

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK: DIVISION I DISTRICTS

So far, so good for Little Giants

By THOMAS PASCH
News-Messenger correspondent

TIFFIN — After day one of district track action, it's so far, so good for the Fremont Ross Little Giants.

The Ross boys qualified 10 runners and three relay teams for the district finals at Tiffin on Friday evening.

"I was so happy with what I saw tonight," said Ross coach Cathy Esposito. "We really seemed to run with a lot of determination."

While many Ross runners will have to wait to see whether or not they will qualify for regionals, the Little Giants already have one competitor set for a trip to Amherst.

Sophomore long jumper Chuck Martin took second place with a jump of 20 feet, 10.25 inches — second to Mansfield Senior's Antoine Smith's jump of 20-11.75.

"I'm pretty excited about getting

to regionals," Martin said. "I would have liked to win but I definitely can't complain."

Martin was the leader of the long jump competition heading into finals.

"He really stood out to me tonight," Esposito said. "He was our team's first regional qualifier this year."

Martin represents one of the hopeful 10-15 athletes Esposito had hoped would get to the state tournament.

"And we seem to be in pretty decent shape for that to happen," she said.

Friday will be mainly finals events but participants still alive in the 100 and 110 meter hurdles, 100



MARTIN

meter dash, and the 200 meter dash will have to get through a semifinals race.

The 4 x 200 meter relay team of David Jones, Mariel Pugh, Terence Davis, and Ryan Croudup was the first team to reach finals with a second place time of 1:32.77.

Right after they reached, the 4 x 100 meter relay team Jones, Pugh, Durand Robertson, and Davis took third overall on the day with a time of 44.95 seconds to advance to the finals.

"We really want to win the district meet," Esposito said. "We really feel that that is a possibility."

Ross will also be sending dual finalists in both the 400 meter dash and the 800 meter run.

Xavier Forney and Ryan Croudup took sixth and seventh, respectively, in the 400 meter dash. Forney ran a 52.65 and Croudup finished right behind with a time of 52.90.

"I thought we seemed really prepared in every event," Esposito said.

Josh Bowen took fourth in his respective heat in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:05.17 and Wyatt Harvey squeaked in with an eighth place finish (2:07.11).

On the girls' side, the ladies didn't see as much success as the men but will have finalists and semi-finalists in six events.

Ashley Fisher will be competing in three events — the 800, 1600, and 3200 meter runs — but only had to run the 800 Wednesday.

Fisher dominated the field with her 2:22.81 performance — next best time was 2:31.25.

Taylor Brown and Briana Harrison each advanced in the 200 meter dash by finishing third and fourth in their respective heats.

The 400 meter relay also qualified for finals with an eighth place finish (54.98).

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK

Fischer runs to district title

By KEVIN YANIK
Sports Writer

TIFFIN — If Fremont Ross senior Ashley Fischer had a choice, she would prefer to race the 1600-meter run at states this season over the 800 and 3200.

Well, Fischer took a step closer to that ultimate 1600 run Friday, when she placed first in the event, qualified for regionals and won her first career Division I district title.

"I've really picked it up my senior year," Fischer said. "I did awesome in cross country, and I just want to make it to states in the mile."

She could also qualify for states in the 800, because she advanced to regionals with a second-place finish in that event. Fischer nearly qualified in the 3200, as well, yet finished fifth — one spot away from a trip to Amherst.

"I think Ashley did just what we expected," Little Giants coach Cathy Esposito said. "Her mile is

the best event."

Fischer was the only Ross runner to reach regionals in a distance event. She was also the school's only female runner to qualify.

Esposito had plenty of male runners place in the top four Friday, though. David Jones, Mariel Pugh, Durand Robertson and Terence Davis were four of them.

They made up Esposito's 400 relay team, which placed second behind Mansfield Senior.

"I'm pleased with that because we haven't had a (400 relay) travel to regionals in five years," Esposito said. "We're really pleased with that."

Esposito was also pleased with her 800 relay team, which she expected to qualify for regionals easily. Jones, Pugh, Davis and junior Ryan Croudup made up that relay, and they earned a district title in 1 minute, 30.91 seconds.

"We're a team, so we've all got to stick together," Pugh said. "We fi-

nally got to a point where we want to get. Now, we just want to get better. We expected to qualify in the 200."

The Little Giants also expected to race the 1600 relay at Amherst. But Ross won't compete in that next week because it finished fifth behind Perrysburg, which edged the Little Giants by 0.20 seconds.

"It's disappointing," Esposito said. "That was our best event going in."

Despite that loss, freshman Justin Hines surprised his team in the 300 hurdles and qualified for regionals with a fourth-place finish. He beat Ashland's Matt Lewis for the final spot by nearly a second.

