	Amboy	20:45	91
99.				
100.				

IHSA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY REGIONAL 1987

HOSTED BY GENESEO HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	POINTS	PLACE
Dixon	4	24	35	39	46	53	56	150	5TH
East Moline	30	41	44	51	58	-	-	224	9TH
Galesburg	7	7	13	18	22	43	47	69	2ND
Geneseo	5	14	16	23	25	32	33	86	4TH
Moline	1	3	6	10	15	20	26	85	1ST
Rochelle	17	25	42	54	57	60	-	195	5TH
Rock Falls	11	36	37	46	46	53	59	170	7TH
Rock Island	2	12	19	21	25	31	38	83	3RD
Sterling	8	27	34	45	49	58	52	163	6TH

IHSA REGIONAL BOYS CROSS COUNTRY Oct. 24, 1987 Hosted by Geneseo High School

PLACE	NAME	SCHOOL	TIME	TIME/TEAM PLACE
1.	Eric Edmunds	Moline	14:00	1
2.	Mario Vesey	Rock Island	14:01:23	2
3.	Joe Perez	Moline	14:01:95	3
4.	Rob Dowell	Dixon	14:02	4
5.	Phil Walsh 5:05/10:49	Geneseo	14:10	5
6.	Rob Harvey	Moline	14:21	6
7.	Jeremy Foster	Galesburg	14:22	7
8.	Chris Wilkenson	Sterling	14:26	8
9.	Jon Leegard	Galesburg	14:33	9
10.	Jeff Black	Moline	14:39	10
11.	Ray Garza	Rock Falls	14:40	11
12.	Steve Tanner	Rock Island H.S.	14:42:30	12
13.	Steve Ponce	Galesburg	14:42:51	13
14.	Mike Haars 5:16 / 11:10	Geneseo	14:45	14
15.	Julio Rayn	Moline	14:48	15
16.	Adam Boardman 5:17 / 11:16	Geneseo	14:51	16
17.	Aaron Arne	Rochelle	14:56	17
18.	David Ponce	Galesburg	14:57:40	18
19.	Chris Green	Rock Island	14:57:64	19
20.	Brian Mayfield	Moline	14:58:58	20
21.	Maclon Hall	Rock Island	15:03	21
22.	Mark Locke	Galesburg	15:04	22
23.	Brad Baker 5:16 / 11:19	Geneseo	15:05	23
24.	Spangler	Dixon	15:12	24
25.	Jeff Mitchell	Rochelle	15:13	25
26.	Dave Krauel	Moline	15:14:09	26
27.	Mark Ports	Sterling	15:14:60	27
28.	Jason Leigh 5:36 / 11:38	Geneseo	15:18	28
29.	Mike Gustafson	Rock Island	15:19	29
30.	Tony Gonzalaz	United Township	15:22	30
31.	Mike Morrow	Rock Island	15:24	31
32.	Tim Moran 5:35 / 11:44	Geneseo	15:27	32
33.	Heath Lowe 5:36 / 11:44	Geneseo	15:28	33
34.	Scott Vinson	Sterling	15:31	34
35.	Cris Apple	Dixon	15:33	35
36.	Eric Berge	Rock Falls	15:34	36
37.	Eddie Acosta	Rock Falls	15:37	37
38.	Greg Wilkening	Rock Island H.S.	15:39	38
39.	Mark Swim	Dixon	15:44	39
40.	Mark Morgan	Rock Falls	15:46	40
41.	Mike Gelande	United Township	15:48	41
42.	Neil Stechschulte	Rochelle	16:01:20	42
43.	Kevin Masterson	Galesburg	16:01:96	43
44.	Graig Gelande	United Township	16:04	44
45.	Tim Pope	Sterling	16:09	45
46.	Steve Valdivia	Rock Falls	16:10	46
47.	Christin DuBois	Galesburg	16:11:08	47
48.	John Morley	Dixon	16:11:38	48
49.	Keith Segura	Sterling	16:15	49
50.	Jason Smith	Sterling	16:19	50

Bottom Line → We Advance

PLACE	NAME	SCHOOL	TIME	TIME/TEAM PLACE
51.	Jim Murphy	United Township	16:23	51
52.	Justin Smith	Sterling	16:24	52
53.	Greg Turk	Rock Falls	16:44	53
54.	Vika Dua	Rochelle	16:53	54
55.	Chris McBride	Dixon	17:12	55
56.	Harry Brooks	Dixon	17:22	56
57.	Roger Scott	Rochelle	17:23	57
58.	Cris Bernat	United Township	17:48	58
59.	Joey Ramierz	Rock Falls	18:17	59
60.	Brian Sisneros	Rochelle	18:39	
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Girls Regional

(All One Class)

At Richmond Hill Park, Geneseo

Team Scores — 1. Geneseo 28; 2. Rock Island 105; 3. Moline 109; 4. Galesburg 124; 5. United Township 148; 6. Rock Falls 181; 7. Dixon 188; 8. Sterling 192; 9. Sterling New-

man 211; 10. Rock Island Allaman 251; 11. Kewanee 265; 12. Sherrard 279; 13. Amboy 345; 14. Monmouth 347. Fielding Incomplete Squads — Alado, Fulton Unlty Christian, Westmor, Knoxville, Orion, Rochelle.

First five teams advance to sectional meet.

