

# Buckeye Conference track teams collide for crown

SANDUSKY — Defending champion Sandusky rates the definite favorite's role, but the Blue Streaks are expected to have considerably more trouble than they have had in the recent past as the eight Buckeye Conference track teams get together for the annual league meet at Sandusky Saturday.

Only three teams have won the championship in the Buckeye Conference and the Blue Streaks have completely dominated the meet for the past decade.

Since 1964 when Sandusky broke a two-year reign by Marion Harsh, the Blue Streaks have won the Sandusky championship five times. Elyria's Pioneer spoiled Sandusky's string by winning the title in 1967. Sandusky has won it the last five years.

Marion had a struggle both on the conference crown in the 60s and early 60s and the Promixie, Blue Streaks and Pioneers are the only teams to ever win the crown. Marion took the titles in 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1962 and 1963. Sandusky won in 1961 and has a total of nine championships to Marion's seven.

A few outstanding competitors are expected to lead the Blue Streaks to victory this year although Fremont Ross, Findlay and Lorain Admiral King figure to make things a bit better than usual for the Sandusky crew. The Blue Streaks apparently do not have the depth they have had in the past, but appear to have enough in their outstanding individuals to win the title.

Leading the Blue Streaks into the Buckeye Conference meet will be Jim Fantozz, Al Mayfield, Osman Pearson and Stan Johnson.

Fantozz is the defending Buckeye Conference champion in the 100 yard hurdles, having taken the title with a 14.6 clocking last year. He also is heavily favored to win the high hurdles, where his best time (14.2) is eight tenths of a second better than the next best in 1971, but was beaten out of the crown last year in the mile run.

Johnson has the best distance in the shot put and the second best distance in the discus.

Mayfield edged Ross High's star sprinter Rob Lytle in both the 100 and 200 in a dual meet at Ross Wednesday. Lytle is the defending Buckeye Conference champion in

both events, but he will face tough challenges this year. Lytle won the century in 10.8 and the furlong in 23.1 in 1971.

The Giants have another defending champion returning in pole vaulter Jeff Oplet. He took the crown with a vault of 10 feet last year.

The physical condition of Lytle, Jim Heidelberg and Tim Smith will play a big role in the Giants' chances. Lytle and Heidelberg are just coming off injuries and Smith suffered a slight muscle pull Wednesday, but is expected to be ready.

The three are among the top scorers on the Ross squad.

Findlay and Admiral King figure to challenge for the title.

Both have strong spots throughout — field events, distance events and sprints.

Findlay's Line rats as the favorite in the two mile, while Admiral King's Wickes is favored in the discus.

Whitaker of Admiral King won the 400 last year and is expected to lead the quarter, the 100 and the 200 this year.

Other defending champions returning are Coleman of Mansfield in the long jump, with a 23' 2" this year and Ira Perkins of Elyria in the high jump, with a best of 6' 6".

The Strobel Field meet gets under way with field events at 5 p.m. Saturday. The high and low hurdle preliminaries will be held at 5:30 p.m. The evening's program begins at 7 p.m. with the presentation of awards for 9-10 p.m.

Admission is free on Saturday, \$2.50 on Sunday.

The list of Ross High entries in the running events is as follows:

High hurdles — Julius Simms and James Scott; 100 yard dash — Rob Lytle and Randy Robertson; mile run — Mark Holcomb and Danny Smith; 200 yard dash — Tim Smith and Scott Barman; Randy Robertson and Jim Heidelberg; 400 yard dash — Terry Sherson and Steve Colek; low hurdles — Julius Simms and Jim Smith; 600 yard run — Tim Smith and Mike Coleman; 200 — Rob Lytle and Jim Heidelberg; two mile run — Mark Root and Dave Damschroder.

Ross field event entrants are as follows:

Long jump — Doug Kridler and Jim Heidelberg; high jump — Larry Ludwig and Paul Fahrbach; discus — Bob Koebel and Kurt Landl; shot put — Bob Koebel and Bob Harris; pole vault — Jeff Oplet and Keith Peterson.

