

Rockets lead AA; Ross, St. Joe third

Oak Harbor held the lead while Fremont Ross and St. Joe were third after the first two rounds of the sectional wrestling tournaments Friday.

The Rockets held a 10-point lead over Cardinal Stritch, 94-84, in the Class AA at Oak Harbor High School. The Rockets will send 12 wrestlers into today's semifinal round. The only weight division not having an Oak Harbor grappler in today's first round is 98.

At the Mansfield Class AAA sectional, Sandusky leads with 81½ points, followed by Vermilion at 72 and Ross with 69.

The Little Giants will send seven into the semifinals. Corey Beard, 105, led the Ross Friday night assault with a pair of pins.

All of the Ross wrestlers are still "alive" in the 13-team tournament.

At Northwood High School, St. Joe is in good position to defend its sectional Class A crown. Woodmore is holding down the lead at present with 72 points. Liberty Center is second with 70 while the Crimson Streaks had accumulated 64½.

All of the St. Joe wrestlers are still "alive." Wrestling begins today at 12:30 p.m. for all sec-

tionals. The final and consolation final rounds are tonight at 7 p.m.

The top four finishers in each weight division of the three sectionals will advance to the district meet next weekend.

Following are the team standings and the area wrestlers reaching today's semifinal round:

CLASS AAA
At Mansfield
TEAM SCORING: Sandusky 81½, Vermilion 72, Ross 69, Lexington 46, Mansfield 44½, Findlay 40½, Galion 40, Ashland 27½, Marion Harding 22½, Malabar 21, Port Clinton 18, Madison 14, Columbian 8½.

Area semifinalists
98-John Havener, Ross, Todd Ohm, Port Clinton
105-Corey Beard, Ross.
138-Andre Parks, Ross.
145-Jim Lipstraw, Ross.
155-Tim Walther, Ross.
167-Doug Smith, Ross.
175-Brian Celek, Port Clinton and Greg Brown, Ross.

Heiden gunning for fourth world crown

AAA wrestling

Ross advances six

MANSFIELD — Al Voggenthaler was correct in his prophesy — six of his Ross Little Giants wrestlers advanced to the Class AAA district meet after the sectional test Saturday.

Only some of the people not going surprised the Ross coach.

"I thought we could get 6-8 people out," he said hoarsely after the two-day test at Mansfield Senior High School. "I did feel that Doug Smith and Greg Brown would make it."

Smith and Brown, both Buckeye Conference champions, did not, finishing sixth and fifth at 167 and 175, respectively.

"We had felt," Voggenthaler continued explaining his pre-tournament feelings, "that if Corey Beard, Tim Walther and Craig Hilty got good draws, they would make it."

The Ross threesome got the key draws and along with sectional champs John Havener, 98, and Andre Parks, 138, plus 145-pounder Jim Lipstraw, will hit the mats next Friday and Saturday in the district meet at Rogers High School in Toledo.

Sandusky won the team title Saturday, accumulating 171½ points to finish ahead of Vermilion at 161 and Ross with 152. Port Clinton, with sectional champ Brian Celek, 175, and 98-pounder (third) Todd Holm advancing to the district, had 55 points and finished back in the pack.

Havener defeated top-seeded John Nelson of Lexington in the finals 6-4. The Little Giants sophomore had been fourth seeded and stopped second-seeded Tom Kilker of Vermilion 7-5 in the semifinals.

"John looked sharp," Voggenthaler praised, "he's back in stride."

Havener had missed Ross's last regular season match when he was overweight.

Parks gained sweet revenge in his title match, stopping Mike Arnold of Findlay 9-2 in a match that was more one-sided than that. Arnold defeated Parks in the Buckeye Conference finals.

"Andre was really strong in the match," the Ross coach said. "One time, he darn near knocked the other kid out when he used an ankle pick, jerked it so hard that the kid's head hit the mat."

Beard finished third for the Little Giants, defeating Pete Prophet of Sandusky 6-5 in the 105-pound division consolation finals.

Hilty, 126, Lipstraw and Walther, 155, took fourth.