

Lakota runner's work pays off in Norm Bray Classic

BY MATTHEW HORN
Sports writer

Lakota's Julia Windom would like to finish her season the way it started Saturday.

That's because Windom was the overall winner of the Division II and III race at 20 minutes, 22 seconds while Oak Harbor's girls cross country team was second with 62 points at the Norm Bray Classic.

Windom, who had not won a race since junior high, was aiming to finish faster than 20:30.

"With all the work I did this summer I wanted to have it pay off," said Windom, who ran almost every day in the preseason. "I was able to do what I trained for."

Windom said it was extra special to start her senior year with a confidence-boosting victory.

"It's exciting to win any race," she said.

"Winning Norm Bray and it being the first meet has me excited for the year. I'm excited to see where I can end this year, and I hope to end it as strong as I've started it."

Allie Dombrowsky was sixth, Tory Wood 11th, Allie Dresser 13th, Kia Frank 14th and Meg Wistinghausen 18th for the Rockets.

Oak Harbor was also second at the Upper Sandusky Invitational last week, giving the Rockets plenty of early-season success to build on.

"We're looking forward to the rest of

the season," Oak Harbor coach Gina Warnke said.

"There's a little tradition here — we've been first or second in the league or districts the last three or four years — and we'd like to keep up those standards."

Maumee won the event at 46.

Alexa Stults was second overall (20:47), Sam Hassen eighth, Katelynn Young 16th, Kristen Compliment 33rd and Kelley Miller 50th as Old Fort was fourth.

Lacy Nagy was seventh, Bailey Ulin-ski 17th, Shelby Cuevas 34th, Angelica McCoy 36th and Melissa Merrow 58th as Woodmore was seventh.

Leah Gabel was 31st, Amanda Babcock 59th, Amber Steiner 62nd and Melissa Guay 64th as the Raiders finished ninth.

Danielle Molyet was 30th, Paige Kleinschmit 39th, BriAnna Fisher 49th, Sam Heishman 54th and Zenaida Frew 60th as St. Joseph Central Catholic was 10th.

ROSS EIGHTH

Lauren Ickes was 24th, Paige Wiechman 28th, Amy Yugas 54th, Abriann McConnell 58th and Kristina Treece 63rd as Ross was eighth in the Division 1 girls race.

Perrysburg's Kaitlyn Llewellyn was the individual winner at 19:57 while Notre Dame Academy won as a team.

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Little Giants' Esparza places 3rd in D-1

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Fremont Ross's Kristopher Esparza was third overall in the Division I boys race at 17:06.

Steve Graver finished first at 16:37 as Central Catholic won with 30 points.

Andy Leemaster was fifth, Devaun Churcha 30th, Tony Rodriguez 34th and Justin Schaffer 40th as the Little Giants were fifth.

GIBSONBURG SECOND

Elias Dandar was sixth, Kendall Bates 18th, Josh Tornow 21st, Jordan Rosenberger 24th and Holden Sondergeld 26th as Gibsonburg was second in the boys Division II-III race with 95 points.

Tiffin Columbian won at 84 while Lake's Zack Powell was the individual winner at 17:03.

Tyler Eoff finished seventh, Adam Smercina ninth, Thomas Rhodes 28th, Aaron Riechman 29th and Cadan Goldstein 30th as Oak Harbor was fourth.

Hunter Hepler was eighth, Austin Utendorf 13th, Kaleb Perez 23rd, Chris Hines 43rd and Aaron Brown 56th as Woodmore finished sixth.

Jeremiah Ortiz was 11th, Zach Alexander 16th, Nathan Alexander 32nd, Tom Gillmor 40th and Cody Garn 55th as Old Fort was seventh.

Kyle Babcock was fourth, Seth Benfer 14th, Austin Garber 42nd, Zac Baker 45th and Brock Tiell 54th as Lakota was eighth.

David Wasson was 25th, Jordan Adams 46th, Matt Meyer 48th, Alex Partyka 65th and Scott Snodgrass 66th as the Crimson Streaks finished 10th.

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BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Norm Bray Division I

■ **Site:** Walsh Park, Fremont.

■ **Team Scores:** 1. Central Catholic 30, 2. Bowling Green 70, 3. Perrysburg 73, 4. Maumee 101, 5. Fremont Ross 112, 6. Sandusky 152, 7. Whitmer 175, 8. Springfield 233.

