

1995 Regional Meet...

Ross relays qualify for state

Girls set school record in 4x800

News-Messenger reports

OAK HARBOR — Fremont Ross coach John Elder had been waiting all season for Thursday's Division I regional meet. It was worth the wait.

Both the girls and boys 4x800-meter relay teams advanced to the state meet next week in Columbus. The Little Giants were second in the girls event and the boys fourth in the 3200 relay.

"This is exactly what we have wanted to do since day one," Elder said. "The girls were just awesome."

The team of junior Sarah Williams, freshman Alison Kelly, senior Carey Gill and freshman Jami Toeppel finished in 9 minutes, 38.3 seconds — breaking a 15-year-old school record of 9:49.

In fifth place after the third leg, a sizzling 2:17 final 800 meters by anchor Toeppel erased the deficit and brought Ross a runner-up finish to champion Cleveland Heights Beaumont.

"I knew if we were anywhere near the top four when Jami got the baton we would have as good a shot as anybody," Elder said. "As long as Alison and Carey could keep us in fifth or sixth, we would do all right."

The boys' 4x800 team of Kurt Snyder, Jeremiah Wagner, Clint Hill and Dane Snyder made their race as exciting as the girls'.

Anchor Dane Snyder received

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the baton in fifth place, behind champion Brunswick, runner-up Ashland, and then third-place Medina and fourth-place, Tiffin Columbian.

Snyder caught and passed both Medina's and Columbian's anchors with less than 200 meters to go and held on for the fourth-place finish just behind late-charging Toledo Whitmer in the third spot.

The Little Giants ran a season-best 8:11.3.

In other events, Nate Rhodes advanced to Saturday's finals in the 400 dash. He finished fourth in his heat with a time of 51.1 seconds.

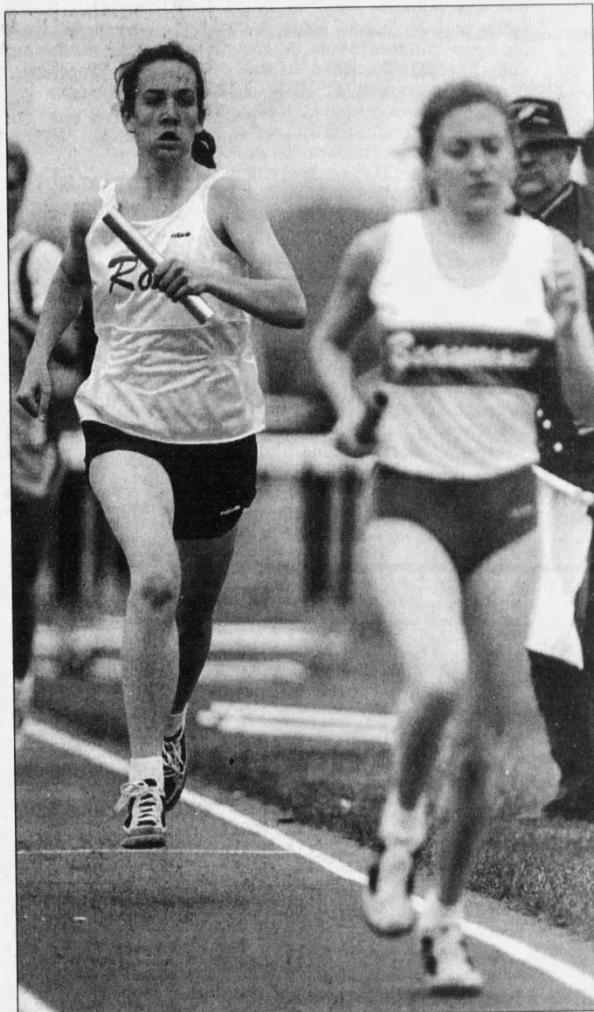
The girls' 4x100 relay team of Tori Kille, Tonya Elder, Shannon Heidelberg and Marcy Reinbolt advanced to the finals with a time 50.8.

Elder missed qualifying in the 100 hurdles with a time of 15.8.

Brandon Willer (discus) and Justin Conklin (long jump) failed to qualify for the state meet. Willer placed 11th with a toss of 141 feet, and Conklin leaped 19 feet, 7 3/4 inches.

Willer will compete in the shot put Saturday.

