



The Ross girls varsity wrestlers pose for a photo. SUBMITTED

Ross girls wrestling already earning rewarding invitations

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Fremont Ross girls wrestling did everything it could to set up for success last year.

Ten Little Giants combine for 94 wins this season.

"It wasn't officially sanctioned by the OHSAA," said Jen Long, who coaches the varsity and middle school teams for Ross. "We knew it was in the works. We were blessed to have an athletic director in Chad Berndt and a school board that is forward thinking.

"It gave them a chance to see what it's all about and recruit a few more girls. We got support. Unfortunately, a lot of schools in Ohio aren't getting that support. It allowed us to make a foundation and make a name for ourselves for coaches to reach out to us.

"That's why I'm most proud. I tell the ladies, the reason we're wrestling at Olentangy Orange is because of how they worked and how they wrestled to make a name for Fremont Ross girls wrestling."

Olentangy Orange, ranked second in the state, invited Ross to a quad. The Little Giants were 2-1.

"We're not running," Long said. "We knew it would be brutal. This is what we'll see at the state level, so we have to be prepared."



Ross freshman Jaiden Long looks for the pin. SUBMITTED

There are 10 girls on the varsity roster and 11 girls on the middle school team. Eight of the 10 varsity girls have winning records.

Jaiden Long (110 pounds) took an individual crown as Ross was second among 51 teams at Clyde's tourney. Kailani Long (86), Bristol Howey (90) and Harmony Allen (235) were first for the middle school finished first.

"It was absolutely huge," Long said. "There were 350 girls wrestling. It was the first tournament for some of our girls. The excitement and anticipation, what we see in the practice room, how

do they bring that to the match?

"To see them perform was exciting. They're getting it and understanding it."

Ross was eighth among 45 teams at the Pioneer Classic at Olentangy Orange. Five of the teams that finished ahead of the Little Giants were state-ranked.

Organizers want the Findlay Fight Tournament to evolve into a girls version of Ironman in Ohio. Several nationally ranked teams competed this

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Lady Wrestlers Host First Tournament

By Bill Bray

FREMONT – For the first time ever Fremont Ross hosted a wrestling tournament for their lady wrestlers. Since the OHSAA has sanctioned the sport, girls can now set their sights eventually on the State meet in Columbus. But first they must continue to work on their wrestling abilities.

Hence, the Vantage Company along with several other sponsors made the tournament a reality and by all the sights and sounds it was a success.

This was a round robin tournament for the ladies and there were some excellent wrestlers present at the day-long event.

Schools represented at the tournament were Archbold, Oregon Clay, Fremont Ross, New London, Lutheran West, Port Clinton, Sandusky, Toledo Whitmer, Clyde, Akron Vikings, Orrville, Toledo Start, Liberty Benton, Avon Lake, Springfield, Elyria, Bryan, Gibsonburg, Liberty Center, Norwalk, Tinora, Arcadia, and Painsville Harvey.

The Lady Giants won the tournament with 134.0 points. Second was Gibsonburg with 117.0 points and third went to Port Clinton with 111.0.

Scoring those varsity points for the Lady Giants and their weight class included: Manuela Gomez (105 lbs) 4th place; Jaiden Long (110 lbs.) CHAMPION; Zoe Kaczmarek (115 lbs) third place; Taylor Peck (120 lbs.) 3rd place; Sam Alejo-Hernandez (125 lbs) CHAMPION; Ella Warner (135 lbs) 5th place; Emma Gutierrez (145 lbs.) 3rd place; Alda Vasquez (170 lbs) 3rd place; Xsaria Puente (190 lbs.) 4th place; Keyonna Vann (235 lbs) CHAMPION).



Fremont Ross Lady Grapplers Third at Clyde Invite

By Bill Bray

CLYDE HIGH SCHOOL – The Lady Giants wrestling team participated in the 51-team Clyde Invitational Sunday at Clyde High School and finished third with 82 points.

Jaiden Long (110 lbs.) won her weight class. The freshman, the only Little Giant champion, defeated Lylah Gheen of Elmwood with a 6-4 decision.

Finishing third in the 190 lbs. weight class for Ross was Xsaria Puente. Puente pinned Emily Jirousek of Keystone in :46 to capture the bronze spot.

Finishing in sixth place for Ross was Emma Gutierrez after being pinned by Marlee Yoder of Bryan in 2:13 of the fifth-place match. Also settling for sixth place for Ross was Aida Vasquez after being pinned by Caitlyn Thieret of Highland at the 4:10 mark of the 170 lbs. match.

