

WRESTLING ■ FREMONT

Little Giants seeking strong start

JEFF ARENZ
Sports Writer

FREMONT — Sixth-year wrestling coach Mike Mezinger has some holes to fill in the Fremont Ross wrestling lineup.

Entering the season, the Little Giants (8-9 in dual meets a year ago) must find a way to replace Yohe Rojas at 135 pounds, Cody Evans at 171 pounds and Cameron Journigan at heavyweight. Another open slot remains at 103.

"We don't have a 103-pounder and I don't think we're going to have a heavyweight," Mezinger said. "A lot depends on weight certification."

Rojas, a two-time Greater Buckeye Conference champion and a three-time district qualifier and the all-time school leader in wins (149) and takedowns in a season (171), was 40-6 en route to a state tourney appearance as a senior. Evans had the experience of being a two-time runner-up at the GBC and sectional levels.

Mezinger is concerned

AT A GLANCE	
■ Coach:	Mike Mezinger, sixth season.
■ 2008-09:	8-9 in dual meets.
■ Key Losses:	Yohe Rojas, 135, all-time leader in wins and takedowns in a season; Cody Evans, 171; Cameron Journigan, 285; Aaron Gonzalez, 215, 285; and Eric Hogle, 119, 125.
■ Key Returnees:	Seniors Miguel Marquez, 112, 119; Tony Rodriguez, 119; Wyatt Wukie, 171; Kent Weaver, 140, 145; Matt Christensen, 125, 130, 135; and juniors Steven Johnson, 125; Jalen Heidelberg, 140, 145; and Tylor Trauwein, 189.
■ Key Newcomers:	Senior Eric Brodstock, 160; sophomores Giovanny Medina, 125; and Miguel Estrella, 135; and freshmen Miguel Pena, 152; Eddie Chavez, 189; Jalil Dalton, 215; and Trevor Brown, 135, 140.

about his wrestlers making weight. He would like to see Miguel Marquez (112, 119) slide into the 112-pound class so that senior letterman Tony Rodriguez (23-15) can wrestle at 119.

"Tony was in a tough weight class at the sectional tournament and he didn't get out," Mezinger said.

"That has motivated him to work harder this year."

Gaps were also left in the Little Giants lineup after senior Aaron Gonzalez (215, 285) and junior Eric Hogle (119, 125) both decided not to wrestle this season.

At 125, junior letterman Steven Johnson (30-17) re-

■ Schedule:

December

5 at Oak Harbor Invite, 10:30 a.m.
16 vs Oak Harbor at Genoa, 6 p.m.
19 at Norwalk Invite, TBA
29 at Tiffin Invite, noon
30 at Tiffin Invite, 10 a.m.

January

2 Mal Mackey, 8 a.m.
6 vs Clyde at Sandusky, 6 p.m.
9 vs Bowsher at Tiffin, TBA
12 at Whitmer, 5 p.m.
15 at Perrysburg Invite, 4 p.m.
16 at Perrysburg Invite, 10 a.m.

February

6 at Celina Tournament, 9:30 a.m.
13 at GBC at Lima Sr., 11 a.m.

turns with freshman Giovanny Medina as his backup. Senior Matt Christensen, who returns after being sideline for much of the last two seasons with shoulder injuries, has the ability to wrestle at 125, 130 and 135. He has a shot to replace

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Rojas in the Ross lineup.

"Matt had surgery last year to repair his shoulder," Mezinger said. "We're hoping everything holds up so that he can have a good senior year."

Kent Weaver, who had a knee injury one year ago, is back to fill a spot at either 140 or 145. Of the remaining seven weight classes, three lettermen — senior Wyatt Wukie and juniors Jalen Heidelberg and Tylor Trautwein — return. Wukie (25-21) holds down a spot at 171 and Tylor Trautwein (37-4) is the defending Greater Buckeye Conference champ and a district qualifier at 189. Heidelberg is versatile enough to switch between 140 and 145. Mezinger said Trautwein, a linebacker in the fall, brings that mentality to the mat.

"He's more of a physical, power wrestler than some of them who have speed and are explosive," Mezinger said of Trautwein. "He wants to go for the legs and tackle his opponents."

Freshmen Trevor Brown and Eddie Chavez are the backups at 140 and 189, respectively.

