

# Freshman collars crown

## PREP CROSS COUNTRY | WB6 MEET

### UT's Tapia-Macias charges to WB6 girls championship

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In her first-ever Western Big 6 Conference cross-country meet, United Township High School's Rubi Tapia-Macias made sure everyone learned her name.

The freshman set a personal-record time of 18:06.2 to finish as the WB6 girls individual cham-

pion Thursday at Empire Park. Tapia-Macias was also named the girls MVP.

Tapia-Macias was side-by-side with Quincy's Olivia Schuering for the final two laps, but a strong push in the final stretch gave the Panther the conference crown by 3.2 seconds.

"I told her before the race if you make a move, make it decisive,"

UT girls cross country coach Colin Young said. "I got a little nervous because it gets narrow (at the end of the race) and Rubi was weaving in and out lapping people, so I wasn't sure she was going to win, but she waited until the end which made it more dramatic.

"She never gave up. She just kept going."

Young said it was the first UT girl to win a WB6 title in over 40 years.

It was Tapia-Macias' fifth top 3 finish this season and third victory. She began her high school



**Tapia-Macias**

career at the Moline Invitational at Empire Park in August and ran a 20:26.4, but less than two months later the freshman runner cut two minutes and led the pack.

"It's really exciting and kind of shocking," Tapia-Macias said. "I saw the finish line and I just really wanted to win. I gave it my all at the end and pushed through."

With winds close to 20 miles per hour, the wind chill was in the 40s, which Tapia-Macias said helped her not get as tired. She was fourth after the first lap, but quickly caught up to Schuering on

the second lap and kept pace until pulling away at the end.

"We have a race plan and she executes it perfectly," Young said. "She races smart and knows not to jump out too fast. She also has that thing you can't really teach - the will to win and the want to give it her all. She's had a few races like this where she's used her kick at the end - like when she won at Detweiler (Park) - and it shows she has what it takes. I think she can be a state runner and even a

college runner if she wants to."

Despite edging Scheuring for the top spot, Quincy won the girls team title with 34 points. Sterling (74) was second followed by Geneseo (81), Rock Island (94), Moline (105), UT (142) and Galesburg (183).

Rock Island's Mackenzie Meirhaeghe was the next top local finisher, placing fourth with a time of 19:26. Moline's Brooke Medinger (7th), Alleman's Clarisa Ostrowski (8th) and Rock Island's Norah Wright (9th) also placed inside the top 10.

Quincy also won the team title in the boys race, totaling 66 points – two points ahead of Sterling. The Golden Warriors were led by individual champion Dale Johnson, who posted a 15:23.5 clocking. He was named WB6 MVP.

The top local finisher was Geneseo's Dylan Gehl. The sophomore finished 25 seconds behind the lead, but 12 seconds ahead of fourth with a time of 15:58.1. It was only the second time all season Gehl ran under 16 minutes, he said.

"Going into this race, I knew I really wanted it," Gehl said. "I have been thinking all week about how much work we have put into this season and how much conference means to us. I figured I would run my heart out and see the results I would end up with."

Geneseo placed third as a team with 78 points. Rock Island (104), Moline (116) and Alleman (127) followed in fourth, fifth and sixth.

The Maple Leafs' Tyler Gehl (14th) and Samuel Mosbarger (15th) also placed inside the top 20.

"While the medals are nice, it's really the team and running itself we love the most," Gehl said. "Having a nice race like that where you put it all on the line and finish with nothing left in the tank is what it is all about."

Moline's Hunter Toye (6th), Rock Island's Gabe Mahn (8th), Alleman's Danny Darrow (9th) and Rocky's Ian Regur (10th) were also near the top.

Regional races will be held Oct. 22. Alleman will travel to Rock Falls for the Class 1A regional, Geneseo and Rock Island will compete in the Class 2A Morris Regional, and Moline and United Township will race in the Class 3A Minooka Regional.



