

1988 Season review...

Cross country teams gearing up for season

News-Messenger reports

High school cross country teams swing into action next week.

The boys and girls teams will compete over 3.1-mile courses.

Following is an outlook at the area teams:

ROSS

The experience is there but depth will be a problem this season for the Rossboys team Coach John Elder said. There are just eight runners on the squad.

"Looking back," Elder said, "we did not have that many distance runners last spring in track, but I'll take seven or eight hard worker rather than 15 semi-hard workers."

Five lettermen, three of them seniors, are on the Ross squad. Aaron Potter, Chad Wodrich and Scott Rosenberger are the seniors. Juniors Shane Hill and Mark Schwartz are the other lettermen. Also on the squad are senior Brian Gillogly and junior Phil Missig.

Karen Turley heads up the Ross girls squad. She had five returning letter winners among her nine runners.

Seniors Lisa Abdoo, Stacy Pasch, Natalie Albert and Kim Reineck plus sophomore Bridget Boda lettered last season. Albert lettered as a sophomore but missed last season because of an injury.

"We have a good nucleus," Turley said, "and some of the younger runners are looking strong."

Also on the Ross girls squad are seniors Dawn Brooks and Amy Norris, sophomore Amy Ritzman and freshman Leah Lomax.

ler, juniors Jenny Ayres and Melissa Dickman and sophomore Michelle Luc round out the Streaks returning letter winners. Add to that group promising freshman Monica Rodriguez and Logsdon feels his team will be a force to reckon with again this season.

CLYDE

Regional meet qualifier Tim Kitzel leads a trio of returning letterman for Coach Joe Stickney's team.

Kitzel and Craig Nagy lettered as juniors and Jim Rainey is a returned junior.

"We were one-and-eight last season," Stickney said, "but this year we are a lot stronger. I am encouraged."

Among his 11 runners, Stickney has six freshman up from the junior high program.

GIBSONBURG

Thirteen boys and 10 girls are on the first teams of new Coach Mark Dooley.

For the boys, senior lettermen Steve Mitchell, Brian Benefield, Tim Haney and Rick Potts will be joined by letterman underclassmen Tom Wasserman, Don Miller and Ryan Seman. Joe Pertner is another returnee but did not letter last season.

"Most of the boys are two-year lettermen," Dooley, who works at the Home Banking Co., in Gibsonburg said. Dooley has previous coaching experience in Michigan.

Beth Ruggiero, Stacy Hart, Machelle Sleek, Cindy Reineck and Chris Balsizer are returning letter winners on the girls team. The squad has just one senior: Janna Hill.

Wrong turn costly for Gibsonburg runners

News-Messenger reports

A funny thing happened on the way to a would-be opening victory for the Gibsonburg cross country team Tuesday. They lost their way.

The Golden Bears had their top five boys runners disqualified and Lakota also had a runner disqualified in a quad meet with Fremont Ross at Northwood Tuesday. The meet was the opener for all four teams.

"It was pretty confusing," said Lakota Coach Don Windom. "It's kind of a shame it had to happen, but somebody took a wrong turn. We don't know what went wrong."

"What a mess," said Ross

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Coach John Elder. "The outcome probably wouldn't have been a whole lot different had everyone run the course correctly, but when something like this happens, you have to disqualify them."

Lakota's Dale Smith crossed the finish line first, but he and the five Gibsonburg runners who followed all were disqualified for their unintended shortcut. As a result, no team scores were available from the boys meet.

Ross's top runner in the meet was Aaron Potter, who finished seventh in a time of 18:21. Randy

Brown was the first official Lakota finisher in 18:49, good for ninth place.

In the girls meet, things went a bit more normal with Lakota winning two decisions and Ross and Gibsonburg getting one apiece.

Jenny Scherger led the Raiders by winning the race in 21:23. Nancy Gilbert added a fifth-place showing. Lisa Abdo was second for Ross in 21:49.

In other meets Tuesday, Clyde's boys lost four decisions and the Clyde girls went 3-1 in a five-way meet in Fostoria, and the Genoa boys topped Eastwood and Elmwood at home.