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News  
Messenger

## Sports

## Ross a disappointing seventh Sandusky romps to title in Buckeye track meet

**SANDUSKY** — With their hopes of being in contention for the conference crown shattered by injuries that began to hit early in the season, the Ross High Little Giants saw their disappointments pile up Saturday as they finished seventh in the eight team field at the Buckeye Conference track meet.

The Giants managed just 14 points as host Sandusky won the championship again, piling up 61 points.

The defending champion Blue Streaks had four men score 46 points for them.

Rob Lytle, fighting off a leg injury, finished second in the 100 and fourth in the 220 — both of which he won in 1972. His leg hurting again slowed him down at the end of the 220 and kept him from entering the mile relay.

Tim Smith, right in the thick of the battle in the 880, had his injured leg tighten up on him near the close of the race and he dropped from contention and had to be scratched from the mile relay.

Jim Heidelberg, who just got back into action this week after battling a pulled muscle, couldn't get his take off spot down in the long jump and took off from behind the board each time.

"We had those key men injured and maybe it was a psychological thing with the others because of it," head coach Ron Brant said after the meet.

At any rate, defending pole vault champion Jeff Opelt had trouble getting a good bend in his pole and finished third. The Giants' top hurdler Julius Simms hit three hurdles in one preliminary race and then lost his steps in the other just when he appeared sure of reaching the final. He was passed and failed to make the finals in both the highs and lows.

It was a day of troubles for the Little Giants, even with those who performed better than usual. Every distance man on the team cut seconds off his previous best time, but none placed. Larry Liggins, just a sophomore, high jumped six feet, but lost a place because of a miss at 5' 9". Kurt Landig missed placing in the discus by three inches.



**LARRY LIGGINS HIT ALL-TIME BEST HEIGHT**  
Cleared 6', but just missed placing in top five

"It was a disaster," Brant repeated. While the Giants suffered through the day, the Blue Streaks feasted on the beautiful weather and track.

The Sandusky thincade finished 28 points ahead of second place Lorain Admiral King.

Stan Johnson, Jim Fantozz and Al Mayfield led the way for Sandusky. Each won two events. Fantozz set a record in the high hurdles with a time of 14.2 and won the low hurdles. Mayfield won the 100-yard dash, once again beating Lytle in the final yards, and took the 220. Johnson took the two weight events with a pair of mighty heaves. He won the discus with a toss of 107'2" and took the shot put with a heave of 59'6". Osmar Pearson won the mile and took second in the 880.

Fantozz and Ira Perkins of Elyria set the only records of the day. Perkins cleared 6'9" in the high jump.

The final standings were as follows:  
Sandusky, 61; Lorain Admiral King, 33; Elyria, 32½; Mansfield, 31½; Lorain, 30; Findlay, 28; Fremont Ross, 14; Marion, 8.

