

In the wrestling room, Mike Mezinger has also seen improvements for his squad, which returns eight district qualifiers and welcomes a large freshmen class.

Clay was selected as the TRAC favorite.

“We’ve got a good core of our team coming back,” Mezinger said. “And only one of my district qualifiers is a senior. But we’ll have a full team and quite a few at the JV level too where we’ll have a full lineup.”

HS WRESTLING: OAK HARBOR INVITATIONAL



Jordan Weissinger, top, of Fremont Ross, wrestles with Jim Chambers of Oak Harbor at the Oak Harbor Invitational on Saturday.

LEE WELCH/NEWS-MESSENGER CORRESPONDENT

Ross gets emotional boost

By Kevin Shields
Sports writer

OAK HARBOR — Eduardo Chavez may never wrestle with more emotion or more purpose than he did for Fremont Ross at Saturday's Oak Harbor Invitational.

Just three days before the tournament, Chavez' grandmother passed away. The two were very close, and the emotions he was battling were apparent throughout the day.

But he gave his word to his team and coach he would be there. What he gave them was beyond anything they could have asked of him.

Chavez' pin of Shelby's Blake Kanz in 3:10 earned him the tournament title at 195 pounds. It was one of four total individual championships for the Little Giants who earned the overall team title with 226 points — the first tournament win for coach Mike Mezinger.

The host Rockets were a

close second at 222 points. Genoa was third at 172.

For Mezinger, now in his eighth-year coaching the Little Giants, it was also his first win over Oak Harbor.

"I've never been a part of it, I know that," Mezinger said. "It feels great. It was a total team effort. These guys have a lot of talent."

Bailey Mezinger (106), Miquel Marquez (132) and Trey Grine (138) also earned titles for the Little Giants. Jordan Weissinger (145) and Jalil Dalton (285) earned runner-up honors.

"The last few years, we've been good individually, but as a team the connection wasn't there," Marquez said. "This year, we're not just a team. We've become family-based. We're very proud of each other. We encourage each other and we're here to improve as a whole team. That's why we were able to do what we did today."

It was the effort of Chavez, though, that stood out to coach Mezinger.



Chavez

Amherst Steele dethrones Bellevue at K of C tourney

By Dan Gilles
News-Messenger sports correspondent

AVON LAKE — The Avon Lake Knights of Columbus Wrestling Tournament has been very, very good to Bellevue.

In the 30 previous years of the traditional season-opening tournament, the Redmen have won it eight times and finished second four times.

They had won the team championship at the K of C the two previous seasons and were looking for their first-ever threepeat this past weekend.

Amherst Steele had other plans.

The Comets, who finished second four times in the past six years and finished third behind Bellevue and Port Clinton last season, scored 297 points with two champions, four finalists and 14 placers in the top six, wrestling the team crown away from Bellevue Saturday night.

The Redmen, third following the Friday portion of the 31st annual event, passed Grafton Midview on Saturday and finished second with 181 points.

Bellevue had four wrestlers reach the championship match in their weight classes, and three of those wrestlers were victorious — seniors Dilan Buckner (160), Brendan Adkinson (182) and Nick Mazzaro (220).

See BELLEVUE, page 7

See ROSS, page 7

Ross

Continued from Page 6

“(Chavez’s) emotions were in check and he was focused the entire tournament,” he said. “As soon as he pinned that guy in the finals, he just lost it. All his emotions came out, finally.

“But it was truly courageous for him to even be here, let alone have a performance like that.”

Chavez and his coach had a pep talk in the stands before the opening round, as his emotions took control. Then he thought about what his grandmother would have wanted, and he kept it together for her and his team.

“I dedicated this tournament to her, that just kept me going match by match,” Chavez said. “And my finals match was very emotional for me, just because I had so much at stake. I have a lot to prove this year.”

Another grappler with a lot to prove is Oak Harbor senior Alex Bergman. Bergman earned tournament MVP honors, winning five matches by falls.

He defeated Genoa’s Jacob Fejes in the finals, pinning him in 3:30.

“Going into that last match, I just felt good going out there,” Bergman said. “The training all week didn’t kill me. I was fresh yet and I felt I wrestled a really good match.”

Alec Bowlick won the title at 126, and Luke Cramer won at 145. Michael Osborne (113), Jeremy Balboa (120), Brock Evans (126), Hunter Gresh (138) and Jared Chambers (160) all were runners-

up.

Oak Harbor started seven freshmen Saturday in the 12 classes it wrestled in.

“It was a good opening tournament for us,” Cramer said. “We had good competition here. Our freshmen just need a little more high school experience. But we’re working with them to get their skills down in the wrestling room.”

Cramer topped Weissinger of Ross for his fourth pin of the tournament. Weissinger took Cramer down twice, before Cramer got the fall in 1:10.

Behind Bergman and Cramer, it’s tough to find much experience.

“This is the youngest team I’ve ever coached,” Rockets coach George Bergman said. “We have 15 freshmen out of 26 kids on our team. And they battled today. I’m really proud of them.”

Osborne and Balboa were two freshmen placers, as was Ben Peterson at 138.

“That was a tough weight class and Ben got fourth,” coach Bergman said. “He had three really good kids in front of him.”

Freshman T.J. Lawrence was third at 285.

“The kids are working hard and they’re real coachable,” coach Bergman said. “The last five years were a dream for us. This year is totally different.

“But I’m excited and they’ve made it pleasure to be in that wrestling room each day with them.”

