

1971 Buckeye Conference meet...

Friday, May 7, 1971 Fremont News-Messenger 15

At Sandusky Saturday

Blue Streaks Favored In BC

SANDUSKY — Sandusky, despite its 64-63 dual meet loss to Fremont Ross Wednesday, will be the favorite when Buckeye Conference teams converge on Strobel Field Saturday for their annual conference track meet.

"Sandusky has to be the favorite," Ross head coach Ron Brant said Thursday. "If they have their top performances they have the potential to run-away from the field. They have several outstanding performers, who should win first place points."

The Little Giant head coach isn't counting his team out, however.

"If our kids could put everything together and have their best performances of the season we could win the team title," Brant said. "But, we would also need a couple of breaks."

"I'm looking for a first division finish from our fellows. Elyria

and Lorain Senior are going to give us some very still competition."

Ross has a 6-1 dual meet record. Elyria was the only team to beat the Little Giants. The Pioneers administered a crushing 78-49 defeat in the second meet of the season. Since then Ross has reeled off five straight dual meet wins, won the Fremont Night Relays, placed fifth in the Marion Invitational and tied for seventh in the Blade Relays.

One of the keys to the Little Giant finish will be its performance in the field events.

"We have to score well in those five events if we hope to do well in the team race," Brant said. "I'm looking for big things from a number of individuals including Bruce Schneider, Kim Michael, Chuck Celek, Mike Tooman, Tom

Liggins, Chuck Miller and Tom Nighswander."

Schneider and Tooman are entered in the pole vault. Schneider, a senior, placed second in last year's meet with a 13-0 vault. He has reached that mark one this season.

Tooman, however, has gone 13-6 and is currently ranked sixth among Ohio high school pole vaulters.

Nighswander, who has thrown the discus 163-9, is rated seventh in the state. He failed to place in last year's meet.

Celek and Michael will compete in the high jump. Celek has cleared 5-11 and Michael has gone 5-10 already this season.

Liggins will compete in the shot put. His best distance so far this spring is 51-1. He will be joined by Miller who has a toss of 47-4 to his credit.

Ross' prime candidate for first place will be Earl Smith in the 880-yard run. He finished second behind Sandusky's Osmond Pearson in last year's meet. Smith has already run a 1:56.9 this season. The winning time last year was 1:59.2.

Winner in last year's 880 was Osmond Pearson. He was scheduled to run again this year until he stubbed a toe in practice last Tuesday. His status won't be known until the time of the race.

The Little Giants will also be using Tom Pitts, Ken Price, Rob Lytle, Liggins, Mark Shimer, John Heidelberg, Joe Widman, Chris Widman, Claude Price, Bill Burkett, Al Widman and Kirk Stout in the individual running events.

Pitts and Ken Price are entered in the 120-yard high hurdles. Pitts has been clocked in 15.8 this spring. Price has a 16.0 clocking. Lytle (10.2) and Liggins (10.3)

will be Ross' entries in the 100. Lytle will also compete in the 220 with Heidelberg. Lytle has a run a 23.2 220 and Heidelberg has turned in a 23.1.

Shimer (21.4) and Ken Price (21.9) will vie for honors in the 180-yard low hurdles.

Joe and Chris Widman will be the Little Giant entrants in the mile run. Joe, who has been clocked in 4:41 this spring, will join Smith in the 880.

Al Widman, who finished third in the two-mile run last year, returns in the same event. He ran a 9:59.3 Tuesday against Sandusky. His Buckeye time last spring was 10:10.2. Stout will be the other two-mile entrant.

Claude Price and Burkett will be the 440 entrants. Price's best time is 51.1 Burkett has been clocked in 52.8.

Lytle, Liggins, Al Sewell and Heidelberg will compose the Little Giant entry in the 880. The Ross mile relay, which currently

has the 10th best time in the state, 3:28.5, will be formed by Burkett, Pitts, Price and Earl Smith.

Sandusky will be after its third consecutive title. The Blue Streaks compiled 58 points last year. Second place went to Lorain Senior (52), Elyria (40), Mansfield Senior (38), Ross (16), Marion Harding and Findlay (15) and Lorain Admiral King (6) completed the field.

