

2026 Season Review

Fremont Ross Wrestling Programs Open Their Seasons With Strong Performances

The Fremont Ross girls and boys wrestling teams officially kicked off their seasons this past weekend, each hitting the road and showing early promise at their respective tournaments.

Girls Place 3rd Out of 25 Teams at Highland High School

The girls traveled to Marengo, Ohio on Sunday to compete at Highland High School, turning in an impressive 3rd-place team finish out of 25 schools. It was a strong opening statement for a program that continues to grow and establish itself among the region's best.

Coach Jen Long was pleased with the team's effort, sharing, "Ladies wrestled well today for the first tournament of the season. We did a lot of good things and we did some things that we need to work on and correct to get better. Overall it was a great competitive day for the ladies."

Key performers for the Little Giants included:

1st Place: Nayeli Vasquez (125)

2nd Place: Malaya Hughes (100), Kailani Long (105), Jaiden Long (120), Keyonna Vann (235)

With a strong foundation laid on opening weekend, the girls will get back to work with their focus on continued growth and steady improvement in the practice room.

Boys Earn 5th Place at the Battle by the Lake

The boys team headed east to Madison High School to compete in the Battle by the Lake Tournament, where they battled through a challenging field—despite missing five weight classes—and still earned a 5th-place finish.

Coach Hetrick noted that there is room to grow, but he is confident the team will make strides as they continue to put in hard work each day. He shared, "Even with missing five weight classes, the team finished solid, taking 5th place. Aidan Autullo, 5-0 with three tech falls and two pins, was our only champion. Freshman Kolin Metcalf went 2-2 with a 4th-place finish and was another top performer. Lincoln Ollom and Nathan Craig also performed outstanding—just a few little things they have to clean up. Overall, it comes down to preparing better in the practice room. A few mental mistakes and some technical mistakes that we have to clean up."

Senior Night & Alumni Night Set for Thursday, December 11

Both programs now look ahead to a special evening this Thursday, December 11, as Fremont Ross will host Senior Night for its boys and girls wrestlers. The event will also include an Alumni Night, and all former Fremont Ross wrestlers are invited to attend and be recognized.

It is shaping up to be a memorable night in the Purple Pit as the Little Giant wrestling community comes together to celebrate past and present.

Good luck to both teams as they continue their seasons—go Little Giants!



Little Giants Wrestling Owns the Night as Boys and Girls Flip Findlay in Senior Night Showdown

The Purple Pit was electric on Wednesday evening as the Fremont Ross boys and girls wrestling programs delivered a memorable Senior Night performance, toppling Findlay in a dual showdown that honored today's leaders and welcomed back generations of Little Giants Alumni. The atmosphere crackled from start to finish, setting the stage for a night the program won't soon forget.

The Lady Giants opened the action with grit, physicality, and teamwork, coming together "like a pack of wolves" as they overpowered Findlay 51-30. The intensity was undeniable as Fremont Ross racked up a series of dominant victories. The girls secured wins by fall from Sheyla Morales-Salinas, Dulce Vasquez-Lorenzo, Jaiden Long, Jamiria Moore, Nayeli Vasquez, Tamia Bounds, and Brooklyn Koebel, while Malaya Hughes and Kailani Long added valuable points with wins by forfeit.

Head Coach Jen Long was thrilled with the performance and the atmosphere as a whole.

"What an electric night! The crowd, including our Alumni, showed up to support and cheered loud for our wrestling family! We loved having Seniors from both the boys and girls teams honored in such a special way. Our ladies represented well, showing very physical matches. We are getting techniques and fundamentals down, but as always still working to improve."

The boys team followed with a statement of their own, earning a hard-fought 39-27 victory. The tone was set immediately by Jackson Durbin, whose scrappy battle at 106 pounds ignited the crowd and fueled momentum on both mats. Later in the lineup, Joel Pickard and Anthony Salazar secured crucial pins—both coming through in tightly contested matches to lock down the team win.

Head Coach Chad Hetrick praised his team's resolve.

"It's always electrifying when we dual Findlay. They're a very disciplined team and Head Coach Ben Kirian is one of the best. Despite having three consecutive upsets early, the team rallied back for a team victory. This reflects the team's determination and the mental toughness to rally back in challenging moments."

Adding to the significance of the night, Vanguard students debuted a brand-new tradition—a handcrafted "F Trophy" symbolizing the Fremont vs. Findlay rivalry. From now on, the winner of the dual will take the trophy home. After Wednesday's performance, it will reside proudly in Fremont, right where Little Giants believe it belongs.

It was a night of energy, pride, and celebration—one that honored the Seniors who have poured themselves into this program and showcased the future of Fremont Ross wrestling.

Thank you, Seniors, for everything you've given to the Purple Pit.