## SUMMARY

## Field events

**LONG JUMP** — Moore (E), Hill (Marion); Sherman (S), Coleman (M), Hafford (M), Smith (L), 8.3.

**HIGH JUMP** — Perkins (E), Hill (Marion), Pollardy (E), Tillman (M), Thomas (S), 6'5".

**SHOT PUT** — Johnson (S), Wickes (AK), Cunningham (F), Tamasewski (AK), Fireston (F).

**DISCUS** — Johnson (S), Wickes (AK), Ballish (AK), Talbot (S), Fireston (F), 107'2".

**POLE VAULT** — Sellers (E), Pickens (S), Opelt (R), Penfield (R), Henry (E), 12'.

## Running events

**100-YARD DASH** — Mayfield (S), Lytle (R), Whittaker (AK), Hafford (M), Smith (L), 8.3.

**120-YARD LOW HURDLES** — Fantozz (S), Haggin (AK), Tillman (M), Meede (L), Williams (E).

**80-YARD RELAY** — Lorain, Mansfield, Findlay, Elyria, Ross (Hopper, Berman, Robertson, J. Smith), 1:29.8.

**MILE RUN** — Pearson (S), Pera (AK), Looknot (M), Haas (F), Gosser (S), 4:36.5.

**400-YARD DASH** — Whittaker (AK), Lindamood (L), Robinson (F), Brown (E), Shubinski (F), 50.0.

**100-YARD LOW HURDLES** — Fantozz (S), Mead (L), Oliver (E), Tillman (M), Eggers (AK), 20.0.

**800-YARD RUN** — Sivak (M), Pearson (S), Hahn (E), Wells (F), Whitehead (AK), 1:58.1.

**TWO MILE RUN** — Line (F), Bueris (Marion), Sparks (S), Hightower (M), Simmons (AK), 9:48.8.

**MILE RELAY** — Lorain, Mansfield, Findlay, Ross (Simms, Celek, Shearon, J. Smith), Sandusky, 3:28.8.

**220-YARD DASH** — Mayfield (S), A. Smith (L), M. Smith (L), Lytle, Wonderly (F), 22.1.



**COMPETITORS IN THE LOW HURDLES ROUND THE TURN**  
Ross entries Julius Simms, second from left, and James Scott failed to qualify



**ROSS HIGH'S ROB LYTLE WINS A HEAT IN THE 100**  
Little Giant sprinter finished second in event

### Diamondmen defeat Columbian

## Ross wins sectional tourney opener

**NORTH ROBINSON** — Bob Brudzinski hurled a four-hit shutout as the Ross Little Giants broke a five game losing streak and started down the baseball tournament trail with a 5-0 victory over Tiffin Columbian here Saturday.

Only one Columbian base runner managed to get as far as third base in the sectional tournament opener which saw Brudzinski have trouble with only one man. First baseman Frederick got three hits off the big Ross hurler, but the other eight Tiffin batters managed just one hit among them. Brudzinski fanned five men and walked five as he fashioned his shutout.

The Giants got started right off the bat.

### Junior trackmen place high

**MANSFIELD** — Competing against approximately 40 other teams Fremont eighth and ninth grade thincade placed high in the Mansfield Junior High Relays on Saturday.

Eddie Holmes leaped to a 20'9½" long jump first place for the Little Giants. Holmes' heave in the discus for second place.

The sprint medley relay team of Jim Elder, Terry Bates, the second eighth grader, Sam Starks and Brad Bischoff placed fourth with a 1:46.1 time. Gary Nighswander placed fifth with a 120'2" heave in the discus and fifth in the high jump with a 5'7" leap.

The 880 yard relay team (Terry Holmes, Jim Elder, Brad Bischoff, Eddie Holmes) placed fifth also.

In the bottom of the first inning, Mike Shannon singled. He was forced at second by Mike Matthes, but Terry Myers walked and Mike Lowery singled Matthes home. Myers was out trying to reach third. Dan Baker then doubled home Lowery for the second run of the inning.

A single by Matthes and two errors played roles in producing the Giants' third run. Myers scored the third inning tally. In the fourth inning, Shannon walked and stole second. Matthes then singled him around. A walk to Mike Baker and a single by Bob Brudzinski produced the Giants' last run in the sixth inning.

Brudzinski and Matthes each had two hits for the winners.

## BOX SCORE

Ross				Tiffin			
ab	r	h	e	ab	r	h	e
Shannon, 2b	2	1	1	Seitz, lf	4	0	0
Matthes, cf	3	1	2	Florence, 3b	3	0	0
Myers, if	2	1	0	Frederick, 1b	3	0	3
Lowery, ss	3	1	1	Lofay, c	2	0	0
D. Baker, c	3	0	1	Bentz, ss	3	0	0
Silcox, rf	2	0	0	Reiss, 2b	1	0	0
Bliss, lb	3	0	0	Wolff, cf	3	0	0
Baker, 3b	2	1	0	Williams, rf	2	0	0
Brudzinski, p	3	0	2	Bowers, p	3	0	1
	23	5	7		24	0	4

Columbian 000 000 0-0 4 2  
Ross High 201 101 4-5 7 0

Doubles — Dan Baker (R); runs batted in — Mike Lowery and Dan Baker (R); Winning pitcher — Bob Brudzinski; Losing pitcher — Bowers.

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