



## 1ST TEAM ALL CONFERENCE WB-6 RUNNERS

L-R: 1.) Elliott Batz (Rock Island), 2.) Malik Gbadamassi (UT), 3.) Charles Ray (Quincy),  
4.) Gavin Slee (Quincy), 5.) Cedrick Iradukunda (Moline), 6.) Henley Bourne (Geneseo),  
7.) Jaxson Sottos (Geneseo), 8.) Caden Jenulis (Alleman),  
9.) Charles Johnson (Sterling), 10.) Owen Triplett (Quincy)

## LEAFS CLAIM WESTERN BIG 6 CONFERENCE SILVER

On Thursday, October 16th, Geneseo hosted the Western Big 6 Conference Cross Country Championship for the first time in school history. The meet was held at Geneseo's Richmond Hill Park and the field included teams from: Galesburg, Geneseo, Moline, Quincy, Rock Island, Rock Island (Alleman), Sterling, & United Township. The weather for the meet was on the warm side. The daytime high was 75° which is well above the normal high for this time of year. There was a SE wind at 10 mph which helped a bit. The course was hard and fast after only one inch of rain in the last 6 weeks. The WB-6 only runs a one girls race and one boys race with unlimited roster sizes. The conference meet marks the beginning of "Championship Meet Season". This is the time of the season that matters the most.

The Lady Leafs raced at 4:00 p.m. and entered the meet as the defending conference champions. They won their race and 3rd straight WB-6 Title. Congratulations to the Lady Leafs and Coaching Staff. Head Lady Leafs Coach Aaron Skopek is THREE FOR THREE. Impressive stuff. Good luck in the coming weeks, Ladies. Also, congratulations to Junior Brooklyn Smith who won the race by over a minute.

On to the boys race which started at 4:45 p.m. The Athletic.Net hypothetical meet prediction (based on season best times for 3 miles) had Quincy winning the meet with 53 points. It predicted Rock Island to place 2nd scoring 65 points. Moline and Geneseo were predicted to place 3rd and 4th scoring 79 and 86 points respectfully. The Geneseo coaching staff believed that any of those 4 teams had a chance to win the meet. Racing at Richmond Hill Park rewards an intelligent and patient racing strategy. Disappointment and pain await those who don't respect "da Hills". That is exactly what happened during each race.

Leading the Maple Leaf attack was Super-Soph Henley Bourne who sprinted across the finish line in 6th place. Athletic.Net predicted him to place 11th. He ran a tremendous race and was timed

in 16:25 which is a new GHS Sophomore Record for the course. It also moved him into 4th on the All-Time Individual List for a GHS Runner of any grade level. Henley earned First-Team All Conference Honors (Top 10 Individuals). All the best in the IHSA post-season, Henley. You are an inspiration to us all. It is hard to believe that you are only a Sophomore. Can you say, "ALL-STATE"?!? That's the goal before you graduate.

Senior Leader Jaxson Sottos finished only two seconds behind Henley. They ran most of the race together. Jaxson placed 7th overall in the race to also earn First-Team All Conference Honors. Athletic.Net predicted him to place 13th. His time of 16:27 moved him into #3 for GHS Seniors on the course. He was just off his personal best of 16:22 but that will change when he races here again in the IHSA Sectional Meet on Saturday, November 1st. Jaxson now has 5 of the top 11 times ever run by a GHS Runner on the course. He is running great and is "Drooling" with anticipation for the IHSA post-season. Way to Lead, Jaxson. Keep up the good work. You know what the main team goal is.....STATE!!! All the best as you try your best to make that happen.

Graysen Carlson was the next Leaf to cross the finish line. The Senior Leader "Stopped the Clock" in 16:52 and placed 12th overall to earn 2nd Team All-Conference Honors (11th-20th). Athletic.Net predicted him to place 17th. His time moved him into #5 on the GHS Senior Top 25 List for the course and 7th on the All-Time List (any grade level). Great Stuff, Graysen. The team has entered "Championship Meet Season". All the best as you and your teammates move into the IHSA Post-Season. The "Detweiller Park Fever" dream is alive and kicking. Keep up the great job of leadership. It is omnipotent.

