



STATE BOUND SMILES

Pictured are the State-Qualifying Maple Leafs, the "Hype Squad" and Head Coach Todd Ehlert

LEAFS "RUN WILD" TO QUALIFY FOR IHSA STATE FINALS

On Saturday, October 29th, the Leafs traveled to Metamora's Black Partridge Park to participate in the IHSA Sectional Meet. On the line was a trip to next Saturday's IHSA STATE FINALS for the Top Seven Finishing Teams. In addition, the Top 10 individual finishers NOT on any of the Top 7 teams would also qualify. The field included teams from the following schools who all qualified for the Metamora Sectional by finishing in the Top 6 at their IHSA Regional: Chicago (Agriculture Science), Chicago (Brother Rice), Chicago (Marist), Chicago Heights (Marian), Dunlap, East Peoria, Geneseo, Lemont, Metamora, Midlothian (Bremen), Morris, Morton, New Lenox (Providence Catholic), Oak Forest, Oak Lawn (Richards), Peoria (Notre Dame), Rock Island, & Washington. The weather for the meet was near perfect. A daytime high of 65° with a race time temperature for the boys race of 54° with very light 5-8 mph winds. The course was dry and fast.

The Leafs entered the meet with a plethora of momentum on their side. The team has performed magnificently all season long and has just keep improving every week. Then, they "Hit the Gas Pedal" once they entered "Championship Meet Season" and have improved at an even greater rate. There are three internet high school resources that each predicted the meet's outcome. "Athletic.Net" uses season best times and correctly predicted six of the seven qualifying teams. They had the Leafs placing 5th. "Runner's Space / Illinois XC & Track and Field" ended up with 5 of the 7 teams. They had the Leafs picked 4th. Finally, "Illinois Mile Split" NAILED all seven of the qualifying teams for the boys race and had the Leafs picked for 3rd. On to the actual race.

The boys race started at 11:30 a.m. sharp. The Black Partridge Park Course has several long and winding trail sections which are challenging to move up on. Thus, Head Maple Leaf Boys Coach Todd Ehlert devised a race strategy that saw the team run a bit more aggressively in the first half mile. Going out too slow in the race would make it hard to move up, getting "buried" by the field. Going out too fast can also result in tragic results. The boys did a GREAT JOB of listening to their "Sensory Data" and the plan worked to perfection.

Leading the charge was "Super-Soph" Dylan Gehl who entered the race with a goal of earning a "Top 10 Finisher Medal". That wasn't an easy target to attain but attain it he did. Dylan had himself in the Top 15 for the entire race and gradually picked off a few more guys to get the job done. The "Big Horse" (His nickname from Head Maple Leaf Boys Track Coach Matthew Deets) raced to a 10th place finish that saw him establish a new GHS Sophomore Record for the course (2nd fastest Maple Leaf EVER). Dylan has been working extremely hard ever since he started his running career and he is certainly reaping the benefits of that impressive commitment. Dylan dropped his Black Partridge personal best by 5 seconds.

Next up was the Leafs' most impactful Team Leader, Tyler Gehl. Tyler is simply one of the best team leaders that I have EVER had the pleasure of "Watching in Action". He is the real deal and he leads both by example and by his kind and thoughtful words. He ran another inspiring race that saw him place 22nd overall. He was timed in 16:06 which took off 19 Seconds off his personal best for the course. His time was the 6th fastest for a Maple Leaf All-Time and the 4th Fastest Time for a GHS Senior. Things were looking good for the Maple Leafs' chances.

Up next was Junior Sam Mosbarger. Sam has been the first person to arrive at practice and the last to leave almost EVERY day. After Tyler Gehl, he is the team's next Leader. Not too shabby for a Junior who isn't one of the "Senior Captains". That is just the kind of person Sam is. He "oozes" Leadership. Sam kept his eyes on Tyler the whole race and sprinted home in 24th place overall. His time of 16:11 was a HUGE Personal Best for the course by 24 Seconds. His time was the 6th fastest for a GHS Runner EVER and the 5th Fastest for a GHS Junior. Oh, by the way... that put THREE Maple Leafs in the Top 24. Are you kidding me?! Simply Amazing Stuff.

