

## 2014 Cross Country Season Review

## **BOYS CROSS COUNTRY**

### **FREMONT ROSS**

**Coach:** John Elder, fifth season.

**Last year:** Third in Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

**Key losses:** Louis Guardiola, Tyler Edmonds, Brantleigh Bunting, Ryan Schaffer, Connor Alrich.

**Key returners:** Owen Starkweather (Sr.)

**Impact newcomers:** Ryan Farrier (Sr.), Nick Christiansen (Sr.), Connor Martin (Sr.), Jalen Spencer (Sr.), Brock Bunting (Jr.) Matt Kuyken (Fr.), Xavier Damschroder (Fr.), Owen Smith (Fr.), Nick Farrier (Fr.).

**Outlook:** The Little Giants will have to replace school record-holder, and two-time state qualifier Guardiola, but have a plethora of talent with which to do so. Starkweather is the only returning varsity runner. Kuyken, Damschroder, Smith and Nick Farrier could have an immediate impact. "Our big challenge this year is to convince the team that even though we lost great seniors, with their personalities, leadership, hard work and commitment, they can also continue the success we have enjoyed," Elder said.

## **GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY**

### **FREMONT ROSS**

**Coach:** John Elder, fifth season.

**Last year:** Sixth in Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

**Key losses:** Valerie Bixler.

**Key returners:** Faye Sloma, Cassidi Lovell, Kim Hetrick, Sarah Szymanowski, Morgan Hawk, Holly Fisher, Abby Burrell, Eric Ebert, Kalee Young, Claire Elder, Jasmine Smith.

**Impact newcomers:** Odie Lopez, Karla Paredes, Emily McGilton.

**Outlook:** Ross lost only one of its top seven to graduation. "We want Ross to compete at the regional meet and advance as many to state as possible," Elder said. Sloma, Lovell and Hetrick should pace this year's group.

TIFFIN CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL

# One step back, two steps forward

Fremont Ross posts best Tiffin showing

By Rich McGowan  
Assistant editor/sports reporter

TIFFIN — The Tiffin Carnival has never been one of the better events for the Fremont Ross girls cross country team.

But by taking a step back Saturday, the Little Giants were able to put their best foot forward.

Racing in Division I-B race,

as opposed to its usual spot in the A competition, Fremont Ross enjoyed a sterling performance. Led by a pair of top-five individuals, Ross finished fifth as a team, its best showing at the Tiffin Carnival.

“We never do well at Tiffin and I wanted to do well at Tiffin, just to be a confidence-builder,” Ross coach John Elder said. “And I think it worked really well.”

Junior Cassidi Lovell finished second overall, finishing in a time of 20 minutes, 13.63

seconds, while sophomore Kim Ketrick took fourth with a time of 20:22.11.

Sarah Szymanowski finished just outside the top 10, coming in 11th at 20:52.47, and Faye Sloma finished 22nd in 21:16.79.

Elder said the move to Division I's B race was based on wanting his team gain confidence from a finish in the upper tier, as opposed to running and finishing in the middle of the pack.

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JONATHON BIRD/NEWS-MESSENGER

Old Fort's Kayla Garza competes in the Tiffin Cross Country Carnival on Saturday, Sept 6, 2014.

# Carnival

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“It’s so overwhelming because it’s so big, they can get lost and mentally, it just doesn’t go well,” Elder said. “Instead we went with the B race for mental reasons and it went well.”

**Other area highlights:**

Woodmore’s girls team finished 15th in the Division III race. The Wildcats were led by Courtney Burner’s 22nd place overall in 20:09.87.

Bellevue finished fifth in the Division II A race. The Red were led by Lauren Turner who finished the course in 19:51.41.

Clyde’s Oliva Hammons finished 13th overall in the Division II A race with a time of 19:35.95 to lead the Fliers to a 16th place finish as a team.

Woodmore senior Ryan Avers finished third in the boys Division III B race. Avers finished in a time of



JONATHON BIRD/NEWS-MESSENGER

Fremont SJCC's Cameron Wasson competes in the Tiffin Cross Country Carnival on Saturday, Sept 6, 2014.

17:26.25 seconds. The Wildcats finished 11th as a team.

St. Joseph Central Catholic took sixth in the Division III B race. The Crimson Streaks were paced by Nate Rosengarten’s 16th-place finish (18:29.66).