### **ALL-CONFERENCE RUNNERS**

Pictured are the Top 10 Runners from Right to Left. Geneseo Sophomore Dylan Gehl placed 3rd

### **LEAFS CLAIM WESTERN BIG 6 CONFERENCE BRONZE**

On Thursday, October 13th, the Leafs traveled to Hampton's Empire Park to participate in the Western Big Six Conference Cross Country Meet. UTHS hosted the meet this year. The field included teams from: Galesburg, Geneseo, Moline, Quincy, Rock Island, Rock Island (Alleman), Sterling, & UTHS. The weatherman challenged all of the runners with a cold and windy day. More to come on that. This is Geneseo's 4th year as a member of the Western Big Six Conference (Actually, 8 teams now since Geneseo and Sterling joined). The WB-6 has always run only two races at the conference meet (Girls followed by the Boys.) Every conference meet I have either competed in or coached in has run multiple levels (F/S, Open, Varsity). I always wondered why the WB-6 didn't do the same. However, now that we have participated in four conference meets I have come to LOVE the concept. In this meet, everyone is matched up head-to-head. Everyone has an equal chance to prove themselves. Anyway, that's my two cents worth on that topic.

Back to the racing. The Leafs entered the meet as a 14 point underdog to Sterling (according to Athletic.Net). The point projections were 1.) Sterling 58, 2.) Geneseo 72, 3.) Rock Island 79, 4.) Quincy 79, 5.) Moline 139, 6.) Rock Island (Alleman) 141, 7.) Galesburg 158, UTHS 165. The projections were all based on season best times on a three-mile course. Quincy doesn't's race on any "Fast" courses during the season so they were "Flying Under the Radar" a bit. The boys race started at 5:30 PM Sharp. Just before the race started, the wind "Kicked Up" to 20+ mph with gusts over 40 mph. In addition, the temperature dropped into the mid 40's resulting in a "Wind Chill" of the mid 30's. I guess our "Indian Summer has gone south". As I discuss the race I will also include where each team member ranks on the Empire Park Top 25's. This is only the 3rd time that Geneseo has ever raced the 3-mile course. This year's seniors were Freshman the first year we raced it. The meet is held annually but wasn't held in 2020 due to COVID-19. Due

to extreme heat last year's Moline Season Opener Invite was bumped back to the same date as the Annawan-Wethersfield Invitational (we attended the latter due to the signed contract). Thus, when I mention each man's rankings I will list their overall ranking . . . If they cracked the Top 25 List and then their Class Rank . . . ("AT" will mean "All-Time").

On to the race. Sophomore Dylan Gehl led the Leafs' charge with a solid 3rd place finish. He actually, took the lead around the mile after moving up from the 20's at the half mile mark. Dylan earned First Team Western Big Six All-Conference Honors (Top 10 Finishers.) Dylan set a new GHS Record (Sophomore Record too) for the course as he was timed in 15:58. Senior Tyler Gehl (14th Place in 16:36...good for 2nd on the GHS All-Time List and #1 on the GHS Senior List) and Junior Sam Mosbarger (15th Place in 16:37...good for 3rd AT and a new Junior GHS Record.) Each man earned 2nd Team All Western Big 6 All-Conference Honors. Closing the Leaf's Top 5 Scoring were Freshman Jaxson Sottos (21st Place in 16:55...good for 5th AT and a New GHS Freshman Record for the Course) and Junior Cooper Schaad (25th Place in 17:02...good for 6th AT and #3 on the Junior GHS List.) ALL FIVE of the Leafs Top five ran lifetime bests. What a great start to the meet. That fact almost sounds unbelievable to me considering just how challenging the weather conditions were. GREAT JOB, MEN!

Not far behind were Sophomore Max Johnson (28th Place in 17:24....good for 7th AT and #2 on the GHS Sophomore List), Freshman Aidan Bries (36th Place in 17:34....good for 8th AT and #21 on the GHS Freshman List), Freshman Kaden Elmer (55th Place in 18:03...good for 11th AT and #3 on the GHS Freshman List), Sophomore Rylan Lambert (55th Place in 18:05...good for 12 AT and #5 on the GHS List), Sophomore Christian Haney (66th Place in 18:29...good for 15th AT and #6 on the GHS Sophomore List), Senior Josiah King (68th Place in 18:36...good for 16th AT and #4 on the GHS Senior List), Junior Austin Hull (75th AT and #4 on the GHS Junior List), Freshman Grady Hull (85th Place in 19:20...good for 19 AT and #4 for a GHS Freshman), & Sophomore Jacob Taylor (89th Place in 19:36...good for 20th AT and #7 on the GHS Sophomore List.) Those are your Top 14 Maple Leafs. Those are the men who will advance into the IHSA Post-Season. We are required to list 14 athletes (no changes allowed) with 7 of those men being eligible to race in the Regional, Sectional, and State Final. Congratulations to all 14 men!!!

