



## Harriers start tourney run; girls race wide-open

# Moline, Geneseo favorites in cross country action

By Tom Johnston  
Staff sports writer

There are definite favorites for Saturday's Class AA boys and girls regional cross country meets, but the day should be an entertaining one with fantastic races likely to spice up the festivities at Saukie Golf Course in Rock Island.

Moline's boys will be taking their second step toward a return trip to state as they shoot to repeat their regional cross country championship.

The Geneseo girls are also looking for a repeat team title, but Moline's task of repeating should be easier than Geneseo's as the Maple Leaf girls find themselves facing a very tough nine-team field.

Most of the local girls' coaches see the Leafs, ranked eighth in the state last week, as the team to beat.



Mario Vesey



Eric Edmunds

But they should get a serious test from Sterling, Moline, United Township, Galesburg and Rock Island for the team title as well as the five qualifying spots for next week's sectional.

Action gets under way at 1 p.m. with the 2-mile girls race, followed at 1:30 by the boys 3-miler. Both races will identical representation

from area schools. Competing, along with Moline, Rock Island, United Township and Geneseo, will be Galesburg, Dixon, Sterling, Rochelle and Rock Falls.

"This girls race is going to be exciting," said Geneseo coach Don Fredericks. "It's going to be very competitive. As for a favorite? Well, we've beaten every team we're going to face in the regional, so I guess we would have to be."

Geneseo also will have one of the individual favorites in Wendy Wassell. But she'll get pushed hard by Sterling's Shawn Loos. Western Big 6 champ Trista Lester of Moline, Moline's Jane Johnson and Chris Lammers of United Township, who has been suffering a severe case of anemia, also should contend.

The top five individuals for both

boys and girls not on a qualifying team will also advance to the sectional.

The race for the individual title on the boys side will be just as entertaining. Rock Island's Mario Vesey has not lost this season and is the favorite on his home course. But he'll be challenged by a trio of Moline runners in Joe Perez, defending sectional titlist Eric Edmunds, and Rob Harvey. Vesey's teammate Steve Tanner also could be one of the top five placers.

That race among the individuals also may go a long way in determining the team championship. Moline's depth makes the Maroons "the prohibitive favorite," according to Rocky coach John Coolidge.

"I think those five guys will go at it," said Moline coach Jeff Quick of

the top five individuals. "If anybody else tries to run with those five it could change the complexion of the team race, but that probably won't happen."

It appears as if Moline, Rock Island and Geneseo have good shots at gaining three of the four berths in the sectionals, with the fourth spot likely to boil down to a battle between Galesburg and United Township, who finished third and fourth, respectively, in last week's Big 6 meet.

"There are really four teams battling for that fourth spot," said UT coach Gary Phillips. "UT, Galesburg, Sterling and Dixon are all fairly tightly bunched. We've beaten Sterling twice this year and Dixon once, so we like to feel it's us and Galesburg for that fourth spot."



# Rock Island to host CC regional

Runners, coaches and fans have an exciting day of Class AA high school cross country regional action to look forward to next month as Rock Island has been assigned to host both the boys and girls Class AA regionals.

"I'm sure that coaches and runners alike are looking forward to getting the meet on a fast course," said Rock Island boys coach John Coolidge. "It should be fun."

The meet is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 22, at 1 p.m. at Saukie Golf Course in Rock Island.

Geneseo had hosted the meet the past few years at the Richmond Hill Park layout in Geneseo, but numerous complaints from runners and coaches about the condition of the course — and its lack of fairness to the runners — prompted the change.

"We're real happy that we got it," said Coolidge. "We had to work real hard, but we think it was worth it and that people will be looking forward to it."

## Speaking of regionals

While the state series meets may still be a month away, Coolidge and Jeff Quick, Moline boys and girls cross country coach, are already getting the scouting reports on most of their competition for the boys' sectional.

After Saturday when Quick's Moline boys ran at the Peoria Notre Dame Invitational and Coolidge's crew ran at the Rockford Guilford Invitational, those two schools will have put together an almost complete report on their impending competition.

"We'll probably have about 95 percent of the field scouted," said Coolidge. "It helps from the standpoint of knowing what the competition will be capable of and what kind of depth they have. It gives our kids a chance to be motivated and helps us be more prepared."

Quick agrees.

"Anytime you can find out information on anybody you're running against it's a big help," he said.

The two coaches do go over the scouting reports and exchange information on the out-of-town teams each has seen.

The Maroons will be the prohibitive favorite come tournament time, should they remain healthy and on their current course, while the



Tom Johnston

## Prep cross country

Rocks should be able to battle for one of the top five sectional spots and a trip to state.

## Fast start for UT gals

A few weeks ago, United Township girls cross country coach Bob Feller wasn't sure what to expect from his girls. After all, he is a first-year coach and his team had a lot of inexperienced runners and newcomers.

But after the first weeks of the season, in which his girls started out with five straight dual wins and two invitational titles, his Panthers have shown they can run with the best of them.

"I'm real happy with what I've seen so far," said Feller. "The thing I'm impressed with is that they've been the aggressor. They've taken every meet out on their own and won them."

The Panthers tried that same approach a week ago — packing out to an early lead — at the Big Cat Invitational in Aurora. But Downers Grove South, one of the best in the state, reeled them in and gave them their first loss of the season. Despite that, Feller still liked what he saw.

"I'd rather have my girls take a race out and lose it like that than make them try to play catch-up all the time," said Feller. "When you're as young as we are, I think it's easier to run in the lead. The kids handled the loss really well. They hung in there and fought and gave it their best shot."

## Running notes

**Moline girls** — Coach Quick has been pleasantly surprised by the performances of his Moline girls. "At the beginning of the season, I said that I didn't know how good we would be and I really didn't," he said. "The girls have really worked hard and come a long way in a few weeks and now we're not doing too

bad." ... Jane Johnson, as expected, has been the team's top runner, but a week ago at the Homewood-Flossmoor Bicentennial Invitational, Moline's top seven runners all packed within 70 seconds of one another.

**United Township girls** — While Chris Lammers has been doing it all for the Panthers, she has gotten plenty of support from her teammates. That has impressed coach Bob Feller. "Lammers has been real steady and has done what I've expected out of her," said Feller. "The girl I'm really impressed with is Julie Giers. 'I just can't believe her,' said Feller. "She's been the leader of the team and really been a big plus. She's made a big impact on the team." ... Lammers did not run Thursday's meet because she is shaking off the after-effects of the flu ... Carmen Gonzalez is recovering after having her appendix removed and might be back by the end of the season ... Darlene Davis has returned to the team after being out with an injury.

**Rock Island boys** — Melvyn Woods had been coming on strong for the Rocks and was coming through as coach Coolidge's sleeper, but has been battling a case of the flu this week and might not run Saturday. "We need him healthy if we are going to contend," said Coolidge ... Steve Tanner is making great strides since having been sidelined by what was diagnosed as an ulcer a few weeks back.