*Email Kevin Shields at
kshields@gannett.com.*



Oak Harbor's Hunter Gresh, top, battles Jordan Weissinger of Fremont Ross during their wrestling match Wednesday at Oak Harbor High School. JONATHON BIRD/NEWS-MESSENGER

Frosh come through

Underclassmen lead Oak Harbor to close wrestling win over Fremont Ross

By **Matthew Horn**
Sports writer

OAK HARBOR — Considering half the wrestlers in Oak Harbor's varsity lineup were freshmen Wednesday, it came as no surprise the meet against Fremont Ross came down to one of their matches.

And because it was Nick Bergman competing it certainly wasn't a shock the Rockets emerged with a 33-30 victory over the Little Giants.

Oak Harbor trailed 30-29 entering Bergman's match at 120 pounds to complete the meet.

"Our freshmen pulled through for us," Rockets coach George Bergman said. "We asked a lot of them. Nick sealing it was nice. He's been wrestling since he was 5.

"It was nice to have that security blanket.

He knows what he's doing. He might be a freshman, but it's only in class, not on the mat. It was a good victory for us with such a young team. The upperclassmen did what we wanted."

Bergman shut out his opponent 9-0. "I'm glad it came down to me," Nick said. "Our team did really well. We stayed in there. I knew I had to win my match to win the meet.

"I knew I had to do well on my feet, stay low and keep him from shooting. I had to set my tie-ups up and get on his legs to get my offense going."

Rockets freshman Tim Mossman (182) finished his match with an exciting sequence to break a 2-2 tie and win 3-2. Mossman topped the same opponent at the Oak Harbor Invitational this season.

"I didn't feel any tightness around my head so I thought I had him almost to his back," Mossman said. "I thought I'd flip him over from that spot, but you don't know what's going to happen.

"You go out thinking you're going to win. At that minute I just had it. I'm glad I won."

The remaining five freshmen lost for Oak Harbor, but only two of the setbacks hemorrhaged points.

"They did a great job not giving up pins," Coach Bergman said.

The Rockets' Alex Bergman (170) pinned his opponent within the first minute (55 seconds). Brothers and Coach Bergman's sons Alex (160) and Nick Bergman each notched a pin as Oak Harbor also topped St. Wendelin.

"I went out and wrestled like any other match," Alex said of his Ross opponent. "It was just pin him to help the team get more points."

Alex Bergman was sixth at state at 140 last season.

"I was hoping to start the year as strong as I can and lead the team," Alex said. "It's a young team, so hopefully I can help them reach their goals and succeed.

"It helps when you're winning to set a good example for everybody else."

Oak Harbor's Hunter Gresh earned a pin in 5 minutes, 9.6 seconds at 145.

"I knew it was a key to get a pin for the team," Gresh said. "I knew it would be a close (meet). I figured if I went out and hand fought and stayed solid I was more conditioned.

See FROSH, page B2

Frosh

Continued from Page B1

“He was funky on top so I figured if I stuck with what I was strong with I could turn him. I was able to get the turn in the third period.”

Brock Evans took a 16-1 technical fall at 126 and Luke Cramer pinned his opponent in 1:29.6 for the Rockets. Jared Chambers won 11-4 at 160.

Jalil Dolton allowed only one late point and finished with an explosive sequence for a 6-1 victory at heavyweight for Ross.

“What kept me going was my team,” Dolton said. “I wouldn’t have been able to keep pushing without them cheering me on.

“I looked for a pin and didn’t

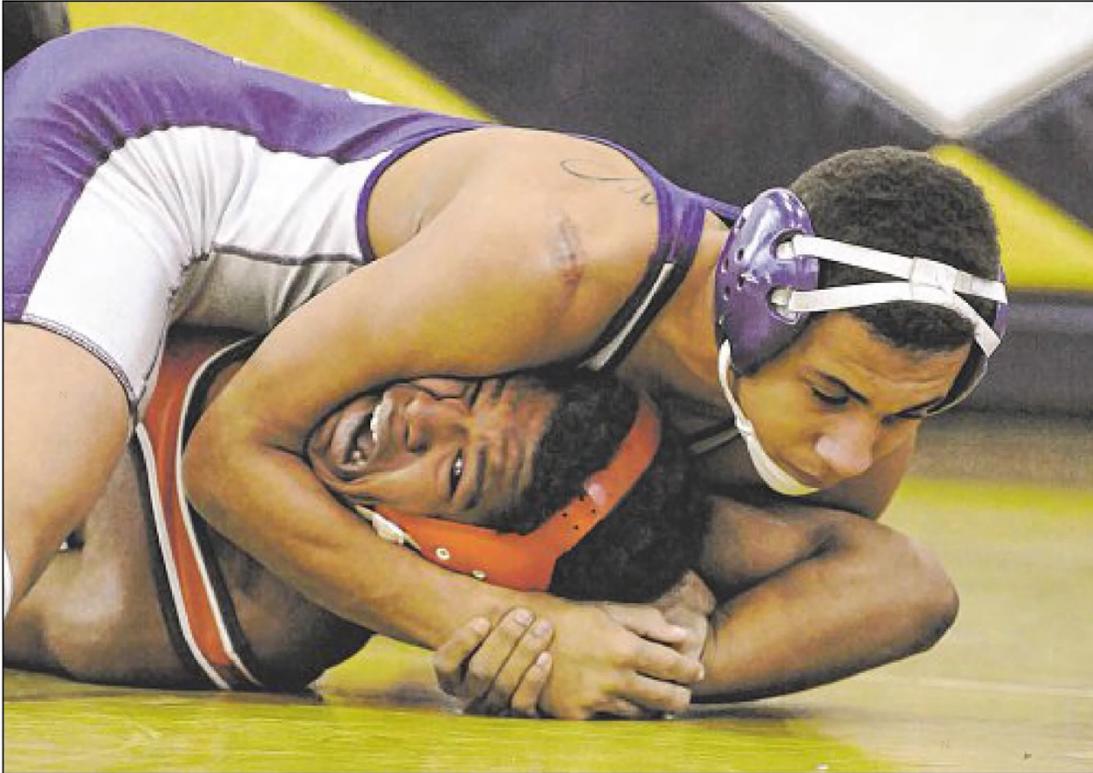
get it so I looked for another way to score and at the end a bear hug was there to take him down.”

