

## 1973 Fremont Night Relays:

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### Pole vaulters shatter mark by three feet

# Ross wins seventh straight Night Relays title

Spurred by an incredible record shattering performance in the pole vault and three other first place finishes, the Ross High Little Giants won their seventh straight Fremont Night Relays title, edging Findlay and Toledo Scott for the crown.

The Giants posted 40 points to top a five-team field that Coach Ron Brant called the strongest in the 13-year history of the invitational event.

Findlay finished second and Toledo Scott third. Bowling Green and Port Clinton also competed with Toledo Whitmer dropping out as the result of a teachers' strike at the school.

Ross grabbed three first places in the field events, including a smashing triumph in the pole vault, a surprising win in the high jump and courageous effort in the long jump.

The Little Giants, who had finished a disappointing second in a much weaker Tiffin Columbian Relays field Saturday scored points in every event but one Tuesday.

Jeff Opetl, Keith Pettiford and Steve Gowitzka, a trio that surely must be one of the best high school pole vault crews in the state, shattered the relays record by an incredible three feet.

They registered the top three individual heights. Opetl matched the school record with a vault of 13'6". Gowitzka cleared 12'3". Pettiford passed 12'3" and then went out at 12'8". He had plenty of height on at least one of his 12'8" vaults but hit the bar with his arm on the way down, and had to settle for 12'.

The trio of juniors totaled 37'9" to smash the record of 34'9" set by Ross last year.

Ross took a surprising first with a balanced performance in the high jump. Larry Liggins cleared 5'8" and Neal Oberholzer and Paul Fahrback each made 5'6" as the Giants totaled 18'8" for the title. Record for the event is 18'0". Toledo

Scott had two jumpers total 11'11", but had one fail to clear any height.

In the long jump, Jim Heidelberg, battling an injured leg, came through with a clutch performance that actually got Ross enough points to win the meet. The Ross long jumpers trailed Findlay going into Heidelberg's final jump. The junior took a shorter approach and leaped 17'9", much shorter than what he has done in the past, but good considering his injury and good enough to vault Ross into first place. If Findlay had won the long jump and Ross had finished second, the Trojans would have had 38½ points for the meet and Ross would have had only 38.

Steve Celek and Doug Kridler provided the real distance for the long jump trio. Kridler regained his form after a couple of troublesome meets and leaped 19'7"—the best by an individual

in the field. Celek had the second best leap and probably his best ever in competition—a jump of 19'4".

Ross took its other first place in the sprint medley relay. Scott Barman and Randy Robertson each ran 110 yards, Rob Lytle ran 220 and Tim Smith ran a 440 as Ross won with a time of 1:37.3.

Findlay showed its strength in the distance races, winning the distance medley and the two-mile run—an event in which three men ran two miles and their times were added together.

Scott had a spectacular third place finish.

The Toledoans matched Ross in first places and broke four records along the way.

The Scott 440 relay team, mile relay team, shuttle hurdle relay team and 800 relay team all broke Night Relays records.

Ross High's shuttle hurdle relay team of James Scott, Larry Liggins, Terry Shearon and Julius Simms also broke the Night Relays mark while finishing second behind Scott.

Bowling Green had two first places and Port Clinton had none.

Ross had seconds in the 440 relay, the two mile run-relay and the mile relay with that last event assuring the victory as the combination of Jon Smith, Terry Shearon, Lytle and Tim Smith beat Findlay out for second place. The Ross mile relay team also beat the old Night Relays record.

Mark Root, Dave Damschroder and Mark Heardon got a big second place in the two-mile run making up for a disappointing performance by the distance men in Saturday's meet at Tiffin Columbian.

Final team standings were as follows:  
Fremont Ross, 40 points; Findlay, 36½; Toledo Scott, 34; Bowling Green, 23½; Port Clinton, 9.

#### SUMMARY

LONG JUMP — Ross (Doug Kridler, Steve Celek, John Heidelberg), 56'4"; Findlay, 55'10½"; Scott, 54'5½"; Bowling Green, 54'; Port Clinton, 54'.  
HIGH JUMP — Ross (Neal Oberholzer, Paul Fahrback, Larry Liggins), 16'8"; Findlay, 16'4"; Port Clinton, 16'2"; Scott, 15'11".

SHOT PUT — Findlay, 133'1½"; Bowling Green, 136'4"; Ross (Jim Briney, Bob Koebel, Bob Harris), 129'5"; Scott, 128'7".

DISCUS — Bowling Green, 369'9"; Scott, 367'5½"; Findlay, 333'4"; Port Clinton, 347'.

POLE VAULT — Ross (Jeff Opetl, Keith Pettiford, Steve Gowitzka), 37'9"; Bowling Green, 32'8"; Scott, 32'; Port Clinton, 11'6". (Breaks old record of 34'9" set by Ross in 1972).

#### Running events

400 RELAY — Scott, 4:48; Ross (Scott Barman, Randy Robertson, Tim Smith, Rob Lytle), 4:52; Bowling Green, 4:56; Findlay, 4:57; Port Clinton, 4:58. (Breaks record of 4:50 set by Ross in 1971).

TWO MILE RELAY — Bowling Green, 8:33; Findlay, Ross (Denny Byers, Dave Pilhall, Mark Hoffman, Mike Coleman), 8:36.8; Scott, 8:47.7; Port Clinton, 8:49.9.

SHUTTLE HURDLE — Scott, 54.1; Ross (James Scott, Larry Liggins, Terry Shearon, Julius Simms), 55.0; Bowling Green, 58.5; Findlay, 60; Port Clinton, 61.5. (Breaks old record of 58.2 set by Clay in 1962).