Fostoria 5-way

The Clyde girls beat everyone but Tiffin Columbian as Wen Yates was seventh and Lisa Renfro eighth in times of 23:31 and 23:58 respectively. Amy Zilch was ninth for the Fliers.

In the boys meet, only Tim Kritzell could crack the top 10 for the Fliers, placing fourth in 17:24.

Genoa tri-meet

The Comets beat the Eagles 19-39 and crushed the Royals 15-45. No results were available from the girls meet.

Chris Haeft and Chris Lau finished 1-2 for the Comets with Haeft clocking in at 17:40 and Lau finishing one second later.

Ross girls earn sweep; boys swept

News-Messenger reports

Ross swept four of the top five spots and then relied on a "lucky 13th" to pull them to a pair of high school girls cross country victories at East Side Park Tuesday.

Amy Ritzman, Bridget Boda, Lisa Abdoo and Stacy Pasch finished second through fifth for the

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Little Giants and Dawn Brooks was 13th enabling Ross to defeat Perkins 24-31 and Sandusky 17-38. Perkins topped Sandusky 25-45.

In the boys meet, defending Class AA state champions Perkins dominated, defeating Ross 15-48 and Sandusky 16-45. Sandusky topped Ross 21-35. **BETH GABEL** ...girls winner



In other meets, Port Clinton's boys edged Clay, Genoa beat Lakota and Woodmore, Oak Harbor topped Clyde and host Huron, and Gibsonburg swept Lake and Eastwood.

In girls meets, Clyde got the best of Huron and Oak Harbor, Lakota downed Genoa and Woodmore, and Gibsonburg won one of two at home.

Also, Port Clinton's girls ran Clay, Old Fort's boys and girls ran against Danbury but no team scores were kept because Clay and Danbury did not have full teams.

Tammy Schaeffer of Perkins won the girls meet against Ross in 21:09 with Ritzman a second behind. Boda finished in 21:35, Abdoo in 21:37 and Pasch in 22:02 for the Little Giants.

Larry Sparks of Perkins won the boys meet in 17 minutes as Perkins took seven of the top 10 spots.

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Runners

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Shane Hill was the first Ross finisher, eighth in 18:06. Aaron Potter of Ross was 13th in 18:58.

At East Harbor State Park, Scott Thomas led the Port Clinton boys to a 27-31 victory over Ross. Thomas won the race in a time of 17:41.

Ross was paced by Shane Hill and Aaron Potter, who finished second and third in times of 18:05 and 19:03 respectively.

Port Clinton is 3-1 and Ross is 2-7 for the season.

In the girls meet, Ross ran to the top four places in winning 21-35. Lisa Abdoo was the winner in

21:13. The Little Giants are 7-2.

Amy Gaydosh led the Redskins, 2-2, coming in fifth with a 22:36 effort.

The Oak Harbor boys ran into a strong Fostoria team, falling 15-39, while Rossford also best the Rockets 25-30.

Fostoria had six runners in the top 10 including the first three spots. Marcus McClelland won the race in 16:22.

Oak Harbor, 2-3, got its best showing from Rob Friar, who placed 10th in 18:31.

Results are mixed for Little Giants

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross boys cross country team was blitzed by Fostoria 15-49 Tuesday.

On the plus side for Little Giant harriers, Amy Ritzman, Bridget Boda and Stacy Pasch ran their best times of the year in sweeping the top three places against the Redmen girls.

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However strong it was, the Ross girls team did not pick up a dual win because its fifth runner was absent from school and was unable to run. No team score was kept.

In other cross country action, Sandusky Perkins picked up a boys and girls dual win over Clyde, Sandusky St. Mary's ran away from Port Clinton and Oak Harbor in both boys and girls races, Woodmore's girls defeated Eastwood while the Wildcats' boys team fell to the Eagles and Genoa's boys defeated both Gibsonburg and Ossego in a double dual meet.