Fellow Senior Leader Aidan Bries was the next Maple Leaf to cross "da line" and also earned 2nd Team All-Conference Honors with his 15th place finish (Athletic.Net predicted him to place 20th). He was timed in 17:16 which moved him into the #7 spot for a GHS Senior on the course. He just missed his personal best on the course by 3 seconds. That time has him currently ranked 9th on the GHS All-Time List (any grade level). Look for that to change when Aidan and "da boys" are back for one more race at Richmond Hill Park on Saturday, November 1st when GHS hosts the IHSA Sectional Meet. All the best in the IHSA Post-Season, Aidan. Keep up the great job of leading the Leafs. Detweiller Fever is "In the Air". DREAM BIG!

Sophomore Graysen Claerhout ran a great race and finished as the Maple Leafs' 5th man and placed 21st overall. He missed 2nd Team All-Conference Honors by only one place. Great Job, Graysen. Athletic.Net predicted him to place 27th. His time of 17:31 makes him the 13th fastest Maple Leaf EVER on the course (All-Time List). It also moved him into the #7 spot for a GHS Sophomore. Great Stuff, "Greyhound". His improvement has been HUGE and has given the Leafs important depth to an already talented roster. What's next....hopefully, a DEEP Run in the IHSA Post-Season that will see the Leafs on the starting line of the IHSA STATE MEET on Saturday, November 8th at Historic Detweiller Park. GO GET IT!

Kaden Elmer was up next for the Leafs and sprinted home in 33rd place. He was hoping for more but gave it everything that he had on the day. He was timed in 18:14. He ran 17:39 at this year's Geneseo XC Invite and currently sits in the 16th spot on the GHS All-Time List with that time. That time also has him in the #8 spot on the GHS Senior Top 25 list. Look for Kaden to

move up on those lists when the team races in the Geneseo IHSA Sectional Meet on Saturday, November 1st. All the best in the coming weeks, Kaden as the Leafs enter the IHSA Post-Season. Keep up the great job of leadership and try your best to help lead the Leafs back to the STATE FINALS and a return trip to "Historic Detweiller Park".

Sophomore Kael McCord sprinted across the finish line as the Maple Leafs' #7 man. Kael has run the GHS Top 7 all season long. Great Stuff, Kael. He placed 35th and was timed in 18:19. That time moved him into 24th on the GHS All-Time List (any grade level) and into 13th on the GHS Sophomore Top 25 List. All the best as the Varsity Top 7 move into the IHSA Post-Season. The team's number one goal all season long has been to qualify for the State Finals on Saturday, November 8th. You are in a position to make that dream come to fruition. Keep up the good work and get "Ready to Roll". "Detweiller Fever"....CATCH IT. We are Very Proud of YOU.

Rylan Carlson continued his amazing season by finishing as the Maple Leafs' 8th man. He was timed in 19:26 and moved into 20th place on the GHS Sophomore list for the course. Rylan's improvement from last season is truly "Jaw-Dropping". How did he get there? A lot of "Passion & Purpose" backed up with the dedication that excellence Demands. All the best at the Sterling 09/JV Invite on Tuesday. Remember, medals are awarded to the Top 10 Finishers. After that, you will have the opportunity to be a key member of the Geneseo "Hype Squad". The goal will be to help inspire the Varsity Top 7 during the IHSA Post-Season (only 7 runners are allowed to race from each team).

Up next was Sophomore Fritz Bolme who crossed the finish line in 78th place and was timed in 20:18 and was the Leafs' 9th man. He was just off his personal best on the course of 19:39 which he ran at the Geneseo XC Invite earlier in the season. That time has him sitting in the #22 spot for a GHS Sophomore EVER on the course. Great Stuff, Fritz. No one on the team has a better attitude than you do (several are tied with you). All the best at the Sterling 09/JV Invite on Tuesday, October 21st. Try and win some "Hardware"....medals to the Top 10 Finishers. After that get ready to help lead the GHS "Hype Squad" during the IHSA Post-Season. The Varsity Top 7 will greatly appreciate the support. The goal is be EVERYWHERE on the courses. TEAM!!!

