

# Moline Track and Field is underway

**By: Kara Duquette and  
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Sports Editors

Spring is here and that means all of that hard work put in during the cold winter months will start to pay off. The boys and girls Track and Field teams have been working hard since before winter break and now the indoor season is already done.

Track and Field is one of the longest sports starting in January and not ending until May, which means a lot of hard work for the athletes. "Sometimes the season seems like it will never end, but then once we reach Conference I wonder where the time went," says Junior Erin Stitt.

The Moline Girls are coached by Joel Bohnsack, Matt Woods, Joe Hess, and Tony Taylor.

After facing a tough season last year

the girls hope to come back in full force with all of the new underclassmen on the team and make a statement.

In addition to all of the talent on the female side of the track spectrum, the male tracksters bring their own level of competition and skill. The team, coached by Tauwon Taylor, Christopher Larson, Paul Carther, and Grant Illes, are looking forward to success this season.

The boys have been preparing for the outdoor season as long and as vigorously as the girls have been, and are just as excited as the girls are to prove their worth.

The first outdoor meet, on March 31st, is a chance for the boys to get a feel for their competition for the rest of the season. With every meet comes new challenges and more opportunities to better themselves for the state series.

The boys will eventually get to the

sectional meet where they will have the chance to win a bid to the IHSA state meet in mid-May.

The training right now will be the hardest for the boys so they will be able to lighten their load once the outdoor meets start.

Senior Collin Petoskey says, "The coaches are really pushing us right now. It's hard work, but we are all willing to do it because we know it will make us better throughout the season."

Fortunately, the talent of the team is evenly spread amongst the various events, from throwing to jumping to vaulting to sprinting to distance to relays.

The throwers use their strength to thrust the shot put into the air and hurl the discus as far as it can go. The jumpers (high, long, and triple) work on speed training and perfecting their steps and form. The vaulters have similar routines

at practice. They are constantly heaving their body as high in the air as they can with the assistance of a pole.

In order to have success in sprints, the boys have to do agility training so they will have flawless form which will allow them to dominate. The distance runners are constantly hitting the streets on long runs to build up their endurance and strength.

Distance and sprinters alike work together on passing off the baton to insure mistake free handoffs in relays. All of this hardwork occupies a couple hours of the boys' time every night.

If everything goes as planned, both the Moline boys and girls will bring home medals upon medals from all of the meets throughout the season.

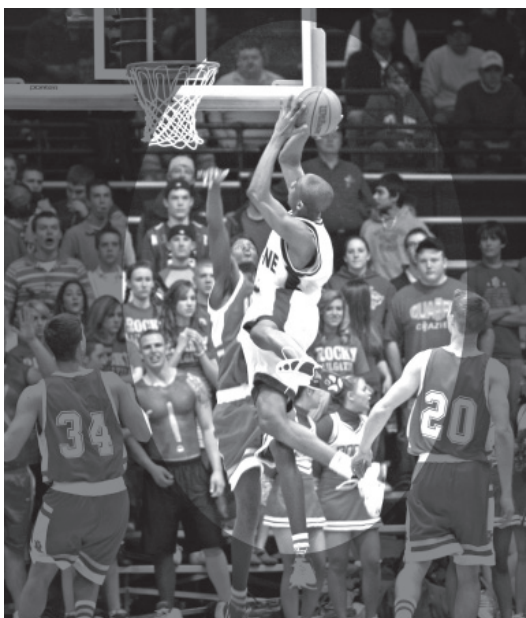
Hopefully, the Maroons will make appearances at state, and maybe bring home some hardware.

## MHS Boys: Season Wrapup

**By: David Lawrence**  
Sports Reporter

Adversity. In a word, adversity pretty well sums up this past Moline Boys Basketball season. With first year head coach Jon Nedelcoff, the Maroons battled their through the transition season, finishing with an 11-15 record.

One of the most challenging aspects of the



*Moline's Isiah Nunn goes up hard against rival Rock Island. (Photo by Spitzfaden.)*

season was the adjustment to learning a completely new system and offense. Throughout the sea-

son, improvements were steady, but the Maroons couldn't seem to catch a break. Just as they were hitting full stride, leading scorer and rebounder Isiah Nunn (junior) separated his shoulder in what proved to be a season-ending injury.

Without Nunn for the postseason, seniors Ryan Sergeant, Ryan Marik, Joe Thompson, Stephen McGough, Adam Gulley, and Caleb Horvath all had their high school careers cut short with a heartbreaking loss to rival Alleman High School in the first round of the IHSA Regional Tournament. The game was tight the entire way, ending in a 42-40 loss.

Ryan Sergeant states "Obviously, it was a very disappointing finish to a sub-par year. We greatly underachieved. We were a lot better than we showed. It's sad that it's all over with, because as a little kid, you dream of playing basketball at Moline. I'll miss all the guys, especially the seniors that I've grown up playing with my whole life. Next year, it will be a weird feeling not suiting up every Friday and Saturday night."

Despite the disappointing results of the season, hope is not lost. Many positive indicators were shown throughout the difficult season. Junior Derek Vickroy says, "It was a tough year adjusting to the new ins and outs of the system, but we saw a lot of improvement and we are all confident that it will carry over to next year."

Chris Larsen echoed the positive outlook on next year, saying "This past season is behind us, and we're focused on working hard and being prepared when next year rolls around."

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