**Moline boys** — The Maroons and coach Quick are hoping for a preview of the state meet this weekend when his boys run on the Detweiller Park course that serves as the site of the state meet. In preparing his team for the Peoria Notre Dame Invite, he rested his top three runners in Tuesday's dual meet with Alleman. Eric Edmunds, Joe Perez and Rob Harvey all watched the Maroons roll to a win ... Quick has been preaching packing to his kids as well and really got some a week ago when the Maroons cruised to the Homewood-Flossmoor title. Behind Edmunds, Perez and Harvey, junior Dave Krauel, sophomore Cesar Lopez and juniors Tauwon Taylor and Carlos Rivera all finished within 56 seconds of one another.



# Geneseo cross country teams finish first, second in regional

Geneseo's Lady Leafs ran away with the girls regional crown for the fifth year in a row and the boys finished second in the class AA regional held at Saukie golf course in Rock Island on Saturday, October 22.

"This was the best we've ever done, both boys and girls. We have the strongest, most complete program of any school around. They compliment each other," said an elated Coach Fredericks.

The Lady Leaf's total of 51 points easily outdistanced second place UT, which had 65 points. Also advancing to the sectional meet in Sterling on Saturday, October 29 were Galesburg (78), Sterling (92) and Moline (93).

Depth won the meet for the Lady Leafs as five of their runners finished in the top 18. Karmen Rochrs finished in third place with a time of 12:16. Gail Perkins finished seventh in 12:30, followed by Rence Clifton (9th in 12:36), Wendy Wassell (14th in 12:50) and Brandi Hilton (18th in 13:02).

Kim Chapman (20th in 13:05) and Kirsten Kemmis (22nd in 13:07) also competed for the Lady Leafs.

Trista Lester, a freshman from Moline, won the meet in a time of 12:01.

In the boys race, pre-race favorite Moline won easily with 23 points. Geneseo copped second place with 64 points to edge Rock Island, which had

69 points. Galesburg was the other sectional qualifier with 110.

Jason VanVooren led the Leafs with a fifth place finish in a time of 15:54 over the three-mile course. Brad Baker finished seventh in 16:00, followed by Bryan Glass (10th in 16:07), Adam Boardman (13th in 16:10), Barry Bassier (29th in 16:56), Cubby Orwig (31st in 17:08) and Justin VanVooren (33rd in 17:21).

Mario Vesey of Rock Island won the race in a course-record time of 14:57.

"Our girls have been in the top ten at state for the past four years and we're looking at that again. Our boys will have to run the best they can, everyone has to click, in order to get both teams to state. But we can do it. And they know they can do it," said Coach Don Fredericks.

Geneseo has never sent its girls and boys cross-country teams to state in the same year. Coach Fredericks realizes his teams will need every break they can get. He said "We'll have to be both lucky and good. This time of the year you really have to be lucky, too. You can get a couple of kids sick- Gail Perkins has been out of school for us for three days now- and miss out. It'll happen to some school."

Geneseo's girls will compete in the Sterling Sectional on Saturday, October 29 at 1:30 p.m., followed by the boys race a half-hour later.



# Vesey takes 1st; Moline wins regional title

By Tom Johnston  
Staff sports writer

Rock Island distance ace Mario Vesey has become accustomed to winning this season. He's undefeated in the '88 season and he made sure it stayed that way Saturday at the Class AA regional at Saukie Golf Course in Rock Island.

While Vesey was winning the individual title, Moline smoked the field in the team event to capture its third straight regional title. Moline, Rock Island, Geneseo and Galesburg captured the top four team spots and qualified for sectionals. United Township finished out of the money in eighth place and failed to qualify any individual runners for sectionals.

The undefeated string brings a smile to Vesey's face, but on Saturday, it wasn't until he started smiling — just past the one-mile mark — that he fell into his groove and took control of the three-mile race.

Vesey broke away from the field in his normal fashion, with Moline's Joe Perez hanging on his shoulder. Just after the first mile, they passed the start-finish area for the first time, and it was then that Vesey could hear cheering from his family and ribbing from his classmates. Both loosened him up.

"I heard that and I couldn't help but smile," said Vesey. "As soon as I saw my family, I started feeling good. I started smiling and making faces at them and then I was able to

relax."

It was also about that same time that Vesey put it in overdrive and took control of the race. He finished in 14:57 to set a course record. Perez finished second at 15:24.

For Perez, it was a little bit of the same old thing, with Vesey being able to blow open a close race.

"I really didn't have a set plan," said Perez. "I just wanted to run with him a little longer than I did at conference and then try to throw in a spurt. When we got back around here (to the finish line) he did what I was thinking he would do, only a little harder."

Moline's depth, led by Perez, was just awesome. Eric Edmunds and Rob Harvey finished third and fourth, respectively. Caesar Lopez was sixth and Dave Kraeul eighth. Moline totaled just 23 points in winning the title and easily outdistanced Geneseo's 64 points. Rock Island was third with 169 and Galesburg was well back with 110.

Along with Vesey, Steve Tanner finished ninth and Marlon Hall 11th to lead the Rocks. Mike Gustafson finished 20th and Greg Wilkening

28th.

Geneseo coach Don Fredericks was pleased with the effort of his boys.

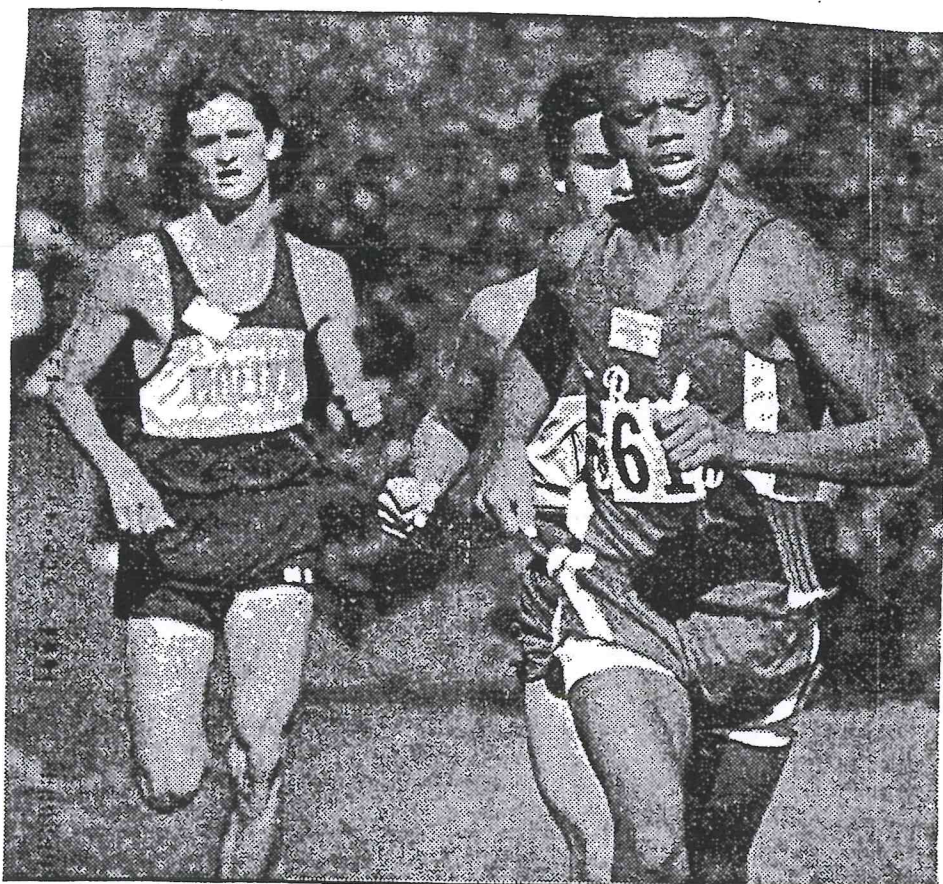
"I was real happy with the way the guys packed today," said Fredericks. "That was what we really needed."

