

LEAFS DEDICATE WB-6 CONFERENCE MEET TO COACH VANDENBERG

One of Coach Ehlert's high school coaches recently passed away. Coach Vandenberg served as the head Football coach and assistant Track & Field coach at Kekuk High School. He was the head Football coach for over 20 years before stepping down due to heart issues after Coach Ehlert's 8th grade year. He came back as an assistant coach for his senior year. He also served as an assistant coach in Track & Field all four of Coach Ehlert's high school career. He had a profound impact on a young Todd Ehlert. He once told young Todd, "You remind me of JIM Ryan." (look it up in Goggle). Coach was a freshman when Coach Vandenberg told him that. Young Todd didn't even know who Jim Ryan was either. That changed. Coach Ehlert asked the team to run the conference meet in Coach Vandenberg Honor.

Lewis Vandenberg Obituary

Lewis James "Jim" Vandenberg, passed away on Oct. 6, 2023, at the age of 84, in Keokuk, Iowa. He was born Nov 5, 1938, in Burlington, Iowa.

Jim is survived by his wife of 63 years, Jerre Vandenberg. He is also survived by his two children, Tammy Craine (David) of Keokuk and Dr. Toby Vandenberg of Keokuk. Tammy and David have two children, Chelsey Mickelson (husband Jordan) of Argyle, Iowa, with children Baylor and Mila, and Tim Craine (wife Torre) with daughter Ava of Quincy, Illinois. Dr. Toby Vandenberg has five children, James Vandenberg (wife Bree) with their children Poppy and Colt of Coralville, Iowa, Olivia Alba (husband Michael) with their children Liam and Lilly of Bend, Oregon, Elliott Vandenberg (wife Mollie) with their children Huck and Granger of Farmington, Iowa, Gabe Vandenberg (wife Ali) with their son Grayson of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Isabel Vandenberg a college student at Mizzou, in Columbia, Missouri. Jim's surviving sister, Dr. Cathy McPhail, resides in Michigan with her husband Ron.

Completing his primary education in Burlington, and his high school education in Batesville, Arkansas, Jim was an all-state quarterback and team captain of his high school football team, leading them to an undefeated season and number one ranking in the state of Arkansas.

Later, Jim received a full scholarship to Southern Arkansas University where he started on both offense as a running back, and defense as a linebacker. He furthered his education at Southern Arkansas University earning an undergraduate degree followed later by a master's degree.

He began his coaching career in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and later taught/coached in Burlington and Keokuk. Even though retiring after 38 years, Jim continued to volunteer to support his community.

Jim was an active member of First Christian Church in Keokuk, where he served as an elder.

A memorial service will be held in honor of Jim at First Christian Church in Keokuk. Family and friends are invited to visit with the family beginning at 10:30 am, with the service to follow at noon on Saturday, Oct. 14.

The service will be streamed live on the First Christian Church of Keokuk's website and Facebook page, and will be posted on YouTube shortly afterwards.

While flowers can be accepted at the church prior to the service, a memorial fund is being established in Jim's name with details to be posted at the service and on Facebook.

Jim Vandenberg will always be remembered for his dedication to education and coaching, and his devotion to his family. Jim loved people and he will be deeply missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Published by Daily Gate from Oct. 10 to Oct. 11, 2023.



LEAFS CLAIM WB-6 CONFERENCE GOLD

Pictured are the team members of the first place Geneseo Maple Leaf XC Team

LEAFS WIN TITLE FOR COACH VANDENBERG

On Thursday, October 12th, the Leafs traveled to Rock Island's Saukie Golf Course to participate in the Western BIG Six Cross Country Conference Meet. The meet was hosted by Rock Island Alleman High School. The field included teams from: Galesburg, Geneseo, Moline, Quincy, Rock Island, Rock Island (Alleman), Sterling, & United Township. The WB-6 has always run only two races (Girls followed by the Boys.) No lower level competition. Before we joined the conference 5 years ago, I always thought this was a mistake. In the previous conferences that Geneseo has been a member of, there were THREE levels of competition. F/S (Top 7), Varsity (Top 7), and Open (everyone else). After having been in the WB-6 for multiple years, I have come to LOVE this format. It is one of the few times that the whole team races together. It also provided the perfect "Head-to-Head" competition before the "IHSA Post Season" begins.

First Team "All-Conference" Honors were awarded to the Top 10 Finishers. They also received medals. 11th through 20th earned Second Team "All-Conference" Honors. The Championship Team was also awarded team "Hardware". The weatherman provided a true Cross Country purist kind of day. It was windy (14 mph east winds with gusts over 20 mph) and a course that received over 2 inches of rain during the previous day and morning. It was MUDDY with a LOT of puddles all over the soggy course. I LOVED IT. Thus, even though the races were run on a golf course (usually smoking fast), the course ran slow.