Mezinger would like to increase the number of varsity wrestlers. With 18 grapplers this year, the Little Giants do not have many backups. The Ross coach is hoping high numbers at the middle school level will pay dividends for the Little Giants in the future. Marquez, Rodriguez and Johnson attended summer camps, Mezinger said. Still, he would like to see the Little Giants get off to a better start and work on their mat skills.

"We don't have to start teaching these kids from scratch because they know what do to and they know what to expect," Mezinger said.

OAK HARBOR FROM B1

At 119, Tyler Hackworth received a forfeit victory from Oak Harbor teammate Luke Cramer as both reached the title bout. Alex Bergman posted a 6-1 decision against Steven Johnson (Fremont Ross) to capture the 125-pound title. At 135, Zach Bergman used a 7-4 decision to turn back Aaron Ford (Kettering Fairmont) during the championship contest. The Rockets' Jake Cramer recorded an 11-2 major decision over Dixon Johnson (Shelby) to claim the title at 145 before Konner Witt secured an 18-2 technical fall against Jason Miller (Kettering Fairmont) in the 160-pound title bout.

Oak Harbor's Jon Bergman (215) and Zach Sandwisch (285) worked their way into championship matches, but Garrett Gray (Oregon Clay) stopped Bergman with a 4-2 decision, and Nick Wagner (Shelby) pinned Sandwisch in 1:30.

At 103, the Rockets' Alec Bowling was second after posting a 3-1 record in a round-robin style division. Oak Harbor's Kyle Minchell (152) placed third while Hunter Gresh (130) came in fourth.

In addition to Wukie and Johnson, Fremont Ross placed Tylor Trautwein in the 189-pound title contest. After Trautwein racked up a 6-2 decision against

D.J. Recknagel (Rossford), the Little Giants finished fifth with 135½ points in the 10-team field.

"I saw a lot of good things from our wrestlers, but there are some beginner mistakes that we need to work on with the younger kids in our lineup," Ross coach Mike Mezinger said. "That stuff is correctable."

The Little Giants' Tony Rodriguez won by injury default against Brett Carlin (Bryan) to take third at 119. Ross' Matt Christensen pinned Heath Humphrey (Shelby) in 4:02 to earn fifth at 135 while teammate Jalen Heidelberg won by fall against Jalmar Patton (Cleveland Heights) in 1:41, capturing fifth at 140.

AN OAK HARBOR SWEEP



Jonathon Bird | News-Messenger

Fremont Ross' Wyatt Wulke attempts a takedown on Genoa's Jaron Bintz during their match Wednesday as part of the Oak Harbor-Ross-Genoa tri-match at Genoa. Oak Harbor was the big winner of the night, taking decisive decisions over both opponent schools. **Results are on Page C2.**

Local Results

OAK HARBOR 67, ROSS 6

- **Site:** Genoa High School.
- **103 pounds:** Alec Bowlick (OH) win by forfeit.
- **112:** Luke Cramer (OH) win by forfeit.
- **119:** Miguel Marquez (FR) def. Josh Chambers 8-2.
- **125:** Tyler Hackworth (OH) p. Giovanny Lopez 1:40.
- **130:** Drew Stone (OH) def Steven Johnson 10-4.
- **135:** Alex Bergman (OH) def. Matt Christensen 16-0.
- **140:** Zach Bergman (OH) p. Jalen Heidelberg 1:05.
- **145:** Hunter Gresh (OH) p. Trevor Brown 2:54.
- **152:** Jake Cramer (OH) p. Kent Weaver 3:32.
- **160:** Kyle Mincheff (OH) win by forfeit.
- **171:** Konner Witt (OH) def. Wyatt Wukie 17-2.
- **189:** Tylor Trautwein (FR) def. Mike Mallernee 9-4.
- **215:** Johnny Bergman (OH) p. Jalil Dolton 2:00.
- **285:** Zach Sandwisch (OH) p. Jerome Conley 1:10.

Wrestling

3 Fremont Ross wrestlers runners-up

Three Fremont Ross grapplers were runners-up at the Norwalk Invitational on Saturday.

At 130 pounds, Steven Johnson lost to Phil Hurst of the host Truckers 9-0. Wyatt Wukie lost to Alan Hoyt of Norwalk 6-3 at 171, and Tylor Trautwein at 189 lost to Toledo Start's Nate Brubaker — a state qualifier last year — 10-6.

