

1997 STATE...

Wrestling

State tournament

FAIRBORN — First-round matches for area wrestlers Thursday in the state tournament at Wright State University's Nutter Center:

DIVISION I

215 POUNDS — Sean Cronin, Cin. Moeller, Jr, 26-10 vs. **Aaron Root, Fremont Ross, Jr, 28-8.**

Root struggles late in opening defeat

By MICHAEL BOSI

Staff writer

FAIRBORN — Fremont Ross's Aaron Root attacked his opponent in his 275-pound Division I state tournament match like he was shot out of a cannon.

But by the end of the Little Giant's bout against Cincinnati Moeller's Sean Cronin, little more was left than a purple fizz.

Root, after scoring a takedown just four seconds into the match, ran out of steam as Cronin bullied his way to a 16-13 victory Thursday night, guaranteeing Fremont Ross a 37th consecutive year without a state champion.

"I wanted to get the first takedown on him and just take control of the match early, but as the match kept going on, I just couldn't get my moves and I wasn't really concentrating," said Root, who needs Cronin to win in this morning's championship quarterfinals to get another chance to wrestle in the Nutter Center this season.

If Cronin cannot beat Greg Faunda of Youngstown Austintown-Fitch this morning, Root's junior year record will stand at 28-9.

Not too shabby for someone who thought he's skip wrestling this year.

"I felt right from Day 1 that he could do it," said Ross coach Grover Dowell. "I remember having a little trouble getting him out there — he wasn't quite sure he was even going to come out this year — and now you see how successful he was by being here."

Root had the right idea at his match's outset, shooting into Cronin's legs before the Moeller junior could even break a sweat.

"He took a real nice double leg shot, but he never set it up again after that," said Dowell.

Indeed, Root barely mounted much more offense, and eight of his next 10 points came via escapes.

Root tied the score at 8, escaping and quickly tossing down Cronin at the end of the second

period.

But in the final frame, fatigue fell onto Root like an anvil, and it didn't much help that Dowell was trying to buy his man more time, arguing that some seconds had ticked off the clock during a stoppage.

"Yeah, I thought a couple of seconds ran off the clock," Dowell said. "I was trying to get them back to give Aaron some more time to recover, but that didn't work."

In the third period, Cronin had four takedowns in 1:44.

Even though he finished second at the Toledo Rogers districts last week, Root knew something was lacking from his game.

"The last couple of matches this year have been real tough for me," he said.

"I've just been fighting in the third period since districts. Towards the end of the year, I just didn't have any energy."

"I was (feeling fine) during sectionals, but I've been noticing lately in districts that I was getting tired, and it shouldn't have been happening. I don't know if it was me working hard the first couple of periods."

Root had planned on just working out this winter in preparation for the next football season. But wrestling helped him regain focus, and, more important, set new goals for himself.

"All my friends and family and a lot of wrestlers really pushed for me to come out this year. I would have lifted for football, but I'm glad I went out for wrestling," Root said.

"I think I had a pretty good year. Next year, I just want to come out and I'm going to place next year at state. I'll work hard in the offseason and when wrestling comes around, I'll work extra hard and keep my goals."



AARON
ROOT

High Schools

Wrestling

State Tournament

FAIRBORN (AP) — Results from Thursday's first round of the state high school wrestling tournament at Wright State University's E.J. Nutter Center, including weight classes involving area wrestlers:

DIVISION I

215 pounds: Greg Faunda, Young. Austintown-Fitch pin Alex Carmosino, Cin. Elder 3:29; **Sean Cronin, Cin. Moeller dec. Aaron Root, Fremont Ross 16-13**; Pete Graham, Westerville South pin Dan Wortman, Mason 2:31; Edward Lynch, Parma Hts. Holy Name pin B.J. Daron, Pickerington 0:25; Nick Ciesinski, Sylvania Northview maj. dec. Bob Lehman, Cin. Oak Hills 15-6; Martin Stachowicz, Garfield Hts. dec. Scott Radcliff, N. Canton Hoover 9-7; Jason Fondran, Br. Hts. Brecksville dec. Trent Gondek, Lakewood St. Edward 10-4; Brad Hensley, Cin. Anderson pin Leroy Williams, Mansfield 3:21;