The boys race started at 4:45 p.m. Sharp. According to Athletic.Net's meet simulator, based on season best times, Sterling came into the meet as a 7 point favorite over the Leafs. Quincy was sitting in 3rd a bit back of Geneseo but still considered dangerous. They don't run on any fast

courses during the season (other than trip to Detweiller early in the season). The fact that they had won the last two WB-6 Titles loomed big. The following is a summary of each man's race:

- Junior Dylan Gehl continued his phenomenal season by placing second to Sterling's Dale Johnson (who placed 2nd in last year's IHSA State Finals). Dale is a Senior. Dylan was timed in 15:36. He ran a very intelligent race, moving up as the race progressed. He was "seeded 2nd" and that is where he placed. His 2nd place finish is the highest GHS finish in GHS's 5 year membership in the Western Big Six Conference. He appears ready to make a big push as the team moves into the IHSA Post Season. All the best "Big Horse".
- Next up for the Leafs was Senior Sam Mosbarger who was predicted to place 6th in the race. Sam was timed in 15:52. Sam has been "On a roll" all season long and "Rocked" another tremendous race. Sam sprinted home in 3rd place, passing a couple runners in the last mile. Those ended up being HUGE points....more on that later. Sam joined Dylan earning First Team WB-6 All-Conference Honors. Way to go, Sam. Your Leadership is omnipotent. All the best in the coming weeks. "Detweiller Fever....Catch It".
- Sophomore Jaxson Sottos ("da X-Man" sprinted home in 8th place. His time was 16:34. Late in the race it had become obvious that the team battle was between the Leafs and Sterling. Jaxson held off a hard close trio of Sterling Golden Warriors. Jaxson earned "All-Conference" Honors. The Maple Leafs' reining "Bell Ringer" helped the Leafs put 3 runners into the finish chute before Sterling's 2nd man. That was HUGE....once again...more on that later. Great racing, Jaxson. Keep it rolling as the Leafs move into the IHSA Post Season. Your improvement from last season is "Jaw-Dropping". All the best. Keep "Dreaming Big".
- GHS Junior Max Johnson ("da Big Johaanson) sprinted across the finish line in 16th place to earn 2nd Team "All-Conference" Honors. His time was 17:06. Max was in the middle of the battle that ended up deciding the meet. He used his 2-flat 800 meter speed to kick down several runners in the final 100 meters of the race. The Leafs needed each and every point he shaved off the team's score. Max has run as the Leafs' 4th man for most of the season. Keep up the great racing, Max. The IHSA Post-Season has begun. Regional, Sectional, State....that is the team's goal. All the best. Also, don't forget to enjoy "da Ride". Together We Can!!!
- Sprinting home as the Maple Leafs' 5th Runner was Freshman Jack Kreiss who placed 17th in 17:06. That was a lifetime best for him. Jack also earned 2nd team "All-Conference" honors. Jack kicked down several runners along with Max Johnson which helped the team erase Sterling's lead at two miles. Jack is just a youngster and he is still "learning" how to train and race. He has a HUGE heart and is a fierce competitor. Keep paying your dues. The price of athletic excellence doesn't come easily. Passion and Purpose mixed in with a LOT of preparation are the key. All the best in the coming weeks. Regional, Sectional, State. Keep it Rolling.
- Joining his teammates on the WB-6 2nd Team "All-Conference" Team was Sophomore Aidan Bries who placed 20th overall and was timed in 17:08. Aidan was also in the middle of the heated action and helped the Leafs overcome a highly motivated Sterling team. Aidan's time was a season best. He has done a tremendous job of dealing with a nasty case of Osgood-Schlatter (growth spurt related and PAINFUL). Aidan has continued to improve all

season long after a summer that saw him unable to train due to extreme knee pain. Way to Go, Aidan. We are VERY proud of you. Keep "Dreaming Big" and then backing those dreams up with the dedication and commitment that excellence demands.

- Rookie Geneseo Sophomore Graysen Carlson was the next Maple Leaf to sprint across the finish line. Graysen placed 26th overall and was Geneseo's 7th man on the day. Graysen was an unexpected addition to the Maple Leafs' roster. His impact has been profound and he has the Coaching Staff "drooling" about his potential improvement during the rest of this season and then beyond. Grayson was timed in 17:33 on the sloppy course and really "Closed" the final 800 meters. Great Job, Graysen. Your commitment to your team is impressive. Keep up the GREAT job. All the best in your upcoming races.
- Sophomore Kaden Elmer has been one of the Leafs Top 5 Runners for most of the season. He ended up placing 33rd overall and was timed in 17:51. Something just didn't look right with Kaden during his race. He mom eventually shared that his hips were bothering him. After a trip to Dr. Dan Lommell we knew that he has iliotibial band syndrome. It is a common overuse injury amongst endurance athletes. Hopefully, with some treatment that will include stretching, icing, anti-inflammatory agents, etc.....he will be back in the line-up soon. We have our fingers crossed. Kaden is a "Critical" man for the team. Your commitment to your team is impressive. You are a leader via example. All the best!!!
- A season best of 18:18 was turned in by Junior Rylan Lambert. "Little Lambo" placed 46th overall in the race and was the Maple Leafs' 9th man. Great stuff, Rylan. Rylan has really gone "Al In" and has been "Running Wild" for several weeks now. He has "Cemented" a Top 14 Maple Leaf Position for the IHSA Post-Season. He will also be helping to lead the charge of Geneseo's Important "Hype Squad". All the best in the Sterling JV Inv. (JV State). Race for a Top 10 Medal and maybe even the overall win. Rylan possesses a LOT of both Passion and Purpose. Those are critical "Tools" to own. Get Ready to FLY!
- Senior Austin Hull sprinted home in 50th place and barely missed his season best in "da muck". Austin was timed in 18:28 and has done a great job of embracing the role of "Senior Leader". He has "Locked" a IHSA Top 14 spot. Before that you will be racing for Gold at the Sterling JV Inv. on Tuesday, October 17th. Then, you will be helping to lead the GHS "Hype Squad" during the Regional, Sectional, and State Meets. You and "da Boys" can truly be "Difference Makers". Then hammer Track season. You are a very special young man and we are VERY proud of you. Keep leading each and every day..
- Sophomore "Rookie" Matthew Darnall was the next Maple Leaf to sprint across the finish line. He placed 58th overall and was timed in 19:01 which was a "Lifetime Best". "Matty" has overcome an ankle injury and he possesses a plethora of potential. He was the Leafs' 11th man on the day. Get ready to hammer out the last race of your season at the Sterling JV Invitational on Tuesday, October 17th. Medals will be awarded to the Top 10 and that is the goal. We are sure glad that you decided to join the Cross Country team. You are the fastest man in "da Hood"....(he lives in my neighborhood). HYPE SQUAD!!!
- Jacob Taylor nailed another personal best for himself. The Junior was timed in 19:03 and placed 60th overall in the race. "Yaykob" was the 12th Maple Leaf and also "Cemented" a Top 14 IHSA Post-Season position on the team (IHSA roster is limited to 14 runners...names 14 and run).) Jacob raced well and battled every step of race. It is going to be a lot of fun watching him transition into the role of Senior Leader next fall. Before then....NAIL