Junior Micah Johnson crossed the finish line as the Maple Leafs' 10th man. He was timed in 20:33 and placed 82nd overall in the race. The "Little Johanson" ran a strong race despite the challenges that the Richmond Hill Park course presents. All the best on Tuesday, October 21st at the Sterling 09/JV Invitational. Individual medals will be awarded to the Top 10 finishers. After that, it will be time to help lead the Geneseo "Hype Squad". The goal of the group is to help inspire Geneseo's Varsity Top 7 as they race in the IHSA's Post-Season. Each member of "da Squad" has the opportunity to "be in the right spot at the right time" and say the "right thing and the right time". Do your best to try and help your teammates "Bring It" all the way to the finish line. Next year, this will be YOUR TEAM. We are confident that the team will be in Good Hands.

Senior Leader Jameson Coppejans was the next Maple Leaf to "Break the Tape" as he placed 87th overall in the race. The "Rookie" (first XC season) was timed in 20:42 which moved him into 22nd place on the GHS Senior Top 25 list for the course. Jameson was the Leafs' 11th man and

continued his great season. He will have one more chance to race for the team at the Sterling 09/JV Invite on Tuesday, October 21st. Try and grab a Top 10 finisher medal if you can. After that, get ready to drive the "Big Green Bus" that will metaphorically be carrying the Geneseo "Hype Squad". The goal of the "Hype Squad" is to help inspire the Varsity Top 7 during the IHSA Post-Season. We are sure glad that you decided to become a "Harrier". Thank you for all of your contributions to the team this season.

Next up was Junior Jacob Berry who sprinted across the finish line in 94th place. He was timed in 21:28. Great stuff, Jacob. Next up will be a trip to Sterling to race in their 09/JV Invitational. Remember, they are awarding medals to the Top 10 finishers. After that, it will be time to join the Geneseo "Hype Squad" and try and be a "Difference Maker" during the IHSA Post-Season for the Varsity Top 7. The team still has its omnipotent season goal of qualifying for the IHSA State Meet "On the Table". Do your best to help to make that happen. Next year this team will be in your hands. We have complete confidence in you and your fellow "Soon to be Seniors". All the best.

Sophomore "Rookie" Cole Henson was the next man up for "da Leafs". Cole sprinted across the finish line in 98th place and was timed in 21:32. He ended up as the Maple Leafs' 13th man on the day. Great stuff, Cole. All of the endurance that you have developed is going to pay Huge Dividends this winter on "da Mat". Get ready to "Lac'em Up" one more time on Tuesday, October 21st at the Sterling 09/JV Invitational. Following that meet your role will be to help inspire the Varsity Top 7 during the IHSA Post-Season as a part of the Geneseo "Hype Squad". Try and get to spots on the course where no one else is. It really does make a difference. Try to Inspire your teammates to greatness. We sure are glad that you decided to join the team and become a "Harrier".

The next Leaf to "Break the Tape" was Junior Connor Runty. Connor sprinted across the finish line in 103rd place and was timed in 21:59. Great race, Connor. Get ready to "Get after It" on Tuesday, October 21st when the Leafs travel to Sterling to participate in "JV State"....aka...The Sterling 09/JV Invite. After that it will be time to help the Geneseo "Hype Squad" during the IHSA Post-Season. Only the Varsity Top 7 will be racing so the goal for the "Hype Squad" is to help inspire their teammates to greatness. Find the right spots on the course where no one else is and say the "Magic Words". Try and be a difference maker for the team. Next year this will be your team. We have complete confidence in your leadership skills. Keep Dreaming Big!

Senior Leader Calvin Bell was the next man up for "da Leafs". He sprinted "home" in a time of 22:05 and was placed 104th overall in the race. Calvin has one more race in his GHS Harrier career. That will occur on Tuesday, October 21st when he races in the Sterling 09/JV Invitational. Head Maple Leaf Boy's Coach Ehlert has "Nicknamed" this meet "JV STATE". After that it will be time to help lead the Geneseo "Hype Squad". The goal of the "Hype Squad" is to try and help inspire the Varsity Top during the IHSA Post-Season. The support that this group provides the team is OMNIPOTENT. The team still has one huge goal on the table....Qualify for the IHSA State Finals. Do your best to help make that happen. Thanks for your efforts.

