

2009 District Meet...

DIVISION I

Ross runners looking good after first day

BY JEFF ARENZ
Sports writer

TIFFIN — The Fremont Ross Little Giants are sitting pretty after Day 1 of the Division I Track and Field Championships on Wednesday at Frost-Kalnow Stadium.

Ross emerged with regional qualifiers in Darien Spann (long jump) and the 3,200 relay team (Andy Leemaster, Luis Franco, Kristopher Esparza and Wyatt Harvey) while several other Little Giants advanced to Friday's semifinal and final rounds.



HARPER

"This is what we needed to do," Harvey said. "I think, with a little bit of luck on Friday and hard work from our guys, we could end up sitting pretty at the end of the district (meet)."

The Ross boys were not the only ones who enjoyed success. Little Giants sprinter Carlea Harper broke a school record while competing for the first time in the 400 dash.

Harper used 59.1 seconds to complete the 400, eclipsing the 59.4 mark Shannon Carter set at Ross in the 1990s.

"I'm pretty excited about that," Harper said. "It was great."

Ross coach Cathy Esposito was excited for Harper.

"We've been putting her in the 1,600 relay the last few weeks," Esposito said. "At the Greater Buckeye Conference Meet last (Friday at Sandusky), she ran a 59-split in the relay. So, I just had to put her in the open 400."

Esposito believes the Little Giants primed for Friday's events.

"I like the fact that we're sitting pretty good for Friday because we have qualified almost everything," Esposito said. "This a good way to start."

Spann grabbed the fourth and final spot in regional qualifying during the long jump with a leap of 21-feet, 3 3/4-inches. He also advanced to the semifinals of the 200 dash after ending up sixth in 23.43 during the preliminaries.

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LITTLE GIANTS FROM B1

Justin Hines and Devontae Woods have each secured a pair of district semifinal appearances. Hines won his heat of the 110 hurdles in 15.08 before he was fourth in his heat of the 300 hurdles in 49.01. Woods was sixth in 11.38 during the 100 dash before running eighth in 27.73 during the 200 dash.

Alex House (13th, 16.59) will join Hines in the district semifinals of the 110 hurdles. Harvey (800 run, fourth, 2:10.93) and James Aaron Spencer (400 dash, eighth, 54.34) moved into Friday's district final events.

The Little Giants had relay teams in the 400 (Woods, Jacob Berryman, Brett Mierke, Spencer; sixth; 44.80), the 800 (Woods, Hines, Spann, Spencer; third; 1:32.57) and the 1,600 (Harvey, Hines, Spann, Spencer; fifth; 3:36.73) that qualified for the district finals.

"The boys relay teams looked pretty good, and they didn't run PR's (personal records)," Esposito said. "They were just trying to qualify by just playing the game. This is a good age group (of relay runners). It's a good mix of sophomores and juniors, who know the game."

In the girls portion of the meet, Harper moved into the semifinals of the 100 and 200 dashes. She was fourth in the 100 dash in 12.86 before ending up third in the 200 dash in 26.39.

Jericha Martin (100 dash, 16th, 13.99) was the only other Little Giants' female athlete to move on during individual events.

Harper and Martin helped Ross relay teams in the 400 (Martin, Donisha Walk, Essence Price, Ellen Silva; eighth; 53.81), the 800 (Silva, Walk, Martin, Price; seventh; 1:52.06) and the 1,600 (Price, Harper, Walk, Silva; eighth; 4:17.26). All three squads have qualified for district final events.

High School Girls

District Championships

Division I

At Tiffin Columbian

Team Standings

1. Findlay, 30; 2. Ashland, 15; 3. Perrysburg, 14; 4. Bowling Green, $13\frac{1}{3}$; 5. Wapakoneta, 12.50; 6. Tiffin Columbian, 12; 7. Maumee, 7.50; 8. Marion Harding, 7; 9. Celina, 5; 10. Sandusky, $\frac{1}{3}$; 10. Ross, $\frac{1}{3}$.

Ross Results

3,200 relay — 9. Ross (Lisa Carter, Brittney Hagan, Paige Wiechman, Jessica Soule) 11:10.78.