Rounding out the team were Senior Nathan Venneberg (93rd Place in 19:43....good for 21st AT and #6 on the Senior GHS List), Senior Sam McCleary (98th in 19:53...good for 23rd on the GHS List and #7 on the GHS Senior List), Sophomore Taber Swanson (104th Place in 20:17...good for #10 on the GHS Sophomore List), Senior Caleb Durian (105th Place in 20:20...good for #8 on the GHS Senior List, Sophomore Zach Meier (110th Place in 20:40...good for #12 on the GHS Sophomore List), Junior Ryley Rowold (111th Place in 20:53...good for #6 on the GHS Junior List), Freshman Calvin Bell (127th Place in 22:06...good for #6 on the GHS Freshman List), Sophomore Camden Baumgardner (128th Place in 22:14...good for #14 on the GHS Sophomore List), Junior Tyson Duda (129th Place good for 8th on the GHS Junior List), & Senior Will DeJohn (130th Place in 22:29... good for #11 on the GHS Senior List for the Course).

In case you weren't counting, 16 of the 24 Maple Leafs that competed on the day ran Lifetime Bests. That is AMAZING considering the challenging weather conditions. Each and every man competed with a top of "Passion and Purpose". Our team goal was to win the Conference Championship. In the end, that goal was just out of reach. A talented Sterling Squad lost a

"Heart Breaker" to Quincy 66-68 (low score wins). The Leafs were a close 3rd totaling 78 points. This year's Maple Leaf Squad would have WON the three previous WB-6 Conference Meets that we have participated in since joining the league. Sometimes, you just need to "Give Credit" where "Credit is Due". Ultimately, Quincy Won the meet. No one lost it. We threw "Everything including the kitchen sink" at them. What's next? First up will be "JV State" (Sterling 09/JV Invitational on Tuesday, October 18th.) Then, it will be time to "Load the Bus" and head towards the Morris Regional Meet on Saturday, October 22nd. where the first Six Teams will advance to the IHSA Sectional Meet. GHS is in a position to WIN the Regional Meet. After that, it will be time to travel to Metamora's Black Partridge Park to participate in the Sectional Meet on Saturday, October 29th with the Top 7 Teams advancing to the IHSA STATE MEET. THEN, we hope to see you "DANCING AT DETWEILLER" and competing in the STATE FINALS to be held on Saturday, November 5th. Every team member has the opportunity to help the team get there. Either by racing or by being a part of the "Hype Squad". Everyone can keep training. It's all up to you. "DREAM BIG" and back those dreams up with the dedication that excellence DEMANDS. TOGETHER WE CAN!!!!