The final Maple Leaf on the day was Freshman Phoenix Sottos. Phoenix "Stopped da Clock" at 29:10 and placed 127th overall in the race. Phoenix will be the Maple Leafs' lone entry in the

Sterling 09/JV Invitational's Freshman race on Tuesday, October 21st. "Hardware" in that race will be awarded to the Top 5 finishers. All the best. After that it will be time to jump on board with the Geneseo "Hype Squad". Hopefully, each member of the group will help to inspire each of the Varsity Top 7 during the Maple Leafs' IHSA Post-Season run. Try and find a few spots on the course where no one else is. Then, cheer your teammates on with massive enthusiasm. You Rock, Phoenix. Thanks for always being such a great guy.

When the "Dust had Settled", the Leafs found themselves in 2nd place. They were predicted by Athletic.Net to place 4th and score 86 points. They ended up scoring 25 points less than that. They had a HUGE Race. Only a very talented Quicny team was able to hold them off. There was quite a bit of carnage on the course also. Rock Island's #2 man broke his foot while Moline's #1 man barely finished after leading the race for over two miles. He just "Hit the Wall" and tied up badly. We wish both men the best in the future. We are also Very Proud of every single Maple Leaf.

Congratulations to Coach Ehlert. The "Dude" has the "Midas Touch". This is his 8th year as the Head Coach of the GHS Boys XC Team. Every year the team has finished in the top half of the conference or better. 2018: 6th Place; 2019: 3rd Place; 2020: 1st Place; 2021: 2nd Place; 2022: 3rd Place; 2023: 1st Place; 2024: 2nd Place. Great Stuff, Coach. Geneseo is Very Lucky to have you. Ditto to your "Right Hand Man", Coach Jeff Brown. All the best in the coming weeks.



## WB6 Conference Meet Progression

First Name	Last Name	Division	Grade	Time	2024 Results	2023 Results	2022 Results
Jaxson	Sottos	Male	11	16:27	Geneseo - Richmond Hill	16:17	UT - Empire Park
Graysen	Carlson	Male	11	16:52	Galesburg - Lake Story	16:34	16:55
Henley	Bourne	Male	9	16:25	Middle School	17:33	DNR
Aidan	Bries	Male	11	17:16	Middle School	17:08	17:34
Kaden	Elmer	Male	11	18:14	Middle School	17:50	18:03
Greyson	Claerhout	Male	9	17:31	Middle School	17:36	Middle School
Kael	McCord	Male	9	18:19	Middle School	19:11	Middle School
Fritz	Bolme	Male	9	20:18	Middle School	19:13	Middle School
Calvin	Bell	Male	11	22:05	DNR	19:28	22:06:00
Micah	Johnson	Male	10	20:33	Middle School	19:33	Middle School
Connor	Runty	Male	10	21:59	Middle School	20:04	Middle School
Jacob	Berry	Male	10	21:28	Middle School	21:29	Middle School
Ryan	Carlson	Male	9	19:26	Middle School	21:32	Middle School
Jameson	Copejans	Male	12	20:42	DNR	DNR	DNR
Cole	Henson	Male	10	21:32	Middle School	DNR	Middle School
Pheonix	Sottos	Male	9	29:10	Middle School	Middle School	Middle School
2nd Place - 61 Points		2nd Place - 55 Points		1st Place - 46 Points		3rd Place - 78 Points	

# Western Big 6 Conference XC Championships HS

OFFICIAL Thu, Oct 16, 2025 Richmond Hill Park, IL US

## Mens Results

### 3 Miles Varsity Boys

#### Official Team Scores

1. Quincy	41
2. Geneseo	61
3. Moline	85
4. Rock Island	104
5. Rock Island (Alleman)	118
6. East Moline (United)	165
7. Sterling	170
8. Galesburg	191