100 dash — 4. Carlea Harper, 12.86; 16. Jericha Martin, 13.99.

800 relay — 7. Ross (Ellen Silva, Donisha Walk, Jericha Martin, Essence Price) 1:52.06.

400 — 8. Ross (Jericha Martin, Donisha Walk, Essence Price, Ellen Silva) 53.81.

400 dash — 1. Carlea Harper, 59.10; 9. Donisha Walk, 64.01.

300 hurdles — 13. Essence Price, 52.50; 19. Jennifer Kiser, 55.43.

200 dash — 3. Carlea Harper, 26.39; 19. Ali Hoch, 29.25.

1,600 relay — 8. Ross (Essence Price, Carlea Harper, Donisha Walk, Ellen Silva) 4:17.26.

Discus — 9. Victoria Logan, 98-08; 11. Alexis Chapman, 97-02.

High jump — 8 Christy Woleslagel, 4-10.

Track & Field

High School Boys

District Championships

Division I

At Tiffin Columbian

Team Standings

1. Ashland, 26; 2 Sandusky, 21; 3 Celina, 20; 4 Lexington, 17; 5. Wapakoneta, 16; 5. Ross, 16; 7. Findlay, 10; 7. Lima Senior, 10; 9. Maumee, 6; 9. Perrysburg, 6; 11. Bowling Green, 4; 12. Mansfield Senior, 3; 13. Mansfield Madison, 1.

Ross Results

3,200 relay — 3. Ross (Andy Leemaster, Luis Franco, Kristopher Esparza, Wyatt Harvey) 8:21.64.

110 hurdles — 1. Justin Hines, 15.08; 13. Alex House, 16.59.

100 dash — 6. Devontay Woods, 11.38; 19. Jacob Berryman, 11.99.

800 relay — 3. Ross (Devontay Woods, Justin Hines, Darien Spann, James Spencer) 1:32.57.

400 relay — 6. Ross (Devontay Woods, Jacob Berryman, Brett Mierke, James Spencer) 44.80.

400 dash — 8. James Spencer, 54.34; 11. Jacob Berryman, 55.68.

300 hurdles — 4. Justin Hines, 40.91; 21. Tyler Haralson, 52.47.

200 dash — 6. Darien Spann, 23.43; 8. Devontay Woods, 23.73.

1,600 relay — 5. Ross (Wyatt Harvey, Justin Hines, Darien Spann, James Spencer) 3:36.73.

Long jump — 4. Darien Spann, 21-03.75; 12. Brett Mierke, 20-02.75.

Shot put — 6. Josh Ballenger, 46-02.75; 26. Cameron Journyn, 33-04.25.

Pole vault — 7 Jay Speer, 12-03.00; 9. Michel Biringberg, 11-06.00.

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK ■

DIVISION I DISTRICT MEET

Ross boys finish third at district

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross boys track team finished third overall in the Division I district meet in Tiffin on Friday.

Overall, the Little Giant boys qualified six athletes, and four relay teams.

"We're not taking a van this year to regionals," said coach Cathy Esposito. "We're taking a bus."

Sandusky won the event with 83 points, Lexington finished second with 77.5, and the Little Giants were third with 77. Findlay was a distant fourth with 65.5 points.

"It was a three-team meet all the way through," Esposito said.

Justin Hines finished third in the 110 hurdles and won the 300 hurdles.



HINES

Wyatt Harvey qualified to regionals in the 800.

Josh Ballenger was second in the discus, Brett Mierke was second in the high jump, and Darien Spann was fourth in the long jump to also head to regionals.

Three Ross relay teams that qualified finished third: the 4 x 800 team of Andy Leemaster, Luis Franco, Kristopher Esparza and Harvey; the 4 x 200 team of Devontay Woods, Hines, Spann and James Aaron Spencer and the 4 x 100 team of Woods, Jacob Berryman, Mierke and Spencer. The 4 x 400 team of Harvey, Hines, Spann and Spencer finished fourth.