the Sterling JV Inv. (Top 10 Medal???) and then get ready to help your team via the "Hype Squad." Then, get in some mileage to you ready for Track season. LEADERSHIP!!!

- Junior Christian Haney sprinted "Home" in 13th place and was timed in 19:17. Christian fought through a tough second mile to close FAST. He was passing people like crazy in that last mile. All the best in the Sterling JV Invite on Tuesday, October 17th. Try and nail a Top 10 Finisher Medal. Then, transition into one of the leaders of the GHS "Hype Squad". We are hoping to see you and your teammates EVERYWHERE on the courses at Regional, Sectional, and State. Then hammer t\Track season and then get ready to be a Senior Leader next fall. You are a very special young man. Keep the faith.
- Junior Mason Anderson continued his great season. He has been "On Fire" the second half of the season and rolled to another Lifetime Best in the WB-6 Conference Meet. "da Mechanic" was timed in 19:43 and placed 78th overall. You too will be lining up for the Sterling JV Invite on Tuesday, October 17th with the goal of earning a Top 10 Finisher Medal. All the best, Mason. Then get ready to be a "Difference Maker" via the role of "Hype Squad" at the Regional, Sectional, and State Meets. Then hammer Track and get ready to become a Senior Leader next Fall. We have complete faith in you and your commitment to your team.
- Micah Johnson has come a long way in the last year. He has had a stong Freshman Harrier Season. Micah placed 85th in the Varsity Race and was timed in 20:08. Get ready to go after "da Win" at Sterling in the Freshman Race. Medals go to the Top 5. Then, you will join your teammates in the role of the GHS "Hype Squad". The goal will be to help your Varsity Top 7 teammates EXCEL in the Regional, Sectional, and State Meets. After that hammer Track season and then get ready to be a Sophomore on next year's harrier team that will be trying to go Back-to-Back at the WB-6 plus MUCH more. Keep Dreaming Big "Little Yohanson".
- Freshman Connor Runty "Nailed" another season best time during the WB-6 Conference Meet. Connor's new Lifetime Best time was 20:23 as he placed 90 Overall in the Varsity Race. Next up will be your final race of the season. You will run in the Freshman Race on Tuesday, October 17th. Medals will be awarded to the Top 5 Finishers. That is the goal....another individual medal. Then, get ready to help cheer your Varsity Top 7 Teammates on via the GHS "Hype Squad". The team will race in the IHSA Regional, Sectional, and State Meets. Try and be EVERYWHERE on the courses to help your teammates through the "Tough Spots". Then, hammer Track season and then get ready to be a Sophomore next Fall. Dream BIG!
- Junior Shane Bagby also ran another Lifetime Best during the WB-6 Conference Cross Country Meet. Shane has had a strong "Rookie" Harrier season. He has gotten stronger all season long and possesses a great attitude to go with it. He also does a great job of working hard on the days he is asked to run hard. All the best in Sterling's JV Invite on Tuesday, October 17th. Then get ready to become a key member of the GHS "Hype Squad" whose mission is to help motivate the Varsity Top 7 Runners during the IHSA Regional, Sectional, and State Meets. We are very proud of you and hope that you will be back with the team next fall in the role of a Senior Leader. We hope that you run Track too.
- Freshman Alex Aleman ("da Pioneer" also raced to a Lifetime Best time. He was "Clocked" is 20:40 and placed 100th in the Varsity Race. Alex has done a great job of overcoming a

nagging early season injury. He has really been on a roll the 2nd half of the season. His final race of the 2023 Harrier Season will be on Tuesday, October 17th in the Sterling 09/JV Invitational. Alex will race in the Freshman Division (Medals to the Top 5). Then he will become a key member of the GHS "Hype Squad" that will help inspire the Varsity Top 7 during the IHSA Regional, Sectional, and State Meets. We hope that you will then run Track before you get ready for your sophomore harrier season. All the best.

