

Ross wins opener at Fostoria

News-Messenger reports

FOSTORIA — So far so good. The Fremont Ross wrestlers started the season Wednesday night, and posted a 42-32 Great Lakes League win over Fostoria.

Jake Wiekemann, Tom Wagoner, Jason Hull and Mitch Holland posted pins for the Little Giants.

Brian Hill won by forfeit, and Ted Zweifel, Roy Zamarripa, Derek Wensinger won by decision.

Ross won the first five match-

Wednesday	
Ross	42
Fostoria.....	32

Next

Ross at Ashland,
10 a.m. Sat.

ener for both teams.

The Little Giants started off quickly, as Zweifel posted an easy 12-0 decision over Pete Gallagoes in the 103-pound match.

Zamarripa followed at 112

es, dropped the next six, before winning the last three to take the GLL op-

and topped Jesus Holiquin to extend the lead.

Wiekemann pinned Brett Nelson in 2 minutes, 28 seconds at 119, and Wagoner followed with a pin of Bill Pahl in 1:29 at 125.

Wensinger finished the opening flurry, as he posted a 7-0 decision over Nate Heiser at 130.

Pins by Jidi Biler, Nick Huber and Rich Gerritsen and Mike Gerritsen helped Fostoria gain a 31-24

But Ross bounced back.

Hull posted a pin in 3:41 at 189. And Holland pinned Brian Williams in just 47 seconds to give Ross a 36-31 lead.

Hill's forfeit victory finished the scoring.

The Little Giants will travel to Ashland for a 10 a.m. competition.

They will return to Great Lakes League action at 6p.m. Wednesday at Bedford, Mich.

The Little Giants also won the junior varsity match, 42-18 over the Redmen.

Wrestling

Ross 42, Fostoria 32

103 — Ted Zweifel (R) dec. Pete Gallagoes 12-0; 112 — Roy Zamarripa (R) dec. Jesus Holiquin, 1:19 — Jake Wiekemann (R) p. Brett Nelson, 2:58; 125 — Tom Wagoner (R) p. Bill Pahl, :39; 130 — Derek Wensinger (R) dec. Nate Heiser, 7-1, 1:35 — Jidi Biler (F) dec. Les Schneider, 10-4; 140 — Justin Kiser (F) dec. Kyle Liff, 6-5; Nick Huber p. Mike Shanahan, :56; 152 — Rich Gerritsen (F) def. Brian Holland, 3:10; 160 — Zeb Wedge (F) def. Dave Urbina 4-2, 1:71 — Mike Gerritsen (F) p. Eric Smith, 1:43; 189 — Jason Hull p. Matt Sears, 1:40; 215 — Mitch Holland (F) p. Brian Williams, :46; 275 — Brian Hill (R) won by forfeit.

Ross 42, Fostoria 18

Junior varsity

103 — Tad Zweifel (R) p. Tim Main, 1:03; 112 — Zac Potridge (R) p. Torey Hickle, 3:01; 119 — Jim Rupp (R) p. Bob Cooper, 1:09; 130 — Josh Miller p. Nate Frazier, 3:08; Mike Lee p. Roger Willoughby, 5:26; 145 — Justin Venderschulter p. Cody Amor, 4:49; 171 — Luke Cole (R) p. Chris Forbes, 1:43; 189 — Rick Legg p. Jared Bottimer, 2:35; 215 — Ryan Cooley p. Nick Sheridan, 1:09; 275 — Steve Sieberg p. Dusty Miller, 4:18.

Coach: Grover Dowell (84-53-2 in 21 years).

1997: 2-4, third in GLL

Key returnees: Derek Wensinger (130), Brian Hill (275), Roy Zamarripa (112), Kyle Iliff (140), Mitch Holland (215), Tom Wagoner (125), \Jason Hull (189).