1. 11 Elliot Batz	15:22.70	Rock Island
2. 12 Malik Gbadamassi	15:55.92	East Moline (United)
3. 10 Charles Ray	16:02.78	Quincy
4. 12 Gavin Slee	16:14.31	Quincy
5. 10 Cedrik Iradukunda	16:19.00	Moline
6. 10 Henley Bourne	16:25.60	Geneseo
7. 12 Jaxson Sottos	16:27.51	Geneseo
8. 12 Caden Jenulis	16:38.25	Rock Island (Alleman)
9. 12 Charles Johnson	16:41.97	Sterling
10. 10 Owen Triplett	16:46.58	Quincy
11. 10 Blake Anders	16:47.04	Quincy
12. 12 Graysen Carlson	16:52.11	Geneseo
13. 12 Lane Steinkamp	16:57.29	Quincy
14. 11 Abraham Peterson	17:13.21	Moline
15. 12 Aidan Bries	17:16.50	Geneseo
16. 12 Gavin Staats	17:17.95	Sterling
17. 10 Nolan Jared	17:24.65	Rock Island
18. 12 Peyton Anders	17:25.36	Quincy
19. 12 Isaiah Engle	17:29.67	Moline
20. 11 Lincoln Abel	17:31.46	Moline
21. 10 Greyson Claerhout	17:31.92	Geneseo
22. 12 Rodrigo Cossileon	17:34.52	Quincy
23. 10 Steven Hernandez	17:42.22	Rock Island
24. 10 Cristiano Saucedo	17:51.17	Rock Island (Alleman)
25. 10 Eli Poe	17:51.19	Quincy
26. 12 Noah Verscha	17:54.75	Rock Island (Alleman)
27. 9 Grant Slee	17:55.81	Quincy
28. 10 Brayden McGuire	18:00.99	Galesburg
29. 11 Kale Moore	18:01.28	Moline
30. 12 Chase Jared	18:01.93	Rock Island

31. 10 Logan Kean	18:08.04	Rock Island (Alleman)
32. 10 Carter Castel	18:11.14	Moline
33. 12 Kaden Elmer	18:14.61	Geneseo
34. 9 Leo Graf	18:17.29	Rock Island (Alleman)
35. 10 Kael McCord	18:19.95	Geneseo
36. 11 Emad Abaker	18:21.82	East Moline (United)
37. 10 Traeten Holtam	18:23.14	Rock Island
38. 9 Christopher (Chris) Siver...	18:25.37	Moline
39. 10 Brayden Householder	18:26.42	Quincy
40. 9 Cole Furrow	18:32.18	Galesburg
41. 11 Audey Hobert	18:34.51	Rock Island (Alleman)
42. 11 Sunny Greving	18:36.81	Moline
43. 10 Charles Anderton	18:40.97	Galesburg
44. 9 Connor Adair	18:41.32	East Moline (United)
45. 12 Connor Epley	18:42.18	Quincy
46. 12 Hassan Ali	18:42.89	East Moline (United)
47. 10 Robert (Bobby) Nelson	18:46.40	Moline
48. 10 Micah Peterson	18:48.66	Sterling
49. 10 Dominic Oenning	18:51.84	Quincy
50. 12 Garret Myers	18:53.64	Rock Island (Alleman)
51. 10 Issac Becker	18:53.89	Galesburg
52. 12 Jalen Abbott	18:55.17	Galesburg
53. 12 Silas Descalzo	18:56.58	Galesburg
54. 10 Cylar Smith	18:58.87	Rock Island
55. 12 Titus Stout	18:59.64	Moline
56. 11 Godway Vedome	19:00.52	East Moline (United)
57. 12 Lucas McCall	19:02.34	Rock Island
58. 10 Timothy Driver	19:04.09	Moline
59. 10 Mahamoud Abdeldjabar	19:05.80	East Moline (United)
60. 10 Braylen Grennan	19:09.27	Sterling
61. 11 Seth Long	19:10.21	Moline
62. 10 Landon VanZuiden	19:10.94	Sterling
63. 12 Henry Mass	19:11.40	Rock Island
64. 10 Gabriel Semenick	19:14.15	Quincy
65. 9 Jackson Davis	19:23.60	Moline
66. 10 Rylan Carlson	19:26.66	Geneseo
67. 10 Isaiah Rosas	19:28.31	Rock Island (Alleman)
68. 10 Julien Punkiewicz	19:32.23	Rock Island (Alleman)
69. 11 Collin Leigh	19:35.38	Quincy
70. 10 Benjamin (Ben) Larson	19:38.68	Moline
71. 10 Logan Gardner	19:44.96	Sterling
72. 9 Maliki Tate	19:52.63	Rock Island
73. 11 Judah Kargl	19:53.51	Rock Island
74. 9 Orion Rodriguez-Dirkes	19:57.29	Sterling
75. 9 Wade Zanger	19:58.21	Quincy
76. 9 Jeremiah Bennett	20:01.55	Sterling
77. 10 Sean Dighe	20:03.36	Quincy
78. 10 Fritz Bolme	20:18.27	Geneseo
79. 10 Enzo Passini	20:19.67	Moline
80. 10 Lucas Knowles	20:30.42	Sterling

