

2002 District...

Wrestling Preview Capsules

Little Giants, Fliers take nine to district

Division I

Where: Toledo Central Catholic High School.

When: Wrestling begins 4 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. Saturday. Finals are at 5 p.m. Saturday.

Area team: Fremont Ross.

To advance: The top four wrestlers in each weight class advance to the state tournament in Columbus.

Ross district qualifiers: Andrew Legg (171), Kyle Wensinger (145), Chris Kayser (189), Jarrod Pena (275), Zac Potridge (112), Jake Gutschalk (130), Austin Earle (140), Tommy Wagner (152) and Luke Swint (215).

Outlook: The Little Giants are coming off a surprise runner-up finish at the Oregon Clay sectional. Yet seven of Ross's nine wrestlers will be competing in their first district. Legg will look to follow in his brother's footsteps and qualify for his first state tournament. The Little Giants will face tough opposition in Columbus-area schools such as Pickerington, Hillard Darby, Dublin Scioto and Mount Vernon. All four schools boast double-digit qualifiers, while Pickerington leads all participating schools with 13 qualifiers.

Coach's quote: "The guys are stepping it up again. I'm really pleased with a majority of the draws we've got. I think we've got a really nice shot. Once you get to this level, everybody is tough. I've got to keep my fingers crossed that our guys will be ready again. I'll think they'll do all right. They should fare well." — Grover Dowell, Ross

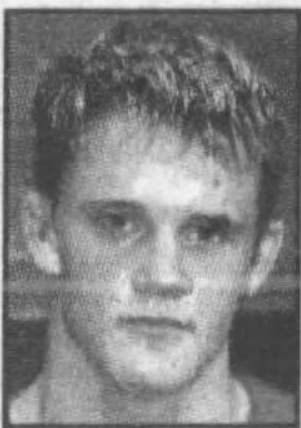
Legg takes title, bound for state

By ALEXIUS TOMASZEWSKI

Staff writer

TOLEDO — One is the loneliest number, but Andrew Legg still is singing a happy tune.

Fremont Ross's 171-pound sophomore



was the only one of nine Little Giant district qualifiers to advance the 65th annual state wrestling tournament this weekend at the Schottenstein Center in Columbus.

And he did it convincingly.

LEGG

Legg (32-2) posted a 6-1 victory over Tiffin

Columbian's Leo Hoerig in the finals to win the Division I district title on Saturday at Central Catholic High School.

The championship bout wasn't exciting to watch, but the outcome was worth it. Legg is the Little Giants' first district champion since 1995.

See LEGG, B3

Legg plans to place during 1st trip to state

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"It wasn't a pretty match," Ross head coach Grover Dowell said. "But he came out on top and that's all that matters."

Legg will face Willoughby South junior D.J. Delande (18-10) in the state preliminaries on Thursday.

Legg, who pinned Hoerig in the sectional semifinals, found the second time around a little tougher. He got the first takedown, which was the only score of the first period.

Hoerig maintained top control for nearly the entire second period after Legg chose bottom. Hoerig threw his legs in on Legg four times and was called for potentially dangerous infractions the same amount. Legg received one stalling call, while Hoerig got two, thus giving a point to Legg.

Legg also surrendered a stalling point but managed an escape and a takedown in the final period to clinch his first district crown.

"I'm very pleased. My only goal was to get to state," Legg said. "I'd never imagine I'd win the district. I knew he was going to come out and not do the things he did in our last match. It just upset me that's all he did (use legs)."

Said Dowell, "This is a big step for him. It's really good. He's got to feel really confident now, only being a sophomore."

While the night ended on a high for Legg, Dowell was less than impressed with his team's overall performance. The Little Giants finished 13th in the 38-team field with 49 points. Pickerington (196.5 points) was the

team champion, and Anthony Wayne (116) was the runner-up.

"Their head wasn't in it," he said. "It was a different team than what we had last weekend."

Ross's Chris Kayser (32-11) came away as a state alternate with a fifth-place finish in 189-pound action. He posted a 3-0 decision over Matt Adams of Dublin Scioto.

"That's my first goal now, to place at state. That was my goal for next year, but I love the thought of being able to place this year. That's every wrestler's dream."

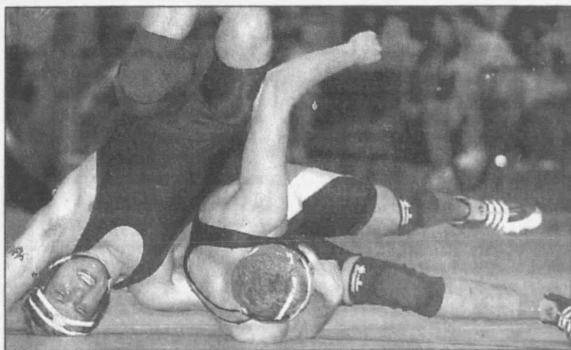
— Andrew Legg,
Ross sophomore wrestler

To reach the finals, Legg pinned Hilliard Darby's Brett Manniaci in one minute, 24 seconds. He proceeded with a 15-3 major decision over Ian Gagnon of Toledo St. John's. In the semifinals, Legg edged Lancaster's Keith Fisher 5-2.

Legg follows in the footsteps of his brother, Rick Legg, who was a state qualifier last year as a senior. Legg hopes to one-up his older sibling by placing in Columbus.

"That's my first goal now, to place at state," the younger Legg said. "That was my goal for next year, but I love the thought of being able to place this year. That's every wrestler's dream."

The Division I championship preliminaries begin at 6 p.m. Thursday.



News-Messenger/Ben French

CHRIS KAYSER, left, of Fremont Ross tangles up with Zach Andy of Ashland during a 189-pound match of the consolation round at the Division I district meet Saturday at Toledo Central Catholic. Kayser finished fifth and just missed a berth in this week's state meet.

Wrestling

High School^N

Division I District

at Toledo Central Catholic
Team Scores

1. Pickerington	171.5
2. Anthony Wayne	106
3. Central Catholic	83
4. Dublin Scioto	82.5
5. Hilliard Davidson	69.5
6. Olentangy	68
7. Waite	61.5
8. Westerville North	60
9. Marion Harding	59
10. Ashland	54.5
14. Fremont Ross	43

Ross Championship Match

171 — Andrew Legg (R) dec. Leo Hoerig (Columbian) 6-1.

Ross Fifth Place Match

189 — Chris Kayser (R) deec. Matt Adams (Dublin) 3-0.