Bailey Mezinger notched a pin in 1:18 at 106 and Eduardo Chavez another in 1:04.1 at 220 for the Little Giants. Daniel McAfee won 5-4 at 113, Miguel Marquez 6-3 at 132 and Trey Grine 8-5 at 138.

“Our kids wanted it, but they’d hit one move and then stop,” Ross coach Mike Mezinger said. “(Oak Harbor) came right after us and stayed after us. That was the difference. We held back.”

Kaleb Endicott earned a pin at 195 as the Little Giants beat St. Wendelin while McAfee, Sam Lewis and Payton Geary also captured victories.

*Email Matthew Horn at
mhorn@gannett.com.*



Fremont Ross' Trey Grine attempts to pin Mansfield Senior's Jerrick Kyle during the Wendy's Wrestling Invite at Tiffin Columbian on Wednesday. JONATHON BIRD/NEWS-MESSENGER

Local wrestlers make way to tourney semis

By Kevin Shields
Sports writer

TIFFIN — Fremont Ross has had to learn some lessons in humility since winning its first-ever tournament under eighth-year head coach Mike Mezinger at the beginning of the month.

But so do many other young teams with a single senior. And since earning the title at the Oak Harbor Invitational on Dec. 3, there have been plenty of teachable moments for Mezinger and his staff over the past three weeks in a few dual-match losses.

However, the Little Giants aren't the Little Giants of old, and once again they're competing for a team title after a strong first day showing at the Wendy's Wrestling Invitational on Wednesday at Tiffin Columbian.

Ross sits fourth (53½ points) heading into Thursday's championship and

consolation rounds.

Columbian is first with 84 points, while Elida is second at 67½ points. Woodmore is ninth with 36.

"We'll be right there," Mezinger said. "Tiffin is tough, but we should at least be shooting for second or third. We got to win probably half of our semifinals, if not more, then we got to come back and get thirds and fourths if we can from the people in the consolation matches."

Bailey Mezinger (106), Miquel Marquez (126), Trey Grine (138), Eddie Chavez (195) and Jalil Dolton (285 pounds) all qualified to the semifinal rounds for the Little Giants at their respective weight classes.

"The guys did pretty well," Mezinger said. "They wrestled a lot better than they did last Wednesday in our last tri-meet. But we'll have some tough semifinal matches coming up, so we got to be ready for those."

Bailey, who'll face Woodmore's Evan Ulinski in the semifinals at 106, earned a pair of 7-0 decisions despite feeling a little under the weather.

"He'll have to wrestle better than he did today, he wasn't feeling well," coach Mezinger said. "That 106 class from top to bottom is really competitive. There's no slouches in there. He'll have to take it up a notch."

Marquez, who was recently moved down to 126, earned a 16-1 technical fall over Margareta's Cody Reel in the quarterfinals. He'll face Greg Marietta of Mansfield Senior in Thursday's semifinals.

"He looked really good," coach Mezinger said.

Grine earned two pins en route to his semifinal matchup with Mansfield Madison's Jordan Thompson, while Chavez had a bye before getting a pin

See WRESTLING, page B5

Wrestling

Continued from Page B1

to advance to face Madison's Cody Thompson.

Dolton will take on Madison's Devin Cox after earning win by fall over Columbian's Codey Chance in just 47 seconds.

"Jalil got pinned in his last match with Codey a week ago in a tri-match, then he came out and took it to him," coach Mezinger. "He had a nice throw to do it."

Jordan Weissinger, one of coach Mezinger's freshmen, looked to be in contention for the semifinals at 145, but fell 15-9 to Elida's Tyler Dunlap.

"Jordan was in that match, losing by two, then he makes a mistake and gets a five-point move against him," coach Mezinger said. "That's just freshman mistakes."

Woodmore will send three to the semifinals on Thursday.

Ulinski topped Mansfield Senior's Alize Merrell by an 8-3 decision in the opening round. He then disposed of Clay's Aaron Hennamen in an 8-3 decision in the second.

Ulinski's two wins give him a 15-0 season record. He went 39-3 as a freshman, qualifying to the state tournament.

"Getting the first takedown and setting the tempo was big today," Ulinski said.

Cody Lockhart also earned a bid into the semifinals at 170 pounds, topping Ozzie Hermes of Perkins by a 10-1 major decision in round one, before earning a win by fall over Ross's Trevor Brown in 3:16.

Lockhart will face Whitmer's Nate Ellis.

Dexter Emch, 132, will take on Port Clinton's Zack Wheeler in the semifinals after a pair of pins over Calvert's Evan Wilson (:59) and Maumee's Jeff Goatley (:48).