81. 9	Lucas Hoogheem	20:31.48	Moline
82. 11	Micah Johnson	20:33.14	Geneseo
83. 10	Daevion (Davy) Dew	20:34.64	Moline
84. 9	Liam Huizenga	20:36.31	Galesburg
85. 11	August Dagostino	20:40.95	Moline
86. 10	Nathaniel Dudek	20:41.86	Moline
87. 12	Jameson Coppejans	20:42.03	Geneseo
88. 10	Bentley Householder	20:51.52	Quincy
89. 9	Tristan Hiltz	21:04.27	Sterling
90. 9	Malachi Devlin	21:08.63	Moline
91. 9	David Cobos	21:23.09	East Moline (United)
92. 9	Owen LeMaster	21:25.75	Moline
93. 10	Myles Wandrey	21:28.46	Moline
94. 11	Jacob Berry	21:28.62	Geneseo
95. 11	Dylan Hartzler	21:29.02	Rock Island
96. 9	Grayson Hill	21:30.07	Quincy
97. 11	Owen Mathews	21:32.10	Rock Island (Alleman)
98. 10	Cole Henson	21:32.32	Geneseo
99. 11	Liam Knobloch	21:34.51	Moline
100. 12	Logan Ryner	21:37.46	Galesburg
101. 11	Owen Littrell	21:44.04	East Moline (United)
102. 10	Gabriel Rabe	21:57.04	Sterling
103. 11	Connor Runty	21:59.54	Geneseo
104. 12	Calvin Bell	22:05.95	Geneseo
105. 9	Braden Beauchamp	22:08.13	Moline
106. 11	Yao Pascal Ayoba	22:28.69	East Moline (United)
107. 10	Eliezuel Iranezereje	22:31.94	East Moline (United)
108. 12	Malachi Schwartz	22:34.33	Moline
109. 9	Dan Devlin	22:36.58	Moline
110. 9	Liam Ryan	22:44.41	East Moline (United)
111. 12	Zachary Clark	22:59.31	Moline
112. 10	Godshall Vedome	23:14.28	East Moline (United)
113. 10	Xavier Guldenzopf	23:17.93	Rock Island
114. 11	Devaughn Sanchez	23:18.46	Galesburg
115. 9	Kameron Kaminski	23:46.40	Galesburg
116. 10	Dylan Thompson	24:00.64	East Moline (United)
117. 10	Avi Gidaszewski	24:07.81	Rock Island
118. 9	Emilio Terronez	24:18.57	East Moline (United)
119. 10	Regis Abgemadon	24:47.87	East Moline (United)
120. 11	Austin Carrell	25:01.09	Sterling
121. 11	Bartholomew Kocherspe...	25:03.68	Galesburg
122. 10	Dominic Martinez	25:06.56	Rock Island (Alleman)
123. 11	Isaiah Herren	25:09.67	Sterling
124. 10	Ethan Sanchez	25:26.85	Moline
125. 9	Lane Tietsort	26:51.71	Quincy
126. 10	Isaac Lotta	28:40.56	East Moline (United)
127. 9	Phoenix Sottos	29:10.33	Geneseo
128. 12	Alhouseny Bah	33:45.64	Moline