Jason VanVooren led the Maple Leafs with a fifth-place finish, followed by Brad Baker in seventh, Bryan Glass in 10th and Adam Boardman in 13th. Barry Bassier finished 29th and was the final score to count.

But the day belonged to Moline.

"I don't want to come off the wrong way, but right now, the battle we're running is a battle within ourselves," said Moline coach Jeff Quick. "We know Mario is there and we want to go after him, but we want to win the team championship — that's what the whole thing is about. Rock Island has a good team and Geneseo has a good pack and we respect them. We are driven to get back to state and we're not going to let anything get in our way. We feel that we are one of the best teams in the state."

Saturday, they were definitely the best in the area.



**TIGHT RACE** — Rock Island's Mario Vesey edges out Moline runners Joe Perez and Eric Edmonds during the

regional cross country meet Saturday at Saukie Golf Course. (QUAD-CITY TIMES photo by Greg Boll)



# Vesey sails in sectional

## Moline cruises to team cross country title

Stories by Darren Bizarri  
FOR THE TIMES

Rock Island's Mario Vesey had extra inspiration Saturday as he won the boy's AA Regional Cross Country meet at Saukie Golf Course.



Vesey

Before Saturday, the majority of his family hadn't seen him run in a meet.

"My grandmother was teasing me. She said that if she came out here and I didn't win, she was going to get a stick out and beat me," Vesey said.

For the first mile, he looked as if he might be beaten as Moline's Joe Perez stayed with him. After that, Perez was outnumbered.

"I came up here and saw my family standing there," Vesey said. "I started feeling good and smiling and making faces at them. Most

people think of that as showing off, but I was just relaxed."

Vesey sailed in with a course record time of 14 minutes, 57 seconds.

Despite his efforts, Moline won the team title with 23 points.

Even if the Maroons' two bottom scores had counted, they would have beaten second-place Geneseo by seven points.

"We feel like we are one of the best teams in the state at this time," Moline Coach Jeff Quick said. "I don't want that to sound bad, because we have a lot of respect for Rock Island and Geneseo — they're very good teams."

Moline, Geneseo, Rock Island — the third place team, and fourth place Galesburg advance to next week's sectional meet in Sterling.

### Team points

1. Moline 23; 2. Geneseo 64; 3. Rock Island 69; 4. Galesburg 140; 5. Dixon 157; 6. Sterling 161; 7. Rochelle 180; 8. United Township 193.

### Top Five

1. Mario Vesey (Rock Island), 14: 57; 2. Joe Perez (Moline); 3. Eric Edmunds (Moline); 4. Rob Harvey (Moline); 5. Jason VanVooren (Geneseo).

## High ranking reveals runners' talent

By Melissa Veto  
LOFT Staff Writer

The second place boys and twelfth place girls cross country teams have enjoyed their high rank, but the run to the top hasn't been easy. Throughout the month of September the varsity boys practiced every morning at 6 a.m. and after school to average sixty to seventy miles a week. And the girls ran three mornings and every day after school to average fifty miles per week.

Both teams have had nine dual meets and six major invitationals. The boys' record for duals was 9-0. They have a record of 30-0 since 1986. The girls' dual record was 7-2. When the teams ran their Saturday Invites they traveled closer to the Chicago area. Their first invite was in St. Charles. The boys and girls both won. Then they ran in Homewood Flossmore where the boys placed first and the girls placed fifth. Their third was in Peoria. The boys placed second and the girls placed fourth. The next invitational took place in Palatine where the boys placed third and the girls won.

In the last meet of the season in Sterling the boys were second and the girls were eighth.

The varsity teams now face their three most important meets. Their Regional will be held tomorrow at Sauke golf course in Rock Island. The boys have won this meet for the past two years. October 29 the teams will compete at Sectionals in Sterling at Hoover Park. There they will determine who qualifies for the state meet. For the entire team to qualify they must place in the top five. Also the top seven individuals who aren't on a qualifying team will go to state.

The girls varsity team is young this year having

only two seniors and the rest underclassmen. The varsity team consists of Seniors Jane Johnson and Keersten Woods, Juniors Laura Clark and Trish Rounds, Sophmores Joelynn Gentry and Jennifer Arnett and Freshman Trista Lester. They will run against the top female athletes in these last few meets.

"Sectionals will be the toughest race for us because of the competition," said Senior captain Johnson. "If we all peak at the same time we should all have a good chance of making it to state this year."

The boys varsity team is experienced having three returning lettermen. Their team consists of Seniors Eric Edmunds, Rob Harvey and Joe Perez, Juniors Dave Kravel, Carlos Rivera and Tauwon Taylor, and Sophomore Cesar Lopez. The team will face the big competition in their last few meets.

"I think if we run what we are capable of we should be right there for the state championship," said tri-captain Edmunds.

"We've worked hard these last three and four years and hopefully we'll be able to reap the awards for our work," said captain Perez.

Coach Quick has worked together with the team this year, helping them through good times and bad. He has an optimistic outlook for future meets. "The boys are one of the favorites to win regionals, sectionals, and state," said coach Quick. "The girls should be one of the top three to win Regionals and sectionals. They have the potential to qualify for state and place in the top fifteen."

Both teams have had a rewarding season so far and they hope to continue their success through the remainder of the season.



# Moline freshman Lester wins regional race

By Tom Johnston  
Staff sports writer

Just about seven weeks ago, freshman Trista Lester was running for the junior-varsity team at Moline and barely making it through races, let alone two-a-day workouts.