<b>Date:</b> 10/13/2022								
<b>Meet:</b> Western Big 6 Conference Cross Country Meet								
<b>Site:</b> Hampton's Empire Park								
<b>Conditions:</b> Race time temp: 46° w/20 mph West Winds...GUSTING TO 40+								
<b>Racing Distance:</b> 3.00 miles								
<b>Team Finish:</b> 3rd								
	<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	15:58	Dylan Gehl-10	3	Var	5:06	5:32	5:20	5:19
2	16:36	Tyler Gehl-12	14	Var	5:09	5:49	5:38	5:32
3	16:37	Sam Mosbarger-11	15	Var	5:21	5:52	5:24	5:32
4	16:55	Jaxson Sottos-09	21	Var	5:22	5:55	5:38	5:38
5	17:02	Cooper Schaad-11	25	Var	5:30	5:53	5:39	5:40
6	17:24	Max Johnson-10	28	Var	5:31	6:04	5:49	5:48
7	17:34	Aidan Bries-09	36	Var	5:30	6:14	5:50	5:51
8	18:03	Kaden Elmer-09	55	Var	5:37	6:20	6:06	6:01
9	18:05	Rylan Lambert-10	59	Var	5:41	6:19	6:05	6:01
10	18:29	Christian Haney-10	66	Var	5:49	6:35	6:14	6:12
11	18:36	Josiah King-12	68	Var	5:59	6:32	6:05	6:12
12	18:50	Austin Hull-11	75	Var	6:00	6:43	6:07	6:16
13	19:20	Grady Hull-09	85	Var	6:14	6:50	6:16	6:26
14	19:36	Jacob Taylor-10	89	Var	6:15	7:08	6:13	6:32
15	19:43	Nathan Venneberg-12	93	Var	6:17	7:01	6:25	6:34
16	19:53	Sam McCleary-12	98	Var	6:26	6:57	6:30	6:37
17	20:17	Taber Swanson-10	104	Var	6:26	7:06	6:45	6:45
18	20:20	Caleb Durian-12	105	Var	6:33	7:04	6:43	6:46
19	20:40	Zach Meier-10	110	Var	6:37	7:19	6:44	6:53
20	20:53	Ryley Rowold-11	111	Var	6:37	7:19	6:57	6:57
21	22:06	Calvin Bell-09	127	Var	7:16	7:30	7:20	7:22
22	22:14	Cam Baumgardner-10	128	Var	7:15	7:40	7:19	7:24
23	22:23	Tyson Duda-11	129	Var	7:14	7:49	7:20	7:27
24	22:29	Will DeJohn-12	130	Var	7:12	7:52	7:25	7:29
	DNC	Mason Anderson-10	Illness					
	DNC	Connor Douglas-10	Injury					
	DNC	Connor Knowles-12	Illness					
	15:23	Varsity Leader	1	11	5:05	5:28	4:50	5:07
		<b>Geneseo Spread</b>						
		1-5	1:04					
		1-7	1:36					
		1-10	2:31					



# WESTERN BIG SIX CROSS COUNTRY CONFERENCE

Thursday, October 13, 2022



## Western Big Six Conference XC Meet HS

OFFICIAL 📅 Thu, Oct 13, 2022 📍 Empire Park

### 2 Mens Results

#### 3 Miles Varsity

##### Official Team Scores

1. Quincy (Sr.)	66
2. Sterling (H.S.)	68
3. Geneseo	78
4. Rock Island (H.S.)	104
5. Moline (H.S.)	116
6. Rock Island (Alleman)	127
7. Galesburg (H.S.)	176
8. East Moline (United)	186

1.	11 Dale Johnson	15:23.5	Sterling (H.S.)
2.	12 Eric McClelland	15:33.0	Quincy (Sr.)
3.	10 Dylan Gehl	15:58.1	Geneseo
4.	11 Dominic Cantarini	16:10.0	Galesburg (H.S.)
5.	11 Parker Janssen	16:16.5	Sterling (H.S.)
6.	11 Hunter Toye	16:17.8	Moline (H.S.)
7.	11 Thomas Hess	16:19.0	Quincy (Sr.)
8.	9 Gabe Mahn	16:22.2	Rock Island (H.S.)
9.	11 Danny Darrow	16:22.9	Rock Island (Alleman)
10.	11 Ian Regur	16:24.3	Rock Island (H.S.)
11.	12 Kade Rodgers	16:26.8	East Moline (United)
12.	12 Thomas Holcomb	16:29.3	Sterling (H.S.)
13.	11 Noah Britton	16:29.3	Rock Island (Alleman)
14.	12 Tyler Gehl	16:36.4	Geneseo
15.	11 Sam Mosbarger	16:37.7	Geneseo
16.	11 Jayden Putnam	16:44.0	Rock Island (H.S.)
17.	11 Jordan Britt	16:45.2	Sterling (H.S.)
18.	10 Cameron MacDonough	16:46.3	Quincy (Sr.)
19.	9 Gavin Slee	16:50.7	Quincy (Sr.)
20.	11 Ian Malaney	16:53.8	Quincy (Sr.)
21.	9 Jaxson Sottos	16:55.6	Geneseo
22.	12 Jude Mintle	16:56.1	Quincy (Sr.)
23.	11 Julian Dayton	16:57.5	Moline (H.S.)
24.	9 Isaiah Engle	16:59.7	Moline (H.S.)
25.	11 Cooper Schaad	17:02.9	Geneseo
26.	11 Asa Mahn	17:12.6	Rock Island (H.S.)
27.	10 Harry VanVooren	17:16.1	Moline (H.S.)
28.	10 Max Johnson	17:24.5	Geneseo