Outlook: The Little Giants, who opened the season with a 42-31 win at Fostoria Wednesday, should be tough in the Great Lakes League. Wensinger, a district qualifier last season, opened the season with an easy decision Wednesday. Hill, Zamarripa, Holland Hull, and Wagoner should also earn the Little Giants plenty of points. Last year's squad, which lost Tyler Lawrence, J.R. Adkins, Jesse Sandoval, Eric Lindsey and state-qualifier Aaron Root to graduation, was third in the Great Lakes League a season ago. Coach Grover Dowell is very optimistic over the abundance of youth on his squad. "We have a very good group of jayvees and incoming freshmen."

Ashland Invitational

ASHLAND — Fremont Ross coach Grover Dowell was pleased as his team seventh Saturday at the Ashland Invitational. "I was pretty happy with way the kids wrestled overall," said Dowell. "Everyone opened up the season pretty well."

Derek Wensinger was the highest placing Little Giant, as he finished second in the 140-pound competition.

Four Ross wrestlers — Kyle Iliff (140), Rick Legg (171), Ryan Cooley (215) and Mike Adams (275) — finished fourth.

"Derek had some nice matches," Dowell said. "Kyle Iliff wrestled really, really well. A lot of the younger kids did a nice job. What really impressed me was the fight and desire everyone showed."

Wrestling

High School

Ashland Invitational

Team Standings

Ashland 211, Medina 156.5, Massillon 168.5, Dover 162, Lexington 121, Upper Sandusky 119.5, Ross 83.5, Canton McKinley 44.5

Ross Finishers

103 — Zac Potridge - 5th
112 — Roy Zamarripa - 6th
125 — Tom Wagner - 4th
130 — Derek Wensinger - 2nd
140 — Kyle Iliff - 4th
171 — Rick Legg - 4th
215 — Ryan Cooley - 4th
Heavy — Mike Adams - 4th

Senior aims for final step



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

DEREK WENSINGER is 4-1 thus far this season at 130 pounds for the Fremont Ross wrestling team.

Wensinger anchors Little Giant wrestlers at 130

By MICHAEL PIDANICK
Staff writer

In the sport of wrestling, if you want a spot in the starting lineup, you have to earn it on the mat.

That aspect is what Fremont Ross senior Derek Wensinger most appreciates about a sport in which he has become very tough to beat.

"I like the individual part of the sport," said Wensinger. "You can prove yourself in this sport. In sports like football, you have to prove yourself to the coach first and then the coach decides who plays. It's more of a political thing. "In wrestling, it doesn't matter. You come down and you work and then you get to the wrestle-off. You win your wrestle-off, then you get to wrestle."

Wensinger, The News-Messenger Athlete of the Week, has not only earned the right to wrestle for the Little Giants, but he has also earned the right to be called one of the

area's top wrestlers.

The 130-pound wrestler was 3-1 Saturday and placed second at the Ashland Invitational. He cruised in Pool B of the competition, pinning Lexington's Joe Clem in just 30 seconds, pinning Jason Ray of Ashland in 3:45 and easily decisioning Dover's Brian Kutcher, 18-3.

He opened the season Wednesday with a 7-1 decision over Fostoria's Nate Heisner, as the Little Giants won the Great Lakes League dual meet 42-32.

Ross coach Grover Dowell said Wensinger has all the tools necessary to be a great wrestler.

"As far as his skills, he's top-notch," said Dowell, who is in his 21st season as a wrestling coach. "He's got real good technique and he works extremely hard."

Last season, Wensinger advanced to the district tournament for the Little Giants. Dowell expects him to get to

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Derek Wensinger profile

School: Ross.

Grade: Senior.

Sport: Wrestling.

Family: Parents Don and Rose Wensinger; brothers Don, Josh, Kyle; sisters Damaka, Charise, Selie.

Hobbies: Hanging out with friends and family, movies, bowling.

the state tournament at the Schottenstein Center in Columbus this season.

"This is his last year, he's got one more shot," Dowell said. "My goal for him is to get to the finals at the (state) tournament. He's got a real shot, but he's got to work for it."

