

**PREP CROSS COUNTRY | IHSA 2A/3A REGIONALS**

# Leafs, Rocks shine at Class 2A regional



**Geneseo celebrates with its regional trophy after winning the Class 2A Morris Regional on Saturday.**

SUBMITTED PHOTO

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For the Geneseo and Rock Island high school cross country programs, Saturday couldn't have gone much better.

Each school sent both the boys and girls teams onto sectionals with strong finishes at the Class 2A Morris Regional at Morris High School.

Geneseo grabbed the boys team regional title with 48 points, 31 ahead of second-place Rock Island (79). Chicago Marian finished third with 101.

The Maple Leafs' Dylan Gehl was the top local finisher, placing fourth with a time of 16:15.7. His brother, Tyler Gehl, finished right behind him in fifth at 16:26.8.

"That was awesome," Dylan Gehl said. "I love to see him up there with me, especially for his senior year. It was a good day for him to PR for sure. I know he wanted to help Geneseo get a first-place regional title as much as I did, and of course, we ended up pulling that off."

Geneseo also had Sam Mosbarger (8th, 16:39.3), Jaxson Sottos (14th, 17:04.3) and Cooper Schaad (17th, 17:14.5) placed inside the top 20 to push the Maple Leafs to a regional title.

"Everybody was great today," Geneseo cross country coach Todd Ehlert said. "Sam has been consistent all year, and he had a really good race. Jaxson as a freshman running 14th was great, and then Cooper finished us out in the top 20. Having five kids in the top 20 was huge."

Ehlert praised the Geneseo 'hype squad' as one of the reasons the team was able to win the regional so decisively. The 'hype squad' includes 18 team members spread around the course armed with horns and flags, cheering each Maple Leaf runner as they go by. That includes coach Don Fredericks, who bikes around the course to catch as many athletes as possible.

"The 'hype squad' is a big part of our championship season," Dylan Gehl said. "They can really pump us up and push us the extra mile. I love them and they really are the best. We probably wouldn't do nearly as well without them."

But Rock Island put up a fight

with three top 10 finishers in Gabe Mahn (6th, 16:32), Ian Regur (7th, 16:35.9) and Jayden Putnam (9th, 16:50.4).

Mahn, a freshman, has been Rocky's most reliable runner this season.

"He's very competitive and he's got a lot of things that you can't teach," Rock Island coach Jarrin Williams said. "It's really cool to see him emerge as a freshman, especially at this time of the year, because this is a long season."

Both Rock Island and Geneseo expect to compete for a team spot at next weekend's Class 2A Metamora Sectional on Saturday at Black Partridge Park and advancement to the following weekend's state meet at Detweiller Park in Peoria.

"The plan is to leave it all on the course next week," Williams said. "I think Geneseo may qualify this year again and I really want to compete with them. If we can do that, I think we will put ourselves

in a really good position (to move on)."

As for the girls race, both Geneseo and Rock Island moved on as well. The Maple Leafs came in third with 83 points, and Rock Island fourth with 88 points. Morris (36) won the girls regional title.

Rock Island's Mackenzie Meirhaeghe was the top local finisher, placing fourth with a time of 19:36.7 ahead of junior teammate Norah Wright (8th, 20:17.1).

"It's been really cool to see the girls team really emerge as a contender in the middle of this season," Williams said. "I don't coach Mackenzie, but I have watched her for four years and it's been fun to see her get to this point. She will be right in the mix (moving forward)."

However, Geneseo placed ahead of Rocky as a team because of five top 20 finishers. Ella Toom (14th, 20:32.5), Joselyn Reisner (17th, 20:57.9), Elanor DeBlieck (18th, 21:04.3), Jaide Flowers (19th,

21:28.3) and Jeslen Rink (20th, 21:28.5) all packed it in to give the Maple Leafs a strong team showing.

"Coach (Kelley) Timmerman does a great job with those girls, and it's so nice to have these programs go to sectionals together so we can help support each other," Ehlert said. "It's very helpful."

In the Class 3A Minooka Regional at Channahon Community Park, both Moline and United Township sent one runner to sectionals.

UT's freshman Ruby Tapia-Macias was the top local finisher in the girls race, placing seventh with a time of 18:34. She was the only Panther in the girls or boys race to place within the top 50.