■ **Ross:** 3. Kristopher Esparza (Ross) 17:06.82, 5. Andy Leemaster (Ross) 17:31.12, 30. Devaun Churcha (Ross) 18:55.18, 34. Tony Rodriguez (Ross) 19:15.70, 40. Justin Schaffer (Ross) 19:34.69, 41. Tom Hohman (Ross) 19:37.65, 43. Brandyn O'Connell (Ross) 19:56.15, 49. Logan Johnson (Ross) 21:09.52, 54. Jacob Berryman (Ross) 21:51.82, 55. Alex House (Ross) 21:52.97, 60. Eric Yuhas (Ross) 23:58.98, 61. Chris Swint (Ross) 24:21.60, 62. Daniel Leemaster (Ross) 24:35.40.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Norm Bray Division I

■ **Site:** Walsh Park, Fremont.

■ **Team Scores:** 1. Notre Dame Academy 35, 2. Perrysburg 54, 3. Central Catholic 101, 4. Bowling Green 113, 5. Toledo Christian 123, 6. Whitmer 134, 7. Springfield 209, 8. Ross 214, 9. Start 238.

■ **Ross:** 28. Paige Wiechman (R) 23:08.87, 54. Amy Yuhas (R) 25:56.79, 58. Abriann McConnell (R) 26:29.68, 63. Kristina Treece (R) 26:42.60.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Columbian Invitational

TIFFIN — Andy Leemaster (17:20) ran fifth overall as Fremont Ross finished fifth among five teams during the Columbian Invitational at Hedges Park on Monday.

Tony Rodriguez (18:25) was 22nd and Devaun Churcha (18:38) finished 25th for Ross.

“Even with the absence of Kristopher Esparza, the boys times are four weeks ahead of last season,” Little Giants coach Cathy Esposito said.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Columbian Invitational

TIFFIN — Paige Wiechman (seventh) and Lauren Ickes (11th) finished within the top 15 as Fremont Ross was fourth among five teams during the Columbian Invitational at Hedges Park.

Amy Yuhas (26th), Abrianna McConnell (27th) and Kristina Teerce (29th) also competed for the Little Giants.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Chris Green Invite

SANDUSKY — Kristopher Esparza won the race as Fremont Ross placed second.

Esparza needed 16:22 to claim the win while Little Giants' Andy Leemaster was sixth overall in 16:47. Other Ross runners included Tony Rodriguez (16th), Devaun Churcha (18th), Justin Shaffer (24th), Brandyn O'Connell (31st) and Tom Hohman (32nd).

Bellevue was fifth behind Tanner Schoen (seventh), Brandon Bedell (36th), Luke Loudenslagel (40th), Ryan Price (46th), Jake Miller (56th), Andrew Beier (61st), Cole Eskins (62nd) and Zach Miller (70th).

Margaretta was seventh with Kalup Lyons (19th), Camden France (23rd), Anthony Round (38th), A.J. Oeder (42nd), Justin Weyer (49th) and Tyler Birkholz (73rd).

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

TIFFIN CARNIVAL Division I

■ **Site:** Tiffin, OH.

■ **Team Scores:** 1. St. Ignatius 128, 36. Fremont Ross 906.

■ **Fremont Ross:** 53. Kristopher Esparza 16:38.12, 133. Andy Leemaster 17:20.00, 209. Tony Rodriguez 18:05.10, 252. Devaun Churcha 19:03.58, 261. Brandyn O'Connell 19:31.40, 263. Tom Hohman 19:32.44, 265. Justin Schaffer 19:38.07.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

TIFFIN CARNIVAL Division I

■ **Site:** Tiffin, OH.

■ **Team Scores:** 1. Perrysbury 83, 24. Fremont Ross 621.

■ **Fremont Ross:** 39. Paige Wiechman 21:35.64, 68. Lauren Ickes 22:18.06.

Boys cross country

Fremont Ross places 3rd at Lakota Invite

BETTSVILLE — Fremont Ross finished third among 16 teams at the Lakota Invitational in the Joe McKown Division, including area schools Gibsonburg (fifth), Woodmore (seventh), Bellevue (ninth), Oak Harbor (10th), Clyde (12th), Lakota (13th) and Port Clinton (15th).