**SOPHOMORE HENLEY BOURNE SELECTED  
AS "BELL RINGER"**

Pictured is Sophomore Henley Bourne who was selected as the team's "Bell Ringer" for the Western Big 6 (WB-6) Conference Cross Country Championship

**SOPHOMORE HENLEY BOURNE "RINGS da Bell"**

Sophomore Henley Bourne was selected as the Geneseo Boys Cross Country "Bell Ringer" for the Western Big 6 Conference Cross Country Championship held on Thursday, October 16th. The award was created by Head Maple Leaf Boys Cross Country Coach, Todd Ehlert, with a little help from "da Committee". The "Bell Ringer Award" honors a team member selected by a committee consisting of all of the senior team leaders and the coaching staff. Each member of the

committee nominates two athletes. The committee discusses each nominee until a winner has been selected. Considerations for nomination include both practice and competitive performances. Possessing high levels of both Passion and Purpose are Omnipotent. An award winner is selected after each meet.

Henley has enjoyed a tremendous sophomore season to date. He has been the Maple Leafs' number one runner in 7 of the 11 meets that the Varsity has competed in. He has set sophomore class records on 3 of those courses and recorded the 2nd fastest time ever on 5 other occasions. Henley has remained the same humble dude that he is anyway. That isn't always the case. Over the years, we have observed a few "Big Ego's" emerge. Not to worry with this youngster.

Henley could have been selected as the GHS "Bell Ringer" any week in the season to date. The "Committee" made a conscious decision to "Save" some of the "Big Dogs" for late in the season. That is the case with Henley. On Thursday, October 16th, the Leafs hosted the Western Big 6 Conference Championship. Henley was seeded 11th (Athletic.Net) and blew that away with his 6th place overall finish. Both he and senior teammate, Jaxson Sottos (7th), earned "First Team All Conference" Honors (Top 10 Finishers). That is a BIG DEAL. To accomplish that feat as a Sophomore is extremely impressive.

Henley and Jaxson "Packed it Up" for much of the race. It was awesome to watch the Leafs' top two runners working together. That strategy ended up helping them both. It also helped the Leafs move up from their projected 4th place team finish into 2ND. Henley's time of 16:25 established a new GHS Sophomore Class Record the challenging Richmond Hill Park Course. It also moved him into the #4 spot on the GHS All-Time Individual Top 25 List. Great Stuff, Henley. He rolled through the mile in 5:20. He followed that up with a 5:37 2nd mile. He then "closed" with a 5:27 final mile. He ended up averaging 5:28. All the best in the coming weeks, Henley. Only the IHSA Post-Season remains. "State Meet Fever"...."Catch It". We are Very Proud of You. Keep up the great job!

Here is what Henley had to say about his athletic history.

**10th Grade:** "So far just Cross Country but I plan on doing Track in the spring. I'm really proud of this season, I have won 2 individual races, Metamora and Sterling. And I also have taken three GHS sophomore course records, Geneseo, Sterling and the Kewanee Dunes. So far I have all top ten finishes except for First to the Finish, I got 76th".

**9th Grade:** "XC, I was the number three runner to finish the year after beating Grayson Carlson by 0.5 of a second at seconds then ran a PR by a minute at state (17:14 to 16:14). I won 1 JV race that year which was JV state where I set the freshman Geneseo record (18:21) . I also took the Metamora / Geneseso freshman record twice. Once at 16:31 once at 16:10. Track and field, Track season i ran the 1600, the 800, and a couple 4x400 +4x800 with one 4x200. For field events I did the Pole Vault which I love and High Jump. For the mile I ran a PR of 4:48 at the ABC McCormick invite where I won beating the second place guy by a tenth of a second. I ran my PR (unofficial) during the 4x800 at the Geneseo JV invite at 2:10 on our anchor leg, we got 5th. I raced to 4x400 a couple times during the season but it was always after the mile so the fastest time I

have recorded was a 60 second. And the one 4x200 I ran was at Stillman Valley where I ran a 28 after running 800 meter thresholds and the 4x800" .