- Geneseo's "Pizza Boy" finished next for the Leafs. Junior Connor Douglas sprinted across the finish line in 109th place and was timed in a lifetime best of 21:36. He has had a lot of conflicts this season so it was awesome to watch him "Fly" to a personal best time in "da muck" at Saukie Golf Course. Connor will run his final race of the season on Tuesday, October 17th in Sterling. He will run the JV Race and chase his lifetime best one final time this season. Then, he will help to lead the GHS "Hype Squad" during the IHSA Regional, Sectional, and State Meets. After, that, we hope that track is in your plans before you become a 2024 Cross Country Senior Leader. Dream Big and Lead Via Example.
- Senior Leader Ryley Rowold placed 110th in his final WB-6 Conference Meet. He was timed in a Lifetime Best of 21:55. "da Sugar Maple Boy" has been on a roll lately. He will carry that momentum into his final high school harrier race on Tuesday, October 17th when he competes in the Sterling JV Invitational. After that.....get ready to keep leading the team via the GHS "Hype Squad". Try and be EVERYWHERE during the IHSA Regional, Sectional, and State Meets. Every guy that is at those meets has the potential to be a "Difference Maker". Thank you for all you have given this team. We hope to see you in Track. We wish all nothing but the best. You are a VERY special dude.
- Freshman Jacob Berry sprinted home next for the Maple Leafs. Jacob placed 113th overall in the Varsity Race and was timed in 22:26 which was just off his lifetime best. Jacob will "Toe da Line" one more time for the Maple Leafs this season. That racing opportunity is on Tuesday, October 17th and is at the Sterling 09/JV Invitational. The meet is designed for athletes who are NOT in their teams Top 7. We love the meet and think it's a great way to end the season for most of the team. After that Jacob will become a "Hype Squad" man. Hopefully, Track will be in his plans followed by a return to the Maple Leaf Cross Country team in the fall of 2024. Keep up the hard work and watch yourself improve. Believe.
- Senior Leader Tyson Duda finished next for the Maple Leafs. Tyson sprinted across the finish line in 22:52 and placed 115th in the Varsity Race. Tyson has done a GREAT job of helping to lead the team all season long. His final high school Cross Country race will occur on Tuesday, October 17th in the Sterling JV Invitational. After that it will be time to become one of the leaders of the GHS "Hype Squad". The goal is to help "Inspire" the Varsity Top 7 in the IHSA Regional, Sectional, and State Meets. Tyson is a great kid and we are going to miss him. We hope that he will always be a runner. It is a great way to stay in shape and also relieve stress. God Bless.
- Geneseo Sophomore Rafa Uguina sprinted in 22:54 which established a new Lifetime Best for him. Way to go, "Rafa"! That wasn't an easy thing to accomplish in "da Muck". Up next will be his final Harrier race as a Geneseo High School Runner. That race will occur on Tuesday, October 17th at the Sterling 09/JV Invitational. After that, he will transition into the role of GHS "Hype Squad" member. The goal will be to help encourage the Varsity Top 7 to "FLY" at the IHSA Regional, Sectional, and State Meets. We are sure glad that

Rafa decided to join the GHS Cross Country Team. He is a VERY special dude. All the best down the road, Rafa. Think about running Track in the spring.

- Junior Camden Baumgardner sprinted across the finish line in a lifetime best time of 23:53. Sub 8 minute mile pace in "da MUD". Great Race. Camden placed 123rd overall in the Varsity Race. He will conclude his Junior Harrier season on Tuesday, October, 17th in Sterling's J.V. Invite. After that, we hope that he will help out the GHS "Hype Squad" as they travel with the team to the IHSA Regional, Sectional, and State Meets. Their goal? To help the team run FASTER. We hope that they will be EVERYWHERE on the course and become "Difference Makers". After that it will be time to become a Senior Leader during the 2024 Cross Country Season. All the best, Cam. Leadership!!!

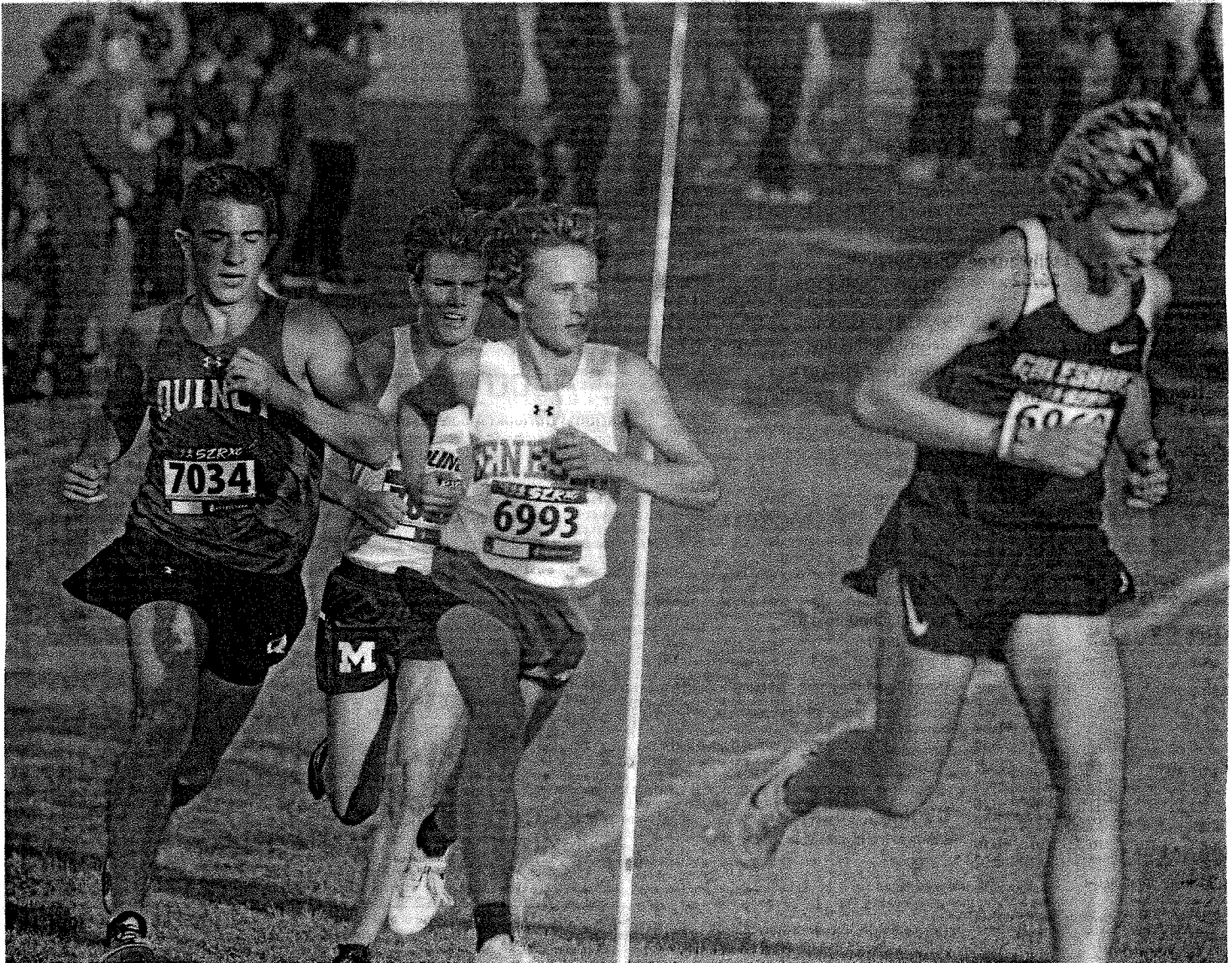
Well, I made it. I got rolling and typed a paragraph about each man who raced. We are very proud of every single man. This is a special team that just became a CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM. This is Head Coach Todd Ehlert's sixth year as the Head GHS Boys XC Coach. It is also Geneseo's 5th year as a member of the Western Big Six Conference. Geneseo has now won 2 titles and will have a "Golden" opportunity to increase that number in the coming years. The Leafs paced 3rd in 2019. Then they claimed the title in 2020 (the meet was held at Saukie Golf Course.) Then the Leafs were a close 2nd in 2021. Last season the team placed a close 3rd. Five years in the Western Big 6 Conference (8 Teams) and no finish worse than 3rd. Great Job Coach Ehlert. Also, "Rookie" Assistant Coach Jeff Brown has never NOT coached a Conference Championship Team. He is One for One.

