



### **AWARD WINNERS**

Pictured are 8 of the 10 Maple Leafs that won a medal in Tuesday Night's Races

### **LEAFS DOMINATE STERLING 09/J.V. INVITE**

On Tuesday, October 19th, the Leafs traveled to Sterling's Hoover Park to participate in the annual Sterling 09/JV Invitational. The field included teams from: Geneseo, Princeton, Rochelle, Rock Falls, and Sterling. Both LaSalle-Peru and Dixon usually attend the meet but due to low team numbers decided to pass on this year's meet. The meet is designed to give each team's Non-Varsity (Top 7's) one last race. Two races are run (girls and boys included together to save time). Medals were awarded to the Top 5 males and females in the Freshmen Race. Then, the Top 10 males and females also earned medals in the JV (or Open) Race. The teams were treated to magnificent late October weather with a daytime high of 74° and race time temperatures in the 60's. The course was hard and fast and the Leafs came to run.



## THE START OF THE FRESHMEN RACE

The Freshmen took off at 4:30 p.m. sharp. Most of the athletes were "Shocked" to see only 3 girls and 8 boys on the starting line. COVID-19's ramifications have been profound and have impacted every sport in every state. Participation numbers are way down from "The Norm" "Across the Board" and a low turnout for this meet was predictable. We talk a lot about "Controlling the Controllables". That is a direct quote from "Coach O". Our team goal for each meet it to is to line up for each meet healthy and with a lot of "Passion and Purpose". We also hope that the athletes enjoy the entire experience of the sport. That includes training and racing. That also includes sharing the experience with their teammates and hopefully, learning some critical life skills along the way. Leading the Maple Leafs was Max Johnson who ended up winning the race. His winning time was 19:38 and he won by 19 seconds. What happened next was AWESOME! Mason Anderson (21:04), Taber Swanson (22:40), and Zach Meier (23:00) grabbed places 3-4-5 to help the Leafs take home 4 of the 5 available medals in this race. To put an exclamation point on the race, Camden Baumgardner placed 7th and barely missed a medal by only 7 seconds. When you add up the places, Geneseo had scored a miniscule 19 points (no official team scores were kept.) Great Job, Men. We hope to see each of you next fall (and hopefully, on the track team next semester.)

<b>Date:</b> 10/19/2021								
<b>Meet:</b> Sterling 09/JV Cross Country Conference Invite								
<b>Site:</b> Sterling's Hoover Park								
<b>Conditions:</b> Daytime high of 74° ...5 mph winds...race temps mid 60's (NICE)								
<b>Racing Distance:</b> 3.00 miles (course hard and fast)								
<b>Team Finish:</b>		<b>No Team Scores</b>						
	<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	18:54	Carson Raya-12	3	JV	6:00	6:25	6:29	6:18
2	18:54	Malakai Schaad-12	4	JV	6:00	6:25	6:29	6:18
3	19:28	Caleb Durian-11	7	JV	6:04	6:31	6:53	6:29
4	19:38	Max Johnson-09	1	9	6:13	6:50	6:35	6:32
5	20:11	Austin Hull-10	8	JV	6:17	6:55	6:59	6:43
6	20:12	Andrew Burke-12	9	JV	6:24	6:58	6:50	6:44
7	20:14	Nathan Venneberg-11	10	JV	6:22	6:53	6:59	6:44
8	20:18	Simon Anderson-12	12	JV	6:24	7:05	5:54	6:46
9	21:04	Mason Anderson-09	3	9	6:34	7:19	7:11	7:01
10	21:44	Ryley Rowold-10	17	JV	6:53	7:37	7:14	7:14
11	22:40	Taber Swanson-09	4	9	6:45	7:33	8:22	7:33
12	23:00	Zach Meier-09	5	9	7:10	8:02	7:48	7:41
13	23:07	Cam Baumgardner-09	7	9	7:27	7:54	7:46	7:42
	DNC	Karson Emry-11	Injury					
	DNC	Christian Haney-09	Injury					
	DNC	Bryce Henderson-10	Conflict					
	DNC	Rylan Lambert-09	Injury					
	DNC	Jacob Taylor-09	Conflict					
	DNC	Dylan Whipple-09	Injury					
	17:46	J.V. Leader	1	11	5:45	???	???	???
	19:38	09 Leader	1	9	6:07	6:53	6:38	6:32
		<b>Geneseo Spread</b>						
		1-5	1:17					
		1-7	1:20					
		1-10	2:50					

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<b>Team Finish:</b> Meet Unscored <b>Freshmen Boys Race</b>						
	<b>TIME</b>	<b>ATHLETE</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>		
1	19:38	Max Johnson	9	Geneseo		
2	19:57	Aalin Schmidt	9	Sterling		
3	21:04	Mason Anderson	9	Geneseo		
4	22:40	Taber Swanson	9	Geneseo		
5	23:00	Zach Meier	9	Geneseo		
6	23:01	Zyan Westbrook	9	Sterling		
7	23:07	Camden Baumgardner	9	Geneseo		
8	27:26	Cash Budde	9	Rochelle		