The Great News just kept coming. Superstar Freshman Jaxson Sottos sprinted home next. He crossed the finish line 39th Place and "Stopped da Clock" at 16:32. He was only the second Freshman to finish and his time was good for the 12th fastest time EVER by a Geneseo runner. He also broke his OWN Freshman School Record for the course by 12 Seconds. He looked great the entire race and it hard to believe how much he has improved. I love the phrase "You Gotta Wanna". Jaxson WANTS TO A LOT!!!

Closing the scoring for the Maple Leafs was Sophomore Max Johnson who was also running the race of his life. Max sprinted across the finish line in 43rd place and was timed in 16:36. His time was the 14th fastest for a Maple Leaf on the Black Partridge Course EVER. He now ranks as the 6th fastest Sophomore on the Course. Max has come a LONG WAY in a short amount of time. His improvement from last year is also "Jaw-Dropping". Just to make sure that you're following this closely....that makes FIVE Maple Leafs in the First 43 Runners. There were a LOT of Geneseo Smiles "Sparkling" at this point. Max improved his personal best for the course by a HUGE 23 Seconds. SERIOUSLY???

Up next was Junior Cooper Schaad. Cooper told Head Coach Ehlert that his left hamstring was bothering him before the race. He got out great and led Max through the first half of the race. Then, as his "Hammy" began to tighten up he drifted "South" in the race. He held on to a Top 100 Finish. He was timed in 17:32 which was the 14th fastest time for a GHS Junior EVER on the Black Partridge Park Course. Way to be smart, Cooper and "Listen to Your Body". Hopefully, you'll be healed up by next Saturday's STATE MEET. Cooper beat most of the competing schools' 6th men across the finish line. Get ready to have some fun next weekend.

The final man on the day was Freshman Aidan Bries. Aidan was timed in 17:58 and placed him 110th. He beat most of the other teams' 7th men and has had an incredible season. His best time on the course occurred in the "Gene Jones" Metamora Running Red Cross Country Invitational earlier in the season. He was timed in 17:31 and ran in the F/S Race that saw the Leafs battle some of the Top F/S Teams in the State. Aidan's time for that day is the #9 time for a GHS Freshman EVER on the Course. Great Effort, Aidan. It is not possible to run a personal best each and every time out. Get ready to have some fun next weekend when you will run in the IHSA STATE FINALS.

When "The Dust had Settled", the Leafs found themselves in 3rd place. The Leafs simply ran a near perfect team race to score a minuscule 121 points in the Sectional Meet. Our team was projected to score 203 points and they scored 82 points LESS than that. They were a mere 17 points behind 2nd place Peoria Notre Dame. Six of the Seven men ran a season best time on the course. That is a HARD thing to thing to do. Congratulations to the team and to Head Maple Leaf Cross Country Coach Todd Ehlert. This is Coach Ehlert's 5th year as the Head Coach and what he and the team have accomplished is simply "Jaw-Dropping". The Leafs have now gone BACK-TO-BACK-TO-BACK in regards to qualifying for the IHSA STATE FINALS. 2020 didn't offer an official "State Meet" due to COVID-19 but they did host the Sectional Meet and the Leafs DID qualify for the State Meet. The dude has won at every level at which he has ever participated or coached. He is simply a WINNER. Geneseo is VERY LUCKY to have Coach Ehlert on board. Stay tuned. There are a LOT of additional chapters to be written. His career has become a "Dynasty". More great things are coming. In today's race 6 of the 7 Maple Leaf Runners were underclassmen. This program is getting ready to make some "Major Noise" at the STATE LEVEL. Keep Dreaming Big, Men and then backing those dreams up with the hard work and commitment that excellence demands. We are VERY PROUD of all you. Lastly, a special thank you to the "Hype Squad" that was there to support the team. Mission accomplished. As I rode my bike all over the park I saw members of the Hype Squad EVERYWHERE. Let's have more of the same next weekend when the team rolls into Peoria's Historic Detweiller Park for the STATE FINALS. Get ready to "Dance at Detweiller"