All the best in the coming weeks, Men. Attack your races with intelligent race plans and execution. We wish each of you the best. It has been an honor to serve as one of your coaches. Also, when you hear and see members of the Geneseo High School "Hype Squad" on the course let that inspire you. Try to be "sucking on plastic" in regard to your "Milk Shake" with about 400 meters left in your race. And then.....switch gears and start your kick. God Bless Each of You. "Carpe Diem".

SPORTS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023 | qconline.com | SECTION B

PREP CROSS COUNTRY | WESTERN BIG 6 CHAMPIONSHIP



KATELYN METZGER PHOTOS

From left, Quincy's Thomas Hess, Moline's Hunter Toye, Geneseo's Dylan Gehl, and Galesburg's Dominic Cantarini run Thursday at the Western Big 6 Conference Cross Country Championship at Saukie Golf Course in Rock Island.

Geneseo sweeps conference titles

The Maple Leafs place 3 boys and 2 girls in the top 10

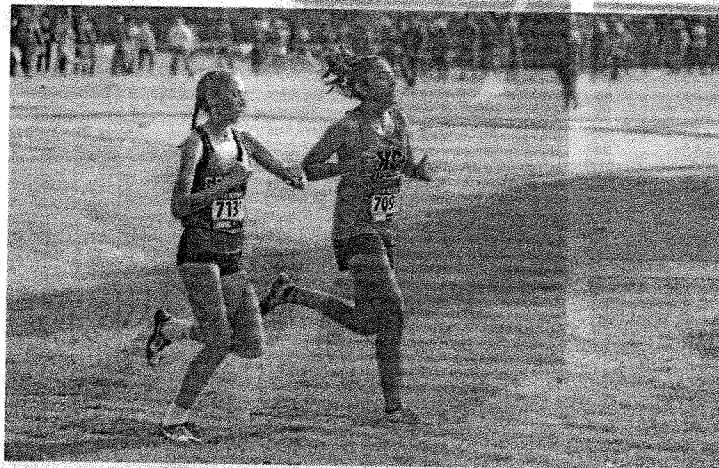
SAMEER MALLA
smalla@qctimes.com

Blustery conditions on the open, flat surfaces at the Saukie Golf Course led to a perfect setting for the Geneseo Maple Leafs, as both the boys and girls cross country teams finished atop the 2023 WB6 Championships on Thursday late afternoon.

"It's great to have both programs finish first together," Geneseo boys coach Todd Ehlert said.

Geneseo junior Dylan Gehl felt that the support from his fellow runners, as well as the picturesque running environment, had a major impact on the team's first place title — its first since 2020.

"A lot of my teammates stepped up because they knew



Geneseo's Brooklyn Smith and United Township's Rubi Tapia-Macias run neck neck during the Western Big 6 Conference Cross Country Championship on Thursday at the Saukie Golf Course in Rock Island.

the conditions were right and the pressure was there," Gehl said.

Geneseo senior Sam Mosbarger was familiar with the race layout, as he was a fresh-

man when the Maple Leafs last won the WB6 title on the same course.

"That year we also won conference, so it was really import-

ant for us coming into this meet, to be able to reciprocate that we know what we could do on this course because we did it four years ago," Mosbarger said.

The boys totaled a score of 46, five spots better than heavily favored second-place Sterling and 55 spots better than third-place Quincy, with Geneseo's top five runners all placing among the top 20 finishers.

"One of the goals that we set at the beginning of the year was that we wanted to win (the WB6 championship)," Ehlert said. "That's huge, as that's a big win for us."

Teammates Gehl and Mosbarger came in second and third overall, with times of 15:36.70 and 15:52.20. Mosbarger's time was his second best in.