29.	11 Ben Milner	17:24.7	Rock Island (Alleman)
30.	10 Reed Steiner	17:26.4	Quincy (Sr.)
31.	11 Andrew Peterson	17:28.7	Galesburg (H.S.)
32.	10 Gabriel Esparza	17:29.1	East Moline (United)
33.	10 Parker Blakeslee	17:30.5	Sterling (H.S.)
34.	11 Nate Hein	17:31.5	Rock Island (Alleman)
35.	9 Luke Miller	17:33.5	Quincy (Sr.)
36.	9 Aidan Bries	17:34.6	Geneseo
37.	9 Lane Steinkamp	17:35.2	Quincy (Sr.)
38.	11 Sayid Sirojev	17:35.5	Moline (H.S.)
39.	10 Aalin Schmidt	17:37.1	Sterling (H.S.)
40.	12 Conner Pham	17:37.9	Sterling (H.S.)
41.	11 Brecken Peterson	17:39.6	Sterling (H.S.)
42.	12 Vincent Stout	17:44.3	Moline (H.S.)
43.	12 Colby Allen	17:45.9	Quincy (Sr.)
44.	12 Max Martinez	17:48.2	Galesburg (H.S.)
45.	12 Connor Pauley	17:48.4	Moline (H.S.)
46.	10 Tatum Rogers	17:51.3	Moline (H.S.)
47.	10 Connor Trapkus	17:54.0	Moline (H.S.)
48.	9 Michael Noack	17:54.4	Rock Island (Alleman)
49.	9 Charles Johnson	17:55.2	Sterling (H.S.)
50.	11 Jim Arul	17:56.2	Moline (H.S.)
51.	9 Noah Verscha	17:56.5	Rock Island (Alleman)
52.	10 Lukas Heine	17:57.5	Rock Island (H.S.)
53.	10 Justin Kappner	17:59.6	Quincy (Sr.)
54.	9 Henry Mass	18:00.7	Rock Island (H.S.)
55.	9 Kaden Elmer	18:03.5	Geneseo
56.	9 Cadyn Upton	18:04.3	East Moline (United)
57.	9 Peyton Anders	18:04.7	Quincy (Sr.)
58.	12 Sammy Niyonkuru	18:05.3	Rock Island (H.S.)
59.	10 Rylan Lambert	18:05.8	Geneseo
60.	10 Blaine Soltwedel	18:15.0	Quincy (Sr.)
61.	12 Colin Manion	18:17.1	East Moline (United)
62.	10 Steffen Adams	18:20.5	East Moline (United)
63.	9 Lucas Nelson	18:21.1	Moline (H.S.)
64.	10 Merrick Stockwell	18:25.5	Rock Island (H.S.)
65.	11 Luka Lithila	18:29.6	Quincy (Sr.)
66.	10 Christian Haney	18:29.8	Geneseo
67.	10 Lucas Eaton	18:34.0	Moline (H.S.)
68.	12 Josiah King	18:36.6	Geneseo
69.	12 Dominic Miklebost	18:39.4	Moline (H.S.)
70.	11 Owen Anderson	18:39.4	Sterling (H.S.)

