

2016 Season Review

POSTSEASON MEETS KEY FOR FREMONT ROSS



Fremont Ross' Tyler Grine runs with the baton during the OHSAA state meet last spring.

N-M ARCHIVE

Boys and girls teams focusing on winning at end of season

RICH MCGOWAN
REPORTER

The success of the Fremont Ross track and field teams will not be measured by duel meet wins or where they finish at large invitationals – at least at the start.

No, the Little Giants are focusing solely on the final weeks of the season, pushing their chips in and betting on their performances at the conference, regional and, ultimately, the state meets.

“A lot of our focus this year will be using the meets, kind of like you saw the swim team do this year, use the meets to build toward the end and that’s what we’re going to do with the track team,” Ross boys track coach John Elder said. “We’re not going to go in to the first meet going in there to win, because we’re not going to and the kids know that, we’re not there yet. Could we get there? We may because we have a good pole vaulter, a good high jumper, a good hurdler, we have pieces here and now if we can add some depth to that we’re going to be

pretty good.”

Among those returning pieces are three members of the state-meet qualifying 4x200 relay team, Jaylen Spencer, Tyler Grine and Tavarius Simms. Also back is Elijah Johnson who won the Three Rivers Athletic Conference championships in the 110 hurdles and also qualified for the state meet.

Getting their returning athletes back to the state meet, and possibly more, will require those athletes to be flexible beyond running their top events

“Can Jaylen Spencer go to state in the 400? Absolutely. Can Elijah Johnson go back and place in the 110? Absolutely. Where can we put those guys in to be able to do that?” Elder said. “Tyler Grine is a really good 100-meter runner and we’ll put him in some 200s and run him in some events he doesn’t want to run but it’s for the best interest of his 100 and the relay. Elijah Johnson needs to get faster between the hurdles, so he’ll run some open races, some sprints to do that.”

While the boys team will be focusing on building depth, and trying to

find a way to replace the loss of all-state long jumper and sprinter Jeffrey Barnett, the girls team is setting its sights on May 11, the first day of the TRAC championships, which Ross is hosting.

“There are some points we left on the board last year at the TRAC and that’s kind of what we’re shooting for this year, is that conference (championship),” girls coach Travis Bates said. “Since we’re here and at home and hopefully can show off the team at that point. Up until that point, everything is about training.”

Vanashia Elkins, a regional champion in the 200, returns looking for another trip to the state meet. Other returners include sprinter Imani Elkins, distance runner Cassidi Lovell as well as throwers Leha Ballenger and Mattalyn Overmyer and high jumper Megan Moses.

Freshman pole vaulter Anne Marie Moses set a new record at the junior high meet last year joins the team and senior Elayna Ackerman returns after

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Track

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a year off from track. Bates thinks with Ackerman back in the fold, she could be enough to put the Lady Giants over the top in the TRAC.

“We were third in the TRAC and with her we probably would have won it,” Bates said. “She would have scored some points in the 100 hurdles and been a good addition to the relays and maybe

even the 300 hurdles and we didn’t score any points in those events last year.”

Bates believes his team has enough to claim a conference title – and potentially more.

“I think we’re getting the kids out here and really competing with each other,” Bates said. “We got a lot more depth this year and they’re on the track and pushing each other. I hope they continue to get after each other. We want them to be competitors on the track and off the track good teammates.”

Perkins Pirate Invitational

Boys Team Score: 1. Perkins 108.5, 2. Fremont Ross 81, 3. Vermilion 71, 4. Springfield 63, 4. Norwalk 63, 6. Avon 42, 7. Bellevue 39, 8. Oak Harbor 34, 9. Huron 32, 10. Sandusky 29, 11. No. Olmsted 27, 11. Genoa 27, 13. Open Door Christian 20, 14. Garfield Hts. 14, 15. St. Joseph C.C. 8.5.

Oak Harbors' winner was Nate Poiry (300 hurdles 44.10).

Fremont Ross' winner include Elija Johnson (110 hurdles 14.41), Tavarious Simms (long jump 20-00.50), 4x200 relay (Jalen Sims, T. Simms, Tyler Grine, Jaylen Spencer) 1:33.94, and 4x100 (Grine, T. Simms, Jerardo Eckford, Jalen Simms) 45.59.