"Dylan has been running great, and Sam, who was seeded sixth,

Please see LEAFS, Page B4

Leafs

From B1

getting in third (place) — that was a huge bump,” Ehlert said. “Those two things are huge — I mean, it was a whole team effort as everybody were really great.”

Gehl was hyped to race in this conference championship, dating back to his freshman year in 2021.

“It was a race that we’ve been building up to for three years,” Gehl said. “Ever since my freshman year we’ve been talking about wanting to win conference. We know all the guys in this race. We know their names, you know, their times. We’ve been watching for a long time. Everything just came together today.”

Mosberger was pleased with his bronze-medal finish, four years in the making.

“I’m really happy,” Mosberger said. “I’ve been

working on this competition a lot over the past four years. Before the race, I was seeded fifth, and it was really important for me to blow that out of the water and get points on the board for my team.”

Mosbarger was full of excitement, cheering on his fellow runners crossing the finish line, stomping on the ground to give the other Geneseo runners that final push — all this despite a bevy of other runners writhing in pain because of exhaustion on the golf course grounds after the 3-mile race.

Sophomore Jaxson Sot-tos, winner of Geneseo’s Bell Ringer award on Tuesday, given to the runner who “possesses high levels of both passion and purpose in both practices and competitive performances,” was third on the team and had an eighth-place time of 16:34.90.

Rounding out the top five

for the Geneseo boys were junior Max Johnson (17:06.4) and freshman Jack Kreiss (17:06.40), who were in 16th and 17th places.

“We had the back end come through with our five and six runners coming right in with Max, and that was awesome,” Ehlert said.

The first-place runner was Sterling senior Dale Johnson, who was 22 seconds faster than Gehl and was zooming by the competition in 15:14.90.

Rock Island sophomore Gabe Mahn (15:56.10) was in fourth, and Galesburg senior Dominic Cantarini (16:11.80) rounded out the top five.

Leafs win girls title

Like the boys, the Geneseo girls also ended Thursday’s meet in front of second-place Sterling (by seven points) and third-place Quincy (by 19). They, too, had five of their best runners also finishing

in the top 20.

“I think we ran about as well as we could,” coach Aaron Skopec said. “I think everyone kind of showed up and did what we expected or even exceeded expectations and some big races by a lot of people.”

Two of the girls — Brooklyn Smith and Lucille Wachtel, both freshmen — landed in the top 10, as Smith’s time of 19:02.80 was good for third place, and Wachtel had the seventh-best time with a 19:49.10. Smith’s run was her second-best this season, while Wachtel set a personal best, 43 seconds faster than her run at the First to the Finish Invitational back on Sept. 9.

“(Smith) ran a smart race coming in as a freshman, running pretty new to the sport still,” Skopec said. “She really ran smart, as she ran with two of the best runners — two girls who should

probably qualify for state — in the conference.”

Smith was pleased by her performance.

“I wanted to get in the top three, so that was good,” Smith said.

Four of the Geneseo teammates had consecutive times in the top 20. Leading that pack was senior Katlyn Seaman (20:52.30), followed by senior Emma DeBaene (20:59.50), junior Elanor DeBlieck (21:08.30) and senior Ella Toom (21:10.60).

This overall team’s first place result was remarkably better than their finish last season, as their best runner in then-sophomore DeBlieck came in 16th place, with a time of 20:32.70. The next four runners were in 18th, 19th, 20th and 24th a year ago.

“(The Geneseo girls) are a real hardworking team — they have been dedicated for a long part of the sea-

son, starting back in May,” Skopec said. “That’s kind of a coronation of their hard work and showing the fruits of their labor.”




Skopec went on to say that his girls had the right mindset heading into Thursday’s meet that resulted in this conference win.

“(My girls) were just being relaxed and knowing what we had to do,” Skopec said. “There was not a lot of stress — they knew when they had to be ready — they have not been stressed out about this competition.”

As for the overall top five times, first place went to Quincy senior Olivia Schuering (18:40.20). United Township sophomore Rubi Tapia-Macias (19:02.00) was in second. Rock Island senior Norah Wright (19:20.90) was in fourth, with Quincy senior Keeauna Scheufele (19:32.90) in fifth.

Date: 10/12/2023								
Meet: Western Big 6 Conference Cross Country Meet								
Site: Rock Island Saukie Golf Course (WET from 2 inches of rain earlier)								
Conditions: Race time temp: 67° w/14 mph E/Winds (Gusting to 22)								
Racing Distance: 3.00 miles								
Team Finish: 1st								
	TIME	ATHLETE	PL	R	1-M	2-M	3-M	AVE.
1	15:36	Dylan Gehl-11	2	Var	4:53	5:27	5:16	5:12
2	15:52	Sam Mosbarger-12	3	Var	5:08	5:25	5:19	5:17
3	16:34	Jaxson Sottos-10	8	Var	5:12	5:42	5:40	5:31
4	17:06	Max Johnson-11	16	Var	5:17	5:52	5:57	5:42
5	17:06	Jack Kreiss-09	17	Var	5:27	5:53	5:46	5:42
6	17:08	Aidan Bries-10	20	Var	5:32	5:53	5:43	5:42
7	17:33	Graysen Carlson-10	26	Var	5:31	6:02	6:00	5:51
8	17:51	Kaden Elmer-10	33	Var	5:28	5:57	6:26	5:57
9	18:18	Rylan Lambert-11	46	Var	5:42	6:12	6:24	6:06
10	18:28	Austin Hull-12	50	Var	5:42	6:18	6:27	6:09
11	19:01	Matthew Darnall-10	58	Var	6:01	6:32	6:28	6:20
12	19:03	Jacob Taylor-11	60	Var	6:05	6:29	6:29	6:21
13	19:17	Christian Haney-11	68	Var	5:42	7:18	6:17	6:25
14	19:43	Mason Anderson-11	78	Var	6:17	6:43	6:43	6:34
15	20:08	Micah Johnson-09	85	Var	5:57	7:10	7:01	6:42
16	20:23	Connor Runty-09	90	Var	6:18	7:01	7:04	6:47
17	20:37	Shane Bagby-11	94	Var	6:18	7:05	7:14	6:52
18	20:40	Alex Aleman-09	100	Var	6:25	7:21	7:20	7:02
19	21:36	Connor Douglas-11	109	Var	6:30	7:10	7:56	7:12
20	21:55	Ryley Rowold-12	110	Var	7:00	7:23	7:32	7:18
21	22:26	Jacob Berry-09	113	Var	6:53	7:45	6:58	7:12
22	22:52	Tyson Duda-12	115	Var	6:53	7:38	8:21	7:37
23	22:54	Rafa Uguina-10	117	Var	7:18	8:02	7:34	7:38
24	23:53	Cam Baumgardner-11	123	Var	7:26	8:15	8:12	7:57
	DNC	Calvin Bell-10	Illness					
	DNC	Gauge Damewood-11	Conflict					
	DNC	Zach Meier-11	Conflict					
	15:14	Varsity Leader	1	12	4:47	5:13	5:12	5:04
		Geneseo Spread						
		1-5	1:30					
		1-7	1:57					
		1-10	2:51					

