



## **PLUMLEY CAPTURES REGIONAL TITLE**

Pictured is Geneseo Tri-Captain William Plumley who was the individual winner

## **SENIORS LEAD LEAFS TO 2ND AT MORRIS IHSA REGIONAL**

On Saturday, October 24th, the Leafs traveled to Morris High School to participate in the first round of the Illinois High School Association's State Series. "On the line" was a trip next weekend to the IHSA's Sectional round. The top 5 finishing teams automatically qualify along

with the first five runners NOT on qualifying teams. The field included teams from: Chicago Heights (Marian), Geneseo, Kankakee, LaSalle-Peru, Lemont, Manteno, Morris, New Lenox (Providence Catholic), Ottawa, Streator, and Tinley Park. Due to COVID-19, the Leafs were assigned to a regional that they have never participated in previously. We hope we are there to stay. It was nice to compete against some teams that we normally don't see.

The weatherman provided a below average race time temperature of 46° with a moderate wind of 5-10 mph. It was a bit on the chilly side for the spectators which usually means excellent racing temperatures. The course was flat but bumpy with a lot of tight turns. The IHSA Regional Meet regulations specified that there be three races for each gender. Using Athletic.net as a guide, the meet "seeded out" as a virtual dual meet between the Leafs and the Lemont Indians. Lemont was predicted to win the meet with the Leafs a very close second. Meet administration, following the IHSA COVID-19 Regional Meet guidelines, scheduled three races to avoid having 50 or more runners competing in any one race. Following the completion of the third race, all of the race "data" would then be "merged" into one race.

Up first, were the top three runners for each team. Senior Tri-Captain William Plumley, Junior Tri-Captain Justin Johnson, and Sophomore Gavin Allison "Toed da Line" for the Leafs with the race starting at 11:00 AM. They went out hard with Lemont tucked in behind them. As the race progressed, William traded the lead with Lemont's Nicholas Kania. Nicholas actually opened up a three second lead before the two-mile mark. Head Maple Leaf Coach Todd Ehlert instructed William to "Go for it" with 1200 meters remaining and it was inspiring to watch him build a small lead. Nicholas kicked hard and was closing in but ran out of room as William held on to win the Leafs first individual regional championship since Dan Chenoweth back in the fall of 2006. William's winning time was 16:15. By the way, Dan's win was 14 years ago. William has demonstrated a wonderful mixture of "Passion and Purpose" on a daily basis all season long. Great job, William. Behind him, Justin and Gavin were finding out that Lemont was "for real". Each man gave it what they could and ended up in 7th and 8th places in their "session". Their times were 16:58 and 17:00 respectfully.

Next up was the second "session" containing each team's 4th and 5th runners. For the Leafs, Sophomore Tyler Gehl and Junior Isaac Kuster sprinted away from the starting line following the "crack" of the starter's pistol. Each man went out aggressively. Lemont matched their moves and more of the "Dual Meet" was on. Tyler ended up in second place as he "stopped the clock" at 17:15. Isaac wasn't far behind as he placed 5th in his "session" and was timed in 17:36. Each man sucked their "Milkshakes" dry. Solid efforts, Men.

At this point, Lemont had an insurmountable lead heading into the 6th and 7th runner positions. Maple Leaf Senior, Lucas Nicke, decided to make things interesting as he really "Got after it" and ended up running the second fastest time for the Leafs of the day with his 16:54. He ended up cracking the overall Top 10 from the 6th and 7th runner race. That is literally "Jaw-Dropping". Thus, the Maple Leaf Seniors led the way. Way to lead by example, Men. Great stuff. Lucas was observed with a BIG smile of his face following his tremendous effort. "Intrinsic" rewards are usually the most omnipotent. Lucas took a BIG "Bite" out of Lemont's lead. Freshman Cooper Schaad also ran a strong race and placed 3rd in his "session" as he was clocked in 17:52.

So, when everything was added together, the Leafs had placed a close second to Lemont. Lemont scored 35 points while the Leafs had scored a mere 45. Well done, Leafs. Overall the Leafs placed in the following positions. William Plumley (1st Place); Lucas Nicke (9th Place); Justin Johnson (10th Place); Gavin Allison (11th Place); Tyler Gehl (14th Place); Isaac Kuster (19th Place); and Cooper Schaad (22nd Place.) The team had accomplished most of the goals that they were challenged with by Coach Ehlert for the meet. The number one goal was to qualify for the Sectional Meet next Saturday. Done. Try and get the individual win. Done. Try and have every team member finish in the Top 25 to make the Geneseo XC Regional Honor Roll.