### THE START OF THE J.V. (OPEN) RACE

The JV (or Open) runners took off at 5:15 p.m. Sterling was having a "Run-Off" between their 7th and 8th men and they ended up finishing first and 2nd overall. Seniors Carson Raya and Malakai Schaad led the team as they finished 3rd and 4th overall. They were timed in identical 18:54's and crossed the line holding hands in solidarity and pure jubilation. They were initially disqualified for breaking an IHSA "Rule" (NOT) and after Coach Ehlert had a friendly "Chat" with the officials and Sterling's Head Boys Coach, they were "Back In". Justice had been served. Next up for the Leafs were: Junior Caleb Durian (7th Place in 19:28), Sophomore Austin Hull (8th Place in 20:11), Senior Andrew Burke (9th Place in 20:12), and Nathan Venneberg (10th Place in 20:14.) A little more information about two of these men. Austin was tripped early in the race and "Bit it HARD" losing his glasses in the process. Kudos to him for jumping right back up and finishing the race. Another tip of the hat to Senior Andrew Burke who won the first medal in his cross country career. He has battled severe Osgood-Schlatter disease earlier in his high school career which also necessitated knee surgery. To put it lightly, he has been through "A LOT" and he threw his fist up into the air with 300 meters remaining in the race when he realized that he was going to finish in the Top 10 and earn a Medal....it was a moment that we will remember for a LONG TIME. Back to the race. Next up were Senior Simon Anderson (12th Place in 20:18), and

Sophomore Riley Rowold (17th Place in 21:44.) Once again, there were no team scores calculated for the meet. If it had been "Scored" Sterling would have beaten us 28-33. However, they ran one of their Top 7 so if he was taken out of the scoring, the Leafs would have won 26-41.

Several teammates didn't race due to conflicts or injuries. For those who did, it was a wonderful way for them to end their competitive seasons. Next up for the team will be the Galesburg IHSA Regional Meet this Saturday. The meet will be held at Galesburg's Lake Storey Park. Everyone on the team is invited to attend. We are hoping to see a HUGE HYPE SQUAD "In da House". Each and every team member is encouraged (but not mandated) to continue attending practice. There is "Strength in Numbers" so please try and be there.

Head Coach Todd Ehlert also "Opened Up" a bit with the team after the meet. He has been with the Senior Group since they entered 6th grade. He taught and coached at the Geneseo Middle School through their 8th Grade Years. Then, he moved up to the High School the same year that they did. It is VERY rare for such a "Relationship" between a Teacher/Coach and a group of students to have lasted for such a long period of time. So Men, if Coach Ehlert has demonstrated a bit of "Melancholy" during this season, NOW YOU KNOW WHY. The dude cares VERY much about all of you (so do Tessie and I). Let's have EVERYONE do their best help the team reach its "PEAK" during the Championship Meet Season.

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	<b>TIME</b>	<b>ATHLETE</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>		
1	17:46	Conner Pham	11	Sterling		
2	18:04	Brecken Peterson	10	Sterling		
3	18:54	Carson Raya	12	Geneseo		
4	18:54	Malakai Schaad	12	Geneseo		
5	19:05	Parker Janssen	10	Sterling		
6	19:12	Isaac Halverson	12	Sterling		
7	19:28	Caleb Durian	11	Geneseo		
8	20:11	Austin Hull	10	Geneseo		
9	20:12	Andrew Burke	12	Geneseo		
10	20:14	Nathan Venneberg	11	Geneseo		
11	20:17	Darien Huggins	11	Rock Falls		
12	20:18	Simon Anderson	12	Geneseo		
13	20:42	Luke Orlikowski	12	Rochelle		
14	20:48	Joseph Humphrey	10	Sterling		
15	21:05	Thomas Koziol	11	Rochelle		
16	21:39	Max Orlikowski	12	Rochelle		
17	21:44	Riley Rowld	10	Geneseo		
18	21:47	Hayden Smith	12	Rochelle		
19	22:19	Dawson Lambert	9	Princeton		
20	22:23	Brandeis Shore	11	Sterling		
21	22:43	Diego Hernandez	11	Rock Falls		
22	22:48	Kamden Wahlgren	9	Princeton		
23	23:05	Robert Nelson	11	Princeton		
24	23:14	Jake May	12	Princeton		
25	23:29	Amujin Purevdorj	11	Rochelle		
26	24:23	Andrew Hernandez	11	Rock Falls		
27	26:34	Solan Everly	11	Rock Falls		