SPRINT MEDLEY — Ross (Scott Barman, Randy Robertson, Rob Lytle, Tim Smith), 1:37.3; Scott, 1:40.1; Port Clinton, 1:40.5; Findlay, 1:40.5; Bowling Green, 1:40.7.

DISTANCE MEDLEY — Findlay, 11:14.5; Scott, 11:17.9; Ross (Mike Coleman, Dave Pilhall, Mark Hoffman, Mike Hunt), 11:41.3; Bowling Green, 11:45.3; Port Clinton, 12:10.9.

800 YARD RELAY — Scott, 1:31.2; Findlay, 1:34.5; Ross (Doug Hopper, Scott Barman, Randy Robertson, John Heidelberg), 1:38.6; Port Clinton, 1:38.9; Bowling Green, 1:39.5. (Breaks old record of 1:33.7 set by Ross in 1963).

TWO MILE RUN — Findlay, 31:33; Ross (Mark Root, Dave Damschroder, Mark Heardon), 32.04; Port Clinton, 32:13; Bowling Green, 34:00; Scott, 34:47.

MILE RELAY — Scott, 3:30.1; Ross (Jon Smith, Terry Shearon, Rob Lytle, Tim Smith), 3:30.6; Findlay, 3:32.9; Bowling Green, 3:42; Port Clinton, 3:42.9. (Breaks record of 3:31 set by Ross in 1971).



KEITH PETTIFORD



JEFF OPEL



STEVE GOWITZKA



**RELAY EXCHANGE.** Scott Barman had just handed the baton to Randy Robertson in the Little Giants' first exchange of the 440 relay during the annual Fremont Night Relays at Harmon Stadium Tuesday evening. The Ross relay team finished second behind a record setting performance by the Toledo Scott entry. The Ross team, however, won its seventh straight Night Relays championship in spite of four records set by Toledo Scott. At right are two members of the Bowling Green relay team.

#### Standings

American League			
	W	L	Pct. G.B.
Baltimore	5	2	.714
Boston	4	3	.571
Detroit	5	4	.556
Cleveland	4	5	.444
New York	6	3	.667
Milwaukee	2	5	.286

West			
	W	L	Pct. G.B.
Kansas City	5	2	.706
Minnesota	3	4	.429
California	3	4	.429
Chicago	3	4	.429
Texas	2	4	.333
Oakland	2	5	.286

Tuesday's Games			
Detroit 6, Boston 3			
Minnesota 10, California 5			
Chicago 10, Texas 5			
Cleveland 7, Milwaukee 3			
Baltimore 4, New York 2			
Kansas City 5, Oakland 4			

Wednesday's Games			
Milwaukee (locked out) 9-1 at Cleveland (Storm 1-0)			
Detroit (Perry 1-0) at Boston (Tant 2-0)			
Texas (Paul 1-0) at Chicago (Wood 1-2)			
California (Ryan 2-0) at Minnesota (Bilellev 1-2)			
New York (Mehlich 0-0) at Baltimore (Canfield 0-1), N			
Oakland (Hatter 0-1) at Kansas City (Drage 2-0), N			

National League			
	W	L	Pct. G.B.
Pittsburgh	6	1	.857
Chicago	5	3	.625
New York	5	3	.625
Philadelphia	4	4	.500
St. Louis	3	5	.375
San Francisco	1	8	.111

West			
	W	L	Pct. G.B.
Cincinnati	3	7	.300
San Francisco	3	6	.333
Los Angeles	6	6	.500
Boston	5	8	.385

#### News Messenger

#### Sports

## Indians belt Brewers

CLEVELAND, Ohio (AP) — Cleveland Indians center fielder George Hendrick flattened one side of the baseball, along with the Milwaukee Brewers, with one swing of the bat Tuesday night.

Hendrick's sixth-inning blast carried 455 feet to dead center and hit the bleacher wall on one bounce. No one has ever hit a home run into the bleachers in Cleveland Municipal Stadium.

The wallop came on a two-strike pitch and put the finishing touch on a 7-3 Cleveland victory.

"I saw Hank Aaron hit base balls as hard," said Indians manager Ken Aspromonte, "but I've never seen anybody hit a ball harder. It was a cannon shot. He whiplashed it. It was all wrist action."

The ball was retrieved by In-

was one," said Aspromonte. "There is nothing Hendrick can't do and he can only get better."

Hendrick, however, wasn't as awed like the others were by his gigantic blast.

"I was lucky," said Hendrick. "I had two strikes on me and I was only trying to protect the plate and get my bat on the ball. I hit it pretty good — the best I could."

"It was a fast ball down and in," said Hendrick. "He (Brewers' pitcher Billy Champion) may have tried to get it away from me."

The Indians took command of the game early.

Oscar Gamble tripled and scored on Jerry Kenney's sacrifice fly in the first inning, and four unearned runs came home in the second.

After Charlie Spikes walked

and faced the minimum of 12 batters.

"I just lost my velocity," said Tidrow, who had struck out six men in the first three innings. "I was popping for three innings and then I lost it. I knew it, but I couldn't do anything about it."

Cleveland got its final run in the eighth on singles by John Ellis and Dave Duncan around an infield out.

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**BEATEN TO THE WIRE.** Ross High's Rob Lytle chases Jones of Toledo Scott to the wire in the 440 relay during the Fremont Night Relays Tuesday. The Scott crew broke

the 440 relay record and three other records, but finished third behind Ross and Findlay in the team standings.