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING: WENDY'S CLASSIC

Marquez, Grine capture championships for Ross

By Kevin Shields
Sports writer

TIFFIN — Miguel Marquez and Trey Grine of Fremont Ross are two championship wrestlers who are anything but satisfied. Even though both have plenty of reasons to be.

Both earned individual titles for the Little Giants during the finals of the Wendy's Wrestling Invitational at Tiffin Columbian on Thursday, as Ross finished third as a team with 154 points.

The host Tornados won with 167.5 points with Elida finishing as runner-up at 156.5

Marquez pinned Tiffin Calvert's Joe Brodman — a state-qualifier a year ago at 119 pounds — in 54 seconds to win the tournament championship at 126.

Marquez, the lone senior on he Ross team, is 11-1 on the year.

"Once I got that leg of (Brodman's) hooked, I knew it was over," Marquez said. "It's such a hard move to get out of, but it's such an

easy move to get the pin out of. And once I saw he was going to his back, I knew it was done."

Marquez qualified for districts as a junior at 125 pound. Thursday's championship was his second tournament title of the year, as he also won a title at the Oak Harbor Invitational. His lone loss of the season came to a wrestler from Norwalk during a dual-meet where he wrestled at 132 pounds.

"I feel I need to improve," Marquez said. "Yeah I'm winning, but I need to work harder. You've always got to set the bar high, and even if you fall a little short of it, it's better than setting your goals low and not doing anything."

Marquez may not have been totally satisfied, but his coach was full of praise.

"Miguel had an awesome final," Ross coach Mike Mezinger said. "I want to congratulate him on a well-deserved win. It was a solid match against a real solid opponent."

Grine, meanwhile, disposed of Columbian's Andy Schwartz in a

major decision (11-3) title match at 138. He advanced to the match after pinning Mansfield Madison's Jordan Thompson in 3:05 in the semifinals.

Grine, 14-0 on the season, has a goal of making it to the state tournament. Like Marquez, he also won a tournament title at Oak Harbor earlier in the month.

"Everything I'm doing right now is practice for state," he said. "I'm happy the way the season is going, but I want to go to state."

Grine is just a sophomore, but he scored three pins in the tournament en route to the championship. Schwartz had strength on him in the finals, but he had the best technique.

"Strength can only get you so far, and I've tried to use more technique than strength in my matches," Grine said. "(Schwartz) was a good wrestler."

In all, the Little Giants had seven wrestlers finish in the top four.

See WRESTLING, page 7



Jalil Dolton, of Fremont Ross, attempts to pin Madison's Devin Cox on Thursday during the Wendy's Wrestling Invitational at Tiffin Columbian High School. JONATHAN BIRD/NEWS-MESSENGER

Wrestling

Continued from Page 7

Jalil Dolton was the runner-up at 285 pounds, dropping an 11-4 decision in overtime to Sam Burns of St. Francis de Sales. Jordan Weissinger was third at 145, winning all four of his matches in the consolation rounds.

Bailey Mezinger (106), Daniel McAfee (113) and Eddie Chavez (195) were all fourth at their respective weight classes, while Peyton Geary was sixth at 152.

"They had a good week of practice and it showed out there on the mat," Mezinger said. "That's something I got to try and get through these young kid's heads, if you have a good week of practice, it shows out here. Everyone worked their butts off. Bailey took fourth in a stud of weight class where the MVP came from. Jordan did a good job. McAfee made a couple mistakes at 113 pounds, where he doesn't make those and he wins.

"We're there, we just got to keep working hard."

Dexter Emch was the champion at 132 as Woodmore finished ninth with 89 points.

Emch, 13-2 on the season, pinned Port Clinton's Robbie Pe-

terman in 33 seconds in the semi-finals, before knocking off Elida's Nick Pauff by 7-4 overtime decision in the finals.

"I just dropped from 138 to 132 this week, so that was a big change for me," Emch said. "But I was able to hit a cradle in each of matches and then I just wrestled solid in the finals.

"In the overtime I took (Pauff) to his back and got three back points and that really sealed it."

Emch, a senior, was sixth at districts as a junior. He's a leader for a team that welcomed in a big freshmen class.

