

1995 State meet...

Seven area individuals run at state meet



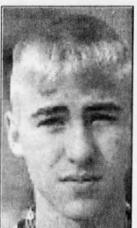
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News-Messenger reports

COLUMBUS — While Woodmore's girls seeking their fourth straight championship, seven area individuals will compete in the state cross country championships Saturday at Scioto Downs.

Woodmore is back to defend its title in Division III after winning Division II crowns in 1993 and 1992.

Competing in the boys Division I race from Fremont Ross are Jeremiah Smith and Jeremiah Wagner. Jami Toepppe from Ross will run in the girls Division I race.

In Division II, Clyde Ben Ingersoll and Jenny Staats compete. Steve Smith of Gibsonburg and Old Fort's Brock Cleveland will run in the Division III boys race.

In addition to the Wildcats and the seven individuals, the Bellevue girls will also compete when they test the competition in Division II.

Running for the Redmen are Karen Ruffin, Andrea Nottke, Beth More, Laura Ray, Heather Good, Beth Lenhart and Abby Walters.

Cleveland Heights Beaumont is looking for its third consecutive championship in the girls Division II meet. The Cleveland St. Ignatius boys chase a third consecutive team title in Division I.

The 18th annual girls meet begins at 11:05 a.m. with Division III. The 67th boys event starts with Division III at 1:20 p.m.

Five area runners earn All-Ohio

By MARK GRIFFIN
Staff writer

COLUMBUS — Fremont Ross junior Jeremiah Smith concentrated on keeping up with one runner in particular during Saturday's Division I boys state cross country meet at Scioto Downs — teammate Jeremiah Wagner.

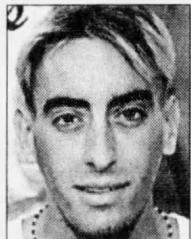
"He knows I can carry him (during a race) and that's his goal every time out," Wagner said. Next year, he'll have to do it by himself."

Wagner, a senior, became Ross's first two-time All-Ohio runner after finishing 12th in 16 minutes, 21 seconds. The top 25 runners in each division earn that honor.

Smith took 16th in 16:27 after placing 24th in 1994.

"I guess it's pretty good, considering the circumstances," Smith said. "I messed up my ankle in basketball last winter and missed most of track season. I was hoping for a little higher place and a better time today."

Wagner, who was 11th in 16:14 a year ago, said Saturday's 36-degree weather hampered



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"It affected my breathing," he said. "I was going in it to win, but I've been sick the last couple of weeks and I think this cold weather made it worse. My legs didn't feel bad, they felt good."

Nicole LaSelle of Dayton Chaminade-Julienne made sure no one would catch her, particularly Ross sophomore Jami Toepple, in the Division I girls race.

LaSelle, a senior, defended her title by jumping out to an early lead and running away from the rest of the field in 18:09. Toepple, second a year ago, finished third (18:50) behind LaSelle and Briana Shook (18:40) of Tiffin Columbian.

"I was thinking second place," Toepple said. "I wasn't as nervous as I was as a freshman. It wasn't too bad. I haven't been running that good all year, so I was satisfied."

In the Division II girls race, Clyde sophomore Jenni Staats was 10th in 19:29.

"I just wanted to start out fast so I wouldn't die (at the end)," Staats said. "Getting in the top 10 has been my goal all year."

"Last year (52nd), I kind of choked. I wasn't going to let that happen this year."

Defending champion Katy Radkewich of Division II champion Cleveland Heights Beaumont



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blitzed the rest of the field, winning in 17:38. Bellevue's Karen Ruffing was 25th in 20:03 as the Redmen took fifth (131 points).

"Everything went pretty much according to plan," Bellevue coach Earl Miller said. "I was looking to finish in the top half."

In the Division II boys race, Clyde's Ben Ingersoll was 25th in 16:44. Ingersoll jumped 22 spots from last year's 47th-place finish.

"This year was a lot more relaxing because I've been here before," Ingersoll said. "I wanted to prove to myself that I could do it, since I had a bad race last year ... This feels better than last year."

Gibsonburg senior Steve Smith, who was 46th a year ago, finished 50th in 17:14 in the Division III boys race. Old Fort senior Brock Cleveland was 69th in 17:28 after taking 15th (16:40) a year ago.

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