Done. **All seven men.** That is a rare feat. The only goal that was not achieved was a team win. Lemont was for real and it will be a lot of fun to go at it again next Saturday. Geneseo hasn't qualified for the State Finals since 1999. There have been a plethora of near misses during those 21 years. It's time to KICK DOWN THE DOOR. With the new IHSA Sectional Meet qualifying being expanded to 7 teams, the goal is possible. As Coach mentioned last week, "The Hay is in the Barn". You have enjoyed a tremendous season and with no State Meet being offered this year due to COVID-19, it is pretty cool that Peoria Notre Dame will be hosting our sectional meet at historic Detweiller Park. The traditional home of the IHSA STATE FINALS. All the best, Men.

**"DREAM BIG"**

## Class 2A Morris Regional

**Basics:** Saturday at Morris High School. The girls meet starts at 9 a.m., the boys at 11 a.m.

**Local team:** Geneseo. Other teams: Chicago Heights Marian, Kankakee, LaSalle-Peru, Lemont, Manteno, Morris, New Lenox Providence, Ottawa, Streator, Tinley Park.

**Who to watch:** In the girls' competition, the Maple Leafs are coming off a Western Big 6 Conference runner-up finish with their 49 points just five behind team champion Quincy. Three individual Leafs earned all-conference honors for top 10 finishes, led by a pair of top 5 standouts in seniors Avery Magerkurth (18:57.3) and Esther Brown (18:59.9), who finished fourth and fifth, respectively. Sophomore teammate Jaide Flowers posted a 19:27.6 clocking to finish eighth. ...

The Geneseo boys come into the postseason riding high after winning their first Big 6 title in just their second year as conference members. A top 5 finish by senior William Plumley (fourth, 16:14.8) paced the Maple Leafs as they tallied 51 points to top Moline by 10 points for team gold. Leafs junior Justin Johnson (16:20.9) and sophomore Gavin Allison (16:30.7), took sixth and eighth, respectively. ... The Geneseo boys seek their second regional title in three years, while the Leaf girls shoot for their first such crown since 2009.

**Moving on:** The top five

teams, the top five individuals not on an advancing team advance to next Saturday's Peoria Notre Dame Sectional at Detweiller Park. The sixth-, seventh- and eighth-place overall finishers also advance if not on a qualifying squad.

**PREP CROSS  
COUNTRY  
CLASS 2A REGIONAL**

# Maple Leaf girls win first regional in 11 years

Plumley victorious  
as Geneseo boys  
finish in second

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MORRIS — For the first time in 11 years, the Geneseo High School girls cross country team is a regional champion.

With four runners in the top five, the Maple Leafs scored 25 points to take first place at the Class 2A Morris Regional on Saturday.

Geneseo was the only local school at this meet, which like all regionals across the state, was run in a different format because of the COVID-19 pandemic and social-distancing requirements. The meet was spread out into three flights with the top three runners from each team in one race, the fourth and fifth runners in the next heat, and runners No. 6 and 7 together in the final race.

Breaking up the girls like that may have had a negative effect on Kelley Timmerman's squad, but they persevered to get a long-awaited team title as its top four finishers placed in the top five individuals and all under 20 minutes for the three-mile race.

"It was nice to get this win since we went kind of dry for a little bit," Timmerman said. "They ran so well, I can't really ask for much more. You can only watch as a coach and see how things play out. They're so used to racing together, it was a bit difficult for them to only run for time."

Esther Brown led Geneseo with a second-place finish of 19 minutes, 24 seconds, just one-tenth of a second behind winner Joy Dudley, a sophomore from Morris, in a virtual dead-heat.

"Esther was really happy after the race," said Timmerman of Brown who usually is a volleyball player in the fall. "She gave it everything she had, and even though she came up just short she was really proud. She's been an awesome addition to the team and really helped the team camaraderie. All of the girls get along and support each other and make it easy to train them."

Behind Brown, were fellow senior Avery Magerkurth (19:29.7), sophomore Jaide Flowers (19:31.9) and junior Lacey Laxton (19:53.6).