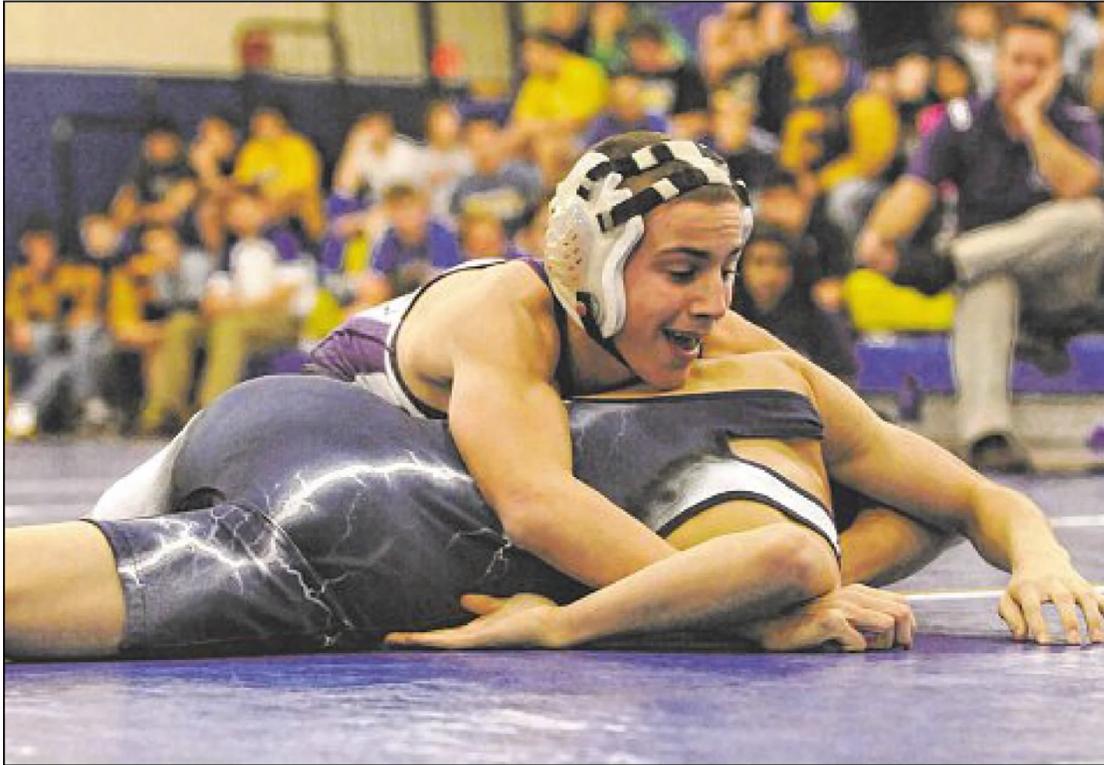
"That filled a lot of holes for us," Emch said. "We have close to a full lineup now where we're giving up just two weight classes."

Evan Ulinski lost to tournament MVP Michael Irvin of St. Francis in the finals at 106 by a 6-3 decision to earn a runner-up finish for the Wildcats. Cody Lockhart earned third at 170 and Seth Gagen was fourth at 120.

Jacob Tetzloff was third for Margaretta at 138 as the Polar Bears finished 14th (66.5 points).

Caleb Stockmaster was fourth at 132 and Tyler Rogers was fifth at 113.

*E-mail Kevin Shields at
KShields@gannett.com.*



Bailey Mezinger, of Fremont Ross, attempts to roll Sandusky's Nathan Maynard over for a pin Wednesday during a wrestling match at Clyde High School. JONATHAN BIRD/NEWS-MESSENGER

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Moore better for Ross

By Kevin Shields
Sports writer

CLYDE — Aggressive would be one word to describe the wrestling style of Clyde's Chris Moore.

But one could come up with many different adjectives to explain the way the Fliers' junior at 170 pounds has dominated his opponents this winter. And his winning ways continued Wednesday night, as he won both his matches in impressive fashion helping the Fliers to a pair of wins over Fremont Ross and Sandusky.

First, Moore disposed of the Blue Streaks' Zayvier Dickerson in a one-period technical fall (18-2), before he pinned Ross's Trevor Brown in 53 seconds in his final match.

Clyde defeated Sandusky 58-18 and topped the Little Giants 50-18 in the night's final dual. Ross defeated the Blue Streaks by a 51-21 count in the evening's first dual.

"He wrestles with an attitude, I guess you could say," Fliers coach Rob Jennings said of Moore. "That's something that you can't teach. You either



Clyde's Blake Miller battles Sandusky's Wil Vanscoy on Wednesday.

got that in you or you don't.

"He's not just beating kids, he's mentally breaking them early in a match."

Moore finished eighth at the state tournament as sophomore last season at Bellevue. He transferred to Clyde in the spring.

He and Billy Ward, at 220 pounds, are both unbeaten this season.

Ward pinned Sandusky's Enrique Saldana in 37 seconds and defeated Ross's Sam Contreras after he had to default due to injury.

Ward was third at state last year as a junior at 215 pounds. His wrestling style is nearly a polar opposite to that of Moore's, as he always seems cool and collected.

"It kind of is what it is for him," Jennings said. "He doesn't really put a lot of thought into it. It's just another set of hips to him, which is something we always say and that's kind of how he looks at it.

"He's just focusing on what he has to do to go out there and win the match."

Brad Smith, the Sandusky Bay Conference's Most Outstanding Performer this past fall on the football field after rushing for more than 2,000 yards, has only a single loss and was a state alternate a season ago.

Smith recorded a pin and won by a technical fall on Wednesday.

"He came in a little beat up from football with as many carries and as many yards as he had," Jennings said. "He's finally starting to round into shape a little bit. And he's just a fun kid to have around. He lightens the

See **MOORE**, page B2

Moore

Continued from Page B1

mood a little bit.”

Blake Smith (160 pounds) tallied a pair of pins for the Fliers Wednesday, as did Blake Miller (132 pounds). Anthony Beier (120 pounds) won two matches by decision, Casey Flores (145 pounds) won two by technical falls.

Dakota Flores (138 pounds) won by a major decision (15-5) against Sandusky's Gene Porter, and nearly pulled-off a big win against Ross's only unbeaten, Trey Grine, losing 6-4 in overtime.

“We have a lot of things to work on, but you can go into any match and nitpick and find little things to work on,” Jennings said. “But I think we saw some big things tonight. Just some positions we're in a lot that we're not scoring points, so we want to create a bit more offense.”

While Jennings is looking forward to more time in the practice room, Ross coach Mike Mezinger is still trying to get his team to buy into practicing. Another bad week of practice on the mats led to another disappointing performance in his eyes.