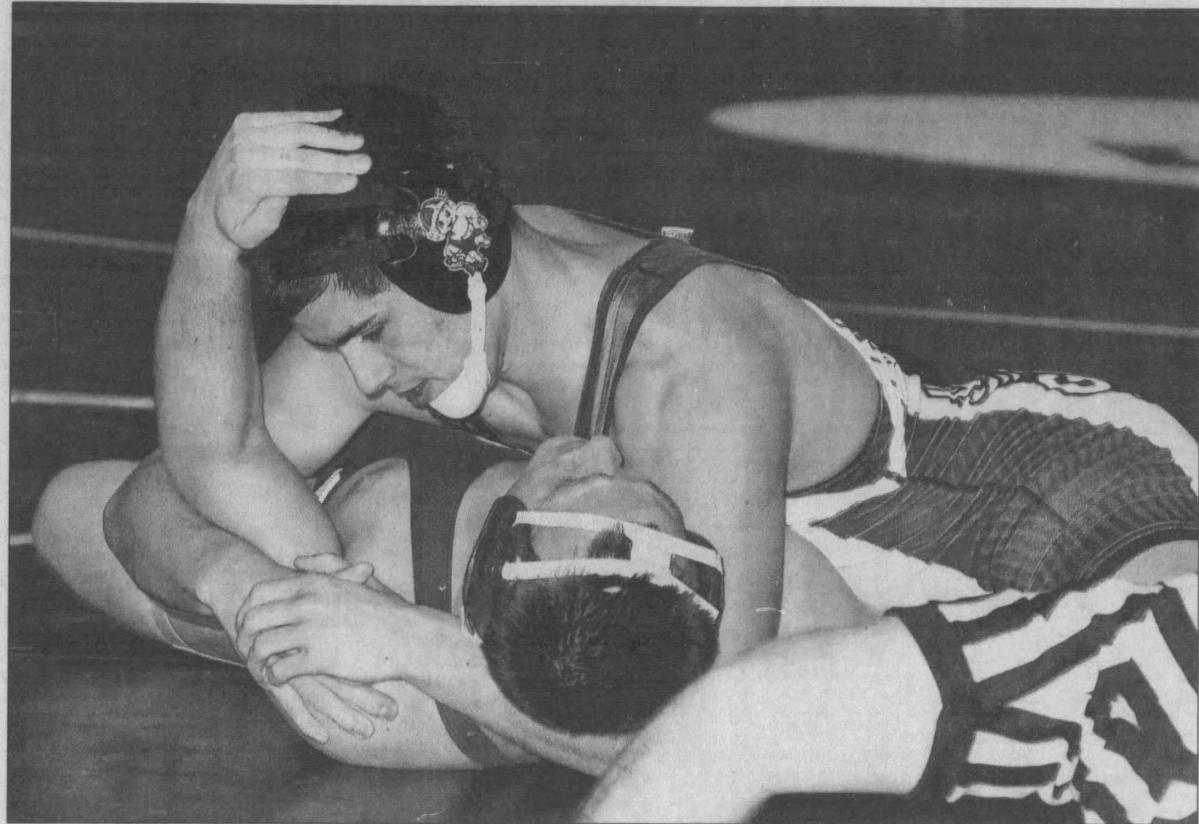
The Little Giants finished with 114 points, to place seventh in the 10-team invitational.

Medina Buckeye won the event with 323 points, while Norwalk was a close second at 318.

NORWALK INVITATIONAL

■ **Team Standings:** 1. Medina Buckeye 323, Norwalk 318, Sandusky 265, Whitmer 223, Tiffin 209, Start 171, Fremont Ross 114, Ontario 100, Margaretta 87, New London 30

WRESTLING ■ MAL MACKEY INVITATIONAL



Doug Hise | News-Messenger correspondent

Fremont Ross's Tylor Trautwein pins Genoa's Jake Winters at the Mal Mackey tournament on Saturday.

Little Giants take third place

BY MATTHEW HORN
Sports writer

Kent Weaver of Fremont Ross left a special space in the back of his mind for Saturday's wrestling tournament.

Weaver (145 pounds) was one of three individual Little Giants champions as host Ross finished the Mal Mackey Invitational in third place with 116 points.

"It's one I've had my eye on for a while," Weaver said. "It's one I wanted to win. It's in front of the home crowd — it's just something I've always wanted to win."

Genoa (126.5) won the event while Oak Harbor's B Team was seventh at 34.

Weaver pinned Port Clinton's Chris Salyers in 5 minutes, 16 seconds in his final match in the round-robin format after beating Clay's Jordan Slinker 7-5 in the third round.