Pearson is one of three returning champions. He will be joined by Crabb in the pole vault and Lorain Senior's Tim Wasco in the mile run. Crabb won with a 13-6 effort and Wasco had a 4:27.6 clocking.

The meet gets underway at 5 p.m. with preliminaries and finals in all field events. Preliminaries in the high hurdles, 100, 220 and low hurdles will be held at 5:30 p.m.

Finals in all running events begin at 7:05 p.m. The last race is scheduled for 9 p.m.



Burkett Predicted Win In Mile Relay

By MARK CARLSON
News-Messenger Sports Editor

SANDUSKY—Confidence does many things — it won the mile relay for Fremont Ross in the Buckeye Conference championship.

Just ask Bill Burkett, the senior leadoff man for the Little Giants.

Burkett knew all along the Little Giants were going to pull off a victory. He predicted it.

Earl Smith had just won the 880-yard run when Burkett turned around.

"Keep that camera ready," Burkett told a photographer, "you're going to need it after we win the mile relay and set a record."

The photographer didn't think much of Burkett's prediction. Ross entered the race with only the third best time and had been beaten only eight days earlier by two of the teams in its best.

But, the confidence of Burkett, Smith, Claude Price and Tom Pitts paid off.

"I knew all along we were going to win it," Burkett related after the race. "After Earl won the 880 he told me he felt okay and would be ready to go. Right then I knew we had it."

It wasn't all that easy, however. Smith trailed Sandusky's anchor man as they entered the next-to-last turn. The durable senior pulled even with the Blue Streak on the last turn and then took the lead on the backstretch.

Ross' victory could be described as nothing less than an upset — despite Burkett's prediction.

"I can't say enough about the job those four fellows did," Little Giant head coach Ron Brant said. "I think they wanted to prove something. They were beaten badly by Sandusky in our dual meet Wednesday and wanted to avenge that loss."

Burkett confirmed Brant's statement.

"We knew we were better than we showed in the dual meet," the Miami (Ohio) bound senior said. "We wanted to avenge that loss. The four of us knew we had something to prove."

Brant was pleased with most of the Little Giant performances. Ross finished third in the eight-team race, the highest finish for the Purple and White in at least 10 years.

"I'm happy about it," Brant said as he reviewed the third place finish. "We figured Sandusky was going to take it. They just had too much strength for the rest of us. Then I figured it would be a battle between us, Lorain Senior and Elyria for the runner-up spot."

"Only three meet records were set and we had two of them. I think that's a good indication of the performance we received from our fellows. They have nothing to be ashamed of."

The third-year mentor singled out many other individuals besides the mile relay quartet for their work. Smith, however, drew special mention.

"He's some sort of an athlete," Brant said. "Earl does anything the coaches want him to do. He wanted to win the 880 and mile relay in the worst way. He's a hard worker and I don't think anybody deserved those two records more."

"It took a lot of guts for him to battle back in the mile relay. He had a tremendous amount of courage to stick with that kid from Sandusky."

There were others who drew special mention for their individual performances — Tim Liggins, Chuck Colek, Tom Nighwander, Chuck Miller, Mike Tooman, Bruce Schneider, Pitts, Ken Price, and the Widman brothers, Al and Joe.

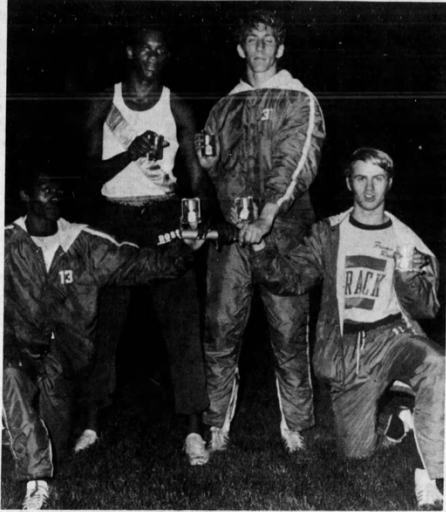
Liggins took a second place in the shot put behind Lorain Senior's Kurt Schumacher.