Moline's Karen Martinez Hernandez also earned a sectional berth by finishing 28th with a time of 20:02.7. She was the only Maroon to qualify in either race.

Those two will run at next Saturday's Class 3A Normal Community Sectional at Maxwell Park.



## **LEAFS WIN MORRIS REGIONAL**

Pictured are the team's "Varsity Top 7", "Hype Squad", and Head Boys Coach Todd Ehlert

## **LEAFS DOMINATE REGIONAL MEET**

On Saturday, October 21st, the Leafs traveled east down I-80 to Morris High School who hosted the IHSA Regional Meet to which Geneseo was assigned. The meet was held on the campus of Morris High School and surrounding area. The field included teams from: Chicago Heights (Marian), Crete (Crete-Monee), Geneseo, Kankakee (Sr.), LaSalle (LaSalle-Peru), Lemont, Morris, New Lenox (Providence Catholic), Ottawa, Plano, Rock Island, & Streator. On the line was a chance to advance to next Saturday's IHSA Metamora Sectional Meet. The top six teams automatically qualify. In addition, the top 5 individual finishers on teams that didn't qualify would also make the trip. Individual "hardware" was awarded to the Top 5 individual finishers along with a Championship Plaque to the winning team. The weatherman provided unseasonably warm weather. The daytime high of 84° tied the all-time high for the day. The race time temperature for the boys race was 73°. There was a 10-15 mph south wind blowing. For late October, the weather was AMAZING.

Athletic.net is a national website that has a huge data base. Illinois coaches are required by the IHSA to report all of their team's races to them. With a "Plus Subscription", the user is able to actually have every runner in the meet's season best for three miles listed. There is also an option to score a "Hypothetical Meet". It isn't perfect due to the fact that comparing times on different courses is similar to comparing "Apples to Oranges". Nevertheless, the Leafs entered the meet as the favorites and lived up to it. Athletic.net accurately predicted all six of the boys

qualifying teams and five of the six girls teams. Pretty impressive and certainly a great coaching tool.

The boys race started at 11:00 a.m. sharp. The Leafs ran an extremely intelligent race by not going out too fast and then "Moving at the Mile". Leading the way were Sophomore Dylan Gehl and his "Big Bro" Senior Tyler Gehl who raced to 4th and 5th places. They each earned a "Highly Prized" Top 5 Finisher medal. Dylan "Stopped the Clock" at 16:15 with Tyler right behind him in 16:26. It is pretty challenging for any team to earn one of those medals. The fact that the Leafs earned two was VERY impressive.

Up next was Junior Sam Mosbarger who raced to a "Top 10" finish. Sam placed 8th overall and was timed in 16:39. Not far behind were Freshman Jaxson Sottos (14th Place in 17:04) and Junior Cooper Schaad (17th Place in 17:14). Thus, the Leafs had placed 3 runners in the Top 10 and two more in the Top 20. That is an excellent recipe for a good team result. Rounding out the team were Sophomore Max Johnson (25th Place in 17:31) and Freshman Aidan Bries (32nd Place in 17:49).

Also, under "Championship Meet History" on our XC Website there are lists for Regional, Sectional, and State. The "Make the List" for the Regional Meet an athlete needs to "Crack" the Top 25. Thus, six of the seven men "Nailed It". All seven men ran GREAT RACES! When the points were totaled, the Leafs found themselves winning the meet by 21 points as they scored a mere 48 points (Athletic.net predicted we would have 55 points.) Rock Island placed second with 79 points. It was pretty cool to watch the Western Big Six go 1-2 in the meet. Great Job to both the GHS competing athletes and "Hype Squad". This is the second IHSA Regional Championship in Head Coach Todd Ehler's 5 years at the helm. The Leafs last won a Regional Title in 2018. Before that the last win was in 1999. Great Stuff.

Next up will be the IHSA Metamora Sectional Meet for the Leafs. The meet will be held at Metamora's Back Partridge Park on Saturday, October 29th. The Top 7 Teams in that meet will qualify for the IHSA STATE FINALS to be held at Peoria's Historic Detweiller Park on Saturday, November 5th. All the best, Men. Keep making intelligent choices. We also need as many members of the "Hype Squad" as possible to be at the meet. Every man that decides to come and support the team does make a difference. Keep "Dreaming Big" and backing those dreams up with the actions that help to make them come to fruition.