In one other outing, Lakota had nine finishers in the top 10 against Elmwood in both a boys and girls race at Elmwood but no team score was kept.

At Fostoria, Ritzman finished in 20:44 in winning the girls race while Boda ran 21:30 and Pasch 21:35.

Shane Hill (18:05) and Aaron Potter (18:29) were seventh and ninth, respectively, in the boys race.

Ross girls second at Galion meet

News-Messenger reports

Amy Ritzman was the individual champion to lead the Ross girls cross country team to a second place finish Saturday in the Galion Invitational.

Ritzman won in 19:55 as the Little Giants swept the top four places in the race. Gahanna Lincoln was the winner in the boys as well as the girls meets.

Lisa Abdo was second followed by Bridget Boda and Stacy Pasch for Ross. Dawn Brooks rounded out the scoring, finishing 35th.

The Ross boys meanwhile, finished ninth out of 11 teams.

Shane Hill was the top Ross runner, placing 20th in 17:21. Aaron Potter was 32nd and Jim Kelly 46th.

Port Clinton's Scott Thomas won the race in 17:01. The Redskins placed fifth.

In other cross country action

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reported from Saturday, the Gibsonburg boys finished second in Class A and Bellevue and Lakota were 1-2 in Class AA girls competition at the Perrysburg Invitational.

The Golden Bears scored 82 points to trail only East Canton, which had 41. Woodmore finished eighth, St. Joe ninth and Old Fort 15th in the A boys meet.

Don Miller was sixth in 18:20 to lead Gibsonburg, while Tim Arndt was the top St. Joe runner, also in 18:20.

In Class AA boys, Lakota was ninth and Clyde 11th in the 16-team field. Van Wert won with 56 points.

Tim Kritzell was the top runner for Clyde, placing 12th in 18:05. Dale Smith of Lakota was 14th to lead the Raiders, clocking in at 18:21.

Bellevue's Shelly Cotterill won the Class AA girls race to lead the Redmen to the victory with 88 points, while Lakota was next at 111.

Cotterill won in 20:24. Jenny Scherer was the top Raider runner in 23:05, good for 17th overall.

Amy Zilch was 22nd in 23:24 for Clyde.

In the Class A girls race, Woodmore finished fourth and St. Joe fifth as Holgate nipped Tinora 91-99 for the championship.

Carrie Guyer was third and Dorothy Colon placed fourth for the Crimson Streaks in 22:18 and 22:35, respectively.

Gibsonburg had just three runners in girls competition and ran in an open Class A-AA race. Stacy Hart was the top Golden Bear with a time of 23:34, good for fifth place.

Ross girls 3rd, boys 4th at Maumee Invite

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross girls cross country team continued its fine season while the boys squad continued to improve at the Maumee Invitational Saturday.

The Little Giants had three girls and two boys finish in the top 10 of the Class AAA race. The girls team finished third while the boys squad was fourth.

Meanwhile, Bellevue captured the Class AA girls race and Clyde finished fourth.

In the only other meet reported, Genoa won the boys race at the Lake Invitational, Margaretta finished second and Oak Harbor was fourth.

At Maumee, Ross's Amy Ritzman finished third with a time of 19:51, Stacy Pasch was sixth in 20:13 and Lisa Abdo finished eighth in 20:29.

In the boys race, Shane Hill and Aaron Potter finished seventh and ninth, respectively. Hill finished in 17:21 and Potter in 17:42.

In the girls AA race, Bellevue's Shelly Cotterill was the top finisher. Cotterill ran the course in 19:39.

Clyde's Lisa Renfro, Amy Zilch and Gwen Yates all finished in the top 25. Renfro ran 21:39, Zilch 21:59 and Yates finished in 22:03.

Bellevue finished with 49 points, four in front of second

place Anthony Wayne. The Fliers had 116.

Lake Invitational

Margaretta's Derrick Kenna was the top finisher in 16:51, but Genoa had two runner in the top five to take the team title with 36 points to the Polar Bears' 80.