“You got to come to wrestle,” Mezinger said. “And I hate to sound like a broken record, but it all starts with practice. I just can't get it into these kids' heads that teams like these just won't lay down for us.

“I can say how young we are and that stuff, but until they fig-

ure out that it starts in the wrestling room, we're going to be on this roller coaster the rest of the year.”

Daniel McAfee was one of a few bright spots for Mezinger. McAfee won an 11-2 major decision over Clyde's Connor Avalon at 113 after accepting a forfeit against the Blue Streaks.

“Daniel did a nice job,” Mezinger said. “He's still working really hard.”

Grine won both his matches to move to 16-0, but after a 29-second pin of Sandusky's Ben Fuller, Dakota Flores nearly had him in match two, as Grine recorded a takedown in overtime to win.

“We don't wrestle our match sometimes,” Mezinger said. “And that's going to be a problem when we face stiff competition.”

Miguel Marquez (126 pounds) was another double-winner for the Little Giants as was Eddie Chavez (195 pounds). Bailey Mezinger (106 pounds) had a pin in his first match, but his much-anticipated match with Clyde's Beau Minnick was unable to happen Wednesday due to Minnick being with a sick family member.

“I wish Bailey would've had two matches, but the kids you want to have good matches can't always get them that way,” Coach Mezinger said.

Ross will host the Mal Mackey Tournament starting at 10 a.m. Saturday inside the Purple Pit.

*E-mail Kevin Shields at
KShields@gannett.com.*

WRESTLING

Attitude adjustment spurs Ross

By Matthew Horn
Sports writer

FREMONT — It wasn't quite an intervention.

But Fremont Ross coach Mike Mezinger insisted on seeing changes in the work ethic and effort exhibited by his team after a setback to Clyde last week.

Mezinger was happy with the progress as five Little Giants earned individual championships Saturday and Ross finished the Mal Mackey tournament in second place with 169.5 points. Clay won the event at 210.5.

"I wasn't very happy after Wednesday's dual match in Clyde," Mezinger said. "We came back Thursday and had a family meeting. They started working hard again and hopefully rather than a roller coaster we just ascend."

Peyton Geary (152 pounds) and Trey Grine (145) rose to the top with unblemished records in five round-robin matches Saturday for the Little Giants. Geary pinned four of his five opponents, including one in 53 seconds.

"Peyton worked hard," Mezinger said. "He's coming off an injury from the Tiffin tournament. He pinned his way through the tournament. He's healthy and really starting to pick it up."

Grine bumped up a weight to 145 on Saturday. He had a pin in 22 seconds, technical fall, major decision and decision.

"He wasn't too happy with that but we explained to him he'd get better competition," Mezinger said.

"His quote from Tiffin was that 'this is practice leading up to state. We told him this was tougher competition and he looked really good (Saturday)."

Bailey Mezinger revved himself up for competition but remained focused and grounded in winning three matches in three tries. Mezinger was aggressive to earn two pins, including one in 56 seconds, and a decision with an escape in the final three seconds.

"Every match I have to get hyped," Bailey said. "You have to take it match by match and get fired up. The biggest thing is my team rooting me on and the crowd. That keeps me going."

Miguel Marquez (132) and Jahlil Dolton (285) was each 3-0 on Saturday. Marquez shifted up to 132 and had three pins, including one in 27 seconds.

"He'd cut down to 126," Coach Mezinger said. "We had a deal that if he wasn't able to wrestle hard at that weight he'd go back to 132. He was at 126 at Tiffin and he won but he was gassed."

"He told me he wanted to wrestle at 132 and he looked good. He felt strong. He'll be at 132 the rest of the year."

Dolton notched pins in 13 and 21 seconds, and another in 2:31 for Ross.

"Jahlil had a good tournament," Coach Mezinger said. "He went after these bigger guys. We've had some problems with him not wrestling to his potential but (Saturday) he looked really tough."

Rodger Calvillo (120) and Eddie Chavez (195) were 4-1, Daniel McAfee (113) was 3-1, Trevor Brown (160) was 2-1 and Sam Lewis (120) was 3-2 for Ross.

"We've got a really talented team," Bailey Mezinger said. "We're young. We think of the team as more of a family and once we're fired up there's no stopping us."

Coach Mezinger hopes that means work ethic and effort are here to stay.

Email Matthew Horn at
mhorn@gannett.com.

HS Wrestling

Local Results

MAL MACKAY TOURNAMENT

- » **Site:** Ross High School, Fremont.
- » **106 pounds:** FIRST: Bailey Mezinger (ROSS) 3-0.
- » **113:** SECOND: Daniel McAfee (ROSS) 3-1.
- » **120:** SECOND: Rodger Calvillo (ROSS) 4-1.
- » **126:** THIRD: Bobby Hrynciw (ROSS) 2-2.
- » **132:** FIRST: Miguel Marquez (ROSS) 3-0.
- » **145:** FIRST: Trey Grine (ROSS) 5-0.
- » **152:** FIRST: Peyton Geary (ROSS) 5-0.
- » **160:** THIRD: Bryce Moreno (ROSS) 1-2.
- » **182:** THIRD: Gage Moreno (ROSS) 0-2.
- » **195:** SECOND: Eddie Chavez (ROSS) 4-1.
- » **285:** FIRST: Jalil Dolton (ROSS) 3-0.