Senior William Plumley won the boys race to lead Geneseo to a second-place team finish. The Maple Leafs were just 10 points behind first place Lemont, which finished with 35 points.

Plumley won a sprint at the end to record a 16:15 run, just one second better than Nicholas Kania of Lemont.

Boys coach Todd Ehlert was very proud of Plumley's performance.

"That's a huge win for William," Ehlert said. "It's super exciting for all of us. He's worked so hard the last three years with me, and we're all really proud of him."

The Maple Leaf boys had a nice pack behind Plumley as senior Lucas Nicke (16:54.6), junior Justin Johnson (16:58.5) and sophomore Gavin Allison (17:00.6) finished 9-10-11. Junior Isaac Kuster (17:36.2) placed 19th.

Both teams move on to the Peoria Sectional hosted at Dettweiler Park on Saturday, the usual site of the state meet.

While there's no state meet this year, both coaches have their teams focused on the competition ahead.

"The No. 1 goal on Saturday is to be one of the top teams down there," Ehlert said. "If we can be in a position where we would have qualified for state, that's great for us. We're playing it up as if everything is the same."

<b>Date:</b> 10/24/2020								
<b>Meet:</b> Morris IHSA Regional								
<b>Site:</b> Morris High School								
<b>Conditions:</b> Race time temperature: 46° with 5-10 mph winds.								
<b>Course:</b> Flat with a lot of turns and wooded trails. Ran a bit slow.								
<b>Racing Distance:</b> 2.97 miles (thus the last mile is short .03)								
<b>Team Finish: Varsity Boys:</b> 2nd Place								
	<b>TIME</b>	<b>ATHLETE</b>	<b>PL</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>1-M</b>	<b>2-M</b>	<b>3-M</b>	<b>AVE.</b>
1	16:15	William Plumley-12	1	V	5:12	5:40	5:23	5:25
2	16:54	Lucas Nicke-12	9	V	5:26	5:54	5:34	5:38
3	16:58	Justin Johnson-11	10	V	5:23	6:01	5:34	5:39
4	17:00	Gavin Allison-10	11	V	5:23	5:56	5:41	5:40
5	17:15	Tyler Gehl-10	14	V	5:24	6:04	5:47	5:45
6	17:36	Isaac Kuster-11	19	V	5:32	6:14	5:56	5:54
7	17:52	Cooper Schaad-09	22	V	5:43	6:15	5:54	5:57
	DNC	none						
	16:15	Varsity Race Leader	1	V	5:12	5:41	5:22	5:25
		Geneseo Spread						
		1-5	1:00					
		1-7	1:37					

#### TEAM RESULTS AT REGIONAL (Oct. 24):

- Lemont - 35 points - 1st place.
- Geneseo - 45 points - 2nd place.
- Morris - 72 points - 3rd place.
- LaSalle-Peru - 111 points - 4th place.
- Chicago Heights (Marion) - 145 points - 5th place.
- Streator Twp. - 179 points - 6th place.
- New Lenox (Providence Catholic) - 188 points - 7th place.
- Ottawa Twp. - 199 points - 8th place.
- Kankakee - 245 points - 9th place.

#### GENESEO INDIVIDUAL RESULTS AT REGIONAL (Oct. 24):

- William Plumley - 16:15.2 - 1st place.
- Lucas Nicke - 16:54.6 - 9th place.
- Justin Johnson - 16:58.5 - 10th place.
- Gavin Allison - 17:00.6 - 11th place.
- Tyler Gehl - 17:15.4 - 14th place.
- Isaac Kuster - 17:36.2 - 19th.
- Cooper Schaad - 17:52.6 - 22nd.

