

1996 District Meet...

Ross 4x800 ready to peak

Relay hopes for better split times

By TIM HARMON
Staff writer

The members of the Fremont Ross boys 4x800 relay team are zeroing in on the two-minute mark.

Ross coach John Elder says someone on the team has to break it as the path to the state track and field meet begins today at the district meet in Mansfield.

"That wasn't the case last year," Elder said. "But the field is so strong now."

Junior Kurt Snyder, senior Clint Hill, senior Jeremiah Wagner and junior Jeremiah Smith say they have finally rounded into form to test that field.

"We're all in shape now," said Hill, who ran on the team at the state meet a year ago with Snyder, Wagner and Dane Snyder. "We're all capable of running around two-flat."

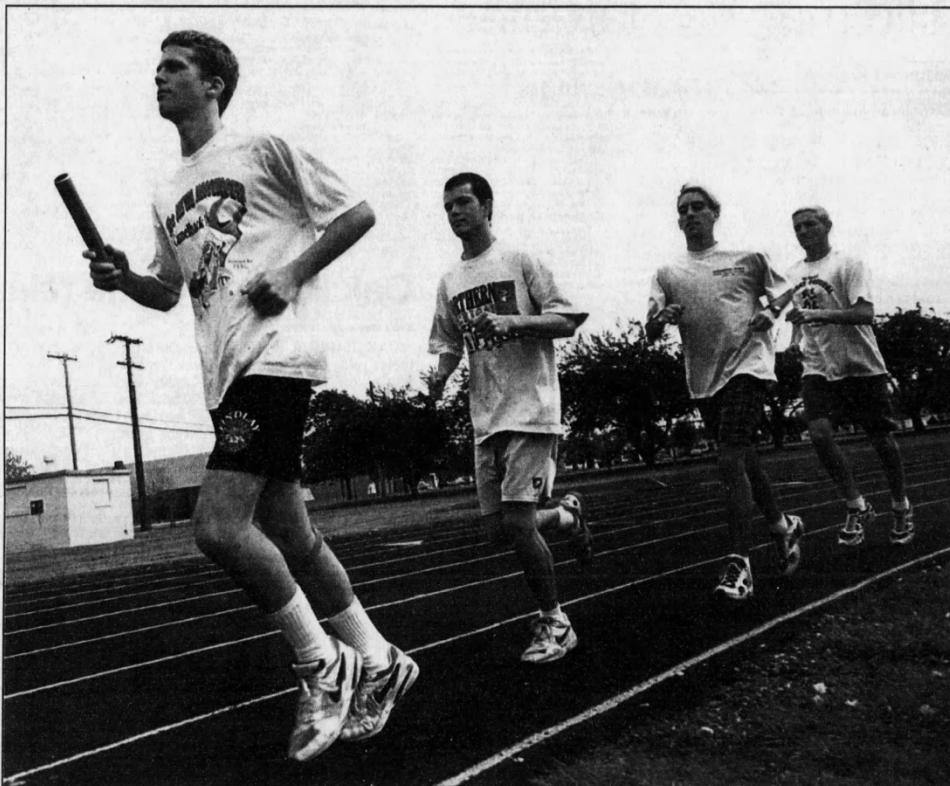
Hill has been the strongest all season, with Snyder taking time to adjust from basketball, Wagner battling shin injuries and Smith running a full season after missing last season with an ankle injury.

"They all have not run their best on the same day yet," Elder said. "That's what the goal is this week...definitely next week. We expect them to advance.

"It would be nice to have them run fast on their own, but they seem to run better when they're pushed."

The relay won at the Galion Invitational on May 2, finishing in 8 minutes, 7.1 seconds — four-tenths of a second off last year's state meet time.

"Toledo Central Catholic ran



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

THE 4x800 RELAY TEAM for Fremont Ross, from left to right: Kurt Snyder, Clint Hill, Jeremiah Wagner and Jeremiah Smith.

eight-flat at the City league meet," Elder said. "We've beaten them all year long when we've run head-to-head against them. That gives us a lot of optimism."