Fremont Ross Boys Wrestling Places 10th at Defiance Border Wars; Autullo Reaches Historic Milestone

The Fremont Ross boys wrestling team competed against elite competition this past Monday and Tuesday at the Defiance Border Wars Two-Day Tournament, finishing a very respectable 10th place out of 48 teams in one of the area's toughest in-season events.

The tournament featured top programs from across the region and served as an early measuring stick for the Little Giants as they continue to progress through the season. Fremont Ross rose to the challenge, gaining valuable mat time and experience against high-level opponents.

The event was capped off by a special and memorable moment for the program, as senior Aidan Autullo secured his 100th career victory, a milestone few wrestlers ever reach. The Fremont Ross Athletic Department proudly recognizes this achievement, understanding the dedication, discipline, and countless hours of hard work that go into reaching such an elite benchmark.

Autullo backed up the milestone performance with a 2nd-place finish at the tournament, leading the Little Giants with both his results and leadership. Nathan Craig also delivered a strong showing, earning a 4th-place finish in his weight class.

Additional contributors included Jackson Durbin, Lincoln Ollom, and Logan Wensinger, who each battled through tough brackets and came up just short in the blood round. While they narrowly missed placing, the trio gained valuable experience that will pay dividends as the season continues.

Following the tournament, Coach Chad Hetrick reflected on the team's performance, stating:

"It was an excellent tournament to start advancing some of the underclassmen and to get the more advanced wrestlers to realize that we have more fine-tuning to do as we start to hit mid-season."

Once again, congratulations to Aidan Autullo on reaching 100 career victories — a true testament to his work ethic and impact on the Fremont Ross wrestling program. Way to leave your mark, Little Giant.

The Little Giants return home this Saturday as they host the Al Vogenthaller Invitational. Let's pack the Purple Pit and support Fremont Ross Wrestling!



Grit and Growth: Little Giants Take 3rd at Hoban Invitational

The Fremont Ross Wrestling program put together a strong showing this past Saturday at the highly competitive Hoban Invitational Tournament, finishing 3rd overall against a tough field of teams.

Leading the way was Logan Wensinger, who turned in one of his best performances of the season with a runner-up finish. Wensinger continues to show steady improvement each week and is hitting his stride as the postseason approaches. Kolin Metcalf also delivered one of his top performances of the year, battling his way to a runner-up finish in his bracket.

Aidan Autullo continues to grind in his pursuit of a top spot. Despite coming up just short, Autullo finished runner-up, showing determination and resilience throughout the day. LaMarius Byrd and Nathan Craig each fought through challenging brackets to earn 3rd-place finishes, adding valuable points to the team total.

Solid efforts were also turned in by Jackson Durbin and Lincoln Ollom, who both finished 4th in their respective brackets, gaining important experience in a high-level tournament setting.

Following the event, Coach Hetrick reflected on the team's performance, saying, "Pretty decent performance all around. There's always room for improvement in mindset development and technical situations in this sport. As we head into the postseason, it's time to really focus on technical situations and maintaining a positive mindset under high-pressure situations."

With the postseason right around the corner, the Little Giants continue to sharpen their skills and mindset, building momentum at the right time of the season.





February 5 at 12:00 PM · 🌐

Little Giants Battle Through Injuries in Tough Tri-Match Against Woodmore and Bellevue

The Fremont Ross boys wrestling team faced a challenging road test Wednesday night, competing in a tri-match against Woodmore and Bellevue. Despite strong individual performances, the Little Giants came up short in both duals, falling to Woodmore 39–33 and Bellevue 42–29.

Fremont Ross wrestled through adversity all night, battling both a tough lineup of opponents and several injuries that impacted the dual match format. The Little Giants were forced to give up four forfeits, a difficult hurdle to overcome in dual competition, especially against quality teams like Woodmore and Bellevue.

Even with those challenges, Fremont Ross showed its depth and competitiveness on the mat. Head-to-head, the Little Giants won the majority of contested bouts in both matches. Jackson Durbin, Dawson Berndt, Aidan Autullo, and Nathan Craig all turned in perfect nights, each going 2–0 and providing key points for the team.

Head Coach Chad Hetrick was pleased with the overall effort and toughness shown by his wrestlers. He felt most of the lineup competed hard and noted that the forfeits played a significant role in the final team scores. With several wrestlers working their way back from injury, Coach Hetrick remains confident the Little Giants will be healthier and stronger as postseason competition approaches.

Fremont Ross will continue preparing for the Coldwater Invitational this Saturday, an important opportunity to sharpen their skills as the postseason draws closer.

📷: [Vantage Wrestling](#) Bailey Mezinger



Little Giants Place Third at Coldwater Cavalier Invitational

The Fremont Ross boys wrestling team turned in a strong showing this past weekend at the Coldwater Cavalier Invitational, finishing third overall out of 30 teams with 161 team points in a highly competitive field.

Leading the charge for the Little Giants was Aidan Autullo, who battled his way to the top of the podium and was crowned Champion of the 138-pound weight class. Autullo's performance set the tone for a successful weekend for Ross.

