

2012 Norm Bray Invitational

Positives in Norm Bray Invitational

Ross boys finish 5th, girls 9th in cross-country meet

By Chris Graber
News-Messenger correspondent

The Norm Bray Invitational at Walsh Park on Saturday included a few of the most talented cross country teams in Division I.

Despite a fifth-place finish, Fremont Ross coach Jon Elder said it was the best performance his boys team has had at the invitational in a long time. The Little Giants' girls finished ninth.

"We've been doing a lot of miles and some pretty intense 60-to-65 mile weeks with two-a-days with some of the guys and they really competed well today," Elder said.

Louis Guardiola led Fremont with a sixth-place finish at 17 minutes, 1.11 seconds and teammate Tyler Edmonds was 10th at 17:23.15. Valerie Bixler was sixth for the Little Giants' girls at 20:33.8.

Guardiola, who was in second for a majority of the race, said he was expecting to run better individually, but that he was happy with how the team finished.

"I fell back a little bit and was trying to stay positive," Guardiola said. "We are going to continue to build momentum and stay focused for the bigger meets."

Walsh Park provides a good

test for teams beginning their season with its infamous and very steep "Butt Buster Hill."

The hill "kills you on the first lap and in your head you have to continue to think about pace," Edmonds said. "Then it is even harder on the second time around."

"This is one of the toughest courses we will run all year."

Heat also played a factor in the race with the temperature reaching 90 degrees.

"On a hot day in August, you have to throw some of the predictions out," Elder said. "Some kids can handle it and some don't."

"Valerie had her best race and ran really strong."

Faye Sloma was the second overall finisher for the Little Giants' girls at 41st (23:09.17) with Paige Collier 50th (23:40.21), Sarah Szymanowski 38th (26:00.38) and Holly Fisher 69th (26:40.05).

Individual winners of both races represented Central Catholic with Charlie Gibbons winning the boys race at 16:34.65 and Alex Matis taking the girls race at 19:45.44.

Strongsville won the boys meet with a score of 52 with the Fighting Irish runner-up (83), Medina third (86) and Perrysburg fourth (91). Ross followed at 158.

Strongsville also won the girls race (54) with Medina runner-up (71) and Notre Dame Academy third (86).

"It was a great experience to have teams like Medina and



Valerie Bixler of Fremont Ross, center, competes in the Norm Bray Invitational Saturday at Walsh Park. JONATHON BIRD/NEWS-MESSENGER

Strongsville join this year," Elder said. "It was not too long ago that Medina won the (boys) state championship (in 2007)."

Oak Harbor dominates Division II-III race

Oak Harbor won the boys race with a score of 61 and placed

three runners in the top 10 with Tyler Sievert leading the way in seventh (18:32.3). Lake tied Old Fort in the scoring, but took the runner-up finish by way of having the highest non-scoring runner among the two teams.

Allie Dresser and Trinity

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NORM BRAY BOX SCORE

Boys Div. I Race Team Standings: 1.

Strongsville 52, 2. Toledo Central Catholic 83, 3. Medina 86, 4. Perrysburg 91, 5. Fremont Ross 158, 6. Hol. Springfield, 7. Columbian 181, 8. Bowling Green 220, 9. Maumee 221, 10. Whitmer 226, 11. Sylvania Southview, 12. Springfield 373, 13. Fremont B 374.

Boys Div. II-III Race Team Standings: 1. Oak Harbor 61, 2. Mil. Lake 86, 3. Old Fort 86, 4. Genoa 100, 5. Otsego 108, 6. Lakota 136, 7. Toledo Christian 140, 8. Fostoria 161, 9. Perkins 196.

Girls Div. I Race Team Standings: 1.

Strongsville 54, 2. Medina 71, 3. Notre Dame Academy 86, 4. Perrysburg 132, 5. Whitmer 134, 6. Bowling Green 152, 7. Toledo Central Catholic 153, 8. Maumee 219, 9. Fremont Ross 234, 10. Sylvania Southview 244, 11. Hol. Springfield 265.

Girls Div. II-III Race Team Standings: 1. Columbian 71, 2. Oak Harbor 77, 3. Toledo Christian 80, 4. Old Fort 104, 5. Perkins 107, 6. Otsego 140, 7. Mil. Lake 142, 8. Genoa 166.

Boys Individual Results Div. I

Fremont: 6. Louis Guardiola 17:01.11, 10. Tyler Edmonds 17:23.15, 36. Devaun Churchya 18:37.68, 48. Ryan Schaffer 19:24.76, Brantleigh Bunting 19:46.42.

Girls Individual Results Div. I

Fremont: 6. Valerie Bixler 20:33.80, 41. Faye Sloma 23:09.17, 50. Paige Collier 23:40.21, 68. Sarah Szymanowshi 26:00.38, 69. Holly Fisher 26:40.05.

Boys Individual Results Div. II-III

Oak Harbor: 7. Tyler Siever 18:32.30, 9. Zachary Seaman 18:36.31, 10. Jake Wistinghausen 18:37.14, 24. Bryce Buderer 19:47.28., 40. Nathan Purk 21:12.37. Old Fort: 4. Brad Bannister 17:33.93, 6. Marcus Meyers 18:26.86, 13. Donald Young 19:07.01, 23. Elliot Phillimore 19:46.56, 40. A.J. Phillimore 21:12.37.

Genoa: 8. Clay Parlette 18:35.77, 14. Kyle Farrell 19:11.77, 21. Jared Lesniewicz 19:38.21, 26. Drew Keenan 20:01.19, 33. Stewart Coffman 20:44.75.

Otsego 1. Brandon Avers 17:19.88, 12. Jordy Ghesquiere 19:06.58, 22. Garry Armstrong 19:39.38, 38. Fred Balmoria 21:02.14, 41. Eddie Ferguson 21:14.21. Lakota 15. Zac Baker 19:16.02, 20. Luke Baker 19:35.97, 28. Caleb Tolento 20:36.30, 29. Isaac Ritter 20:40.53, 44. Tyler Aldrich 21:39.21.

Girls Individual Results Div. II-III

Oak Harbor: 5. Allie Dresser 21:51.29, 6. Trinity Gephart 21:58.26, 14. Maria Boers 23:14.30, 24. Andrea Cecil 24:19.23, 28. Madelaine Newman 23:27.64.

Old Fort: 3. Kayla Garza 21:41.96, 4. Jackie Becker 21:50.70, 15. Alexis Rhodes 23:21.06, 39. Lea Wilzynski 26:58.16, Molly Cleveland 28:10.09.

Otsego: 11. Dayna Fackley 23:05.67, 20. Adeline Smith 24:08.36, 25. Marisa DiBartolome 24:23.79, 40. Alexandria Stough 27:31.55, 44. Brittany Hendricks 28:51.90.

Genoa: 2. Carly Gose 21:39.05, 34. Caitlin Dazley 25:52.90, 36. Jodi Bays 26:10.86, Hannah Verdugo 28:54.92, 49. Jessica Iffland 31:00.85.