"Justin Hines started out the year running about 46 (seconds) in the hurdles," Esposito said. "He ran a 41 today as a freshman. That's tremendous, and it's a big improvement."

"Hurdles is the hardest event for freshmen. It's a developing event,



Jennifer Young-Bower/News-Messenger

Fremont Ross' Ashley Fischer won her first district title Friday.

and for him to come out and qualify is pretty remarkable."

Deondray Brown also qualified for regionals in a hurdle event: the 110. He placed second behind Sandusky's Dailyn Moore, who finished with a 14.59. Croudup ran a 51.74 in the 400 dash, and he crossed the finish line with the final ticket to regionals in that event.

Still, Fischer has two individual

tickets to Amherst. She set personal records in both the 800 and 1600 at districts, and she'll try to top those marks — 2:19.88 and 5:07.19 — again next week.

"I'm just excited that I made out in the mile and the 800," Fischer said. "My goal is to get to states

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High School Girls

Division I Districts

at Tiffin Columbian
Team Standings

1. Celina	90.5
2. Perrysburg	88
3. Marion Harding	70
4. Bowling Green	64.5
5. Wapakoneta	57
10. Ross	34

4x800 relay: 1. BG 8:39.69, 2. Find 9:40.43, 3. Marion 9:52.31, 4. Perry 9:54.71.

100 hurdles: 1. Julie Snyder (Cel) 16.37, 2. Shannon McLellan (Lima) 16.12, 3. Deannea Blissett (Mans) 18.17, 4. Carly Kuehl (Wap) 16.21.

100m: 1. Ponsha Gandy (Mans) 12.60, 2. Jazmunn Ritchie (Sand) 12.63, 3. Cameron Gardner (Perry) 12.90, 4. Lasha Jackson (Marion) 13.10, 7. Taylor Brown (Ross) 13.55.

4x200 relay: 1. Marion 1:48.98, 2. Celina 1:47.35, 3. Mans 1:47.41, 4. Perrysburg 1:48.31, 5. Ross (Donsha Walk, Jessica Rollins, Branna Harrison, Taylor Brown) 1:48.81.

1600m: 1. Ashley Fischer (Ross) 5:07.19, 2. Christy Titus (BG) 5:06.29, 3. Taylor McCurdy (Marion) 5:12.15, 4. Barbara Powers (BG) 5:18.16, 8. Jessica Soule (Ross) 5:48.96.

4x100 relay: 1. Mans 49.92, 2. Perry 51.16, 3. Mans 51.32, 4. Celina 51.69, 5. Ross (Wak, Brianna Harrison, Emma Ellenberger, Taylor Brown) 51.86.

400m: 1. Ritchie (Sand) 56.80, 2. Sarah Woodrum (Marion) 59.07, 3. Morgan Brown (Find) 61.80, 4. Andrea Henry (BG) 61.90.

300 hurdles: 1. Courtney Weiss (Perry) 45.53, 2. Julie Snyder (Cel) 45.89, 3. Eryn Langenkamp (Cel) 46.39, 4. Courtney Carper (Ash) 46.86.

800m: 1. Lindsey Schmittmeyer (Cel) 5:17.58, 2. Ashley Fischer (Ross) 2:19.88, 3. Lindsey Kertner (Wap) 2:20.42, 4. Powers (BG) 2:21.62.

200m: 1. Ritchie (Sand) 25.35, 2. Gandy (Mans) 25.70, 3. MaTeasha Favers (Mans) 26.62, 4. Cameron Gardner (Perry) 26.86.

3200m: 1. Titus (BG) 11:09.15, 2. Allison Leckrone (Find) 11:14.72, 3. McCurdy (MH) 11:20.26, 4. Brier Storing (Find) 11:20.53, 5. Fischer (Ross) 11:28.27.

4x400 relay: 1. Celina 4:03.89, 2. Perry 4:04.43, 3. Mans 4:06.11, 4. Wap 4:09.20.

Discus: 1. Hanna Bradenbeck Corp (Perry) 111-9, 2. Diana Sickles (Wap) 110-10, 3. Maddie Gutowski (Perry) 103-9, 4. Brittney Snow (BG) 102-4.

High jump: 1. Kara Lucas (Ash) 5-1, 2. Courtney Wright (Lex) 5-0, 3. Julie Snyder (Cel) 4-10, 3. Samantha Pace (Marion) 4-10.

Long jump: 1. Julie Snyder (Cel) 17-8.75, 2. Kara Lucas (Ash) 16-5.75, 3. Kristen Gons (Perry) 16-4.5, 4. Hannah Tabler (Wap) 16-2.75.

Shot: 1. Brittany Harris (Marion) 36-10.5, 2. Jeneese Barnett (Mans) 35-10.25, 3. Whitney Glover (Lima) 34-3.5, 4. Maagh Lefever (Ash) 33-11, 5. Victoria Logan (Ross) 32-6.