"(Salyers) kind of just got caught in a bad spot and I took advantage of it," Weaver said.

Weaver said he maintained his intensity throughout his match with Slinker as he outlasted his opponent.

A title in the home environ-

ment was also special for the Little Giants' Tony Rodriguez (125).

"It definitely gave me inspiration to go out and work hard and put on a show," he said. "Being in front of the home crowd gives you better hype for the win."

Rodriguez beat Waite's Tim Enright 4-3 in his final match.

"What helped me win the match was staying in my stance and I kept moving," Rodriguez said. "I went 100 percent with each shot to try to get take-downs and it worked."

Rodriguez won 16-4 and 15-6 before a pin in 1:52 in the

fourth round.

"I pretty much controlled my matches," he said. "(The final round) was the toughest match of the day."

Tylor Trautwein had pins at 33 and 25 seconds, respectively, in his first two matches. He pinned Genoa's Jake Winters at 2:49 in his final match.

Trautwein, who was recognized most outstanding wrestler after winning his weight class at the Wendy's Invitational on Wednesday, also beat Winters

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earlier in the year.

Trautwein was a state alternate last year and intends to qualify to Columbus this season.

"I need to work a little harder," he said. "I need to get more conditioned so I can do better. I don't want to get tired at state."

Miguel Marquez (119), Steven Johnson (130), Jalen Heidelberg (140) and Wyatt Wukie (171) were

second for Ross while Matt Christensen (136) was third.

"Our team is looking better and better," Rodriguez said. "We sent five guys to the finals and (three) came out on top. It's looking good for our team."

Jared Chambers (125) and Hunter Gresh (136) were second for the Rockets.

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Mal Mackey Tournament

Ross High School

Saturday, Jan. 2

Final Standings

Genoa	126.5
Oregon Clay.....	118.5
Fremont Ross.....	116
Port Clinton.....	114
Perrysburg.....	94
Waite	77
Oak Harbor.....	34

Individual Results:

Fremont Ross: 1st Place - Tony Rodriguez (125), Kent Weaver (145), Tylor Trautwein (189); 2nd Place - Miguel Marquez (119), Steven Johnson (130), Jalen Heidelberg (140), Wyatt Wukie (171); 3rd Place - Matt Christensen (136); 5th Place - Eric Broadstock (152)

Genoa: 1st Place - Seth Morrison (103), Shawn Gantka (119), Scott Traver (136); 2nd Place - Dustin Teneyck (145), Garret Scott (160), Jake Winters (189); 3rd Place - Nick Keller (215), Jake Sparks (285); 4th Place - Drew Keenan (125), Ryan Szymanski (140); 5th Place - Josh Pierce (130), Jaron Bintz (171)

Oak Harbor: 2nd Place - Jared Chambers (125), Hunter Gresh (136); 4th Place - Josh Chambers (112), Sam Hamilton (160)

Port Clinton: 1st Place - Greg Willis (112), Stephen Pastor (130), Derrick Johannsen (135), Jared Flemming (152), Richard Harris (160); 4th Place - Chris Slayers (145), Raymond Hopfinger (171), Ken Bacon (215); 5th Place - Clayton White (119), Jimmy Digby (140)

SANDUSKY TRI-MATCH

Clyde grapplers beat Ross, hosts

KEVIN SHIELDS

Sports writer

SANDUSKY — The Clyde wrestling team picked up two wins on Wednesday, while the Fremont Ross team dropped a pair in tri-match action at Sandusky High School.

The Fliers (4-0) defeated the host Blue Streaks 49-16 and the Little Giants 57-15.

In the other match Sandusky topped Ross, 55-18.

Sahen Fultz (135 pounds), Brandon Flores (152, 160) and Trevor Strickland (215, 289) all picked up two wins for the Fliers. Tylor Trautwein led the way for Ross with two pins.

"We're starting to get into the meat of our schedule and to come out with two

big wins over Division I schools is always nice," said Fliers coach Rob Jennings. "Obviously there is always a lot of room for improvement up and down the line-up regardless of how bad win or lose. We'll have to come back in (Thursday) and get ready for the weekend at Monroeville."

SEE CLYDE I B2

CLYDE FROM B1

Jennings's squad picked up most of their points in the matches from the middleweights. Fultz (135) was one of five wins for the Fliers in a sweep between the 135 and 160 classes against the Little Giants. He pinned Ross' Matt Christiansen, while Eric Pumphrey added another pin in the 140 match and Kalob Andrews (145) and Brad Smith (152) each won in regular decisions, with Flores picking up a forfeit.