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

LAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL INVITATIONAL JULIA HARRISON DIVISION

■ **Site:** H.P. Ellis Park, Bettsville.

■ **Team Scores:** 1. Oak Harbor 63, 2. Elmwood 65, 3. Liberty-Benton 74, 4. Westlake 135, 5. Woodmore 182, 6. Eastwood 188, 7. Port Clinton 203, 8. Lake 222, 9. Otsego 223, 10. Lakota 267, 11. Fremont Ross 270, 12. Gibsonburg 271, 13. Clyde 301.

■ **Oak Harbor:** 4. Kia Frank 20:22.93, 9. Kristin Rios 20:44.09, 13. Megan Wistinhausen 20:49.49, 16. Allie Dresser 20:58.42, 24. Allie Dornbrowsky 21:21.08, 25. Tory Wood 21:23.19, 49. Sydney Street 22:56.08.

■ **Woodmore:** 2. Lacy Nagy 20:20.74, 26. Angelica McCoy 21:30.25, 41. Bailey Ulinski 22:37.67.

■ **Port Clinton:** 28. Sara Chura 21:42.37, 39. Kelly Passabet 22:19.39, 46. Camille Ramirez 22:49.09, 47. Allie Reynolds 22:52.35.

■ **Lakota:** 1. Julia Windom 20:05.45, 37. Leah Gabel 22:10.70.

■ **Fremont Ross:** 27. Lauren Ickes 21:30.84, 31. Paige Wiechman 21:57.27.

■ **Gibsonburg:** 14. Samantha Hoffman 20:55.27.

■ **Clyde:** 38. Taylor Ebert 22:16.03.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

LAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL INVITATIONAL JOE MCKOWN DIVISION

■ **Site:** H.P. Ellis Park, Bettsville.

■ **Team Scores:** 1. Elmwood 74, 2. Liberty-Benton 117, 3. Fremont Ross 140, 4. Eastwood 152, 5. Gibsonburg 161, 6. Lake 182, 7. Woodmore 183, 8. Otsego 191, 9. Bellevue 231, 10. Oak Harbor 245, 11. Westlake 254, 12. Clyde 270, 13. Lakota 279, 14. Fostoria 355, 15. Port Clinton 373, 16. Western Reserve 394.

■ **Fremont Ross:** 3. Kristopher Esparza 16:27.10, 8. Andy Leemaster 17:05.56, 27. Tony Rodriguez 17:50.75, 47. Devaun Churcha 18:13.16, 58. Brandyn O'Connell 18:44.85, 78. Justin Schaffer 19:21.80.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

CARDINAL STRITCH HIGH SCHOOL INVITATIONAL RED DIVISION

■ **Site:** Maumee Bay State Park.

■ **Team Scores:** 1. Sylvania Southview 87, 2. Clay 90, 3. Bowling Green 119, 4. Perrysburg 135, 5. Maumee 207, 6. Whitmer 230, 7. Anthony Wayne 252, 8. Oak Harbor 256, 9. Lake 268, 10. Bowsheer 269, 11. Hayes 288, 12. Fremont Ross 290, 13. Findlay 313, 14. Otsego 342, 15. Genoa 380, 16. Bryan 428, 17. Bellevue 432, 18. Central Catholic 467, 19. Start 487, 20. Springfield 547, 21. Waite 627.

■ **Oak Harbor:** 9. Tyler Eoff 16:39.74, 30. Adam Smercina 17:12.71, 52. Aaron Riechman 17:45.76.

■ **Fremont Ross:** 2. Kristopher Esparza 16:17.75, 21. Andy Leemaster 17:01.40, 53. Tony Rodriguez 17:46.39.

■ **Genoa:** 27. Gavan Benadun 17:10.51, 46. Clay Parlett 17:36.68.

■ **Bellevue:** 13. Tanner Schoen 16:47.46.

EAGLE INVITATIONAL

■ **Site:** Clay High School, Oregon.

■ **Team Scores:** 1. Bedford 62, 2. St. Francis 75, 3. Central Catholic 123, 4. Clay 130, 5. Sylvania Southview 174, 6. Delta 174, 7. Bowling Green 217, 8. Whitmer 229, 9. Perrysburg 286, 10. Findlay 287, 11. Strongsville 314, 12. Bowsheer 392, 13. Sylvania Northview 396, 14. Fremont Ross 396, 15. Maumee 399, 16. Anthony Wayne 404, 17. Ashland 428, 18. Saline 435, 19. Wyandotte Roosevelt 485, 20. Sandusky 510, 21. Start 637, 22. Springfield 754, 23. Rogers 766.