Hard work is something

Wensinger is accustomed to putting into the sport. That effort has made an impression on his teammates.

"He's got a lot of heart and shows a lot of dedication," said Kyle Iliff. "He works hard down in the wrestling room."

If Wensinger is to reach his goal of a state tournament berth, there are a few things Dowell would like to see the wrestler work on.

"We have got to make sure he continues to work on some things," Dowell said, "like his aggressiveness, his control and his drive on mat. He's an extremely strong kid, so we're trying to get him to muscle more people."

Wensinger expects this to be a successful season for the Little Giants as a team, as soon as a few wrestlers get back on the mat.

"Once we get a full lineup in there we'll start winning some more matches and be a bigger threat," he said.

Wrestling

High School

Bedford 69, Ross 9

at Bedford

103 — Zac Potridge (R) pinned Davis (B) 4:46; 112 — Wasielewski (B) pinned Roy Zamaripa (R) 1:46; 119 — Swanbeck (B) pinned Rub (R) :29; 125 — Bronkema (B) pinned Tom Wagoner (R) 3:42; 130 — Derek Wensinger (R) dec. Johnson 18-9; 135 — Roberts (B) pinned Cody Franks (R) 4:17; 140 — Dunnigan (B) pinned Kyle Iliff (R) 3:42; 145 — Zink (B) pinned B. Holland (R) 1:37; 152 — Deland (B) dec. Shanahan (R) 15-0; 171 — LaPointe (B) won by forfeit; 189 — Schmidt (B) dec. John Forshtay (R) 17-8; 215 — Adams (B) pinned Mitch Holland (R) 3:09; 275 — Snowberger (B) pinned Hill (R) 3:51.

Wrestling

High School

ROGERS INVITATIONAL

1—Defiance 113.0, 2—N.Ridgeville 77.5, 3—Wauseon 66.5, 4—Elida 65.0, 5—St. Francis 51.5, 6—Rogers 44.0, 7—Woodward 39.5, 8—Maumee 37.0, 9—Port Clinton 35.0, 10—Springfield 33.0, 11—Fremont Ross 29.0, 12—Bowers 22.0, 13—Scott 12.0, 14—Lake 3.0

SEMI-FINALIST

130

Chris Bergman (PC) vs. Derek Wensinger (F)

135

Andrew Dennis (D) vs. Cody Franks (F)

189

Erik Krienbrink (SF) vs. John Porshtey (F)

Wrestling begins 11 a.m., Finals at 6 p.m.

Rogers Invitational

TOLEDO — The Fremont Ross wrestling team took eighth at Saturday's Rogers Invitational.

Derek Wensinger finished first at 130 pounds, pinning North Ridgeville's Jeremy Rudy in 1:33. Cody Franks won at 135 pounds, decisioning Elida's Andy King, and John Forshtay won at 189 pounds by fall over Toledo Woodward's Muhammed Sultan.

Zac Potridge (103) lost in his third place match with Maumee's Leif Gilsdorf, and Kyle Iliff was decisioned by Chad Marzek of Toledo St. Francis at 140.

Toby Forshtay (160) lost in his fifth place match with Defiance's Brian Siler.

Rogers Invitational

1—N. Ridgeville 227.5, 2—Defiance 193.5, 3—Elida 158.5, 4—Wauseon 148.5, 5—Port Clinton 122.5, 6—Maumee 121.5, 7—St. Francis 121.5, 8—Ross 120.0, 9—Springfield 113.0, 10—Rogers 94.5, 11—Woodward 80.0, 12—Bowsher 37.0, 13—Scott 22.0, 14—Lake

First place matches

130 — Derek Wensinger (R) by fall 1:33 over Jeremy Rudy (NR); 135 — Cody Franks (R) by dec over Andy King (E); 189 — John Forshtay (R) by fall over Muhammed Sultan (W)

Third place matches

103 — Leif Gilsdorf (M) by dec over Zac Potridge (FR)

140 — Chad Marzek (SF) by dec over Kyle Iliff (FR)

Fifth place

160 — Brian Siler (D) by dec over Toby Forshtay (R)

Brecksville Invitational

BRECKSVILLE — The Fremont Ross wrestling team finished 25th with 54 points at the Brecksville Invitational, which concluded Wednesday.