"We expected either a first or second out of Tom," Brant said. "He led after the preliminary competition but Schumacher had a fantastic throw in the finals."



ROSS' TOM LIGGINS
Second in Shot Put

Ross Establishes Two Records Sandusky Wins Title, Little Giants Third



MILE RELAY RECORD SETTERS—Fremont Ross' mile relay quartet established a new school and Buckeye Conference record with a 3:25.7 clocking when it won at the annual conference meet in Sandusky Saturday.

Members of the team were Claude Price, Tom Pitts, Bill Burkett and Earl Smith (left to right). Smith also set a new conference record in winning the 880-yard run. (News-Messenger Photo)



HELP FROM A FRIEND—Bill Burkett, who led off the record-setting mile relay team for Ross at Sandusky in the Buckeye Conference meet receives help from Marsha Theller, a

Ross senior, as he adjusts sweat clothes at completion of race. (News-Messenger Photo)

Raiders In Championship

PEMBERVILLE — A run-scoring single by Dan Shultz with two out in the ninth gave Lakota 3-2 victory over Otego here Saturday afternoon and advanced the Raiders to the Class AA sectional championship Tuesday afternoon at 4 p.m.

Shultz' single scored Gary Crawford, who walked with one out. Crawford moved to second on Joe Wyant's single. The runners advanced to second and third on an infield ground out.

Shultz then singled down the right field line for the winning run. Lakota went in front 1-0 in the first. Wyant led off with a double. Leo Garcia and Shultz grounded

out before Ivan Crawford singled. Otego took a 3-1 lead in the fifth. The Knights combined two hits with a walk and error.

Ivan Crawford tied the contest with a long home run in the last of the sixth inning.

Winning pitcher Steve Snyder scattered seven hits. He walked three batters and struck out six in going the distance. Otego used two pitchers. Starter Larry Heman went the first seven innings before Marv Bernier took over.

It was the second victory of the tournament for Snyder. He defeated Springfield Local earlier last week by a 3-1 count.

"Steve pitched a beautiful game," Lakota coach Paul Graham said. "He was in complete command. The error was what got him in trouble in the fifth."

Ivan Crawford, Wyant and Shultz combined for seven of the Lakota hits. Crawford batted three in four trips to the plate and Wyant and Shultz had two apiece.

Anthony Wayne will provide the opposition for the Raiders in the championship test.

The winner of the Anthony Wayne-Lakota contest advances to the Pemberville district tournament the week of May 17.

By MARK CARLSON
News-Messenger Sports Editor

SANDUSKY—Fremont Ross didn't win the Buckeye Conference track and field championship but did leave its mark in the 16th annual event.

The Little Giants finished third in the eight-team field but were responsible for two of the three new meet records.

Earl Smith, who placed second in the 1970 880-yard run, returned to win it in record-smashing style. He was also a member of the mile relay that raced to an upset victory in the final event of the evening.

Sandusky, however, was not upset. The Blue Streaks were picked to win the championship and did it with considerable ease. They compiled 49½ points, 27½ more than Elyria, the second place finisher.

Ross, which scored in 10 of the 15 events, placed third with 37½. Lorain Senior was next in line with 33. Findlay (21), Mansfield Senior (19), Marion Harding (18) and Lorain Admiral King (8) completed the scoring.

Smith had no trouble winning the 880. He led from the start and had a three-yard lead on Findlay's Dennis Barnes at the finish line. The Little Giant senior was clocked in 1:57.5.

The old record was 1:57.9 set in the 1969 meet by Marion's Gary Warner.

Smith and two other seniors, Bill Burkett and Claude Price, were joined by sophomore Tom Pitts on the mile relay unit. They burned up the track with a stinging 3:25.7. That was eight-tenths of a second better than the winning time of Marion's 1969 quartet.

Elyria's mile relay finished second to the Little Giants, the Pioneers, however, didn't compete against the Little Giants. The event was run in heats. Ross competed with the faster group while the Pioneers were bracketed in the slower heat. Sandusky finished third, Marion fourth and Findlay fifth.