But in the past two weeks, she's shown how far a runner can go on hard work and guts. She surprised just about everyone and won the Western Big 6 title one week ago and she came back Saturday at

Saukie Golf Course in Rock Island to win the Class AA regional title.

Her effort was needed as the Maroons finished fifth in the team race and held off Rock Island for the final team qualifying spot. Geneseo and United Township battled for the team title and it was the defending champion Maple Leafs who walked off with team honors once again. Geneseo won with 51 points, UT followed with 65, while Galesburg (78) and Sterling (92) finished in the third and fourth spots. Moline edged

hosting Rock Island 93-114 for the final team spot, but Rocky advanced four individuals for sectionals.

"One (the girls' first-place finish) and two (the boys' second-place finish) is the best we've ever done in regionals," said Geneseo coach Don Fredericks. "I'm ecstatic about that. Every single kid on both teams ran a very courageous race. The idea is to peak in the championship meets and we're coming on real strong. We like what the kids did today and

we're going to carry it over to Sterling next week."

Employing a great pack attack, the Leafs placed their top five individuals in the top 18 runners. Karmen Roehrs led Geneseo with her third-place finish and time of 12:16. Gail Perkins finished seventh, Renee Clifton ninth, Wendy Wassell 14th and Brandi Hilton 18th.

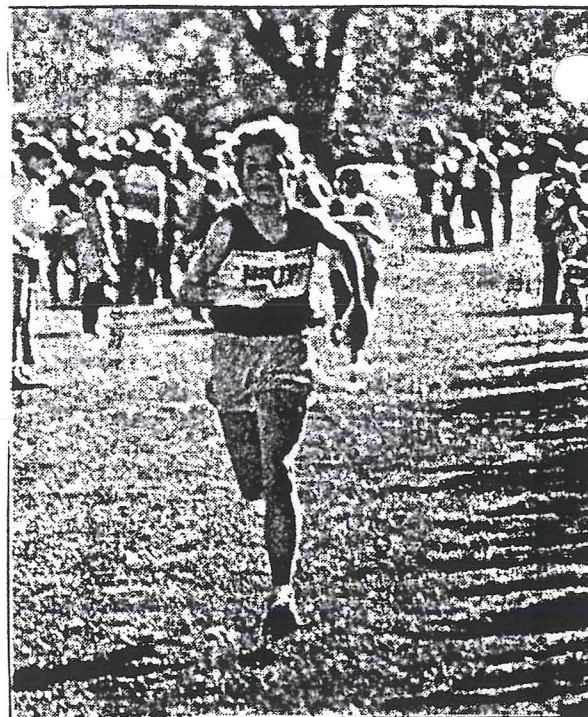
While United Township coach Bob Feller was also hoping for his girls to capture a team title, he was pleased with their second-place effort.

"I'm happy that we qualified," said Feller, "but you always want to win. You can't take anything away from Geneseo, they ran just great. We especially thought we had a good chance of winning. Our kids ran well, but just not good enough."

Amber Turf, Chris Lammers and Julie Giers finished fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively. Kris Hunter was 21st and Carmen Gonzalez 29th.

Moline's Lester battled the first half of the two-mile race with Sterling senior Shawn Loos before losing her on the hills near the midway point of the race.

"We went down the hill (just before the 1 1/4 mile mark) and when we came up, she just dropped back," said the soft-spoken youngster, who had to hold on for the first part of the race. "I was worried



Trista Lester felt the pressure of Sterling's Shawn Loos (the background), but was able to shake loose in the later stages to win the title. (Photo by Gary Krambeck)

early. I hadn't even heard of her (Loos) and didn't expect her to be there."

While Lester won last week's Big 6 meet going away and had to run most of the race by herself, Loos pushed the pace Saturday and Lester said that helped.

"It was easier running this week with somebody pushing me," she said. "I really felt a lot stronger today."

Lester was just one second off the course record. Her 12:01 clocking fell just short of former Alleman standout Colleen Doak's course mark set in the 1987 Western Big 6 meet. She was also the only Moline finisher in the Top 15.

It was a bitter-sweet day for Rocky coach Bob Wilson, who thought coming in that one pretty decent team was not going to qualify.

"I was afraid something like this might happen," said Wilson. "We had our girls run some of their best races of the year and still didn't get in as a team."

Those from Rocky advancing to the Sterling Sectional as individuals are Kris Braet, who finished eighth, Priscilla Perez 19th, Saleta Vesey 23rd and Shelly Reed 27th. Kris Kelewae, who finished 37th, just missed making it a Rocky sweep of the remaining individual qualifying spots by three places.



# Girls win regional title; boys second to Moline

By KEITH BRAKE  
NewsLife Editor

ROCK ISLAND — Last Saturday was the kind of sun-kissed fall day you dream about: cool and without wind, under a bright blue sky, with trees decorated in blazing reds, yellows and browns, their trunks and limbs casting long, dark shadows pointing north.

It was the kind of day on which the shouts of excited cross country spectators rolled across fairway after fairway of Saukie Golf Course. And the Geneseo people there were doing a lot of shouting.

The Maple Leaf girls, facing their strongest local challenge in half a decade, packed well enough toward the front of the race to edge United Township and take their fifth straight regional championship.

And the Leaf boys, well, they may have performed even better. They didn't win the regional - Moline, the state's second-ranked team - may be the best squad ever assembled in this area. The Maroons won, easily, but Geneseo finished second, beating a very strong Rock Island team in the process, and on its home course.

Both Geneseo teams qualified for this Saturday's sectional meet, to be run in Sterling. If the Leaf teams can be among the top five at sectional, they'll advance to the state meet in Peoria.

## UT was tough

Geneseo's girls were expecting a battle with UT, Galesburg and possibly Sterling and Moline for the team title. The Panthers didn't disappoint. United Township runners finished fourth, fifth and sixth, alarming Leafs Karmen Roehrs, Gail Perkins and Renee Clifton, who placed third, seventh and ninth, respectively. But, the championship was being settled behind those girls.

The first five finishers from each team count toward the team totals, and Leafs Wendy Wassell (14th) and Brandi Hilton (18th), were well in front of UT's fourth and fifth finishers, who were 21st and 29th, respectively.

In fact, Geneseo's other two runners, Kim Chapman (20th) and Kirstin Kemmis (22nd), beat UT's fifth scoring runner into the chute.

"I was worried," Perkins said. "I never saw three UTHS girls packed up toward the top like that before. They gave us a good battle."

The regional was run at Saukie, a basically flat course, with a few short but very steep hills mixed in. It's a much faster course than Geneseo's Richmond Hill Park layout, and requires different strategy.

"We had to get out in a pack, and maintain a pace," Perkins said.

As individuals, a couple of the Leafs had to sacrifice in order to do that. Moline freshman Trista Lester and Sterling's Shawn Loos blazed off the starting line, and held their leads the entire two-mile race. Lester won, missing the course record by one second.