71. 12 Primo Moreno	18:42.3 Galesburg (H.S.)	121. 10 Gavin Shackleton	21:48.8 Quincy (Sr.)
72. 10 Mason Cole	18:47.7 Galesburg (H.S.)	122. 12 Jared Hernandez	21:53.3 Rock Island (Alleman)
73. 12 Billy Sanders	18:47.8 East Moline (United)	123. 10 Corby Cunningham	21:57.0 Quincy (Sr.)
74. 9 Brandon Williams	18:48.8 Moline (H.S.)	124. 10 Abner Garcia	22:00.4 Moline (H.S.)
75. 11 Austin Hull	18:50.4 Geneseo	125. 11 Davarius Hook	22:01.8 East Moline (United)
76. 10 Aaron Clark	18:52.0 Galesburg (H.S.)	126. 11 Sabastian Velez	22:06.0 East Moline (United)
77. 10 Braden Rees	18:59.7 Galesburg (H.S.)	127. 9 Calvin Bell	22:06.2 Geneseo
78. 11 Kyler Webber	19:07.2 East Moline (United)	128. 10 Camden Baumgardner	22:14.8 Geneseo
79. 9 Gavin Connors	19:08.2 Moline (H.S.)	129. 11 Tyson Duda	22:23.6 Geneseo
80. 9 Lucas McCall	19:08.2 Rock Island (H.S.)	130. 12 Will Dejohn	22:29.0 Geneseo
81. 12 Alen Gowan	19:09.6 East Moline (United)	131. 11 Carter Scott	24:33.9 East Moline (United)
82. 12 Michael Patrick	19:10.8 Galesburg (H.S.)	132. 9 Adan Sanchez	25:02.8 East Moline (United)
83. 11 Achraf Baba Traore	19:17.7 East Moline (United)	133. 10 Colin Vermeulen	25:04.4 East Moline (United)
84. 11 Aiden Leigh	19:20.1 Quincy (Sr.)	134. 9 Parker Tubbs	26:04.3 Moline (H.S.)
85. 9 Grady Hull	19:20.9 Geneseo	135. 9 Xander Knowles	26:12.9 Sterling (H.S.)
86. 11 Nolan Wandrey	19:22.7 Moline (H.S.)		
87. 12 Adnann Alabani	19:34.5 East Moline (United)		
88. 10 Finnegan Martin	19:35.3 Galesburg (H.S.)		
89. 10 Jacob Taylor	19:36.7 Geneseo		
90. 10 Mason Alexandre	19:36.7 Quincy (Sr.)		
91. 9 Jalen Abbott	19:37.5 Galesburg (H.S.)		
92. 11 Landon Hoener	19:39.3 Quincy (Sr.)		
93. 12 Nathan Venneberg	19:43.8 Geneseo		
94. 9 Byron Grobe	19:46.3 Sterling (H.S.)		
95. 9 Connor Epley	19:46.7 Quincy (Sr.)		
96. 10 Jason Percy	19:47.0 Quincy (Sr.)		
97. 9 Caden Jenulius	19:50.4 Rock Island (Alleman)		
98. 12 Samuel McCleary	19:53.3 Geneseo		
99. 11 Arata Ketner	19:57.8 Moline (H.S.)		
100. 9 Zachary Clark	20:03.5 Moline (H.S.)		
101. 10 Brayden Herrick	20:08.3 East Moline (United)		
102. 9 Gavin Staats	20:08.5 Sterling (H.S.)		
103. 10 Romeo Rosas	20:14.4 Rock Island (Alleman)		
104. 10 Taber Swanson	20:17.0 Geneseo		
105. 12 Caleb Durian	20:20.1 Geneseo		
106. 11 Marvin Plant	20:20.3 Moline (H.S.)		
107. 10 Sanaj Kapur	20:32.8 Moline (H.S.)		
108. 11 Grant McBride	20:33.0 Moline (H.S.)		
109. 9 Silas Descalzo	20:40.3 Galesburg (H.S.)		
110. 10 Zach Meier	20:40.3 Geneseo		
111. 11 Ryley Rowold	20:53.6 Geneseo		
112. 10 Nagy Abdalla	20:58.9 East Moline (United)		
113. 9 Malik Gbadamassi	21:05.9 East Moline (United)		
114. 9 Cael Lyons	21:06.5 Sterling (H.S.)		
115. 10 Caidan Dougherty	21:14.3 Galesburg (H.S.)		
116. 9 Evan Merema	21:17.4 Sterling (H.S.)		
117. 9 Malachi Schwartz	21:26.1 Moline (H.S.)		
118. 9 Alek Meier	21:35.4 Moline (H.S.)		
119. 10 Bennet Smith	21:37.1 Galesburg (H.S.)		
120. 12 Braeden Baker	21:43.5 Rock Island (H.S.)		