Derek Wensinger was the top Ross finisher, placing sixth at 130 pounds.

The Little Giants return to action Saturday, when they host the Mal Mackey Invitational.

Little Giants ready for 26th Mal Mackey

Ross has won last five titles

By SCOTT TAPPA
Sports editor

The Mal Mackey Memorial Wrestling Tournament may have lost one of its teams this year, but Fremont Ross wrestling coach Grover Dowell said he expects the tournament to be a demanding one — just like Mackey, his former coach.

"He was very inspiring, I really liked Mal a lot," said Dowell, who wrestled under the Ross legend from 1967-69. "He demanded and earned the respect of everyone."

In recent years, the Ross

wrestling team has demanded and earned the respect of opponents at its own tournament, capturing the last five Mackey titles. To extend that streak to six years at Saturday's tournament, the Little Giants will need to beat several teams with solid returning talent, led by Euclid, last year's runner-up.

"Euclid came in second last year, and they had a lot of young kids, so they're going to be very tough," said Dowell.

Dowell said that Euclid, Port Clinton and Northwood all have six returning placers from last year's tournament. Norwalk, Lima Shawnee and Toledo Start round out the 1999 Mackey field.

Ross also has six returning

placers from last year's tournament: Derek Wensinger (130 pounds), off to a 12-4 start this season, Cody Franks (135, 11-4), Kyle Illiff (140, 8-6), Josh Martin (152, 0-2), Roy Zamarripa (112) and Brian Hill (275).

Other wrestlers who Dowell hopes finish near the top on Saturday are 215-pounder Mitch Holland and 189-pounder John Forshtay.

"Brian Hill is doing a really nice job, even though his record doesn't show it he's really working hard," Dowell said. "Probably the biggest enjoyment for me is John Forshtay. His work ethic is unquestionable, he works his tail off, never questions anything, he's having real good success."

Holland just missed placing in

the Brecksville Invitational, where the Little Giants placed 25th.

"We've had our up and downs, at times I've been disappointed in the kids' aggressiveness," said Dowell, in his seventh season as Ross coach. "But they're working hard, they're in very, very good condition. We just have to make sure and complete our moves."

Dowell's wrestlers will be making their moves in front of an audience that will include many former Ross wrestlers.

"This is a good opportunity for the ex-wrestlers of Fremont to see what's going on, to be a part of it," Dowell said. "Our wrestling committee, which has a lot of ex-wrestlers, does a real nice job setting it up, running it. It's one of the

Mal Mackey info

When: Saturday, 11 a.m.
Where: Ross High School
Participants: Ross, Euclid, Northwood, Port Clinton, Lima Shawnee, Norwalk, Toledo Start.
Defending champion: Ross
Ross returning top-3 finishers: Derek Wensinger (130), Cody Franks (135), Kyle Illiff (135), Josh Martin (152), Roy Zamarripa (112), Brian Hill (275).

best eight-team tournaments in Northwest Ohio because of that committee."

Action begins at 11 a.m. Saturday, with the finals starting at 6 p.m.

Wrestlers frustrated by snow



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

ROSS SENIOR heavyweight Brian Hill, left, and senior 160-pounder Josh Martin stretch after a practice Wednesday morning at Ross High School.

Cancellation of Mal Mackey tourney hurts Little Giants

By KYLE TIMMONS
News-Messenger correspondent

As the snow continues to pile up outside, the Fremont Ross wrestling team continues to strengthen itself for the remainder of the season.

But for many of the wrestlers, dealing with the cancellations of school and wrestling competition is beginning to become an emotional strain.