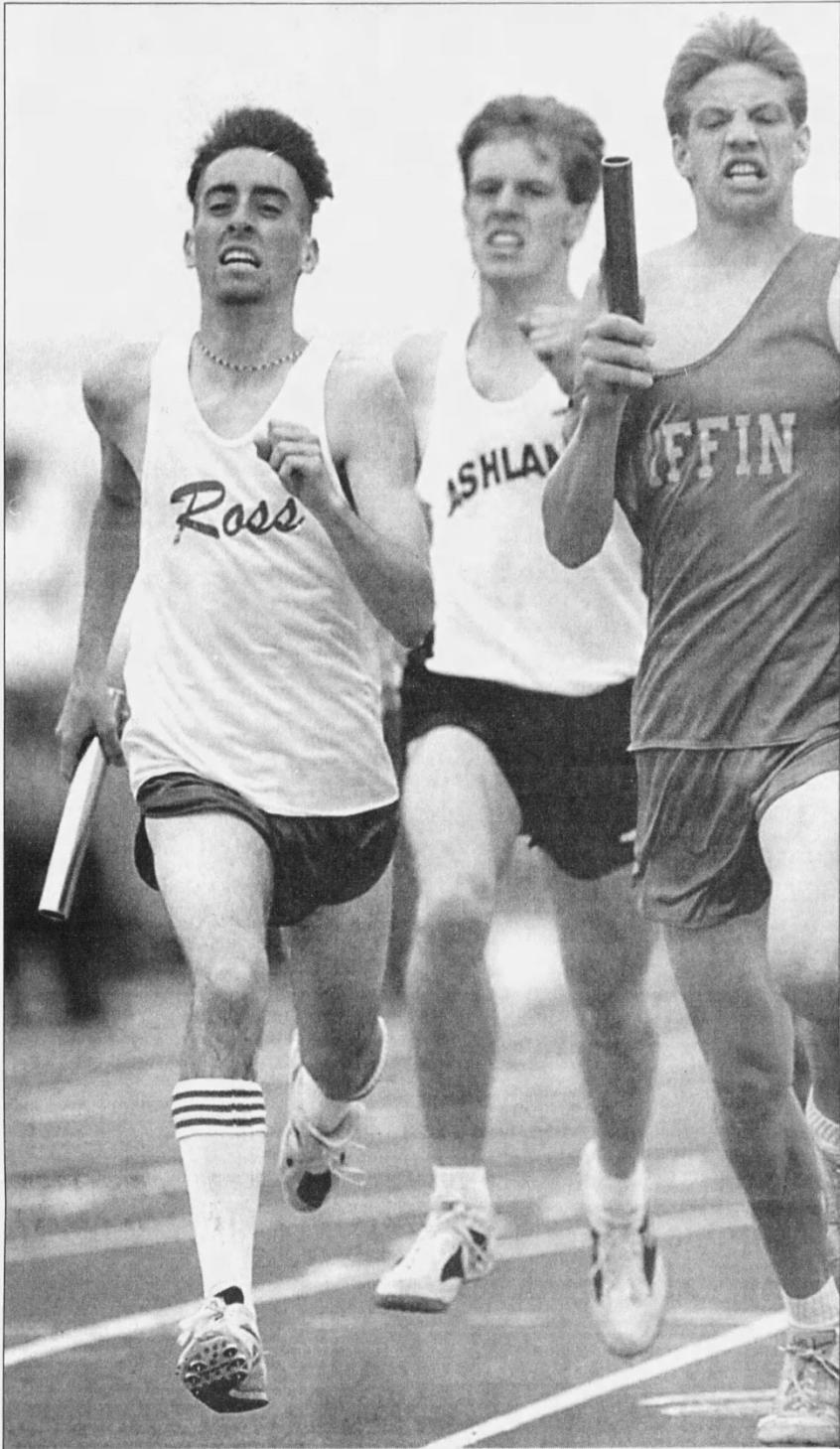
Jerry Cutcher failed to qualify for the finals in the 110 hurdles, placing sixth in his heat.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

ALISON KELLY of Fremont Ross starts off on the second leg of the girls 4x800 relay at the Division I Regional Track and Field Meet in Oak Harbor.

Little Giant relays strong



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

JEREMIAH WAGNER (left) of Fremont Ross comes down the stretch to complete the second leg of the boys 4x800 relay at the Division I Regional Track and Field Meet Thursday in Oak Harbor. Wagner teamed with Kurt Snyder, Clint Hill and Dane Snyder to finish fourth with a time of 8 minutes, 11.3 seconds. The

team qualified for the state tournament next week in Columbus, and the Ross girls 4x800 matched that effort by advancing with a second-place finish. The girls team of Sarah Williams, Alison Kelly, Carey Gill and Jami Toeppen turned in a school-record time of 9:38.3

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Ross was eighth in the girls competition at Oak Harbor with 24 points. Toledo Central Catholic won with 44.

Toeppe won in 5:05.3, breaking her own school record. Thursday, Toeppe, along with Sarah Williams, Carey Gill and Alison Kelly finished second in the 4:800.

See WAGNER, B2

Wagner, Heidelberg qualify

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Shannon Heidelberg qualified for the state meet, finishing fourth in the long jump with a leap of 16-10^{1/4}.

"I am mildly surprised to say the least," Ross coach John Elder said of Heidelberg's effort. "She had a great day, jumping more than a foot farther than she has ever jumped. I guess it pays off to weigh only about 100 pounds when you jump with the kind of wind she had at her back today."

In the boys meet, Ross tied for 18th with Cleveland John Marshall with nine points. Brunswick won the title with 52.

Jeremiah Wagner was the lone individual qualifier for Ross, finishing

fourth in the 3200 in a school record 9:38.7.

"On paper," Elder said, "as we looked at the times of the competition, we knew that (3200) race was the toughest of the day, but he ran a great race. When he gets to this level (of competition), he just goes."

Wagner, along with Dane and Kurt Snyder and Clint Hill qualified for the state meet in the 4x800.

Saturday, Brandon Willer scored the other Ross point with a sixth in the shot put (49-9 1/4). Entering the competition, Willer had been ranked 15th of 16.

The Ross 4x100 team of Tori Kille, Tonya Elder, Heidelberg and Marcy Reinbolt was sixth in a school record 50.4 seconds.