<b>Date:</b> 10/22/2022								
<b>Meet:</b> IHSA Morris Regional								
<b>Site:</b> Morris High School								
<b>Conditions:</b> Daytime high of 84° (Race temp 73°) 15-20 winds.								
<b>Racing Distance:</b> 3.00 miles								
<b>Team Finish: Varsity Boys:</b> 1ST 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	Dylan Gehl-10	4	V	5:16	5:36	5:23	5:25
2	16:26	Tyler Gehl-12	5	V	5:13	5:46	5:27	5:28
3	16:39	Sam Mosbarger-11	8	V	5:22	5:48	5:29	5:33
4	17:04	Jaxson Sottos-09	14	V	5:25	5:54	5:45	5:41
5	17:14	Cooper Schaad-11	17	V	5:33	6:06	5:35	5:44
6	17:31	Max Johnson-10	25	V	5:37	6:06	5:48	5:50
7	17:49	Aidan Bries-09	32	V	5:39	6:10	6:00	5:56
	15:26	Varsity Race Leader	1	V	4:56	5:25	5:05	5:08
		<b>Geneseo Spread</b>						
		1-5	0:59					
		1-7	1:34					



IHSA Class 2A Cross Country  
Morris Regional  
Saturday, October 22nd, 2022



## Team Scores

1. Geneseo	48
2. Rock Island (H.S.)	79
3. Chicago Heights (Marian)	101
4. Morris	118
5. New Lenox (Providence Catholic)	145
6. Lemont (H.S.)	160
7. Crete (C.-Monee)	190
8. Ottawa (Twp.)	210
9. LaSalle (L.-Peru)	216
10. Streator (Twp.)	240
11. Plano	253
12. Kankakee (Sr.)	275

1. 12 Kody Danko	15:26.10	Streator (Twp.)
2. 10 Daniel Kasperan	15:38.70 PR	Chicago Heights (Mari)
3. 12 Kaden Welch	15:48.70 PR	Morris
4. 10 Dylan Gehl	16:15.70	Geneseo
5. 12 Tyler Gehl	16:26.80 PR	Geneseo
6. 9 Gabe Mahn	16:32.30	Rock Island (H.S.)
7. 11 Ian Regur	16:35.90	Rock Island (H.S.)
8. 11 Sam Mosbarger	16:39.30	Geneseo
9. 11 Jayden Putnam	16:50.40	Rock Island (H.S.)
10. 12 Liam Tipple	16:56.10	Ottawa (Twp.)
11. 9 Nikita Hovious	16:57.10 PR	Morris
12. 10 Jojo Poku	16:58.80 PR	Crete (C.-Monee)
13. 11 John Garcia	16:59.10 PR	Plano
14. 9 Jaxson Sottos	17:04.30	Geneseo
15. 12 Erik Garcia	17:11.00	LaSalle (L.-Peru)
16. 12 Xander Stoub	17:14.10	New Lenox (Providenc
17. 11 Cooper Schaad	17:14.50	Geneseo
18. 10 Matthew Tuley	17:14.60 PR	Chicago Heights (Mari
19. 12 Andrew Dau	17:16.10	New Lenox (Providenc
20. 10 Jayden Downs	17:21.20	Chicago Heights (Mari
21. 12 Adam Bromberek	17:23.40	Lemont (H.S.)
22. 9 Lucas Farabaugh	17:24.70	Ottawa (Twp.)
23. 9 Brodie Peterson	17:27.70	Morris
24. 11 Zach Zambrzycki	17:29.40 PR	New Lenox (Providenc
25. 10 Max Johnson	17:31.00	Geneseo