The Little Giants also received standout efforts from Collinn Ollom at 113 pounds, who put together an impressive run to finish second, and Dawson Berndt at 126 pounds, who fought through a tough bracket to earn a third-place finish.

The Coldwater Invitational presented a unique challenge with a non-traditional bracketing format, where wrestlers had to advance all the way to the semifinals in order to place in the top four. Any loss prior to that round dropped competitors into the fifth- and sixth-place matches, making every early-round bout critical and adding extra pressure throughout the tournament.

With a podium finish secured, the Little Giants now turn their focus back to the grind as postseason competition approaches. Fremont Ross will be back on the mat February 21st at Napoleon, where they will compete for the NLL Championship, aiming to build on the momentum gained from another strong tournament performance.

Nice pictures [Vantage Wrestling!](#)



Little Giants Overpower Sandusky in 75–0 Shutout Victory

The Fremont Ross Boys Wrestling program delivered a statement performance on Tuesday night, rolling past the Sandusky Blue Streaks 75–0 in absolutely dominant fashion in their final home meet of the 2025–26 season.

From the opening bout to the final whistle, the Little Giants asserted their physicality and control on the mat, showcasing depth, preparation, and relentless intensity. The sweep was a true team effort, with victories coming in every fashion and every weight class contributing to the shutout.

Fremont Ross recorded seven wins by pin, coming from Jackson Durbin, Kolin Metcalf, Lincoln Ollom, Aidan Autullo, Talon Binder, Joel Pickard, and Anthony Salazar.

The Little Giants added three technical fall victories from Collinn Ollom, Dawson Berndt, and Nathan Craig, while Logan Wensinger, Dayne Howey, and LaMarius Byrd earned wins by forfeit.

As the season moves into its toughest stretch—the true “meat grinder” of the schedule—the Little Giants showed they are prepared for the challenge. Every student-athlete rose to the occasion, making the most of the opportunity to compete in the program’s final home dual of the season.

Head Coach Chad Hetrick spoke about the mindset his team is embracing as the calendar turns to 2026.

“Heading into the new year 2026, there are new expectations. The key word is dominate,” said Hetrick. “Getting athletes to understand what that term entails means focusing on technical proficiency, strength and conditioning, body control, injury prevention and recovery, strategic thinking, mental toughness, confidence, emotional control, preparation, and study.”

Hetrick emphasized that success on the mat—and in life—comes from blending physical and mental growth.

“To truly dominate in wrestling and life, they must understand how to merge these physical and mental aspects. It’s all about being well-rounded, adaptable, and prepared to face various challenges.”

The Little Giants now turn their attention to their next test as they prepare for the Maumee Bay Classic on January 17th and 18th, where they will look to carry this momentum into one of the season’s premier tournaments.



Little Giants Wrestle to Runner-Up Finish at Al Vogenthaller Invite

The Fremont Ross Boys Wrestling program put together an inspired performance this past Saturday while hosting the Al Vogenthaller Invitational, earning a hard-fought Second Place team finish. Fueled by determination, heart, and skill, the Little Giants showcased the depth and resilience that have become hallmarks of the program.

The tournament carries special meaning for Fremont Ross, as it honors Al Vogenthaller, who served as the school's head wrestling coach for 20 years. Coach Vogenthaller was known not only for his success on the mat, but for his commitment to character development and life lessons, teaching student-athletes how to overcome adversity alongside mastering wrestling strategy. Those same values continue to guide the program today under Head Coach Chad Hetrick, and the effort displayed by the Little Giants would have made Coach Vogenthaller proud.

As a team, Fremont Ross finished with 255.50 points, narrowly trailing team champion Celina High School, which posted 266 points in a tightly contested race for first place.

Several Little Giants delivered standout individual performances throughout the day.

Jackson Durbin turned in a dominant showing, recording four pins on his way to a tournament championship.

Lincoln Ollom (132 lbs) wrestled with grit and composure, earning himself a championship title.

Aidan Autullo (138 lbs) battled through a tough finals match, and came out a victorious champion.

Anthony Salazar (190 lbs) fought through a challenging bracket, pulling off multiple tough wins to capture a championship.

Other strong efforts included:

Dawson Berndt, who tallied two pins and two technical falls before finishing second.

Nathan Craig, who fought through a difficult finals matchup to bring home a second-place finish.

LaMarius Byrd (285 lbs), who opened his finals bout with the first takedown against an undefeated opponent before ultimately finishing second.

Following the tournament, Coach Hetrick offered an honest and reflective assessment of his team's performance.

"I'm very proud of our effort today," Hetrick said. "It takes a whole team to win championships. To take first place, we need everyone to show up and perform consistently, week in and week out. Consistency is key."

The Little Giants will look to build on this momentum as they continue their homestand with a highly anticipated dual match against rival Sandusky Blue Streaks this Wednesday night at home in the Purple Pit.



