

# SJCC's Molyet has good day with best friend

BY KEVIN SHIELDS  
Sports writer

COLUMBUS — Friendship can be a tricky thing, especially when competing with your best friend for a state championship.

But for St. Joseph Central Catholic's Jessica Molyet, she knew she was far from the talent of her best friend Jackie Leppelmeier from McComb. Molyet, competing at the state level in the weaker of her two throwing events, was third to her friend who captured the Division III shot put title in day one of the state track meet Friday at The Ohio State University.

"She's my best friend and I was hoping for second so that I could stand next to her on the podium," Molyet said. "But she's beyond everybody's level. To be third is a good accomplishment."

Molyet, who is headed to the University of Cincinnati next year largely due to her discus abilities, still had a toss of 41 feet, 6 1/4 inches. Leppelmeier won the event with a toss of 45 feet, 1/4 inches.

"To place that high on the podium in this is pretty insane," Molyet said. "I tied my finish in the discus last year and I was in eighth place all the way until my last throw today — so I'm not complaining one bit."

## DIVISION I

Going into Friday's semifinals, the job task was simple for

Fremont Ross senior Justin Hines: Just move on.

Hines started his day by advancing to Saturday's finals in the 110-meter hurdles, qualifying fifth with a time of 14.63 seconds.

"My hurdles felt good today," said Hines. "My main goal was just to make it to finals."

He then teamed up with Aaron Spencer, Skylar Reffner and Darien Spann to qualify eighth in the 4x200 relay. The same group had a rougher go in the 4x100 however, as they finished 12th.

"Tomorrow is going to be another day because I only have two races," Hines said. "I'm just going to try going as hard as I can being that it'll be the last two races of my high school career."

## DIVISION II

Kaitlin Nesbitt knows what she needs to work on over the off-season.

"Technique," said Nesbitt. "I need to work on it and get it better."

The Margareta sophomore took seventh in the Division II girls high jump. Her jump of 5 feet, 2 inches was just good enough to get her a medal.

"I was happy to be on the podium," Nesbitt said. "Overall, I think I could've done better, but I'll get it next year."

Devin Jones also earned a medal for the Polar Bears on Friday, qualifying eighth for Saturday's finals of the 300 hur-



Chris Crook | Special to the News-Messenger

Fremont Ross' Justin Hines finishes the 110-meter hurdle race during Friday's state track prelims. He qualified fifth in the 110 hurdles and will run as part of the Ross 4x200 relay team in another final.

dles with a run of 40.91 seconds. Joe Corwin was eighth in the boys shot put.

## DIVISION III

It wasn't state title No. 7 in a row for his family, but Woodmore coach Mike Pendleton couldn't have been happier with his daughter Carly.

The Wildcat junior took second in the Division III discus competition. Her toss of 147 feet, 6 inches was nearly nine feet ahead of third place Alexa Macri of Bellaire St. John Central, but was almost four feet under that of first place Joh'Vonnie Mosley of McDonald High School, who had a toss of 151 feet, 4 inches.

Carly's older sister Emily won four straight state championships, and sister Erin won the past two.

"I think that is the most consistent box of six throws that she has done all year," said Mike Pendleton. "We did well here — I'm very happy with her performance."

Pendleton was consistently in the 140-foot range, with her farthest toss coming on the first throw of the final round. Mosley also set her high mark on the first toss, setting a personal record and a McDonald school record.

Though she kept landing her throws over 145 feet, Pendleton could never get that one big toss. Upon learning she was going to finish runner-up, her sisters consoled her and let her know there is nothing wrong with second — even for a Pendleton.

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**Michael Lehmkuhle | Special to The News-Messenger**

Fremont Ross' Skylar Reffner passes the baton to Darien Spann in the Division I 4x200 relay Friday. The Little Giants relay team placed eighth and also included Justin Hines and Aaron Spencer.

pionship in that race and I was right there."

### **DIVISION I**

In the Division I competition, Fremont Ross's Justin Hines was the lone Little Giant competing in multiple events during Saturday's finals.

Hines took fourth in the boys 110 hurdles running a time of 14.55 to earn the first of two medals for the senior.

"I'm satisfied with fourth place, I didn't want to get anything under fourth so I reached my goal," Hines said. "I was in good position around the No. 5 and No. 6 hurdles to make a run, but then I lost my concentration a little bit."

Hines joined Aaron Spencer, Skylar Reffner and Darien Spann on the eighth place 4x200 relay squad. The group started in lane one forcing them to play catch up the whole race as they crossed in a time of 1:29.41.

"Where all the these guys came from, they're the fastest around at what they do," Spann said. "That's just like us and where we came from we were the fastest. They just so happened to be a little bit faster."

Spann will head to the University of Akron next year to run track, Hines will get familiar with the Jesse Owens facility as he'll run the



**Eric George | Special to The News-Messenger**

DeVaughnte Askew hands off the baton to Brock Avers. The Woodmore 4x400 relay team, made up of Askew, Avers, Grant Weirich and Justin Garver, placed seventh in Division III on Saturday.

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next four years at Ohio State.

“I like this place and I love the atmosphere here,” Hines said. “I feel comfortable on the track. I’m just going to try and have fun when I’m here.”

Narrowly missing the finals in the boys discus for Ross was senior Josh Ballenger. The University of Cincinnati commit had a high toss of 154-00. He was called for a foul on what would’ve been his longest toss in the 170-foot range, which would’ve put him in the finals. Ross’s Ellen Silva was 15th in the girls pole vault with a jump of 10 feet.

## Division I Boys

■ **Team scores:** 1. Warren G. Harding, 47; 2. Trotwood-Madison, 44; 33. Fremont Ross, 6.

■ **Discus:** 1. Cody Riffle, Toledo St. John's Jesuit, 189-03; 10. Josh Ballenger, Fremont Ross, 154-00.

■ **4 x 200 relay:** 1. Cleveland Glenville, 1:26.72; 8. Fremont Ross, 1:29.41.

■ **110 hurdles:** 1. Demoye Bogle, Huber Heights Wayne, 14.15; 4. Justin Hines, Fremont Ross, 14.55.

## Division I Girls

■ **Team scores:** 1. Reynoldsburg, 56; 2. Rocky River Magnificant, 35.

■ **Pole vault:** 1. Olivia Bergesen, Mason, 12-00.00; 15. Ellen Silva, Fremont Ross, 10-00.00.