### **Hartley earns medalist honors as Bellevue wins invite**

Isaac Hartley topped teammate Dylan DeWitt in a playoff for medalist as Bellevue's boys golf team won the Norwalk Invitational at Eagle Creek by 28 strokes with a 331.

Hartley went par-birdie-birdie while DeWitt was par-birdie-par on the extra holes after each carded a 2-over 73. DeWitt had three birdies and Hartley one.

Thomas Pressler shot a 78 while Tom Hosang added a 79, including one birdie for the Redmen.

Fremont Ross shot a 370, Oak Harbor a 373 and Margaretta a 386.

### **Turner third as Bellevue wins Myron Cline Invitational**

Lauren Turner finished the Division I/II girls race at Lakota's Myron Cline Cross Country Invitational at H.P. Eells Park in Bettsville in third place at 19 minutes, 40.46 seconds as Bellevue won the event.

Cassidi Lovell was second at 19:19.77 as Fremont Ross was second. Faye Sloma was fourth (19:53.29), Kim Hetrick sixth and Sarah Szymanowski 10th.

Liz Ish was fifth (19:57.51), Kylie Vogel eighth, Taylor Waldecker 11th, Hannah Weasner 12th and Michaela Fox 15th for the Lady Red. Madison Raifsnider was 23rd and Sarah

Bedell 32nd.

Olivia Hammons was seventh, Hayley Robinett 16th, Carlie Magers 21st and Kaylee Kern 34th as Clyde was fourth.

Karissa Garza was 19th, Taylor Dunn 20th, Makayla Wagner 25th and Summer Swope 35th as Oak Harbor was fifth.

Liberty-Benton's Meghan Bartel was first overall.

Ryan Avers was third in the Division III boys race at 17:06.27 as Woodmore's boys were fifth. Grant Matwiejczyk was 10th and Nick Emerine 17th.

Cole Manasian was ninth as Old Fort was fourth. Elliott Phillimore was 22nd, Donald Young 29th and Devyn Smith 37th.

Josh Stanley was 15th, Seth French 33rd and John Harris 40th as Margaretta was eighth.

Nate Rosengarten was 19th and Tyler Nason 35th as St. Joseph Central Catholic was seventh.

Caleb Tolento was 41st as Lakota was 10th.

Hopewell-Loudon's Chet Swartzmiller won the race while Elmwood was first as a team.

Tyler Sievert was second in the Division I/II boys race at 16:38.25 as Oak Harbor was fifth. Tim Poiry was 20th and Konnor Fletcher 21st.

Austin Guthrie was fourth at 16:45.01 as Bellevue was third. Landon Woodard was 17th, Clarke Berkey 27th and Gavin

Branum 31st.

Owen Starkweather was fifth at 16:45.62 as Fremont Ross was fourth. Matt Kuyken was 22nd, Connor Martin 26th and Nick Farrier 35th.

Austin Gale was eighth as Clyde was sixth. Matthew Sepeda was 13th and Mathew Gerber 15th.

Brandon Avers was first overall as Otsego was first as a team.

Courtney Burner was fourth in the Division III girls race at 19:54.05 as Woodmore was second. Jordan Grzegorzczuk was 15th, Samantha Sedlmeier 17th, Jessica Sotak 30th and Kiersten Perez 33rd.

Chloe Liebold was sixth as SJCC was eighth. Brooke Foster was 14th.

Kayla Garza was 13th, Alexis Rhodes 20th and Gretta Kissell 32nd as Old Fort was seventh.

Rachel Miller was 69th as Lakota was 13th.

Jordan Cooksey was 72nd as Margaretta was 12th.

Abby Hauck of Ottawa Hills was first overall while Mohawk won as a team.

### **Margaretta sweeps Woodmore**

Margaretta defeated Woodmore in straight sets Saturday. The Polar Bears won by scores of 25-15, 25-12, 25-11.

Marissa Windau, Michaela Eisenhauer and Alex Kessler each had six kills for the Polar Bears. Eisenhauer added eight

### **Hartley medals as Bellevue earns second straight NOL golf crown**

Isaac Hartley earned medalist honors with a 75 as Bellevue's boys golf team topped Norwalk by 20 strokes at Green Hills. With a team score of 318 they swept their way through the Northern Ohio League season with a second consecutive conference crown.