Top Individuals — 1. Colleen Doak, Allaman, 12:23 over 2.00 miles; 2. Karen Gardner, Knoxville, 12:30; 3. Connie Grader, Geneseo, 12:31; 4. Wendy Wassell, Geneseo, 12:38; 5. Gall Perkins, Geneseo, 12:47; 6. Chris Coolidge, Rock Island, 12:49; 7. Kriston Kelewae, Rock Island, 12:51; 8. Karmen Roehrs, Geneseo, 12:52; 9. Chris Lammers, United Township, 12:58.24; 10. Amy Matthews, Rock Falls, 12:59.73; 11. Jane Johnson, Moline, 13:00.16; 12. Jan Walters, Galesburg, 13:00.60; 13. Kathy Gardner, Knoxville, 13:00.82; 14. Karri Gardner, Knoxville, 13:03.04; 15. Renee Clifton, Geneseo, 13:03.97; 16. Leslie Blankenbehler, Kewanee, 13:08.28; 17. Jenny Puck, Moline, 13:08.97; 18. Joalyn Gentry, Moline, 13:09; 19. Chris Stern, Sterling Newman, 13:10.01; 20. Kris Braet, Rock Island, 13:10.35; 21. Amber Turf, United Township, 13:11.30; 22. Monica Holliday, Sherrard, 13:11.73; 23. Kriston Olson, Galesburg, 13:12; 24. Tanya Gribbons, Rock Falls, 13:15; 25. Jenny Whitcomb, Moline, 13:17.

Individual Sectional Qualifiers — Doak, Karen Gardner, Matthews, Kathy Gardner, Karri Gardner.

Geneseo — 3. Connie Grader; 4. Wendy Wassell; 5. Gall Perkins; 6. Karmen Roehrs; 15. Renee Clifton; 30. Kim Chapman; 38. Kiratin Kemmis.

Rock Island — 8. Chris Coolidge; 7. Kriston Kelewae; 20. Kris Braet; 40. Shelly Road; 43. Priscilla Perez; 60. All Miner; 73. Shelia McReynolds.

Moline — 11. Jane Johnson; 17. Jenny Puck; 18. Joalyn Gentry; 25. Jenny Whitcomb; 52. Nicky Van; 58. Deanne Day; 72. Kerstin Woods.

United Township — 9. Chris Lammers; 21. Amber Turf; 39. Stephanie Pollos; 44. Dorene Mohr; 47. Darlene Davis; 51. Kris Hunter; 59. Julie Giers.

Allaman — 1. Colleen Doak; 35. Marie Espejo; 88. Kriston Lelonek; 79. Kathy Adlfinger; 88. Rocky Arnold.

Sherrard — 22. Monica Holliday; 32. Amber Inch; 67. Susie VanHame; 81. LeAnne

Mourisso; 93. Laura Runge.

Monmouth — 53. Judy Tatman; 65. Rosie Cavensugh; 82. Johanna Weager; 84. Pam Roller; 87. Debbie Jo Mathaway; 94. Debbie Renken.

Orion — 77. Tammy Youngberg; 88. Denise Schmacht.

Westmor — 90. Vanessa Grudstrom.

Class AA Boys Regional

At Richmond Hill Park, Geneseo

Team Scores — 1. Moline 35; 2. Galesburg 69; 3. Rock Island 83; 4. Geneseo 88; 5. Dixon 150; 6. Sterling 163; 7. Rock Falls 170; 8. Rochelle 195; 9. United Township 224. (First four advance to sectional meet).

Top Individuals — 1. Eric Edmunds, Moline, 14:00 over 2.75 miles; 2. Mario Vesey, Rock Island, 14:01.23; 3. Joe Perez, Moline, 14:01.95; 4. Rob Dowell, Dixon, 14:02; 5. Phil Walsh, Geneseo, 14:10; 6. Rob Harvey, Moline, 14:21; 7. Jeremy Foster, Galesburg, 14:22; 8. Chris Wilkenson, Sterling, 14:28; 9. Jon Leppard, Galesburg, 14:33; 10. Jeff Black, Moline, 14:39; 11. Ray Garza, Rock Falls, 14:40; 12. Steve Tanner, Rock Island, 14:42.30; 13. Steve Ponce, Galesburg, 14:42.51; 14. Mike Haars, Geneseo, 14:45; 15. Julio Raya, Moline, 14:48; 16. Adam Boardman, Geneseo, 14:51; 17. Aaron Arne, Rochelle, 14:58; 18. David Ponce, Galesburg, 14:57.40; 19. Chris Green, Rock Island, 14:57.84; 20. Brian Mayfield, Moline, 15:58; 21. Marlon Hall, Rock Island, 15:03; 22. Mark Locke, Galesburg, 15:04; 23. Brad Baker, Geneseo, 15:05; 24. Paul Spangler, Dixon, 15:12; 25. Jeff Mitchell, Rochelle, 15:13.

Individual Sectional Qualifiers — Dowell, Wilkenson, Garza, Arne, Spangler.

Moline — 1. Eric Edmunds; 3. Joe Perez; 6. Rob Harvey; 10. Jeff Black; 15. Julio Raya; 20. Brian Mayfield; 26. Dave Krauel.

Rock Island — 2. Mario Vesey; 12. Steve Tanner; 19. Chris Green; 21. Marlon Hall; 29. Mike Gustafson; 31. Mike Morrow; 38. Greg Wilkening.

Geneseo — 5. Phil Walsh; 14. Mike Haars; 16. Adam Boardman; 23. Brad Baker; 28. Jason Leigh; 32. Tim Moran; 33. Heath Lowe. United Township — 30. Tony Gonzalez; 41. Mike Gelander; 44. Craig Gelander; 51. Jim Murphy; 58. Chris Bernat.