Western Big 6 XC Championships HS

 Mens Results  Thu, Oct 12, 2023  Saukie Golf Course

Official Team Scores

1. Geneseo	46
2. Sterling	51
3. Quincy (Sr.)	91
4. Rock Island (H.S.)	99
5. East Moline (United)	115
6. Moline (H.S.)	155
7. Galesburg (H.S.)	166
8. Rock Island (Alleman)	182

3 Miles Boys

1.	12	Dale Johnson	15:14.90	Sterling
2.	11	Dylan Gehl	15:36.70	Geneseo
3.	12	Sam Mosbarger	15:52.20	Geneseo
4.	10	Gabe Mahn	15:56.10	Rock Island (H.S.)
5.	12	Dominic Cantarini	16:11.80	Galesburg (H.S.)
6.	12	Thomas Hess	16:16.10	Quincy (Sr.)
7.	11	Miguel Rosales	16:27.60	East Moline (United)
8.	10	Jaxson Sottos	16:34.90	Geneseo
9.	11	Aalin Schmidt	16:36.60	Sterling
10.	12	Parker Janssen	16:39.00	Sterling
11.	12	Hunter Toye	16:41.00	Moline (H.S.)
12.	10	Charles Johnson	16:41.50	Sterling
13.	10	Gavin Slee	16:55.40	Quincy (Sr.)
14.	12	Ian Regur	16:56.20	Rock Island (H.S.)
15.	12	Andrew Peterson	16:57.40	Galesburg (H.S.)
16.	11	Max Johnson	17:06.40	Geneseo
17.	9	Jack Kreiss	17:06.80	Geneseo
18.	11	Gabriel Esparza	17:08.80	East Moline (United)
19.	11	Parker Blakeslee	17:08.90	Sterling
20.	10	Aidan Bries	17:08.90	Geneseo
21.	11	Reed Steiner	17:19.10	Quincy (Sr.)
22.	11	Justin Kappner	17:19.30	Quincy (Sr.)
23.	12	Jayden Putnam	17:21.70	Rock Island (H.S.)
24.	10	Malik Gbadamassi	17:22.50	East Moline (United)
25.	10	Lucas McCall	17:24.40	Rock Island (H.S.)
26.	10	Graysen Carlson	17:33.50	Geneseo
27.	12	Julian Dayton	17:33.80	Moline (H.S.)
28.	12	Nate Hein	17:37.30	Rock Island (Alleman)
29.	10	Lane Steinkamp	17:39.70	Quincy (Sr.)
30.	10	Nicholas Rhodes	17:44.10	East Moline (United)