Wrestling

Maumee Bay Classic

OREGON — Fremont Ross's Trey Grine will take on Angelo Amento of Oregon Clay in the semifinals of the Maumee Bay Classic today at Clay High School.

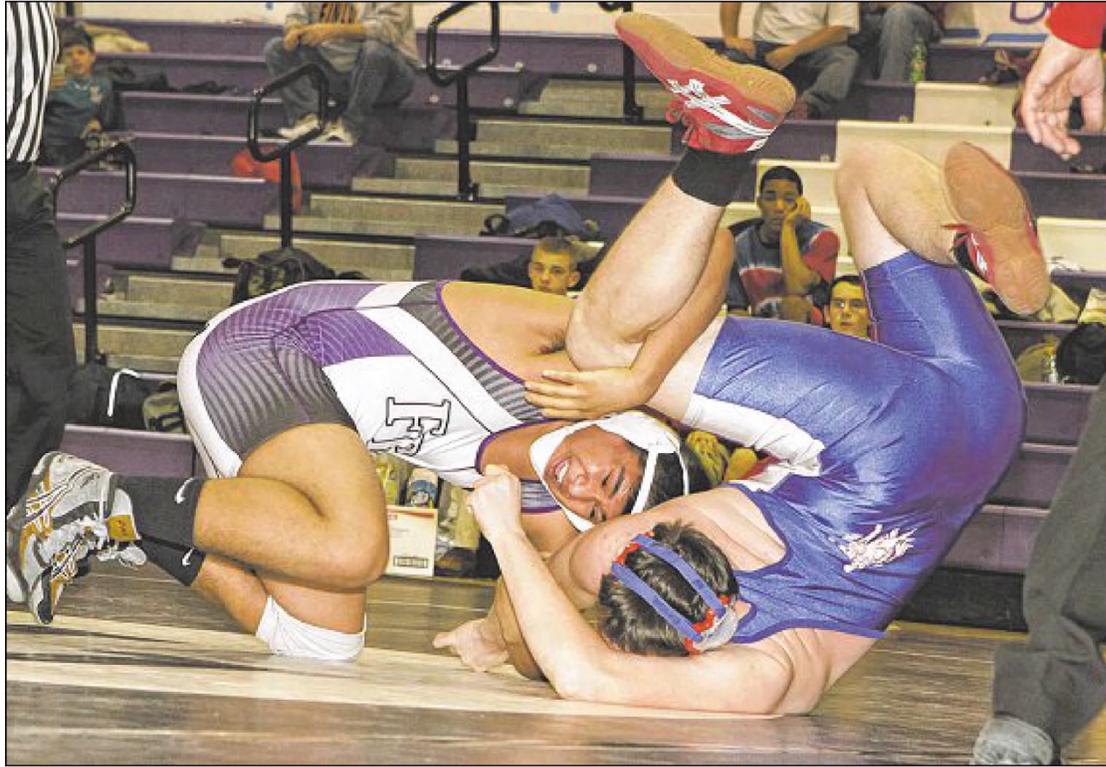
Ross also has nine wrestlers who will be participating in the consolation rounds: Bailey Mezinger, Daniel McAfee, RJ Calvillo, Miguel Marquez, Jordan Weissinger, Peyton Geary, Trevor Brown, Eddie Chavez and Jalil Dalton.

Maumee Bay Classic

Eddie Chavez won a third-place consolation match at 195 pounds Saturday, as Ross took 13th of the 27 teams competing in the two-day tournament at Clay High School.

Trey Grine was fourth at 138 pounds for the Little Giants.

Great way to close



Eddie Chavez of Fremont Ross wrestles against St. Francis' Samuel Burns during the final home match of the season Wednesday at The Purple Pit. LEE WELCH/NEWS-MESSENGER CORRESPONDENT

Little Giants grab two wins in season's final home match

By Kevin Shields
Sports writer

FREMONT — Emotions ran high for Ross senior Miguel Marquez on Wednesday night.

Wrestling his final tri-match at the Purple Pit, the Little Giants' 132-pounder took just 1 minute, 37 seconds to record two pins, helping Ross to a sweep of Three Rivers Athletic Conference opponents St. Francis de Sales and Findlay.

Marquez's pin of 41 seconds was one of seven match wins for the Little Giants over the Knights in a 54-18 win. He ended his night pinning Findlay's Scott Frazier in 56 seconds, emphatically pumping his fists as the referee's whistle blew.

Ross beat the Trojans 35-34.

"I wrestled here for four years, so it meant a lot to me to be able to come out here one last time and wrestle in front of my friends and family," said Marquez, who is now 20-4 on the year. "And I wanted to feel good about myself leaving here, knowing I helped my team out and put a good show on for the fans."

Jordan Weissinger's pin of Findlay's Thomas Womack at 145 in the third to last match gave the Little Giants all the cushion they needed. Weissinger went 2-0, also winning a 7-2 decision in the St. Francis dual.

Another 2-0 grappler for Ross was Bobby Hrynciw at 126. He won 12-4 major decision in his first match, before scoring a second during a win 17-7 over Michael Kalani of the Trojans.

"That's the best he's looked all season," Little Giants coach Mike Mezinger said.

Eddie Chavez (195) had a pin and injury default victory for the Little Giants. Rodger Calvillo had a 9-2 decision and 16-0 technical fall at 120, while Trey Grine (138) had two major decision victories.

Winning single matches for Ross were Daniel McAfee (113), Trevor Brown (160) and Peyton Geary (152).