■ **Fremont Ross:** 15. Kristopher Esparza 17:00.40, 40. Andy Leemaster 17:25.10, 79. Tony Rodriguez 18:05.60, 150. Devaun Churcha 19:15.80, 151. Brandyn O'Connell 19:16.40, 158. Justin Schaffer 19:35.40, 160. Alex House 19:40.30, 169. Jacob Berryman 19:59.80, 179. Logan Johnson 20:19.40.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

CARDINAL STRITCH HIGH SCHOOL INVITATIONAL RED DIVISION

■ **Site:** Maumee Bay State Park.

■ **Team Scores:** 1. Notre Dame Academy 41, 2. Anthony Wayne 79, 3. Perrysburg 131, 4. Oak Harbor, 5. Maumee 173, 6. Sylvania Southview 177, 7. Bowling Green 203, 8. Central Catholic 209, 9. St. Ursula Academy 258, 10. Bryan 267, 11. Whitmer 296, 12. Bellevue 335, 13. Hayes 395, 14. Fremont Ross 423, 15. Clay 425, 16. Findlay 438, 17. Lake 439, 18. Bowsheer 451, 19. Springfield 477.

■ **Oak Harbor:** 19. Allie Dombrowsky 20:10.29, 25. Kia Frank 20:20.23, 29. Allie Dresser 20:37.85, 30. Kristin Rios 20:38.51, 32. Tory Wood 20:43.50, 35. Megan Wistinghausen 20:53.88.

■ **Bellevue:** 38. Colleen Valko 21:04.56, 42. Ericka Hosang 21:25.25.

■ **Fremont Ross:** 40. Paige Whitman 21:20.79, 49. Lauren Ickes 21:34.75.

EAGLE INVITATIONAL

■ **Site:** Clay High School, Oregon.

■ **Team Scores:** 1. Sylvania Northview 43, 2. Notre Dame Academy 51, 3. Perrysburg 100, 4. Anthony Wayne 125, 5. Sylvania Southview 157, 6. Bedford-Temperance 163, 7. Findlay 211, 8. Central Catholic 245, 9. Bowling Green 247, 10. Whitmer 278, 11. St. Ursula Academy 287, 12. Ashland 309, 13. Clay 383, 14. Fremont Ross 410, 15. Bowsheer 433, 16. Start 453.

■ **Fremont Ross:** 45. Paige Wiechman 21:28.80, 79. Lauren Ickes 22:41.00, 121. Abrianna McConnell 25:03.00, 122. Kristina Treece 25:07.70.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

HARDING INVITATIONAL

■ **Site:** Marion Harding.

■ **Team Scores:** 1. Lexington 35, 2. Findlay 77, 3. Ashland 101, 4. Newark 108, 5. River Valley 110, 6. Marysville 114, 7. Marion Harding 183, 8. Lima Senior 221, 9. Ridgedale 225.

■ **Fremont Ross:** 9. Paige Wiechman 20:50, 55. Kristina Treece 23:44, 71. Abrianna McConnell 24:43, 91. Amy Yuhas 26:21.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

HARDING INVITATIONAL

■ **Site:** Marion Harding.

■ **Team Scores:** 1. Lexington 31, 2. Findlay 63, 3. Ashland 111, 4. Newark 137, 5. Fremont Ross 147, 6. Sandusky 163, 7. River Valley 168, 8. Marysville 189, 9. Pleasant 209, 10. Kenton 251, 11. Marion Harding 315, 12. Lima Senior 360.

■ **Fremont Ross:** 5. Kristopher Esparza 16:40, 9. Andy Leemaster 17:20, 32. Tony Rodriquez 17:59, 47. Devaun Churcha 18:21, 70. Justin Schaffer 19:05, 74. Alex House 19:18, 75. Tom Hohman 19:21, 82. Brandyn O'Connell 19:32, 92. Jacob Berryman 20:06, 96. Logan Johnson 20:06, 112. Chris Swint 21:00, 125. Eric Yuhas 21:47, 134. Daniel Leemaster 22:47, 148. Vinny Friess 25:37.