26. 12 Ryan Tuley	17:33.90	Chicago Heights (Mari
27. 11 Jack Davey	17:39.80	Lemont (H.S.)
28. 10 Lukas Heine	17:41.10	Rock Island (H.S.)
29. 11 Asa Mahn	17:41.40	Rock Island (H.S.)
30. 9 Griffin Hammers	17:47.00	LaSalle (L.-Peru)
31. 9 Henry Mass	17:47.10	Rock Island (H.S.)
32. 9 Aidan Bries	17:49.90	Geneseo
33. 12 Carson Elko	17:53.50	Lemont (H.S.)
34. 12 Arie Hofman	18:02.20 PR	Crete (C.-Monee)
35. 12 George Partin	18:14.10	Chicago Heights (Mar
36. 9 Jonathon Zarbock	18:19.00	Morris
37. 9 Braylin Bond	18:20.90	LaSalle (L.-Peru)
38. 10 Jai'quan Lloyd	18:20.90 PR	Crete (C.-Monee)
39. 10 Adam Mustafa	18:20.90	Lemont (H.S.)
40. 11 Alex Fako	18:21.90	Lemont (H.S.)
41. 11 Carson Rubio	18:23.90 PR	Plano
42. 9 Kyle Szafranski	18:26.50	New Lenox (Providenc
43. 12 Sammy Niyonkuru	18:26.70	Rock Island (H.S.)
44. 9 Cal Palkon	18:30.80	New Lenox (Providenc
45. 10 Luchi Eberhard	18:32.00 PR	Morris
46. 9 Blake Hennings	18:33.20	New Lenox (Providenc
47. 9 Nicholas Cruz	18:33.60 PR	Crete (C.-Monee)
48. 10 Asher Chandler	18:36.40 PR	Kankakee (Sr.)
49. 10 Vinnie Murphy	18:37.60	New Lenox (Providenc
50. 11 Ryan Seaton	18:53.50	Streator (Twp.)
51. 12 Ryan O'Donnell	18:54.20	Lemont (H.S.)
52. 10 Caleb Haut	19:09.00	Kankakee (Sr.)
53. 12 Noah Smith	19:09.90 SR	Morris
54. 12 Sam Yohnka	19:12.00 SR	Kankakee (Sr.)
55. 11 Oliver Ruvalcaba	19:18.80 PR	Ottawa (Twp.)
56. 9 Chase McConnell	19:20.50 PR	Morris
57. 12 Nick Adams	19:20.90 SR	Streator (Twp.)
58. 12 Gabriel Nye	19:27.00	Ottawa (Twp.)
59. 10 Samuel McCandless	19:31.40	Crete (C.-Monee)
60. 10 Ryan Shepherd	19:33.90 SR	Kankakee (Sr.)
61. 10 Baylor Case	19:37.40	Kankakee (Sr.)
62. 10 Chance Robart	19:45.60	Streator (Twp.)
63. 12 Connor Fundell	19:45.70 SR	LaSalle (L.-Peru)
64. 10 Nate Cecchi	19:47.80 PR	Plano
65. 9 Grant Smithmeyer	20:02.50	Ottawa (Twp.)
66. 9 Tyler Leach	20:02.90 PR	Ottawa (Twp.)
67. 11 Ryan Wells	20:07.40 PR	Plano
68. 10 Matthew Martin	20:21.00 PR	Plano
69. 12 Zach Boudreau	20:22.60	Kankakee (Sr.)
70. 9 Chase Lane	20:31.30	Streator (Twp.)

71. 12	Ty Scolari	20:35.50	PR LaSalle (L.-Peru)
72. 10	Justin Andrade	20:49.80	Kankakee (Sr.)
73. 9	Antoine Chapman	20:50.00	PR Crete (C.-Monee)
74. 9	Kaleb Nimke	20:59.30	Ottawa (Twp.)
75. 9	Isaiah Gaither	21:02.50	PR Chicago Heights (Mar
76. 11	Jammir Aloya	21:31.90	Lemont (H.S.)
77. 9	Christian Taylor	21:35.00	Crete (C.-Monee)
78. 10	Jonah Greenwood	21:42.60	Chicago Heights (Mar
79. 11	Lucas Fontanez	21:58.60	Plano
80. 9	Gabe Gutierrez	22:36.00	PR Streator (Twp.)
81. 10	Cian Reed	22:56.90	Streator (Twp.)
82. 11	TJ Lindstrom	23:00.20	Plano
83. 9	Joseph Patyk	24:23.90	LaSalle (L.-Peru)
84. 12	Reid Currier	26:29.60	LaSalle (L.-Peru)