"The individual championship was decided in the first couple hundred yards," Geneseo coach Don Fredericks said. "Our best runners let them get away early, but, they

sacrificed for the team."

Roehrs had a big race, and finished third, just 15 seconds off the lead, and 16 seconds over the course record. "I just felt pretty good," she said. "I went out with the pack, but after about a mile, I just ran."

Perkins was seventh, then came Clifton in ninth. It was one of her stronger races. She said a key to running the hills at Saukie was to run the downhill portion hard. "That builds your momentum and helps you go back up," Clifton said.

## Gaining on Moline: Baker

Geneseo's boys also thought attacking the down side of the hills was important. No more important, though, then running in a pack.

"We went out a little quick, but then so did all the others," Brad Baker said.

"We want to go to state, so we came in here thinking no team was really awesome," Adam Boardman said.

"Moline was actually coming back to us toward the end," Baker said. "That's the first time this season that has happened."

Rock Island's Mario Vesey, running free and easy and by himself after the first mile, cruised to victory on the three-mile course in 14:57, shattering

the course record.

Moline runners Joe Perez, Eric Edmunds, Rob Harvey, Caesar Lopez and Dave Krauel then displayed the power of the Maroons by finishing second, third, fourth, sixth and eighth, respectively.

Geneseo's Jason VanVooren, the NCIC champ, was fifth, with Baker in at seventh, Bryan Glass at 10th, and Adam Boardman 13th. The Leafs got a solid, 29th-place effort from their fifth man, Barry Bassier.

"Our boys are coming on, and they'll get better," Fredericks said. "Glass made up so much ground during the second half of the race. I doubt if any runner on the course was moving faster during the second half of the race. And Bassier ran a heck of a race for us."

Fredericks said pacing is important on a fast course like Saukie. "Our boys are used to it. We're not going to run with a Vesey or a Perez. But, our girls had to hold back a little today," Fredericks said.

"We're ecstatic," Fredericks said. "Every kid we had ran a courageous race today. And the whole idea is to peak during the championship meets. I'd say this meet was excellent preparation for the sectional."

## Here's Regional results

### CLASS AA CROSS COUNTRY REGIONAL At Saukie Golf Course, Rock Island

#### VARSITY BOYS

Team points: 1, Moline 23. 2, Geneseo 64. 3, Rock Island 69. 4, Galesburg 110. 5, Dixon 157. 6, Sterling 161. 7, Rochelle 180. 8, United Township 193. (Top four team advance to sectional meet).

The Top 15: 1, Mario Vesey, Rock Island, 14:57 over 3.0 miles. (Course record, breaks old record of 15:10). 2, Joe Perez, Moline, 15:24. 3, Eric Edmunds, Moline, 15:44. 4, Rob Harvey, Moline, 15:51. 5, Jason VanVooren, Geneseo, 15:54. 6, Caesar Lopez, Moline, 15:55. 7, Brad Baker, Geneseo, 16:00. 8, Dave

Krauel, Moline, 16:04. 9, Steve Tanner, Rock Island, 16:06. 10, Bryan Glass, Geneseo, 16:07. 11, Marlon Hall, Rock Island, 16:08. 12, Tony Taylor, Moline, 16:09. 13, Adam Boardman, Geneseo, 16:10. 14, Aaron Arne, Rochelle, 16:16. 15, Chris Wilkinson, Sterling, 16:20.

Other Geneseo finishers: 29 Barry Bassier, 16:56. 31, Cubby Orwig, 17:08. 33, Justin VanVooren, 17:21. (A total of 62 runners competed).

#### VARSITY GIRLS

Team Points: 1, Geneseo 51. 2, United Township 65. 3, Galesburg 78. 4, Sterling 92. 5, Moline 93. 6, Rock Island 114. 7, Dixon 218. 8, Rock Falls 224. (First five teams advance to sectional).

The top 15: 1, Trista Lester, moline, 12:01 over 2.0 miles. 2, Shawn Loos, Sterling, 12:08. 3, Karmen Roehrs, Geneseo, 12:16. 4, Amber Turf, UT, 12:17. 5, Chris Lammers, UT, 12:19. 6, Julie Giers, UT, 12:28. 7, Gail Perkins, Geneseo, 12:30. 8, Kris Braet, Rock Island, 12:32. 9, Renee Clifton, Geneseo, 12:36. 10, Beth Hardy, Galesburg, 12:38. 11, K. Olson, Galesburg, 12:41. 12, Jennifer Clay, Galesburg, 12:43. 12, Jen Watters, Galesburg, 12:47. 14, Wendy Wassell, Geneseo, 12:50. 15, Angie Kent, Sterling, 12:51.

Other Geneseo finishers: 18, Brandi Hilton, 13:02. 20, Kim Chapman, 13:05. 22, Kirstin Kemmis, 13:07. (A total of 54 runners competed).



## Vesey takes 1st; Moline wins regional title

By Tom Johnston  
Staff sports writer

Rock Island distance ace Mario Vesey has become accustomed to winning this season. He's undefeated in the '88 season and he made sure it stayed that way Saturday at the Class AA regional at Sauklee Golf Course in Rock Island.

While Vesey was winning the individual title, Moline smoked the field in the team event to capture its third straight regional title. Moline, Rock Island, Geneseo and Galesburg captured the top four team spots and qualified for sectionals. United Township finished out of the money in eighth place and failed to qualify any individual runners for sectionals.

The undefeated string brings a smile to Vesey's face, but on Saturday, it wasn't until he started smiling — just past the one-mile mark — that he fell into his groove and took control of the three-mile race.

Vesey broke away from the field in his normal fashion, with Moline's Joe Perez hanging on his shoulder. Just after the first mile, they passed the start-finish area for the first time, and it was then that Vesey could hear cheering from his family and ribbing from his classmates. Both loosened him up.

"I heard that and I couldn't help but smile," said Vesey. "As soon as I saw my family, I started feeling good. I started smiling and making faces at them and then I was able to (Please see BOYS, page C4)

relax."

It was also about that same time that Vesey put it in overdrive and took control of the race. He finished in 14:57 to set a course record. Perez finished second at 15:24.

For Perez, it was a little bit of the same old thing, with Vesey being able to blow open a close race.

"I really didn't have a set plan," said Perez. "I just wanted to run with him a little longer than I did at conference and then try to throw in a spurt. When we got back around here (to the finish line) he did what I was thinking he would do, only a little harder."

Moline's depth, led by Perez, was just awesome. Eric Edmunds and Rob Harvey finished third and fourth, respectively. Caesar Lopez was sixth and Dave Kraeul eighth. Moline totaled just 23 points in winning the title and easily outdistanced Geneseo's 64 points. Rock Island was third with 169 and Galesburg was well back with 110.