Also in the win column for Clyde was Zach Rawson (125) and Strickland (215).

The Little Giants got wins in the match from Miguel Marquez (119), Steven Johnson (130), Wyatt Wukie (171) and Trautwein (189).

Clyde also dominated Sandusky in the middles, picking up four wins. Zach Thurn (130), Fultz, Flores (152) and Brad Smith (160) all got wins against the Blue Streaks, while Dakota Flores (112), David Norman (119) and Strickland (289) were also victorious.

"Individually, we're a pretty

good place for the most part," Jennings said. "It's just eliminating mistakes, making adjustments and starting to win some of the closer matches."

Trautwein was the highlight of Ross' match with Sandusky, picking up his second pin against Dominic Aaron at 189. Four forfeits were costly, though, as Ross had forfeits at 103, 112, 160 and 289 in each match.

"I think our kids were just tired tonight," Ross coach Mike Mezinger said. "We really wrestled hard our past two tournaments and they just looked run down tonight."

Both Clyde and Ross will return to action Saturday. The Fliers will head to Monroeville for the Monroeville Invite, while the Little Giants will take on Bowsher and Tiffin Columbian in Tiffin.

"It doesn't get any easier," Mezinger said. "Hopefully we rebound off of this and the kids keep their weight down so we don't have to go so hard this weekend."

E-mail Kevin Shields at kshields@gannett.com.

Local Results

CLYDE 57, ROSS 15

- **Site:** Sandusky High School, Sandusky.
- **103 pounds:** Clyde wins on forfeit.
- **112:** Clyde win on Forfeit.
- **119:** Miquel Marquez (F) d. Dakota Flores (C), 11-7.
- **125:** Zach Rawson (C) forfeit.
- **130:** Steven Johnson (F) d. Zach Thurn (C), 5-0.
- **135:** Sahen Fultz (C) pin.
- **140:** Eric Pumphrey (C) pin.
- **145:** Kaleb Andrews (C) d. Kent Weaver (F), 6-0.
- **152:** Brad Smith (C) d. Eric Brodstock (F), 5-0
- **160:** Brandon Florez (C) forfeit.
- **171:** Wyatt Wukie (F) d. Josh Trick (C), 6-2.
- **189:** Tylor Trauwein (F) pin.
- **215:** Trevor Strickland (C) pin.

SANDUSKY 55, ROSS 18

- **Site:** Sandusky High School, Sandusky.
- **103 pounds:** Gerald Robinson (S) forfeit.
- **112:** Isaih Brown (S) forfeit.
- **119:** Trayc Baker (S) pin.
- **130:** Davion Caston (S) d. Steven Johnson (F), major decision.
- **135:** Justin Ritchie (S) pin.
- **140:** Justin Palma (S) d. Jalen Heidelberg (F), 10-4
- **145:** Devon Aaron (S) pin.
- **152:** Cameron Kirksey (S) pin.
- **160:** Xavier Dickerson (S) forfeit.
- **171:** Phil Henderson (S) pin.
- **189:** Tylor Trauwein (F) pin.
- **215:** Tony Cook (S) pin .
- **285:** Mike Brown (S) forfeit.

WRESTLING

Ross duo advances in Perrysburg

PERRYSBURG — Fremont Ross's Steven Johnson and Tylor Trautwein advanced to the semifinals Friday at the Perrysburg Wrestling Invitational.

Johnson, at 130 pounds, will face Oak Harbor's Alex Bergman in the semifinals, while Trautwein, at 189, will face Mansfield's Montels Holland.

Wrestling starts at 10 a.m. today with consolation matches.

Wrestling

Oak Harbor wins invitational

News-Messenger reports

PERRYSBURG — The Oak Harbor wrestling team captured its fourth straight Perrysburg Invitational Tournament on Saturday, placing all 14 wrestlers in top six.

The Rockets finished with a team score of 319.5. Wauseon took second with 205 points.

Tyler Hackworth (119), Drew Stone (125) Alex Bergman (130), Zach Bergman (135), Jake Cramer (140), Ian Miller (145), Konnor Witt (160) all earned tournament titles for Oak Harbor.

In total, nine Rockets advanced to the final round.

Ross's Tyler Trautwein pinned Wauseon's Trent Seiler for the title at 189.