"For field events I did Pole Vault with my PR being 11" 9', that is a 1' 9" PR from 8th grade. I also fell a couple times while pole vaulting during indoor season. My worst 2 happened at Sterling once when I fell off the pole and landed in the box. I hit my head, arm, and knee and had to run the rest of the meet with a bloody nose. (but i ran a PR in the mile 5:10). The second time I fell I forgot to let go of the pole and it snapped me in the nuts. In High Jump I jumped 4' 11" indoor".

**8th Grade:** "XC, I was the 3rd man on the GMS team that qualified for the state meet. My PR was 12:28. I did not medal at any meet in 8th grade for XC. In Track and Field, I got 7th at state for Pole Vault jumping 10" I also tried the mile and I ran 5:15 and got 4th at Sectionals for it. I got second place at the Conference Meet, the person who beat me? It was my rival, Carter Castell, from Wilson, I ended up beating him at Sectionals and haven't had him beat me yet. Carter runs for Moline now and he and I still have a very competitive relationship".

**7th Grade:** "I was the 8th man on the state team and my PR was 13:45 Track and Field, i was a sprinter but I was never that good and I tried Pole Vault and I fell in love with it. My first time touching the pole I jumped 5' 6" that was taller than I was and still am. I also did the Long Jump where i jumped 13' 3" M season PR for Pole Vault was 6' 6"".

**Prior to 7th grade:** "I did Soccer and Baseball. In Soccer, I was whatever place that was needed but I liked playing Goalie and in Baseball I was Catcher, and played Second Base, and Center Field."

Henley is the son of Jenn and Jeff Bourne. He is also the proud "Big Bro" to Abigail who is age 12 and in 6th grade.

Here are Henley's answers to his "Bell Ringer Questions": **Nickname:** "Bluegail, or H2" **School Clubs or other Organizations you have taken part in:** "Cross Country, Track and field, Marching Band, and FCA"; **Favorite Food:** "Hashbrowns and Salsa"; **Favorite Movie:** "McFarland, USA or Harry Potter"; **Favorite Music (Genre or Group):** "Country & Soft Pop"; **Athletic Hero:** "Armand Duplantice (here is what a quick Google search had to say about "Mondo): **Armand Gustav "Mondo" Duplantis** (Swedish pronunciation: [ˈärman(d) ˈgês:tav dœ'plân:tis]; born 10 November 1999) is a Swedish-American pole vaulter holding both Swedish and U.S. citizenships but competes for Sweden. Duplantis holds the pole vaulting world record (6.30 m; 20 ft 8 in) and is the winner of eight senior global titles. He is a two-time Olympic (2020 and 2024) champion, a three-time World outdoor (2022, 2023 and 2025) champion and a three-time World indoor (2022, 2024 and 2025) champion.; **Julia Poel** who I spent a lot of time with in the summers of elementary school (Former GHS Star Runner), and my cousin Brooklyn who was a sprinter at Illinois state university.; **Favorite Quote:** "I have two, No matter how hard you train, somebody will train harder. No matter how hard you run, somebody will run harder. No matter how much you want it, somebody will want it more. I am somebody. Somebody may beat me, but they are

going to have to bleed to do it. Steve Prefinaine".; **How did you decide to join the Cross Country team?** "My friend Keal said he was going to join so I decided to give it a try".; **What Advice Do You Have for Anyone New to the Sport?**: "You get what you give, this is a challenging sport the harder you work the faster you will get, just don't listen to the Little Man"".

**Other team members who were nominated and discussed for this week's "Bell Ringer Award" were:** Aidan Bries, Graysen Carlson, Greyson Claerhout, Cole Henson, Connor Runty, & Jaxson Sottos.

**Comment from Head Coach Todd Ehlert:** "Henley has had an amazing two years with the high school program. As a freshman, he ended up being our third runner on the year. This year he stepped right back into a lead role and is one of the top two runners on the team as a sophomore. He is smashing the top 25 lists and won two Fresh/Soph Invites this year. It's amazing it took this long for him to win the Bell Ringer this season. Keep up the hard work and keep dreaming big, Henley!"".