Along with Vesey, Steve Tanner finished ninth and Marlon Hall 11th to lead the Rocks. Mike Gustafson



At left, Mario Vesey got plenty of support from his family Saturday at the Class AA regional cross country meet, including his cousin, Alvin Vesey. At right, Moline freshman



Trista Lester felt the pressure of Sterling's Shawn Loos (in the background), but was able to shake loose in the latter stages to win the title. (Photo by Gary Krambeck)

## Moline freshman Lester wins regional race

By Tom Johnston  
Staff sports writer

Just about seven weeks ago, freshman Trista Lester was running for the junior-varisty team at Moline and barely making it through races, let alone two-a-day workouts.

But in the past two weeks, she's shown how far a runner can go on hard work and guts. She surprised just about everyone and won the Western Big 6 title one week ago and she came back Saturday at

Sauklee Golf Course in Rock Island to win the Class AA regional title.

Her effort was needed as the Maroons finished fifth in the team race and held off Rock Island for the final team qualifying spot. Geneseo and United Township battled for the team title and it was the defending champion Maple Leafs who walked off with team honors once again. Geneseo won with 51 points, UT followed with 65, while Galesburg (78) and Sterling (92) finished in the third and fourth spots. Moline edged

hosting Rock Island 93-114 for the final team spot, but Rocky advanced four individuals for sectionals.

"One (the girls' first-place finish) and two (the boys' second-place finish) is the best we've ever done in regionals," said Geneseo coach Don Fredericks. "I'm ecstatic about that. Every single kid on both teams ran a very courageous race. The idea is to peak in the championship meets and we're coming on real strong. We like what the kids did today and

(Please see GIRLS, page C4)

(Continued from page C1)

we're going to carry it over to Sterling next week."

Employing a great pack attack, the Leafs placed their top five individuals in the top 18 runners. Karmen Roehrs led Geneseo with her third-place finish and time of 12:16. Gail Perkins finished seventh, Renee Clifton ninth, Wendy Wassell 14th and Brandi Hilton 18th.

While United Township coach Bob Feller was also hoping for his girls to capture a team title, he was pleased with their second-place effort.

"I'm happy that we qualified," said Feller, "but you always want to win. You can't take anything away from Geneseo, they ran just great. We especially thought we had a good chance of winning. Our kids ran well, but just not good enough."

Amber Turf, Chris Lammers and Julie Giers finished fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively. Kris Hunter was 21st and Carmen Gonzalez 29th.

Moline's Lester battled the first half of the two-mile race with Sterling senior Shawn Loos before losing her on the hills near the midway point of the race.

"We went down the hill (just before the 1½ mile mark) and when we came up, she just dropped back," said the soft-spoken young-

early. I hadn't even heard of her (Loos) and didn't expect her to be there."

While Lester won last week's Big 6 meet going away and had to run most of the race by herself, Loos pushed the pace Saturday and Lester said that helped.

"It was easier running this week with somebody pushing me," she said. "I really felt a lot stronger today."

Lester was just one second off the course record. Her 12:01 clocking fell just short of former Alleman standout Colleen Doak's course mark set in the 1987 Western Big 6 meet. She was also the only Moline finisher in the Top 15.

It was a bitter-sweet day for Rocky coach Bob Wilson, who thought coming in that one pretty decent team was not going to qualify.

"I was afraid something like this might happen," said Wilson. "We had our girls run some of their best races of the year and still didn't get in as a team."

Those from Rocky advancing to the Sterling Sectional as individuals are Kris Braet, who finished eighth, Priscilla Perez 19th, Saleta Vesey 23rd and Shelly Reed 27th. Kris Kelewae, who finished 37th, just missed making it a Rocky sweep of

28th.

Geneseo coach Don Fredericks was pleased with the effort of his boys.

"I was real happy with the way the guys packed today," said Fredericks. "That was what we really needed."

Jason VanVooren led the Maple Leafs with a fifth-place finish, followed by Brad Baker in seventh, Bryan Glass in 10th and Adam Boardman in 13th. Barry Bassier finished 29th and was the final score to count.

But the day belonged to Moline.

"I don't want to come off the wrong way, but right now, the battle we're running is a battle within ourselves," said Moline coach Jeff Quick. "We know Mario is there and we want to go after him, but we want to win the team championship — that's what the whole thing is about. Rock Island has a good team and Geneseo has a good pack and we respect them. We are driven to get back to state and we're not going to let anything get in our way. We feel that we are one of the best teams in the state."

Saturday, they were definitely the



# Moline freshman takes girls' race

At the beginning of the season, Moline freshman Trista Lester wasn't good enough to be on the varsity cross country team.



Lester

Saturday, she won the regional meet at Saukie Golf Course in 12 minutes one second, only one tick off the course record.

"She didn't run with the varsity the first two weeks of the season," Moline Coach Jeff Quick said. "What she's done in the last seven weeks has been amazing."

Lester and Sterling's Shawn Loos broke away from the pack almost immediately and traded the lead for the first 1½ miles. Then Lester pulled away.

"I took the lead when we went up that last hill," she said. "It was easier to run this week because I had someone pushing me."

Geneseo won the team title with 51 points, 14 points ahead of United Township. Galesburg, Sterling and Moline also advanced as teams to next week's sectional meet at Sterling.

Four Rock Island runners — Kris Braet, Priscilla Perez, Saleta Vesey and Shelly Reed — qualified individually.

## Team points

1. Geneseo 51; 2. United Township 65; 3.

Galesburg 78; 4. Sterling 92; 5. Moline 93; 6. Rock Island 114; 7. Dixon 218; 8. Rock Falls 224.

## Top Five

1. Trista Lester (Moline), 12:01; 2. Shawn Loos (Sterling); 3. Karmen Roehrs (Geneseo); 4. Amber Turf (United Township); 5. Chris Lammers (United Township).



