

1997 Norm Bray Invitational...

Locals run wild at Walsh Park

Little Giants, Crimson Streaks capture girls titles at Norm Bray Invite

News-Messenger reports

It's not so lonely at the top for the Fremont Ross girls cross country team.

The Little Giants, winners earlier in the week at Bowling Green, dominated the Norm Bray Invitational's Division I race Saturday at Walsh Park.

The win completed a Fremont sweep of the girls divisions, with Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic's Elizabeth Stierwalt leading the Crimson Streaks to the Division II-III win.

"I thought we did a great job holding our pack together at the front," said Ross coach Cathy Esposito, understating the team's 1-2-3-4 finish.

Five seconds separated winner Lindsay Frontz (21:35) from fourth-place finisher Abby Cominsky (21:40). Kristyn Warner was second in 21:36 and Alison Kelly was third in 21:37.

"I can see Kristyn Warner being up there and taking one of these wins any day," Esposito said. "With our team it's basically who can outspurt each other at the end. It's a toss up."

"Any one of them can win a meet and that's a great feeling as a coach."

Bowling Green, Maumee and Clyde trailed Ross.

St. Joe outran seven other teams for its second win this week. The Streaks won Wednesday at the Northwest Ohio Catholic Schools Association meet after losing a dual meet Monday at Oak Harbor.

See STIERWALT, B2



Norm Bray individual champions

Boys Div. I

Adam Fahrner,
Bowling Green

Boys Div. II

Nate Garlock,
Huron

Girls Div. I

Lindsay Frontz,
Fremont Ross
Girls Div. II
Kara Simpson,
Toledo Christian
Academy

More results, B2

ALISON KELLY

(left) and Lindsay Frontz of Fremont Ross round the last pylon and head toward the finish line Saturday in the Norm Bray Invitational. Frontz finished first and Kelly third as the Little Giants won the Division I girls meet. Runners from 14 schools were divided into two divisions for the race.

Steven Garner/
News-Messenger

Stierwalt leads Streaks

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"We started off on that Monday and we weren't that close," St. Joe coach Gary Logsdon said, citing his team's improvement. "We tightened it up there (Wednesday) between the one and five."

Stierwalt finished second to Toledo Christian Academy's Kara Simpson, who ran the Fremont course in 20:55. Stierwalt's 21:22 was nearly matched by teammate Keri Oxley, who finished three seconds slower.

Joni Wilhelm finished sixth in 22:51 and Kerri Zimmerman was eighth in 23:22.

"They know they can win some tournaments and be right there," Logsdon said. "We just have to work on that lower end. ... Our goal is to get better."

Hopewell-Loudon finished second and Huron third.

In the Division I boys meet, Maumee defeated Bowling Green, Clyde, Ross and Toledo Whitmer. Jon Framstad was the fastest Little Giants, finishing the course in 18:01 for seventh place.

Ryan Werling finished 13th and Jake Smith, Ross's fifth fastest runner at Bowling Green, was 18th overall Saturday.

"We've still got a long way to go, we're just going to keep working at it," Ross boys coach John Elder said.

Huron used a first-place run by Nate Garlock (17:10) to capture the Division II-III boys meet. St. Joe finished eighth.

Mike Chapman's 18:42, 11th overall, was the Crimson Streaks highest finisher.

In other action:

Columbus Grove Invite

Gibsonburg's Corey English finished fourth at the Columbus Grove Invitational, helping the Golden Bears boys team to a fourth-place finish in the 14-team Gray Division.

Fostoria St. Wendelin won the event.

Old Fort's Jeremy Riehm was fifth overall.

Gibsonburg finished ninth in the girls team event.

In the Red Division, Lakota's boys finished sixth and the girls placed 10th.

Marcus Rogier had the best Raider finish, earning 15th by running in 17:50.