

1997 District meet...

Ross girls, 6 other area teams move on

News-Messenger reports

OREGON — Fremont Ross's girls cross country runners put a series of ailments on hold long enough to place second at the Division I District Meet Saturday at Pearson Park.

"Jami Toepepe was really sick this week. Molly Goecke was still kind of sick from the flu and Kristyn Warner had an eye infection," coach Cathy Esposito said. "I told them, 'Don't think about it for 20 minutes and then you can think about being sick.'"

Notre Dame won the meet with 41 points, followed by Ross (63), Bowling Green (88) and Perrysburg (95) among 10 teams.

The top four teams and top 15 individuals advance to the regional meet Saturday at Hedges Boyer Park in Tiffin.

For Ross, Warner finished third in 20:24, Alison Kelly was fourth in 20:25, Lindsay Frontz was 11th in 20:38, Jami Toepepe was 17th in 20:59 and Abby Cominsky ran in 21:30 for 28th place.

"When three out of your top six are not feeling well going to a Saturday meet you preach all week about taking care of themselves," Esposito said.

In the boys Div. I meet, Ross junior Jon Framstad and senior Eric Gabel qualified for regionals as individuals.

It was the first time in four seasons that Ross had not qualified for regionals as a team.

"I'm really proud of how everybody ran for us all year," Ross coach John Elder said, having watched seniors Jake Smith and Eli Semer run their final meets for the Little Giants.

Getting two individual qualifiers would have been unlikely at midseason, Elder said. "But after last week's race (at the Great Lakes League meet) I expected (Gabel) to be there."

"It was a nice reward for a good senior year," Elder said. "He's worked hard for four years now."

Framstad finished ninth in 17:09 and Gabel 14th in 17:17 as the Little Giants narrowly missed qualifying as a team.

Maumee won with 45 points, followed by St. John's (52), Central (68), Findlay (106) and Ross (116) among 11 teams.

Ross's Josh Burris was 22nd in 17:32, Ryan Werling was 32nd in 18:06 and Eli Semer 39th in 18:32.



News-Messenger/Steven Garner
KERI OXLEY of St. Joseph Central Catholic led the Streaks Saturday.

Div. II districts

Oak Harbor's girls lived up to their No. 15 state ranking by advancing to the regional with a third-place finish at Terra Community College.

Eastwood ran away with the Division II title with 25 points, while Bellevue had 78 and Oak Harbor had 98. Upper Sandusky earned the final qualifying spot

with 97 points.

Clyde's girls finished sixth with 133 points, but Jennifer Staats made regionals with a 12th-place time of 20:46.

Sophomore Ashley Orshoski led Oak Harbor with a 14th-place finish in 20:57. Sophomore Jessica Baumgartner was 15th in 21:00 followed by freshman Jackie Baumgartner (16th, 21:03), junior

Tracie Sutkus (20th, 21:18) and senior Jodi Kaiser (24th, 22:06).

Sutkus' time was a career best. Next Saturday will mark the first-ever regional appearance for Oak Harbor's girls team.

"They're pretty excited about that," Rockets coach Kent Whitman said. "They were a little disappointed because they wanted to beat Bellevue. We beat them twice this season. Once they got over that, getting to the regional hit them and that made them feel good."

In the Div. II boys meet, Clyde's Josh Cook and Jason Hill qualified as individuals but no area teams advanced.

Upper Sandusky won the meet with 26 points followed by Otsego (91), Eastwood (95) and Port Clinton (113).

Cook finished fifth in 16:42 while Hill was the 15th and final qualifier with a time of 17:15. Bellevue's Phil Clapp was ninth in 16:54 and Laramie Spurlock was 14th in 17:14.

Bellevue finished fifth, Lakota sixth, Clyde eighth and Oak Harbor 10th.

Div. III districts

Woodmore's girls cross country teams of the 1990s have lived for the postseason.

Saturday's Division III District 1 race at Terra Community College was no different for the 1997 Wildcats, under coach Alicia Wollmering.

Woodmore, paced by freshman Meredith Magsig, won the district title with 30 points, 37 fewer than runner-up Otsego. Elmwood (73) and St. Joseph Central Catholic (94) earned the final two regional qualifying spots.

Woodmore is a three-time state champion in the 1990s and a ninth-place state finisher a year ago.

"This one, we just kind of looked at it as we needed to work towards what was going to go on next week," Wollmering said. "We wanted to run hard on the hills and things like that."

Magsig took second overall in 19:33, followed by sophomore teammate Amanda Roadarmel, who was fourth in 19:44. Junior Lindsay Travis (5th, 19:45), Renie LaVigne (9th, 19:59) and Kathy Camp (10th, 20:06) all had top-10 finishes for the Cats.

Roadarmel, LaVigne and Kathy Camp all had career-best times.



News-Messenger/Steven Garner
MEREDITH MAGSIG, left, Amanda Roadarmel and Lindsay Travis run in a pack at Saturday's Division III, District 1 meet at Terra Community College.

For St. Joe, Keri Oxley took sixth in 19:53, Elizabeth Stierwalt was 12th in 20:15, Kerri Zimmerman was 22nd in 20:55, Tracy Snyder was 28th in 21:30 and Joni Wilhelm 29th in 21:35.

Regan Youngs ran the fastest time for Lakota, finishing 21st in 20:51.

In the Div. III, District 2 race, Gibsonburg's Sarah Hilt took the final qualifying spot with a 20:51 — 15th fastest. Her team narrowly missed a berth in regionals, finishing behind Liberty-Benton, Cardinal Stritch, St. Wendelin and Cory-Rawson.

In the Div. III, District 1 boys race, Old Fort nearly caught Liberty-Benton in a 35-40 decision.

Jeremy Riehm took second (16:44) and Dan Haugh fourth

(16:53) for the Stockaders, who were followed in team points by Tiffin Calvert and Sandusky St. Mary's.

William Pfeiffer was sixth in 17:03, Phil Riehm 14th in 17:34 and Dustin Miller 16th in 17:40 for Old Fort.

"We knew we were going to be first or second coming off the upset of St. Wendelin (at the Midland Athletic League meet)," Old Fort coach Tony Miller said. "They were happy. They know now it wasn't a fluke."

The Div. III, District 2 race was won by St. Wendelin, followed by Hopewell-Loudon, Toledo Christian and Gibsonburg.

Corey English led the Golden Bears with a 16:48 followed by Mario Picciuto's 19th-best 17:44.

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