31.	11	Harry VanVooren	17:46.90	Moline (H.S.)
32.	12	Owen Anderson	17:50.00	Sterling
33.	10	Kaden Elmer	17:51.90	Geneseo
34.	10	Henry Mass	17:54.10	Rock Island (H.S.)
35.	12	Danny Darrow	17:54.60	Rock Island (Alleman)
36.	11	Tatum Rogers	17:55.90	Moline (H.S.)
37.	11	Steffen Adams	17:59.40	East Moline (United)
38.	10	Cadyn Upton	17:59.70	East Moline (United)
39.	9	Elliot Batz	18:00.00	Rock Island (H.S.)
40.	10	Noah Verscha	18:00.80	Rock Island (Alleman)
41.	11	Noah Kronfeld	18:01.90	Rock Island (Alleman)
42.	12	Ben Milner	18:06.80	Rock Island (Alleman)
43.	9	Jude Steiner	18:08.30	Quincy (Sr.)
44.	10	Peyton Anders	18:09.80	Quincy (Sr.)
45.	11	Merrick Stockwell	18:14.40	Rock Island (H.S.)
46.	11	Rylan Lambert	18:18.50	Geneseo
47.	11	Lukas Heine	18:23.70	Rock Island (H.S.)
48.	10	Caden Jenulius	18:23.80	Rock Island (Alleman)
49.	12	Brecken Peterson	18:26.10	Sterling
50.	12	Austin Hull	18:27.70	Geneseo
51.	11	Braden Rees	18:30.00	Galesburg (H.S.)
52.	10	Gavin Staats	18:36.90	Sterling
53.	12	Conner Calhoun	18:43.30	East Moline (United)
54.	11	Finnegan Martin	18:48.10	Galesburg (H.S.)
55.	12	Louis Wilson	18:52.90	Quincy (Sr.)
56.	12	Aiden Leigh	18:53.40	Quincy (Sr.)
57.	11	Aaron Clark	18:55.00	Galesburg (H.S.)
58.	10	Matthew Darnall	19:01.00	Geneseo
59.	11	Blaine Soltwedel	19:02.70	Quincy (Sr.)
60.	11	Jacob Taylor	19:03.20	Geneseo
61.	12	Jim Arul	19:04.50	Moline (H.S.)
62.	10	Jalen Abbott	19:05.20	Galesburg (H.S.)
63.	10	Silas Descalzo	19:08.10	Galesburg (H.S.)
64.	10	Connor Epley	19:09.80	Quincy (Sr.)
65.	11	Ja'siah Rainer	19:11.20	Rock Island (H.S.)
66.	11	Romeo Rosas	19:14.70	Rock Island (Alleman)
67.	9	Collin Leigh	19:16.00	Quincy (Sr.)
68.	11	Christian Haney	19:17.90	Geneseo
69.	12	Ian Malaney	19:18.20	Quincy (Sr.)
70.	11	Brayden Herrick	19:27.10	East Moline (United)
71.	9	Owen Littrell	19:30.30	East Moline (United)
72.	12	Achraf Baba Traore	19:30.50	East Moline (United)
73.	12	Richard Dokambire	19:31.00	East Moline (United)
74.	11	Jason Percy	19:32.20	Quincy (Sr.)
75.	10	Cael Lyons	19:33.40	Sterling
76.	11	Lucas Eaton	19:33.80	Moline (H.S.)
77.	10	Luke Miller	19:37.30	Quincy (Sr.)
78.	11	Mason Anderson	19:43.50	Geneseo
79.	9	August Dagostino	19:47.80	Moline (H.S.)
80.	10	Liam Dilley	19:51.80	Galesburg (H.S.)

81.	12	Luka Lithila	19:55.20	Quincy (Sr.)
82.	11	Deshawn Rucker	19:58.30	Rock Island (H.S.)
83.	10	Titus Stout	20:02.40	Moline (H.S.)
84.	11	Ayden Lithila	20:06.20	Quincy (Sr.)
85.	9	Micah Johnson	20:08.70	Geneseo
86.	9	Liam Muir	20:11.50	Rock Island (H.S.)
87.	12	Arata Ketner	20:20.30	Moline (H.S.)
88.	10	Lukas Johnson	20:22.80	Moline (H.S.)
89.	10	Zachary Clark	20:23.60	Moline (H.S.)
90.	9	Connor Runty	20:23.80	Geneseo
91.	9	Dylan Hartzler	20:25.30	Rock Island (H.S.)
92.	11	Caidan Dougherty	20:27.10	Galesburg (H.S.)
93.	11	Sanaj Kapur	20:32.20	Moline (H.S.)
94.	11	Shane Bagby	20:37.10	Geneseo
95.	9	Emad Abaker	20:58.10	East Moline (United)
96.	10	Evan Merema	21:01.10	Sterling
97.	10	Uriah Chenoweth	21:01.30	Rock Island (H.S.)
98.	12	Grant McBride	21:04.20	Moline (H.S.)
99.	12	Selom Agbatozonhoun	21:04.50	East Moline (United)
100.	9	Alex Aleman	21:06.00	Geneseo
101.	12	Nolan Wandrey	21:12.20	Moline (H.S.)
102.	10	Malachi Schwartz	21:12.40	Moline (H.S.)
103.	9	Seth Long	21:21.10	Moline (H.S.)
104.	12	Zylr McGlasson	21:24.70	East Moline (United)
105.	11	Kalub Sargeant	21:30.90	Galesburg (H.S.)
106.	9	Caleb DeBruine	21:33.40	Rock Island (Alleman)
107.	10	Alek Meier	21:33.50	Moline (H.S.)
108.	11	Quentin Vance	21:34.70	East Moline (United)
109.	11	Connor Douglas	21:36.70	Geneseo
110.	12	Ryley Rowold	21:55.40	Geneseo
111.	11	Gavin Shackleton	22:01.80	Quincy (Sr.)
112.	10	Parker Tubbs	22:19.10	Moline (H.S.)
113.	9	Jacob Berry	22:26.40	Geneseo
114.	11	Tete Ferdinand Tekpah-...	22:33.50	East Moline (United)
115.	12	Tyson Duda	22:52.30	Geneseo
116.	11	Ngun Shwe	22:52.50	East Moline (United)
117.	10	Rafa Uguina	22:54.20	Geneseo
118.	11	Treyden Humphrey	23:10.30	Quincy (Sr.)
119.	9	James Bray	23:25.90	East Moline (United)
120.	12	Davarius Hook	23:31.00	East Moline (United)
121.	9	Judah Kargl	23:36.50	Rock Island (H.S.)
122.	12	Ruben Atikpo	23:39.50	East Moline (United)
123.	11	Camden Baumgardner	23:53.40	Geneseo
124.	9	Liam Knobloch	23:55.30	Moline (H.S.)
125.	9	Austin Carrell	24:06.70	Sterling
126.	9	Bartholomew Kocherspe...	24:56.70	Galesburg (H.S.)
127.	9	Thomas Wessels	25:18.10	East Moline (United)
128.	9	Jaiden Byorum	27:51.30	East Moline (United)
129.	10	Keean Dean	29:40.80	Galesburg (H.S.)
130.	10	Alhouseny Bah	29:46.70	Moline (H.S.)