Pole vault: 1. Tabler (Wap) 10-9, 2. Cayla Hedworth (Celina) 10-0, 3. Steph Shoddy (Tiffin) 9-9, 4. Suzi Bureau (Perry) 9-9.

Track & Field

High School Boys

Division I Districts

at Tiffin Columbian
Team Standings

1. Lexington	113
2. Ashland	83
3. Mansfield Sr	78
4. Fremont Ross	64.5
5. Wapakoneta	44
Sandusky	44
7. Perrysburg	39
8. Bowling Green	36
Maumee	36
10. Findlay	35

4x800 relay: 1. Lexington 8:15.17, 2. Maumee 8:16.94, 3. Perrysburg 8:19.31, 4. Findlay 8:22.18.

110 hurdles: 1. Dailyn Moore (Sand) 14:59, 2. Deondray Brown (Ross) 15:12, 3. Shaquille Jefferson (Mans) 15:52, 4. Tyler Dickson (Lex) 15:69.

100m: 1. Napoleon Ruffin (Per) 11:29, 2. Alex Boyd (Lex) 11:30, 3. Shane Kapp (Ash) 11:44, 4. Taylor Southall (BG) 11:47, 5. Manal Pugh (Ross) 11:54.

4x200 relay: 1. Ross (David Jones, Pugh, Terence Davis, Ryan Crudup) 1:30.91, 2. Lex 1:32.21, 3. Sand 1:32.22, 4. BG 1:32.81.

1600m: 1. Ryan Hershner (Lex) 4:29.18, 2. Justin Dickson (Ash) 4:31.75, 3. Sheway Bascal (Find) 4:32.92, 4. Evan Lepot (Per) 4:35.58.

4x100 relay: 1. Mans 44.08, 2. Ross (Jones, Pugh, Durand Robertson, Davis) 44.42, 3. Wapakoneta 44.79, 4. BG 44.89.

400m: 1. Antoine Smith (Mans) 49.74, 2. Daquane Stokes (Sand) 51.34, 3. Rollin Nash (Lex) 51.58, 4. Crudup (Ross) 51.74, 6. Xavier Forney (Ross) 52.91.

300 hurdles: 1. Kelby Rosengarten (Celina) 39.81, 2. Tyler Dickson (Lex) 40.71, 3. Matt Mowry (Ash) 41.01, 4. Justin Hines (Ross) 41.58.

800m: 1. Victor Whitlock (Lex) 1:57.81, 2. Mark Dornauer (Col) 1:58.31, 3. Justin Crepe (Maumee) 1:58.60, 4. Logan Romantic (Find) 1:59.04, 6. Wyatt Harvey (Ross) 2:02.95.

200m: 1. Antoine Smith (Mans) 22.47, 2. Jamarus Oneal (Mans) 22.74, 3. Ruffin (Perry) 22.87, 4. Antonio Polans (Lex) 23.54, 8. Pugh (Ross) 24.14.

3200m: 1. Bo Waggoner (Mau) 9:36.20, 2. Bascal (Find) 10:07.13, 3. Brook Weaver (Ash) 10:08.43, 4. Stephen Mackell (Find) 10:10.67.

4x400 relay: 1. Mans 3:26.08, 2. Lex 3:27.72, 3. Ash 3:27.82, 4. Perry 3:28.15, 5. Ross (Forney, Davis, Josh Bowen, Crudup) 3:28.35.

Discus: 1. Jake Gohier (BG) 182-4, 2. Jonathon Krebs (Wap) 150-0, 3. Marc Stevens (Lex) 146-6, 4. Kyle McClintock (Wap) 144-9, 8. Josh Ballenger (Ross) 130-0.

High jump: 1. Nate Cooper (Ash) 6-4, 2. Justin Sherk (Wap) 6-1, 3. Kelsey Williams (Sand) 6-0, 4. Josh Crawford (Mans) 6-0, 5. Deondray Brown (Ross) 6-0.

Long jump: 1. Antoine Smith (Mans) 20-11.75, 2. Chuck Martin (Ross) 20-10.25, 3. Dashun Farrell (Sand) 20-7.75, 3. Jason Bartlett (Wap) 20-4.25.

Shot put: 1. Bryson Fagge (Marion) 53-0.5, 2. Darren Bass (Lima) 52-10.25, 3. Marc Stevens (Lex) 49-5, 4. Greg Sazdanoff (Mans) 48-11.

Pole vault: 1. Alex Boyd (Lex) 13-6, 2. Luke Vanhorn (Tiffin) 13-0, 3. Richard Mille (Find) 12-6, 4. Ryan Smeltzer (Ash) 12-0, 7. Josh Bowen (Ross) 11-6.