Chris Haeft and Chris Lau finished third and fourth, respectively, for the Comets. Haeft finished the race in 17:18 and Lau in 17:24.

Oak Harbor was seventh with 164 points. The Rockets top finisher was Robb Friar, 17th in 18:11.

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Fremont harriers earn split

News-Messenger reports

Fremont's cross country teams split a pair of dual meets Tuesday.

Fremont Ross swept Findlay at East Side Park, and Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic was swept by Gibsonburg.

Ross defeated Findlay 25-32 in the girls race and the Little Giants' Mark Schwartz broke a 28-28 tie with a 10th place finish in the boys race. Schwartz, Ross's sixth runner, finished ahead of Findlay's sixth runner, Kevin Hughes.

Findlay took the first two places in both races. Ross's Aaron Potter and Bridget Boda paced the Little Giants with third place finishes.

Genoa boys win, St. Joe third

News-Messenger reports

The Genoa boys claimed the Class A-AA team title Saturday at the (Clay) Eagle Invitational, while Fremont St. Joe's boys were third at the Western Reserve Invitational.

The Comets won with 47 points, while Napolean was second with 55. Oak Harbor was sixth and Port Clinton ninth with 149 and 232 points respectively.

In the Class AAA races at Clay, Ross was fourth in girls competition and 14th in the boys meet. And in the girls A-AA, Genoa was ninth and Oak Harbor last. Liberty-Benton won with 43 points.

At Western Reserve, the host team was tops with 71 points followed by Elyria West with 77

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and the Crimson Streaks at 137. In the girls race, St. Joe was fifth at 133. Plymouth won with 90 points.

Chris Haeft led the Genoa boys to victory, placing second overall in 17:18, while Chris Lau was seventh in 17:36.

Rob Friar ran 15th in 18:05 to lead the Rockets and Scott Thomas was 29th in 18:46 for Port Clinton.

In the Class AAA girls race, Fremont Ross had 181, far off Columbian's winning total of 91. Amy Ritzman led the Little Giants, placing ninth in 20:57. Lisa Abdoo and Stacy Pasch were 12th and 14th respectively.

For the Ross boys, Shane Hill was the top runner, getting 27th in 27:43 as the Little Giants scored 358. St. Francis ran away with it with a 64 total.

Aaron Potter added a 50th-place showing for Ross.

The St. Joe boys had two runners in the top 10 to show among the 14 teams. Craig Nieset was sixth in 17:09 and Tim Arndt was eighth in 17:25.

The St. Joe girls had even better individual finishers, but couldn't put together the complete team effort. Carrie Guyer was runner-up to New London's Ann Roder, clocking in at 20:17. Roder won in 19:59.

Dorothy Colon was right behind to grab third for the Crimson Streaks in 20:23.

Ross girls sweep; boys nip Oak Harbor

News-Messenger reports

OAK HARBOR — Ross girls swept the top five finishing spots and the Little Giants boys edged Oak Harbor 28-29 in high school cross country Tuesday.

The Ross girls had the minimum points that could be charged against them: 15. Oak Harbor was next with 50 and Danbury had 58 in the triangular.

Amy Ritzman won the 3.1-mile

race in 20 minutes, 39 seconds. Teammates Lisa Abdoo, Bridget Boda, Stacy Pasch and Kaylene Bartson finished second through fifth. Samantha Augugliaro and Dawn Brooks were ninth and 10th for the Little Giants.

Gina Whiting of Oak Harbor was sixth in 24:03 and teammates Becky Adams and Beth Hansen were seventh and eighth, respectively.

In the boys run, Ross runners

finished first, fourth, fifth, seventh and 13th. Aaron Potter won the event in 17:39 with Phil Misig fourth, Jim Kelly fifth, Scott Rosenberrger seventh and Mark Schwartz 13th.

Robb Friar of Oak Harbor was second in 18:08 with Randy Risch, also of the Rockets, next in 18:20.

Roger Blevins of Danbury took sixth in 18:33 but the Lakers did not figure in the team scoring because of too few runners.