# MORRIS IHSA REGIONAL

## BOYS RESULTS

10/24/2020

### INDIVIDUALS

1. William Plumley*	12	Geneseo	16:15.2
2. Nicholas Kania*	12	Lemont	16:16.3
3. Ryan Hartman*	11	LaSalle-Peru	16:27.5
4. TJ Polen*	10	Lemont	16:30.3
5. Matt Clark*	11	Morris	16:30.6
6. Niko Vallianatos	12	Lemont	16:33.4
7. Kody Danko	10	Streator	16:37.4
8. Andrew Tilly	11	Lemont	16:50.7
9. Lucas Nicke	12	Geneseo	16:54.6
10. Justin Johnson	11	Geneseo	16:58.5
11. Gavin Allison	10	Geneseo	17:00.6
12. Nico Ferrero	12	Morris	17:06.1
13. Kaden Welch	10	Morris	17:08.4
14. Tyler Gehl	10	Geneseo	17:15.4
15. Jack Davey	9	Lemont	17:22.5
16. Christopher Kasperan	12	Chicago Heights (Marian)	17:23.3
17. Evan Schiffman	11	Lemont	17:30.4
18. Bryce Claypool	12	Morris	17:34.5
19. Isaac Kuster	11	Geneseo	17:36.2
20. Liam Tipple	10	Ottawa	17:41.0
21. Matt Beard	11	LaSalle-Peru	17:48.4
22. Cooper Schaad	9	Geneseo	17:52.6
23. Ryan Tuley	10	Chicago Heights (Marian)	18:02.3
24. Evan Ramos	10	Morris	18:06.6
25. Avery Lueck	9	LaSalle-Peru	18:07.1
26. Xander Stoub	10	New Lenox (Providence Catholic)	18:09.9
27. Julian Gonzalez	11	Morris	18:12.1
28. Milton Mondragon	12	Morris	18:15.3
29. Erik Garcia	10	LaSalle-Peru	18:15.4
30. Liam Carey	10	Lemont	18:15.4
31. Sam Yohnka	10	Kankakee	18:19.6
32. George Partin	10	Chicago Heights (Marian)	18:24.1
33. Cooper Vaske	11	LaSalle-Peru	18:33.0
34. Bryan Johnson	11	Chicago Heights (Marian)	18:37.1
35. Tyler Kropp	11	Manteno	18:43.2
36. Nick Adams	10	Streator	18:45.9
37. Brian Matton	11	New Lenox (Providence Catholic)	18:51.0

38. Kendrick Dow	12	Tinley Park	18:51.8
39. Zachary Boudreau	10	Kankakee	18:52.2
40. Aaron Noble	11	Ottawa	18:56.1
41. Gabe Spesia	12	New Lenox (Providence Catholic)	18:58.6
42. Noah Deabel	11	Chicago Heights (Marian)	19:08.1
43. Zach Zambrzycki	9	New Lenox (Providence Catholic)	19:09.2
44. Ryan Nelson	11	Ottawa	19:17.1
45. Chris Ormsby	11	Chicago Heights (Marian)	19:48.1
46. Ethan Darrow	12	Streator	19:48.6
47. Josh Wilinski	11	Streator	19:49.9
48. Collin Zeppi	10	Manteno	19:51.2
49. Isaac Krabbe	9	New Lenox (Providence Catholic)	19:53.9
50. Deklan Ragan	11	Ottawa	20:02.7
51. Adrian Izaguirre	12	Tinley Park	20:10.0
52. Kennin Angelico	10	Streator	20:10.6
53. Jacob Mrofka	12	Tinley Park	20:10.9
54. Isaiah Dembo	10	Streator	20:22.7
55. Johathan Johnson	12	LaSalle-Peru	20:25.4
56. Andrew Dau	10	New Lenox (Providence Catholic)	20:25.9
57. Cole Smelko	10	Ottawa	20:32.5
58. Drew Hood	12	Ottawa	20:37.6
59. Jon Lemmer	12	LaSalle-Peru	20:53.8
60. Matt Fleming	9	New Lenox (Providence Catholic)	20:57.5
61. David Flores	11	Chicago Heights (Marian)	21:39.4
62. Alec Toronjo	10	Kankakee	21:48.7
63. Cooper Spears	10	Streator	21:57.6
64. Logan Morris	11	Kankakee	22:09.5
65. Dominic Nero	11	Ottawa	22:11.9
66. Andrew Sheperd	10	Kankakee	22:19.0
67. Zac Carrol	10	Manteno	23:21.0
68. Ethan Jennings	10	Manteno	23:28.7

All-Region Honors\*

### TEAM SCORES

1. Lemont 35
2. Geneseo 45
3. Morris 72
4. LaSalle-Peru 111
5. Chicago Heights (Marian) 145
6. Streator 179
7. New Lenox (Providence Catholic) 188
8. Ottawa 199
9. Kankakee 245

INC. Manteno & Tinley Park