Date: 10/29/2022								
Meet: IHSA Metamora Sectional								
Site: Metamora's Black Partridge Park								
Conditions: Daytime high of 65° (Race temp 54°) 5-8 mph winds.								
Racing Distance: 2.94 miles								
Team Finish: Varsity Boys: 3rd Place (Qualifying for the State Meet)								
	TIME	ATHLETE	PL	R	1-M	2-M	3-M	AVE.
1	15:45	Dylan Gehl-10	10	V	5:06	5:31	5:07	5:14
2	16:06	Tyler Gehl-12	22	V	5:15	5:36	5:15	5:22
3	16:11	Sam Mosbarger-11	24	V	5:21	5:39	5:11	5:23
4	16:32	Jaxson Sottos-09	39	V	5:22	5:46	5:24	5:30
5	16:36	Max Johnson-10	43	V	5:33	5:44	5:19	5:32
6	17:32	Cooper Schaad-11	94	V	5:35	6:00	5:57	5:50
7	17:58	Aidan Bries-09	110	V	5:45	6:20	5:54	5:59
	14:54	Varsity Race Leader	1	V	4:53	5:09	4:52	4:56
		Geneseo Spread						
		1-5	0:51					
		1-7	2:13					

2022 IHSA Class 2A XC Sectional - Metamora #2 HS

COMPLETE 📅 Sat, Oct 29, 2022 📍 Black Partridge Park

Mens Results

3 Miles Varsity

Official Team Scores

1. Morton	68	17. 12 Joey Cave	15:58.12 Peoria (Notre Dame)
2. Peoria (Notre Dame)	104	18. 10 Trae Helwig	15:58.54 Metamora
3. Geneseo	121	19. 11 Joe Ehrhart	16:02.17 Peoria (Notre Dame)
4. Chicago (Brother Rice)	174	20. 9 Gabe Mahn	16:03.47 Rock Island (H.S.)
5. Rock Island (H.S.)	179	21. 12 Jeff Sary	16:04.85 Peoria (Notre Dame)
6. Dunlap	188	22. 12 Tyler Gehl	16:06.75 Geneseo
7. Washington	189	23. 11 Ian Regur	16:08.69 Rock Island (H.S.)
8. Oak Lawn (Richards)	192	24. 11 Sam Mosbarger	16:11.44 Geneseo
9. Metamora	205	25. 12 Josh Smith	16:12.26 Oak Lawn (Richards)
10. Chicago Heights (Marian)	240	26. 12 Carson Cowling	16:15.35 Metamora
11. East Peoria	276	27. 12 Braden Cox	16:16.32 Dunlap
12. Chicago (Marist)	277	28. 10 Matthew McKee	16:18.99 Chicago (Marist)
13. New Lenox (Providence Catholic)	277	29. 10 Charlie Borlin	16:21.75 Washington
14. Morris	309	30. 11 Jayden Putnam	16:23.41 Rock Island (H.S.)
15. Lemont (H.S.)	319	31. 10 Jacob Gladstone	16:23.65 Dunlap
16. Midlothian (Bremen)	411	32. 10 Aimen Bawadi	16:24.46 Oak Lawn (Richards)
17. Chicago (Agricultural Science)	486	33. 12 Xander Stoub	16:26.21 New Lenox (Providence C
18. Oak Forest	488	34. 12 Cody Dziallo	16:28.98 Chicago (Agricultural Scie
		35. 12 Reece Dusek	16:29.67 Dunlap
		36. 12 Erik Garcia	16:30.57 LaSalle (L.-Peru)
		37. 11 Brice Banning	16:31.49 Washington
		38. 12 Andrew Dau	16:32.11 New Lenox (Providence C
		39. 9 Jaxson Sottos	16:32.64 Geneseo
		40. 12 Maurycy Pedroza	16:34.21 Chicago (Washington)
		41. 12 Nate Theiler	16:35.19 Metamora
		42. 12 Aiden Mohr	16:35.68 Dunlap
		43. 10 Max Johnson	16:36.03 Geneseo
		44. 12 Charlie Walsh	16:36.93 Chicago (Brother Rice)
		45. 10 Jojo Poku	16:38.35 Crete (C.-Monee)
		46. 12 Adam Bromberek	16:38.79 Lemont (H.S.)
		47. 11 Andrew Peterson	16:39.81 Galesburg (H.S.)
		48. 10 Jason Gaines	16:39.94 Chicago (Marist)
		49. 11 John Garcia	16:40.34 Plano
		50. 11 Zach Zambrzycki	16:40.90 New Lenox (Providence C
		51. 11 Owen Magner	16:41.38 Peoria (Notre Dame)
		52. 9 Andrew Straley	16:42.61 Chicago (Brother Rice)
		53. 10 Matthew Tuley	16:42.87 Chicago Heights (Marian)
		54. 10 Jayden Downs	16:45.17 Chicago Heights (Marian)
		55. 9 Nikita Hovious	16:46.93 Morris
		56. 10 Wyatt Baker	16:47.18 Metamora
		57. 10 Christian Harris	16:48.56 Morton
		58. 12 Ryan Tuley	16:49.96 Chicago Heights (Marian)
		59. 11 Danny Miller	16:51.33 Peoria (Notre Dame)