Not coincidentally, the Galion Invitational was run in the most pleasant weather of the spring.

"Weather is the biggest factor

in my head," Wagner says. "We've had one great day. You can see by the time which conditions favor us."

Wagner is the best distance runner of the group, Smith has been the best 800 man at Ross since he was a freshman, Hill brings speed to the quartet and Snyder is the most versatile.

"We all hope we're going to be the one to break two minutes," Smith says. "But in the same sense, we know each other well enough that it doesn't make much difference."

Smith says he hopes Snyder runs 1:59 on the lead leg, giving the rest of the group incentive to match him.

"That's the only way (to advance)," Wagner says.

Snyder and Hill have run 2:00 splits this spring, while Wagner and Smith have had bests of 2:01.

"You have to tell yourself you're going to finish strong," Snyder says.

That's been the goal all year.

Track members qualify for regionals

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross boys and girls 4x800 relay teams and Rashad Brown are advancing to the Division I regional meet with their performances at the district meet in Mansfield Friday.

The boys team of Kurt Snyder, Clint Hill, Jeremiah Smith and Jeremiah Wagner won the district race in 8 minutes 10 seconds while the girls team of Alison Kelly, Molly O'Conner, Jami Toeppe, Lindsay Frontz finished fourth in 10:02.0. Brown's leap of 6 feet two inches won the district championship in the high jump competition.

Also advancing for the boys was Brandon Willer in the shot put with a toss of 54-4 to finish third.

Other semifinal and final races will take place Saturday.

The top four places qualify for the regional meet.

Track & Field Roundup

Track

High School

Division I District

MANSFIELD — Team Standings and Fremont Ross results from the Division I district track and field meet at Mansfield. Top four placers in each event advance to this week's regional meet at Oak Harbor.

BOYS TEAM STANDINGS

1, Fremont Ross	76
2, Lexington.....	70
3, Findlay.....	52
4, Defiance	47
5, Bowling Green.....	39
6, Mansfield Madison	38
7, Sandusky	35
8, Ashland	30
9, Mansfield Sr.	25
10, Lima Sr.....	24
11, Wapakoneta	15
12, Tiffin Columbian	14
13, Lima Shawnee	12
13, Fostoria	12
15, Elida	3
16, Celina	2
16, Vermillion	2

ROSS QUALIFIERS

Field events

Long jump: 2-Demetris Sims 21-5.

Track events

110 hurdles:

100 dash:

300 hurdles:

200 dash: 4-Kenny Morrisette 23.5.

1600 run: 2-Jeremiah Smith 4:33.

4x100 relay: 2-Morrisette, Sims, Harry Liggins, Jerry Bates 44.4.

3200 run: 4-Jeremiah Wagner 10:03.

800 run: 3-Clint Hill 2:02, 4-Kurt Snyder 2:03.

BOYS TEAM STANDINGS

1, Mansfield Sr.	81
2, Celina	63
3, Fremont Ross	52
4, Lexington	42
5, Mansfield Madison	40 1/2
6, Bowling Green	38
7, Sandusky	35
8, Findlay	32
9, Tiffin Columbian	26
10, Wapakoneta	23
11, Defiance	19
12, Ashland.....	13 1/2
13, Elida	13
13, Lima Sr.	10
14, Vermillion	8

ROSS QUALIFIERS

Field events

Shot put: 1-Michelle Salas 35-8 1/4,
3-April Brenamen 34-6 1/2.

Track events

1600 run: 4-Alison Kelly 5:38.

100 dash: 4-Marcy Reinbolt 12.5.

4x100 relay: 4-Christy Linder, Tonya Elder, Shannon Heidelberg, Reinbolt 50.8.

100 hurdles: 2-Tonya Elder 15.

3200 run: 4-Lindsay Frontz 12:18.