

1971 Buckeye Conference meet...

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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 stiff 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 swam.

"Keep that camera ready," Burkett told a photographer, "I'm 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 best time and had been beaten only eight days earlier by two of the teams in its heat.

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.

The team started Sandusky's anchor man as they entered the next-to-last turn. The Warhorses were pulled even with the Blue Streaks on the last turn and then took the lead on the backstretch.

Ross victory could be described as nothing less than an upset.

"I can't say enough about the job these four fellas did," Little Giant 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 going to be beat in the dual meet," the Marlinton (Ohio) board 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 Pines and White in at least 10 years.

"I'm happy," Brant said. "I'm glad we had 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 performances we received from our fellas. 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.

"I 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 — Tom Liggins, Chuck Cekel, Tom Nighswander, 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 final."



ROSS' TOM LIGGINS
Second In Shot Put

Ross Establishes Two Records

Sandusky Wins Title, Little Giants Third

By MARK CARLSON
News-Messenger Sports Editor



MILE RELAY RECORD SETTERS—Fremont Ross' mile relay quartet established three school and Buckeye Conference records in the 880-yard run.

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 Lake 5-4 victory over Otsego here Saturday afternoon and advanced the Raiders to the Class AA sectional championship Tuesday afternoon at 4 p.m.

Shultz' single, which walked with one out, Crawford moved to second

and Wyant led off the first.

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

Wyant pitched. Steve Snyder

pitched seven hits. He walked

three batters and struck out six in

going the distance. Otsego used

two pitchers. Starter Larry

Heman went the first seven in-

nings before Marv Bennett

Shultz then stepped 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.

Otsego took a 2-1 lead in the game, Lakota tied it with two hits with a walk and error.

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The winner of the Anthony

Wyant-Lakota contest advances

defeated Springfield Local

earlier last week by a 3-1 count.

Wyant went 3-4 in the tournament.

Ivan Crawford had a 2-0 record.

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