60. 10 David Santiago	16:52.91 Midlothian (Bremen)	111. 9 Matthew Forbes	17:59.29 Chicago (Marist)
61. 9 Brodie Peterson	16:52.98 Morris	112. 9 Aaron Benitez	18:03.25 Tinley Park (H.S.)
62. 12 Dawson Stout	16:53.37 East Peoria	113. 10 Patrick Scurek	18:03.78 Oak Forest
63. 11 Asa Mahn	16:53.42 Rock Island (H.S.)	114. 12 Mustafa Muhammad	18:04.16 Chicago (Agricultural Sci
64. 12 Frankie Wagner	16:58.76 Chicago (Marist)	115. 10 Jayden Cruz	18:05.41 Oak Lawn (Richards)
65. 12 Luke Conard	16:58.77 Washington	116. 12 Joey Bowes	18:09.66 Chicago (Brother Rice)
66. 12 Liam Tipple	16:58.79 Ottawa (Twp.)	117. 9 Cal Palkon	18:13.97 New Lenox (Providence C
67. 12 Carson Elko	16:58.89 Lemont (H.S.)	118. 10 Vinnie Murphy	18:14.15 New Lenox (Providence C
68. 12 Liam Carey	17:00.39 Lemont (H.S.)	119. 12 Sammy Niyonkuru	18:15.16 Rock Island (H.S.)
69. 10 Lukas Heine	17:00.62 Rock Island (H.S.)	120. 9 Shawn Mallo	18:19.51 Oak Lawn (Richards)
70. 10 Jackson Manley	17:00.86 Bartonville (Limestone)	121. 12 Noah Smith	18:32.09 Morris
71. 12 Luke Dennison	17:00.87 Morton	122. 9 Nick Manso	18:34.33 Oak Forest
72. 12 Kyler Hartter	17:01.11 Morton	123. 10 Colin Kinser	18:34.89 East Peoria
73. 11 Zach Ligenfelter	17:01.44 Canton	124. 9 Sam Coe	18:36.41 Oak Forest
74. 12 Gavin Ruppel	17:03.03 Washington	125. 10 Luchi Eberhard	18:37.07 Morris
75. 12 Zach Alt	17:05.37 East Peoria	126. 9 William DeKoker	18:39.50 Chicago (Agricultural Scie
76. 10 Ethan Kopinski	17:06.03 Washington	127. 11 Alex Fako	18:45.43 Lemont (H.S.)
77. 10 Boden Nosalik	17:06.11 Peoria (Notre Dame)	128. 12 Clayton Bell	18:46.97 Bartonville (Limestone)
78. 11 Luke Williams	17:11.04 Dunlap	129. 12 Vinny Montero	18:52.04 Morris
79. 10 Eric Villalobos	17:18.17 Oak Lawn (Richards)	130. 10 Codi Barrera	18:58.57 Midlothian (Bremen)
80. 10 Jacob Dudek	17:18.95 Midlothian (Bremen)	131. 10 Christian Padgett	19:16.38 Oak Forest