Lorain Senior's Tim Wasco was responsible for the third meet mark. He won the two mile in 9:30.5, chopping nearly 12 seconds off the time of Sandusky's Rich Brown in 1970.

Wasco, who is also the owners of the standard in the mile run, coasted to victory. The real battle was for second place where Sandusky's Bob Fair and Al Widman of Ross battled step-for-step down the stretch. Fair won the runner-up medal by a narrow five-tenths of a second. Dave Hodson of Findlay was fourth and Elyria's Jim Oster placed fifth.

Sandusky's Osmond Pearson, who injured his toe in practice earlier last week, rebounded to win the mile run with a 4:27.6. That tied the meet record set in 1970 by Wasco. Ross' Joe Widman was third with a 4:34.

The powerful Blue Streaks won in five other events and featured two of the meet's three

double winners — Bob Crabb, who won the pole vault and 180-yard low hurdles, and Velma Evans, who took the first place medal for the long jump and high jump.

Crabb's winning effort in the vault was 14-½, only a quarter of an inch away from the meet record. He tried to set a new standard but failed in all three attempts at 14-3.

Ross' Mike Tooman and Bruce Schneider placed third and fifth, respectively, in the vault. Tooman crossed 12-6 and Schneider cleared 12-0.

In the low hurdles, Crabb led teammate Scott May to the finish line. Crabb turned in a 20.0 and May had a 20.6.

Evans' winning long jump was 23-½. He cleared 5-3 in the high jump competition. Second place in the long jump went to Lou Love of Elyria. May was third, Elyria's Steve Moore took fourth and Admiral King's Marvin Harris placed fifth.

Mansfield's Terence Butler cleared 6-0 for runner-up in the high jump. Elyria's Ira Perkins was third. Chuck Colek of Ross and May tied for fourth with 5-10 efforts.

The host Blue Streaks also received first and second place points in the discus. Senior Mark Denning, who's currently rated as the second best discus thrower in 20-Ohio High School circles, won the event with a toss of 174-1. Bob Rogers was second at 161-0.

Ross' Tom Nighwander was third in the discus and Chuck Miller placed fourth. Lorain Senior's Kurt Schumacher, who won the shot put, was sandwiched between Nighwander and Miller.

Schumacher bettered Ross' Tim Liggins in the shot put. Liggins, who had the top distance in preliminary competition, finished second with a 53-1¼ loss. The winning distance was 54-½.

Lorain Senior had two other firsts — Ron Fields in the 100 and his 880 relay team. Fields won in 9.9. The second spot went to Tom Harris of Elyria. The 880 team nicked Sandusky at the finish line. Lorain was clocked in 1:24.4 compared to 1:29.7 for the Blue Streaks.

Senior Rick Nelson accounted for two of the three Elyria victories. He bested the field in the 440 and 220. His winning 440 time was 1:05.5 and he had a 22.3 for the 220. Ross failed to field a finalist in either event.

Steve Barnhart was responsible for the other Pioneer victory. He won the 120-yard high hurdles in 15.3. Ross' Tim Pitts and Ken Price placed fourth and fifth, respectively.

Four teams — Findlay, Marion, Mansfield and Admiral King — were blanked in the victory department.

A disqualification prevented Findlay from earning a first place. Dennis Barnes led the field to the finish line in the mile run. He was disqualified, however, for bumping Pearson on the next-to-last turn.

Buckeye Summary

DISCUS — 1. Mark Denning, Sandusky, 174-1; 2. Bob Rogers, Sandusky, 161-0; 3. Tom Nighwander, Ross, 164-4; 4. Kurt Schumacher, Lorain Senior, 150-6; 5. Chuck Miller, Ross, 148-8.

LONG JUMP — 1. Velma Evans, Sandusky, 23-½; 2. Lou Love, Elyria, 21-½; 3. Scott May, Sandusky, 20-6; 4. Steve Moore, Elyria, 20-0; 5. Marvin Harris, Lorain Admiral King, 19-0.

180-YARD HIGH HURDLES — 1. Steve Barnhart, Elyria, 15.3; 2. Jim Foster, Sandusky, 15.3; 3. Terry Haywood, Marion, 15.6; 4. Tom Pitts, Ross, 15.9; 5. Ken Price, Ross, 16.0.