**GOING FOR THE WIN** — Moline freshman Trista Lester outruns Sterling's Shawn Loos during the regional cross country meet Saturday at

Saukie Golf Course, Rock Island. Lester won the race, missing a record by just one second. (QUAD-CITY-TIMES photo by Greg Boll)



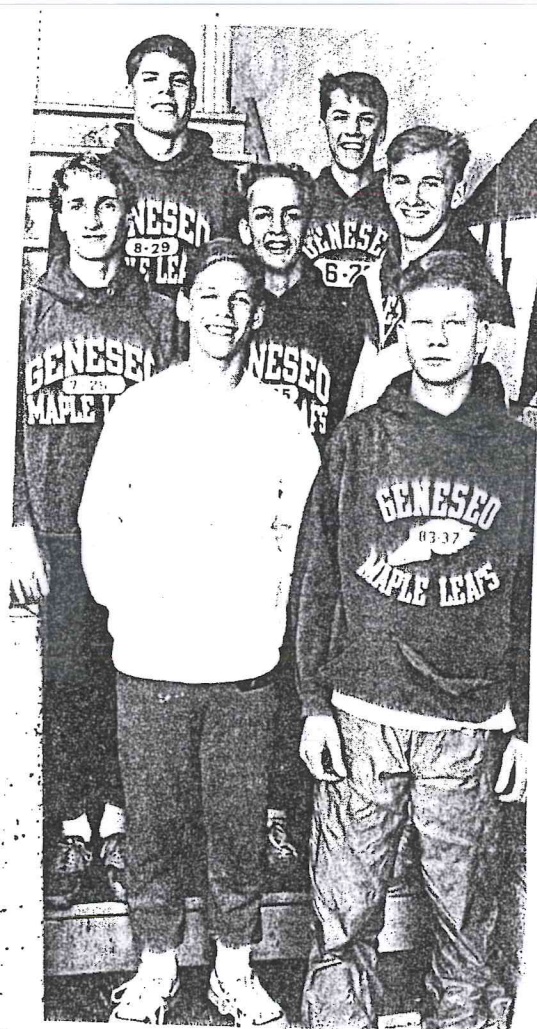


### *Regional champs - - - again!*

Republic photo

For the fifth straight year, the Geneseo girls' cross country team captured the regional crown to advance to sectional at Sterling on October 29.

In the photo are, from the left; front, Wendy Wassell, middle, Kim Chapman, Kirstin Kemmis and Brandi Hilton and back, Renee Clifton and Karmen Roehrs. Gail Perkins was absent.



### *Second at regional*

Republic photo

The Geneseo boys' cross country team finished second at regional competition on October 22, capping a one-two punch with the girls' team. It is the best ever finish by both teams at regional.

In the photo are, from the left; front, Calvin Orwig and Adam Boardman, middle, Bryan Glass, Justin VanVooren and Brad Baker and back, Brian Walsh and Jason VanVooren.





**GOING FOR THE WIN** — Moline freshman Trista Lester outruns Sterling's Shawn Loos during the regional cross country meet Saturday at

Saukie Golf Course, Rock Island. Lester won the race, missing a record by just one second. (QUAD-CITY TIMES photo by Greg Boll)

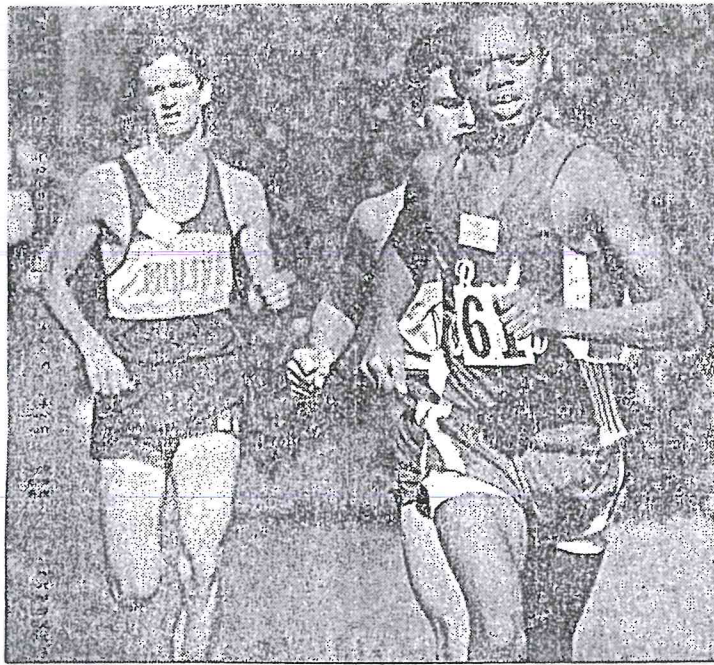


### ***Go, Karmen, go!***

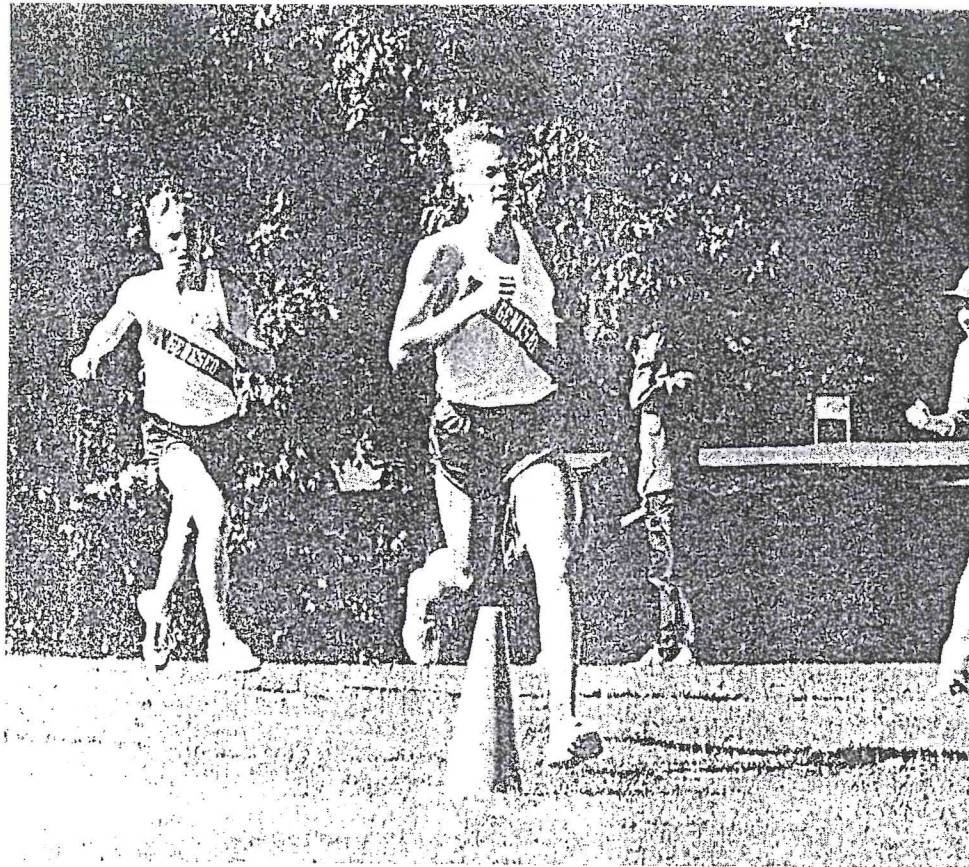
With Roger Miller, left, leaning in to encourage her, Geneseo's Karmen Roehrs steams toward the finish line and a third-place finish at Saturday's Class AA girls regional cross country meet at Saukie Golf Course in Rock Island. The Maple Leaf girls won their fifth straight regional title.

