

2001 District meet...

## CROSS COUNTRY: District Preview Roundup



News-Messenger file photo/Ben French

FREMONT ROSS runners are scattered throughout the Division I pack at the Norm Bray Invitational on Sept. 1 at Walsh Park. The Little Giants will see several of the same runners at Saturday's Division I district at Pearson Park in Oregon.

# Running for the regional

## Terra hosts all but Fremont Ross

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross boys cross country team, coming off a runner-up finish in the Great Lakes League, hopes to maintain its pace Saturday at the Division I district meet at Pearson Park in Oregon.

State-ranked Defiance, along with Maumee and Whitmer, are the team favorites in the 22-team field. The top three teams and 15 individuals not on qualifying teams advance to the regional.

The boys race begins at 2:40 p.m.

"Our team has a real far-out chance," Little Giants head coach John Elder said. "A lot of the teams there have beaten us all year long."

Leading the way for the Little Giants is senior Jeremy Framstad, who was the Great Lakes League individual runner-up with a time of 16 minutes, 57 seconds. Framstad has made three



HALL



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consecutive trips out of district to the regional. Last season, he earned his first state berth.

No. 2 Ross runner Jay Ohms finished eighth at the GLL.

"I think Jeremy will get out, and that's being realistic," Elder said. "Maybe Jay Ohms can sneak out. If we can't go on as a team, maybe Jeremy can have some company getting out."

The Ross girls, who run at 1 p.m. Saturday, are objecting to their placing in the first of two Division I districts at Oregon.

At the seeding meeting Monday, Ross coach Cathy Esposito chose the 10th and

final remaining spot in District 2 before tournament officials decided the slot should be left open for a Toledo Woodward team that may not have enough girls to attend the meet.

That shifted the Little Giants into the stronger District 1, which includes powerful teams Toledo St. Ursula, Bowling Green and Sylvia Northview. Whitmer and Findlay, both of which defeated Ross at the GLL meet, are also in District 1.

Esposito, who said the district also broke state rules by seeding eight teams instead of six, fired off a letter of protest to the Ohio High School Athletic Association. The situation has not changed.

"It's definitely a nasty situation," Esposito said. "It was a situation where someone like Stacy Hall, who went to state last year, might struggle to get out of district."

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Hall, a junior who has made consecutive trips to the regional meet, finished fifth Saturday at the GLL meet. Teammate Wendy Farrell came in 14th.

The Little Giants are hoping to steal one of the three regional-qualifying slots.

## **Framstad, Ohms, Hall moving on**

OREGON — Three Fremont Ross runners qualified for the regional during Division I cross country action Saturday at Pearson Park.

Jeremy Framstad and Jay Ohms of the boys team and girls runner Stacy Hall earned berths for the regional, to be held Saturday at Tiffin's Hedges-Boyer Park.

Framstad finished third in 16 minutes, 51 seconds,

and Ohms crossed the line 14th in 17:28. The Little Giants finished sixth in the team standings with 131 points. N

The top three teams and individuals who placed in the top 15 advanced to the regional.

In the girls race, Hall finished eighth in 20:21. The Ross girls also placed sixth with 136 points.

Defiance won the boys meet, and Toledo St. Ursula claimed the girls meet.

— *News-Messenger reports*