

2000 Regional...

St. Joe girls fancy fours at regional

Athletes take shots at state starting today

By TIMOTHY R. WOLFRUM
Sports editor

The magic number is four for the four-member St. Joseph Central Catholic girls relay teams as they prepare for this week's regional track and field meet at Fostoria.

Four is the number of state appearances senior Kerri

Zimmerman is chasing when she runs with the 4x400 and 4x800 relay teams. Zimmerman could be the fourth St. Joe girl in school history to make it to state every year of her high school career if one of the teams qualifies with a top-four finish at the regional.

And four is the number of relay teams the Crimson Streaks hope to advance to the state meet June 1-3 at Welcome Stadium in Dayton.

Every team has a chance. The 4x100, 4x200 and 4x400 won the district meet last week at Eastwood, and the

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4x800 team finished second.

"That's hard to do," St. Joe coach Eddie Colon said of advancing all four relay teams to state. "It's one of our goals, though. I have to say we have a legitimate shot at it. I bet you wouldn't find a whole lot of schools who have done that in the history of the state track meet."

The 4x100 and 4x200 team members are Carrie Mayle, Jill Chudzinski, Brea Bu-

sold and Jamie Weiler. The 4x400 team is Zimmerman, Lindsey Smith, Busold and Joni Wilhelm and the 4x800 team is Zimmerman, Wilhelm, Smith and Trischa Snyder.

Wilhelm, who will also run the open 800 meters, and Busold, both seniors, are aiming for return trips to state as is Snyder, a sophomore.

For the St. Joe boys, distance runner Mike Chapman and long jumper Jelani Jackson are poised for trips back to state.

Eighty-three area athletes will compete in regional track competition this week. The Division II athletes from Clyde, Lakota, Oak Harbor, Margaretta and Bellevue get out of the blocks first today at Lexington High School. Field events begin at 4 p.m., preliminary track events a half-hour later. The finals are at 5 p.m. Friday.

Ross will compete in the Division I regional at Amherst Steele High School on Thursday and Saturday, while Division III schools St.

Joe, Gibsonburg, Woodmore, Bettsville and Old Fort will be at Fostoria on Thursday and Saturday. The field events begin at 4 p.m., the track preliminaries at 4:30 p.m. Thursday. Finals begin at 11:30 a.m. Saturday.

The largest contingent comes from Woodmore. The Wildcats are sending 22 athletes, including 11 from the girls team that won the district meet by 60 points. Junior Meredith Magsig (1,600

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Lutes wins trip to Dayton meet

News-Messenger reports

AMHERST — Allen Lutes of Fremont Ross will have a chance to improve on last year's fifth place finish at the state track and field tournament.

Lutes claimed second Thursday with a 21-foot, 2-inch leap — a quarter-inch behind the winner — at the Division I regional tournament and earned a trip to the state meet next weekend in Dayton.

Sashay Price did not place in the girls high jump with a 5-0.

The girls 4x100 will be the only Little Giants' relay team to run again. Taneshia McKinstry,

Tiffany Sweeney, Adrienne Robertson and Fallon Bailey qualified for the finals with the fifth-best time of 50.103.

Kelly Lytle will run the 100 and 200 on Saturday. He was third in the 100 (11.06) and third in the 200 (21.22).

Exzavier Darden will join Lytle in the 200, after running a 22.66 in the preliminaries. Darden will also run the 400 after a 49.02 was the third-best prelim time.

The boys and girls 4x400 and the girls 200 will not move on to the finals.

Saturday's field action starts at 11:30 a.m. and the track competition begins at 12:30 p.m.

Six Giants get to state meet

News-Messenger reports

AMHERST — What remained of the Fremont Ross track and field team enjoyed a triumphant ride home from the Division I regional Saturday.

All six Little Giants who made the trip to Amherst Steele High School prolonged their seasons by qualifying for next week's state meet.

Division I Track

"It was definitely on my mind," Ross coach Jeff Opelt said of advancing his team. "I never said, 'We can do this.' But I knew we could."

Junior Kelly Lytle led the way, finishing third in the

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Ross sends seven to state

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100- and 200-meter dashes to clinch his third state appearance in as many seasons. Lytle ran the 100 in 11.06 seconds and the 200 in 22.23 seconds.

"To get him out in two events is amazing," Opelt said. "There is tough competition."

Exzavier Darden turned in a time of 49.34 seconds in the 400 dash to finish fourth and earn his first spot at state. The top four placers in each event qualified for the state.

For the Ross girls, Fallon Bailey ran a 12.54 in the 100 dash to finish fourth and claim her first state berth. Bailey ran a strong anchor leg to help 4x100 relay teammates Taneshia McKinstry, Tiffany Sweeney and Adrienne Robertson to a fourth-place finish in 49.88.

The relay team broke 50 seconds for the first time this season and just missed the four-year-old school record of 49.7 seconds.

"They were really excited," Opelt said. "They knew they had to push it because of what was out there (competition)."

Also advancing to the state meet, which begins Thursday at Dayton's Welcome Stadium, is Ross's Allen Lutes, who finished second in the high jump Thursday.

On Saturday, Darden placed eighth in the 200 in a time of 22.92 seconds.