81. 10 Brian Sheehan	17:19.00 Chicago (Brother Rice)	132. 12 Ryan Rubio	19:39.67 Oak Forest
82. 10 Angel Ramirez	17:20.58 Oak Lawn (Richards)	133. 9 Alan Duenas-Ramirez	19:53.45 Chicago (Agricultural Scie
83. 12 Matthew Gray	17:20.86 East Peoria	134. 10 Devin Blanchard	20:05.49 Midlothian (Bremen)
84. 11 Jack Davey	17:21.92 Lemont (H.S.)	135. 9 Isaiah Gaither	20:18.41 Chicago Heights (Marian)
85. 10 Danny Walczak	17:23.62 Chicago (Marist)	136. 10 Charlie Kaffer	20:19.07 Chicago (Agricultural Scie
86. 12 Ben Rikkenbach	17:24.52 East Peoria	137. 9 Kaleb Knox	20:32.10 Chicago (Agricultural Scie
87. 9 Owen Spiezio	17:26.14 Washington	138. 10 Jonah Greenwood	20:39.82 Chicago Heights (Marian)
88. 12 Andy Damon	17:26.39 Oak Forest	139. 10 Christian Barrera	20:49.92 Midlothian (Bremen)
89. 9 Nolan Landgrebe	17:27.95 Tinley Park (H.S.)	140. 12 Jose Diaz	21:11.13 Chicago (Agricultural Scie
90. 9 Blake Hennings	17:28.85 New Lenox (Providence		
91. 11 Sinuhe Meza	17:31.57 Midlothian (Bremen)		
92. 11 Charlie Serrahn	17:31.71 Dunlap		
93. 10 Tony Uchman	17:31.89 Chicago (Marist)		
94. 11 Cooper Schaad	17:32.69 Geneseo		
95. 12 Drew Mischler	17:33.82 Metamora		
96. 11 Luke Siebenaler	17:34.24 Dunlap		
97. 11 Danny Macis	17:35.20 Chicago (Brother Rice)		
98. 11 Colin Hieronimus	17:36.60 East Peoria		
99. 9 Wilbert Eppenger	17:38.11 Metamora		
100. 11 Ryan Krake	17:38.47 Metamora		
101. 10 Adam Mustafa	17:40.27 Lemont (H.S.)		
102. 12 Ryan O'Donnell	17:40.91 Lemont (H.S.)		
103. 11 Parker Griffin	17:44.10 Oak Forest		
104. 10 Merrick Stockwell	17:44.38 Rock Island (H.S.)		
105. 9 Kyle Szafranski	17:46.01 New Lenox (Providence C		
106. 10 Ethan Phillips	17:47.67 Chicago (Marist)		
107. 11 Miguel Lopez	17:54.58 Midlothian (Bremen)		
108. 12 George Partin	17:55.66 Chicago Heights (Marian)		
109. 9 Jonathon Zarbock	17:55.81 Morris		
110. 9 Aidan Bries	17:58.80 Geneseo		