On the girls side, Victoria Logan was the district shot put champion to qualify to the regional meet as the Little Giants finished eighth overall. Perrysburg was the district girls champion.

Carlea Harper qualified to regionals in three events, the 100, 200 and 400. She also broke the school record in the 400 that she set Wednesday in a heat.

High School Girls

Division I

District Championship

at Tiffin Columbian

Team Standings

1. Perrysburg, 106; 2. Findlay, 90.50; 3. Tiffin Columbian, 85.50; 4. Ashland, 67.50; 5. Marion Harding, 52; 6. Celina, 50; 6. Mansfield Senior, 50; 8. Ross, 36.83; 9. Wapakoneta, 31.50; 10. Sandusky, 31.33; 11. Bowling Green, 24.33; 12. Maumee, 22.50; 13. Mansfield Madison Comp., 8; 14. Lima Senior, 4.

Ross Results

4x800 — 9. Ross (Lisa Carter, Brittney Hagan, Paige Wiechman, Jessica Soule), 11:10.78.

100 Meter Dash — 4. Carlea Harper, 13.30.

4x200 — 7. Ross (Ali Hoch, Alexis Barnett, Jericha Martin, Essence Price), 2:05.10.

4x100 — 8. Ross (Jericha Martin, Ali Hoch, Essence Price, Alexis Barnett), 55.05.

400 — 2. Carlea Harper, 58.36.

200 Meter Dash — 3. Carlea Harper, 27.23.

3200 Meter Run — 9. Jessica Soule, 12:46.73.

Discus — 9. Victoria Logan, 98-08; 11. Alexis Chapman, 97-02.

High Jump — 8. Christy Wolesslagel, 4-10.00.

Long Jump — 13. Jericha Martin, 14-08.50; 21. Bria Simms, 12-10.50.

Shot Put — 1. Victoria Logan, 37-06.50; 8. Alexis Chapman, 32-06.75.

Pole Vault — 5. Stephanie Swint, 9-00.00.

Track & Field

High School Boys

Division I

District Championship

at Tiffin Columbian

Team Standings

1. Sandusky, 83; 2. Lexington, 77.50; 3. Ross, 77; 4. Findlay, 65.50; 5. Ashland, 64; 6. Celina, 64; 7. Mansfield Senior, 62; 8. Lima Senior, 59; 9. Perrysburg, 39; 10. Wapakoneta, 20; 11. Maumee, 20; 12. Bowling Green, 19; 13. Marion Harding, 7; 14. Mansfield Madison Comp., 2.

Ross Results

4x800 — 3. Ross (Andy Leemaster, Luis Franco, Kristopher Esparza, Wyatt Harvey), 8:21.64.

110 Meter Hurdles — 3. Justin Hines, 14.93.

100 Meter Dash — 6. Devontay Woods, 11.70.

4x200 — 3. Ross (Devontay Woods, Justin Hines, Darien Spann, James Aaron Spencer), 1:32.11.

1600 — 8. Kristopher Esparza, 4:38.71.

4x100 — 3. Ross (Devontay Woods, Jacob Berryman, Brett Mierke, James Aaron Spencer), 44.79.

400 — 8. James Aaron Spencer, 56.08.

300 Meter Hurdles — 1. Justin Hines, 39.32.

800 Meter Run — 4. Wyatt Harvey, 2:00.64.

3200 Meter Run — 7. Kristopher Esparza, 10:13.21; 9. Andy Leemaster, 10:30.93.

4x400 — 4. Ross (Wyatt Harvey, Justin Hines, Darien Spann, James Aaron Spencer), 3:30.48.

Discus — 2. Josh Ballenger, 159-09; 11. Cameron Journyn, 117-08.

High Jump — 2. Brett Mierke, 6-01.00; 10. Tyler Haralson, 5-10.00.

Long Jump — 4. Darien Spann, 21-03.75; 12. Brett Mierke, 20-02.75.

Shot Put — 6. Josh Ballenger, 46-02.75; 26. Cameron Journyn, 33-04.25.

Pole Vault — 7. Jay Speer, 12-03.00; 9. Michel Biringberg, 11-06.00.