

2004 District Tournament...

DIVISION I DISTRICT GOLF

# A date at state

## Ross Columbus-bound

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FINDLAY — Fremont Ross assistant golf coach Karl Schabel was under par.

Apparently Schabel was extremely liberal with his use of "that's awesome dude" in response to his players' achievements over the course of the season.

And reasonably so as Andrew Aseltine captured several medalist honors and the Little Giants produced one of the best seasons in school history.

The Little Giant players and coaches had even begun to predict the over/under on the number of times Schabel would utter the phrase on a given day. Schabel came in under on Thursday — probably because the exclamation was never more timely or fitting.

And completely realistic.

Aseltine fired a 73 to nab medalist honors and lead Ross to its first state tournament appearance since 1973.

The Little Giants carded a 316 to top Sylvania Northview by four strokes at the Division I district tournament at Red Hawk Run Golf Course and advance to play the Ohio State University Scarlet Course on Oct. 22-23.

"I'm proud to be medalist, but our goal was the team first of all," Aseltine said. "Coming in with a 73 was a good feeling, but I couldn't go without these guys."

Ross's Kevin Vassar was a little discouraged when he came off the course with an 85. But three Little Giants followed with scores in the 70s to turn things around.

Aseltine eagled the par-5 seventh hole, Scott King recovered from a slow start to record a 79 and Spencer Schabel matched that with five consecutive pars on holes 2-6 and a birdie on No. 7.

"We are notoriously slow starters," Little Giant coach Mark Miesle said. "We finished very strong. They try to give me a heart attack every tournament."

Aseltine said his best hole of the day was not No. 7 but the par-4 second hole, which he birdied.

"That's definitely one of the

hardest holes on the course," he said. "That was an awesome birdie. It was huge for momentum on the day."

Schabel, the last Ross player off the course, birdied Nos. 16 and 17 as the outcome was still very much in question. Schabel said the key to his day was swinging at about 80 percent.

"I didn't swing out of my shoes," said Schabel, who had 29 putts. "I controlled the ball more."

I knew we were going to win when I teed off on No. 18. Ross has been waiting for this for 31 years."

Aseltine putted 26 times after 39 putts cost him medalist recognition at sectionals last week.

"The last week of work made a big difference," he said. "And going to state will make me work that much harder this week."

Miesle said King's score was the most pivotal on Thursday.

"He started out terrible and played 2-over for the rest of the day," Miesle said. "He hung in there, and I give him credit. He could have depended on the other guys, but word got to the other guys that they could count on Scotty today."

Miesle said he offered no advice exclusive to Thursday's pressure environment.

"I stressed all day to have fun and play well," he said. "If you do both, you will remember this day for the rest of your lives."

The final three Little Giants exited the course with broad smiles on their faces to hugs from Carl Schabel, the stimuli for the joyousness stemming largely from the fact that not just Aseltine would be headed to Columbus.

Spencer Schabel said the season would not have been fulfilling had the entire team not advanced.

"We deserve it," he said. "We're so deep and we worked so hard. I think it's our turn to go do it and win state. No other (Ross) sport has gone to state this year. It's really nice going as a team."

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**— Ross coach  
Mark Miesle**

# Aseltine, Ross head to state

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Most often, state-bound teams build to a crescendo from the start of the season. Ross, however, started the campaign with a victory and hardly let up.

That was great for accumulating tournament victories throughout the year but made peaking at the right time far from guaranteed, regardless of the talent on the squad. But Miesle wasn't, and isn't, concerned.

"We did have a lull in the middle after starting on fire,"

he said. "Every kid plays a strong summer tournament schedule, so they came in ready with their games going right away. Then, possibly, overconfidence set in and the (second-place finish in the) GBC tournament was a disappointment.

"Right now," he continued, "I think we have a very legitimate chance to win this thing."

That would truly be awesome. And there will certainly be nary a complaint if Schabel, who has been mindful of his penchant for saying so, can't help himself and is over in Columbus.