100-YARD DASH — 1. Ron Fields, Lorain Senior, 9.9; 2. Tom Harris, Elyria, 10.1; 3. Ralph Rawls, Mansfield, 10.6; 4. Mike Smith, Lorain, 10.3; 5. Rick Huddle, Marion, 10.4.

POLE VAULT — 1. Bob Crabb, Sandusky, 14-½; 2. Jerry Zensack, Lorain Admiral King, 13-4; 3. Mike Tooman, Fremont, 12-6; 4. Richard Allen, Mansfield, 12-6; 5. Bruce Schneider, Ross, 12-0.

MILE RUN — 1. Osmond Pearson, Sandusky, 4:27.6 (tie record of Tim Wasco, Lorain Senior, 1970); 2. Jeff Hochstetler, Findlay, 4:31.5; 3. Joe Widman, Ross, 4:34; 4. Jamie Haywood, Marion, 4:38.1; 5. Ed Olson, Sandusky, 4:40.6.

880-YARD RELAY — 1. Lorain Senior (Mar Smith, Mel Pugh, Arthur Smith and Ron Fields), 1:29.4; 2. Sandusky (1:29.7); 3. Findlay, 1:32.6; 4. Mansfield, 1:32.8; 5. Marion, 1:33.1.

440-YARD DASH — 1. Rick Nelson, Elyria, 10.5; 2. Ray Webb, Mansfield, 10.6; 3. Claude Price, Ross, 10.8; 4. Tom Harris, Elyria, 11.0; 5. Leo Ferguson, Sandusky, 11.0.

HIGH JUMP — 1. Velma Evans, Sandusky, 6-2; 2. Terence Butler, Mansfield, 6-0; 3. Paula Perkins, Elyria, 5-10; 4. Chuck Colek, Ross, and Scott May, Sandusky, 5-0; 5. Steve Moore, Elyria, 5-0.

100-YARD LOW HURDLES — 1. Bob Crabb, Sandusky, 20-0; 2. Scott May, Sandusky, 20-6; 3. Ray Schall, Findlay, 20-7; 4. Paul Oliver, Elyria, 21-3; 5. Terry Haywood, Marion, 21-5.

880-YARD RUN — 1. Earl Smith, Ross, 1:57.5 (record, breaks old mark of 1:57.9 set by Gary Warner, Marion, 1969); 2. Dennis Barnes, Findlay, 1:58.1; 3. Jeff Hochstetler, Findlay, 1:58.3; 4. Eugene Thomas, Lorain Admiral King, 1:58.6; 5. Frank Koch, Sandusky, 1:59.

220-YARD DASH — 1. Rick Nelson, Elyria, 22.3; 2. Ralph Rawls, Mansfield, 22.4; 3. Ron Pugh, Lorain, 22.5; 4. Mike Smith, Lorain Senior, 22.8; 5. Steve Tille, Findlay, 22.9.

TWO-MILE RUN — 1. Tim Wasco, Lorain, 9:30.5 (record, breaks old mark of 9:42.0 set by Rich Brown, Sandusky, 1970); 2. Bob Pugh, Sandusky, 9:51.2; 3. Al Widman, Ross, 9:51.9; 4. Dave Hodson, Findlay, 9:52.1; 5. Jim Oster, Elyria, 9:52.1.

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Sandusky 49½; Elyria 42; Fremont 37½; Lorain 33; Findlay 21; Mansfield 19; Marion 18 and Admiral King 8.

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SHOT PUT — 1. Kurt Schumacher, Lorain Senior, 50-2; 2. Tom Liggins, Ross, 49-10; 3. Sam Liggins, Sandusky, 48-10; 4. Don Robinson, Elyria, 49-10; 5. Barry Prosser, Lorain Admiral King, 49-2.

LONG JUMP — 1. Velma Evans, Sandusky, 23-½; 2. Lou Love, Elyria, 21-½; 3. Scott May, Sandusky, 20-6; 4. Steve Moore, Elyria, 20-0; 5. Marvin Harris, Lorain Admiral King, 19-0.

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