"Coming out of here with two wins is nice," Mezinger said.

See ROSS, page 2B

Clyde duo tops area Brakeman mentions

News-Messenger reports

Chris Moore and Billy Ward headlined a total of six Clyde wrestlers that were mentioned in the 41st annual edition of Brian Brakeman's high school wrestling forecast.

Moore was projected as the Division II state runner-up at 170, while Ward was picked second at 220. The Fliers as a team were picked ninth at the state level.

Brakeman's report was completed Jan. 22 or before. Thirty of his 42 projected state champions earned titles last year, 29 in 2010, 28 in 2009 and 27 in 2008.

Moore finished eighth at the state tournament as sophomore last season at Bellevue. He transferred to Clyde in the spring.

Ward was third at state last year as a junior at 215 pounds.

The Fliers' Beau Minnick (120) and Brad Smith (182) were both rated fifth. Blake Miller (126) was ninth and Dakota Flores (138) was 17th.

Three from Oak Harbor were listed, starting with Alex Bergman, rated fourth in Division II at 152. Hunter Gresh (132) was ranked 13th and Luke Cramer (138) was projected 11th.

Woodmore featured three on the lists as well. Bailey Ulinski was projected fourth at 106 in Division III. Dexter Emch (132) was 16th and Cody Lockhart (170) was 13th.

Another school with three

See BRAKEMAN, page 2B

Ross

Continued from Page 1B

“Findlay, we’ve now beaten two years in a row. We beat them twice last year, so I knew they were going to come after us. We were without our 106-pounder (Bailey Mezinger), so that hurt.

“But we’ll take the win. We saw a lot of positives come out of tonight.”

Beating Findlay in your final

home match makes it that much sweeter.

“It could be the debate team and we wouldn’t like them,” Marquez said.

Ross will wrestle at the Joe Szymczak Royal Duals on Saturday. It will be one of two tournaments the Little Giants will compete in before the TRAC Invitational on Feb. 11.

Email Kevin Shields at kshields@gannett.com.

Elmwood Duals

Clyde was 3-2 to finish third as a team.

Trey Grine, Jalil Dolton and Bailey Mezinger were each unbeaten as Fremont Ross was 2-3 as a team. Eddie Chavez notched four wins, Peyton Geary and Trevor Brown had three each, and Daniel McAfee added two for the Little Giants.

Wrestling

Celina Lions Invitational

Trey Grine (138 pounds) and Jalil Dolton (285) each won individual titles as Fremont Ross finished fourth with 211.5 points at the Celina Lions Invitational Saturday at Celina High School.

Coldwater won the tournament with 244.5 points. Versailles was second (229) with Ayersville taking third (226.5).

Grine won a 6-2 decision, while Dolton was 4-2 decision winner.

Miguel Marquez was runner-up for the Little Giants at 132, losing by 18-1 technical fall. Peyton Geary dropped a close 4-3 decision to finish second at 152, while Eddie Chavez was runner-up at 195 after being pinned in 2:33.

Ross' Grine named 2nd team all-TRAC

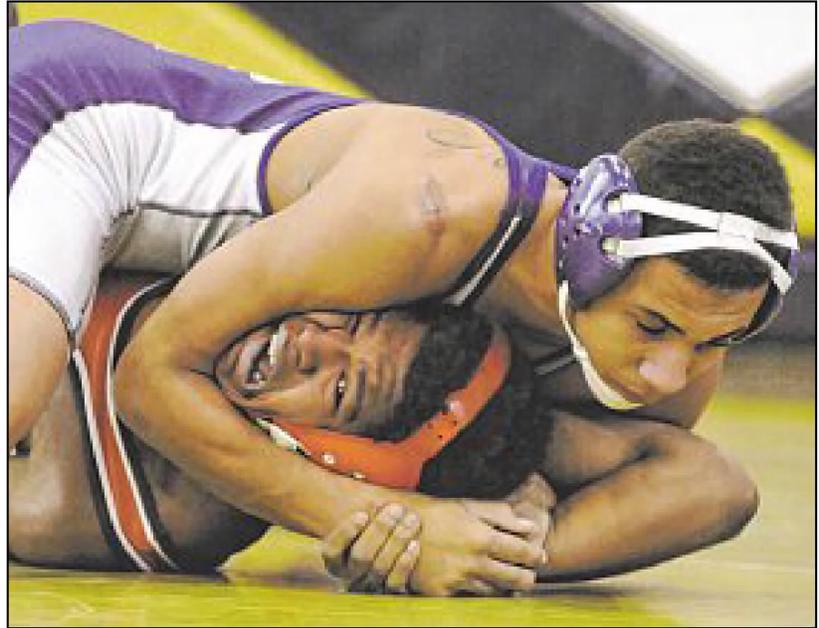
News-Messenger report

Ross sophomore Trey Grine was recognized as a second-team all-league performer on the inaugural Three Rivers Athletic Conference wrestling team.

Senior Miguel Marquez, junior Eddie Chavez and sophomore Peyton Geary were honorable mention.

Michael of St. Francis DeSales, Clay's Angelo Amenta and St. John's Jesuit's Ted Schoen were wrestlers of the year.

Central Catholic's Antonio Guerra was coach of the year.



Fremont Ross sophomore Trey Grine attempts to pin Mansfield Senior's Jerrick Kyles during the Wendy's Wrestling Invitational at Tiffin, Columbian on Dec. 28. JONATHAN BIRD/NEWS-MESSENGER

•