Port Clinton falls in tri-meet

STAFF REPORT

Owen Starkweather won the 1,600 and 3,200 meters as Fremont Ross' boys track team defeated host Port Clinton and Vermilion on Tuesday.

Tyler Grine won the 100, Tyler Schell the pole vault and Tavarius Simms the long jump for the Little Giants. Elijah Johnson won the 110 hurdles and Issac Spears the shot put.

Johnson, Simms, Jalen Sims and Grine won the 4x100 relay, Sims, Simms, Jared Fox and Grine took the 4x2 and Fox, Oliver Ellis, Bryce McKinstry and Matt Kuyken won the 4x4. Kuyken, Starkweather, McKinstry and Ellis won the 4x8.

Corbin Winningham won the discus as Port Clinton was third.

Matallyn Overmyer won the discus, Vanashia Elkins the 200 and Olivia DeRodes the high jump as the Little Giants' girls topped the Redskins by half a point. Cassidi Lovell won the 1,600, Kim Hetrick the 3,200 and Amber Otermat the pole vault.

Imani Elkins, Vanashia Elkins, Alexandra Holmes and AnneMarie Moses won the 4x2 and Moses, Holmes, Taylor Weickert and Lovell took the 4x4. Dejsha Pettiford won the long jump.

Morrisa Mallory won the shot put, Ashtyn Baney the 100 and Katelyn Koebel the 800 for Port Clinton. Miranda Herevia, Katy Wiewandt, Baney and Abbey Weldon won the 4x1 and Gabby Sharkey, Rachel Reineck, Koebel and Emma Eickert won the 4x8.

"I am a proud coach," Port Clinton's Seth Benner said. "We talked about toughness and being competitors the past couple of days and the kids responded very well. I am very pleased with the effort. Hopefully this becomes the norm."



JESSICA DENTON/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

Fremont Ross' Vanashia Elkins runs the final leg of the Girls 4x200 relay at Port Clinton on Tuesday.

TRACK

Bill Krause Invitational

The Ross boys took second (104.50 points) at the Bill Krause Track Invite on Saturday while the girls finished eighth (45 points).

The Little Giants were led by winners Elijah Johnson- 110 Meter Hurdles (14.75), Jaylen Spencer- 400 Meter Dash (52.13) and Owen Starkweather- 3200 Meter Run (10:18.63). Tyler Grine took 2nd at the 100 Meter Dash (11.42) while Tyler Schell was 3rd at the Pole Vault (13-00.00).

The Ross girls were led by winner Anne Marie Moses- Pole Vault (10-06.00) followed by Amber Otermat taking second behind her (10-06.00).

TRACK

Bellevue Elks Track Invitational

The host Bellevue girls (106 points) took 2nd while the boys (55 points) were fourth at their home Bellevue Elks Track Invite on Saturday, the Fremont Ross boys (113 points) placed 2nd followed by the girls (67 points) finishing fourth.

The Bellevue girls were led by Elizabeth Ish placing 1st at the 1600 Meter Run (5:33.14), Jocelyn Morin took 1st at the 400 Meter Dash (1:02.45) while Lauren Turner was 1st at the 800 Meter Run (2:24.24). Peyton Vogel finished 2nd at the High Jump (4-10.00) alongside Kaylia Reesman taking 2nd at the 100 Meter Hurdles (17.13).

The Bellevue boys were led by Elijah Johnson placing 1st at the 110 Meter Hurdles (15.11) and Dakota McPeak took 1st at the 200 Meter Dash (22.57) and 2nd at the 100 Meter Dash (11.52). Izaak Holmer added a 3rd place performance at the Discus Throw (126-05).

The Little Giant boys were led by Tyler Grine taking 1st at the 100 Meter Dash (11.50), Jaylen Spencer placed 2nd at the 400 Meter Dash (51.88) and at the 200 Meter Dash (22.85). Tavarius Simms finished 1st at the Long Jump (19-08.00), Issac Spears was 2nd at the Shot Put (45-06.00) and Tyler Schell got 2nd at the Pole Vault (13-00.00).

The Ross girls were led by Vanashia Elkins taking 1st at the 200 Meter Dash (26.41), Amber Otermat took 1st at the Pole Vault (11-09.00) followed by Anne Marie Moses taking 2nd (10-00.00). Matallyn Overmyer finished 3rd at the Discus Throw (109-04) while Meghan Moses was 3rd at the High Jump (4-08.00).