Hartley went 40-35 for his 75 for the Redmen, who were 12-0 in the regular season. Dylan DeWitt carded a 76 (38-38), Thomas Pressler an 83 (42-41) and Tom Hosang an 84 (42-42).

Bellevue led Norwalk by four at the turn before pulling away.

### **Lovell fourth as Little Giants second at Cardinal invite**

Cassidi Lovell was fourth at 20 minutes, 1.30 seconds and Kim Hetrick fifth at 20:04.39 as Fremont Ross's girls were second in the Division I-II race at the Cardinal Cross Country Invitational at Maumee Bay State Park.

Sarah Szymanowski was 10th and Faye Sloma 14th for the Little Giants.

Makayla Wagner was 33rd and Karissa Garza 35th as Oak Harbor was

ninth.

Toledo Central Catholic was first as a team, while Clay's Haley Hess won the girls race.

Owen Starkweather was 15th as Fremont Ross finished eighth.

Konner Fletcher was 36th as Oak Harbor was 11th.

Bowling Green was first as a team, while Toledo Central Catholic's George McCartney won the boys race.

Kayla Garza was fifth at 21:16.02 in the Division III race as Old Fort was eighth. Alexis Rhodes was 10th and Makinsey Black 33rd.

Johanna Ehrenhard was seventh, Madelyn Geary 17th, Samantha deAnda 19th, Skyler Beaber 23rd, Talissah Dann 29th and Jasmine Stein 30th as Gibsonburg was third.

Erie-Mason was first as a team, while Ottawa Hills' Abby Hauck won the girls race.

Cole Manasian was fourth at 17:56.96 as Old Fort was second in the boys race. Donald Young was 11th, Elliott Phillimore 12th and Devyn Smith 29th.

Vicente Alejandro was 10th, Camden Sondergeld 18th, Travis Kohler 31st and Nathan Shammo 33rd as Gibsonburg was fourth.

Ottawa Hills was first

as a team while Hicksville's Dakota Frost won the boys race.

### **Clyde's Smith, Sewell earn SBC doubles championship**

Clyde's Brooke Smith and Clara Sewell defeated Port Clinton's Libby Showalter and Taylor Steyer 6-4, 6-4 in the championship match at the Sandusky Bay Conference tennis tournament.

Smith and Sewell beat Perkins' Carlee Vaughn and Priscilla Nguyen 6-4 2-6, 6-4 in the semifinals.

The Fliers' Jane Kardotzke and Melissa Lacoanis fell to Steyer and Showalter 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 in the semifinals before topping Vaughn and Nguyen 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 for third place.

Clyde's Andrea Nearhood fell to Olivia Rohrbacher of Perkins in straight sets in the semifinals. Nearhood lost to Port Clinton's Alyssa Krupp in two sets in the match for third place.

The Fliers' Emi Bowers defeated Huron's Elizabeth Mills 6-4, 6-3 in a consolation match while Marissa Gill fell to the Redskins' Kelsey Dietrich in straight sets.

Nearhood, Bowers, and Kardotzke and Lacoanis are second-team

**Clay invite:  
Hammons, Clyde's  
girls grab third**

Olivia Hammons was third at 20 minutes, 6.80 seconds as Clyde's girls cross country team finished in third place at the Division II-III race at the Clay Eagle Invitational at Pearson Park.

Hayley Robinett was 14th for the Fliers.

Makayla Wagner was 20th, Karissa Garza 24th and Taylor Dunn 31st as Oak Harbor was seventh.

Ida's Ashley Sorge was first as Liberty-Benton won the girls race.

Cassidi Lovell was eighth, Kim Hetrick ninth, Faye Sloma 22nd and Sarah Szymanowski 27th as Fremont Ross's girls were fifth in the Division I girls race.

Perrysburg was first and Notre Dame Academy's Stephanie Sherman won the girls race.

Austin Gale was seventh, Mathew Gerber 17th and Matthew Sepeda 30th as Clyde's boys were ninth.

Tyler Sievert was eighth, Konnor Fletcher 33rd and Tim Poiry 34th as Oak Harbor was fourth.

Brandon Avers was first overall as Otsego won the boys race.

Owen Starkweather was eighth as the Little Giants' boys were ninth.

Norwalk's Luke Landis was first as Bedford-Temperence won the boys race.