—NewsLife photo





**TIGHT RACE** — Rock Island's Marlo Vesey edges out Moline runners Joe Pérez and Eric Edmonds during the regional cross country meet Saturday at Saukie Golf Course. (QUAD-CITY TIMES photo by Greg Boll)



### ***Familiar faces***

Geneseo's Jason VanVooren, front, and Brad Baker steam around a course marker. The pair led Geneseo's boys to a second-place finish Saturday in the regional cross country meet at Saukie Golf Course in Rock Island. —NewsLife photo



# I.H.S.A. ~~Boys~~ Girls Regional X-C Meet

ROCK ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL TRACK  
AND FIELD SCORE SHEET

MEET Regional at Rock Island

DATE 10/22/88

Colleen  
12:00

Doak - Alliman  
1987

SCORING

Course Record

1. Geneseo	51
2. East Moline	65
3. Galesburg	78
4. Sterling	92
5. MOLINE	93
6. Rock Island	114
7. Dixon	218
8. Rock Falls	224

V. E. N. T.	WINNING EFFORT	*NEW RECORD
Name	School	Time
1. Lester	Moline	12:01.00
2. S. Loos	Sterling	12:08
3. K. Roehrs	Geneseo	:16
4. A. Torf	UTHS	:17
5. J. Lammers	UTHS	:19
6. J. Giers	UTHS	:28
7. G. Perkins	Geneseo	:30
8. K. Braet	R.I.	:32
9. R. Clifton	Geneseo	:36
10. B. Hardy	Gales.	:38
11. K. Olson	Gales.	:41
12. J. Clay	Gales	:43
13. J. Watters	Gales	:47
14. W. Wassell	Geneseo	:50
15. A. Kent	Sterling	:51
16. C. Zolli	Sterling	:55
17. L. Clark	Moline	:56
18. P. B. Hilton	Geneseo	13:02
19. P. Gomez	R.I.	:04
20. K. Chapman	Geneseo	:05
21. K. Hunter	UTHS	:06
22. K. Kemmis	Geneseo	13:07
23. S. Vesey	R.I.	:08
24. J. Johnson	Moline	:09
25. T. Rounds	Moline	:09:11
26. J. Asnett	Moline	:14:14

27. S. Reed	R.I.	:14:15
28. J. Schaefer	Sterling	:15:16
29. C. Gonzalez	UTHS	:16:21
30. K. Gelande	UTHS	:21:22
31. D. Schuetz	Sterling	:22:25
32. A. Thompson	Gales.	:25:27
33. M. Hess	Ster.	:27:29
34. D. Olson	R.F.	:27:31
35. J. Gentry	Moline	:31:35
36. K. Woods	Moline	:35:36
37. K. Keenue	R.I.	:36:36
38. K. Hong	Sterling	:36:38
39. T. Howard	Dixon	:38:48
40. D. Floyd	Rockelle	:48:58
41. A. McGrail	Dixon	14:07:58
42. L. Alter	Dixon	14:09:20
43. D. Davis	UTHS	
44. S. Bowser	R.F.	
45. A. Brington	G'burg	
46. T. Hickman	R.I.	
47. S. Lowe	R.I.	
48. A. Lynch	Dixon	
49. E. Miller	R.F.	
50. S. Corvestad	Rockelle	
51. K. Johnson	Rockelle	
52. L. Winters	R.F.	
53. J. Adams	R.F.	
54. M. O'Hara	Dixon	

No  
Timer



# I. H. S. A. ~~Boys~~ Regional X-C Meet

ROCK ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL TRACK  
AND FIELD SCORE SHEET

MEET Regional at Rock Island

DATE 10 122 188

SCORING Course Record 12:00 Colleen Rock - Allen - 1982

1. MOLINE	23
2. Geneseo	64
3. Rock Island	69
4. Galesburg	140
5. Dixon	157
6. Sterling	161
7. Rochelle	180
8. UT	193
9. Rock Falls	202

EVENT Name	WINNING EFFORT School	NEW *RECORD Time
1 M. Vasey	R.I.H.S.	14:57
2 J. Perez	Mol	15:24
3 E. Edmunds	Mol	44
4 R. Harvey	Mol	:51
(S:02) 5 J. VanVooran	Gen	:54
6 C. Lopez	Mol	:55
(S:03) 7 B. Baker	Gen	16:00
8 D. Krauel	Mol	:04
9 S. Tanner	R.I.H.S.	:06
(S:10) 10 B. Glass	Gen	:07
11 M. Hall	R.I.H.S.	:08
12 T. Taylor	Mol	:09
(S:03) 13 A. Boardman	Gen	:10
14 A. Arne	Rochelle	:16
15 C. Wilkinson	Sterl	:20
16 P. Spangler	Dixon	:23
17 M. Ports	Sterl	:34
18 P. Schwarz	Gales	:35
19 J. Mitchell	Rochelle	:36
20 N. Gustafson	R.I.H.S.	:37

FIRST Name	SECOND School	THIRD Time
21 S. Ponce	Gales	:40
22 T. Gates	UTHS	:41
23 R. Garza	Rock Falls	:45
24 C. Rivera	Mol	:47
25 M. Swim	Dixon	:52
26 C. Embrey	UTHS	:53
27 C. McBride	Dixon	:54
28 G. Wilkening	R.I.H.S.	:55
(S:16) 29 B. Bassier	Gen	:56
30 M. Woods	R.I.H.S.	17:05
(S:21) 31 C. Orwig	Gen	:08
32 M. Locke	Gales	:16
(S:21) 33 J. VanVooran	Gen	:21
34 C. DuBois	Gales	:27
35 K. Masterson	Gales	:28
36 S. Valdivia	Rock Falls	:30
37 I. Frink	R.I.H.S.	:34
38 N. Brown	Dixon	:37
39 G. Turk	Rock Falls	:43
40 W. Haworth	Gales	:43

FOURTH Name	SCHOOL	FIFTH Time
41 R. Garcia	Sterl	:45
42 D. Kopatich	UTHS	:47
43 J. Smith	Sterl	:48
44 M. Wilshusen	UTHS	:53
45 S. Ryan	Sterl	18:00
46 R. Archuleta	Rochelle	:01
47 M. Morgan	Rock Falls	:14
48 A. Bole	Rochelle	:18
49 J. Verlinder	UTHS	:19
50 J. Smith	Sterl	:19
51 C. Heckman	Dixon	:22
52 J. Pulford	UTHS	:26
53 J. Peters	Rochelle	:31
54 B. Sisson	Sterling	:37
55 H. Brooks	Dixon	:41
56 J. Morley	Dixon	:54
57 S. Newman	Rock Falls	:58
58 D. Torres	Rock Falls	19:28
59 A. Scriffham	Rock Falls	:40
60 T. Chambers	Gales	20:00