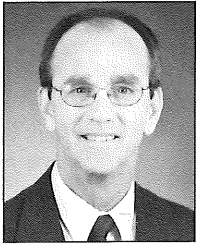


# Fabian hits the ground running

Track coach and high school teacher wants to keep jobs in Minnesota

By **Kris Berggren**

Rep. Dan Fabian (R-Roseau), a high school physical education teacher and track and cross-country coach, has hit the ground running in St. Paul.



Rep. Dan Fabian

The election was his first run at elected office, Fabian said. He hadn't been active in politics except for attending some precinct caucuses.

"It started with Paul Kohls," Fabian said. He'd exchanged ideas with the former representative during the latter's brief gubernatorial run. Kohls and other Republican officials invited Fabian to consider a run for the House seat. Before he officially entered the race, Fabian drove the 3,887-square-mile district, setting up meetings with prospective voters to hear their concerns and hopes.

"They thought I should run," Fabian said, because he cared about the same issues. "The

600-pound gorilla is the budget," he said, plus government accountability, reducing mandates, creating equity in school funding and growing jobs.

Now, Fabian is sponsoring the first bill of the session, which traditionally reflects a top legislative priority. HF1 would lighten environmental review regulations, a measure lawmakers hope could promote business development and job growth.

Although northwestern Minnesota has less unemployment than the rest of the state, Fabian wants to make sure area employers such as Polaris, Arctic Cat, Marvin Windows, HEATMOR, Mattracks and Central Boiler not only keep jobs but can grow jobs locally.

"When it's time for those businesses to expand, do they expand where they are?" Fabian asked, or grow outside the state, as some have done. He'd like more cooperation from the Department of Natural Resources on issues such as land acquisition, flood mitigation and regulatory issues.

"I would like to see one of our governors

## DISTRICT 1A

Population (2009 est.): 35,160

Largest City: Thief River Falls

Counties: Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Roseau

Top Concerns: Business and job growth; school financing; mandate reduction

on the cover of a magazine again," Fabian said, referring to a 1973 Time magazine cover featuring former Gov. Wendell Anderson. "We were the economic engine of the Upper Midwest and I'd like to see that come back."

Fabian picks up a photo of his 16-month-old granddaughter, Alexis. Her image illustrates his deepest motivation.

"What Grandpa Dan is doing in the next two years, will that put us on a path to greater sustained economic development?" he asks rhetorically. "So when she is of age and looking for a job, she will be able to find it in Minnesota."