"It kind of stinks because the Mal Mackey was canceled," said senior wrestler Derek Wensinger. "A couple of us were working on being two-time champions, but we won't be able to do that now."

The weather forced the cancellation of the 26th annual Mal Mackey Memorial wrestling tournament on Jan. 10, frustrating some of the wrestlers.

"It's tough because I've never wrestled in it and I wanted to go out there and take first place and in front of a home crowd," said 189-pound John Forshtay. "And now that is something I'll never be able to do."

Ross wrestler Brian Hill said he was also disappointed in the Mal Mackey cancellation, but for a different reason.

"It feels pretty bad," Hill said. "It's one of those things that you kind of wait for."

Wrestling coach Grover Dowell explained why missing the tournament is disappointing from a coach's standpoint.

Ross may host dual meet Saturday; SJCC invited

Fremont Ross will likely host a dual tournament at noon Saturday with St. Joseph Central Catholic, Port Clinton and possibly Northwood if the weather permits, said Little Giants athletic director Art Bucci.

"We have kind of a mini-dual tournament in the making," Bucci said. "Since we lost the Mal Mackey, we wanted to get something in."

Bucci said he has "a couple" of officials lined up, and the Crimson Streaks and Redskins have verbally committed. He is still waiting to hear from Northwood.

"Of course, we still have to wait on the weather," he said. "That's always a factor."

"As a coach, I have to make sure that we work on confidence," he said. "We had the Mackey tournament and I thought that we would win that one."

"That hurt us having it canceled as far as a confidence booster."

Christmas break and the cancellation of school has not stopped the Little Giants from practicing.

"Over the break I would run every morning and in the afternoon I would practice," said Cody Franks. "Plus we had two-a-day practices so that helped out a lot."

Forshtay said that the extended vacation also hurts individual's work habits.

"Because we went on Christmas vacation and the cancellations, a lot of the guys are just extending their break," he said. "Because wrestling is a school activity, they think that they are on break from wrestling too."

Ross now looks toward its next home match against Toledo Whitmer on Wednesday.

"It's parents night," said Franks. "It means a lot because it's my senior year and we only have a couple of dual meets at home."

Hill hopes that he can make a turnaround at the meet.

"I was hoping to use the Mal Mackey as a turning point in my season," he said. "Now I guess the next time I go out to the ring will be my turning point."

Dowell said that as his team continues to work hard, he must now focus on keeping everyone mentally prepared.

"I have really been impressed with the guys down in the practice room," Dowell said. "We are coming into the part of the season where it's hard on the kids. Every year some of them get down and we just have to pull them back up."

■ More postponements today, B2

Wrestling

High School

Wapakoneta Invitational TEAM RESULTS

Pickerington 253.5 points, Marion 240, Wapakoneta 234, Piqua 191, Gallion 138, Ross 137, Dayton 91, Hilliard 28.5.

Ross results — 2nd: Brian Hill (275), Kyle Iliff, 3rd: John Forshtay (189), Stuart Mcallister (103) Derek Wensinger (125), Cody Franks (135), 5th: Tommy Wagner (130), Josh Martin (160), 6th: Ryan Cooley (215).

No. 5 Sandusky topples Ross

McAllister, Hill win for Little Giants

By MICHAEL PIDANICK
Staff writer

SANDUSKY — If the Fremont Ross wrestlers weren't sure why Sandusky was ranked fifth in the latest state coaches poll, they got a first-hand reason Wednesday night.

The Blue Streaks won 13-of-15 matches — five by pin — and

whipped the Little Giants, 62-6, at Sandusky High School.

"They're a well-disciplined team," said Ross coach Grover Dowell. "I have a lot of respect for the Sandusky program. The coaches and the kids do a great job. I thought we could hang with them a little, but we were just out-classed."

Stuart McAllister at 103 pounds and Brian Hill at heavyweight both earned decisions for the Little Giants, who dropped to 1-2 in dual meets.

Sandusky improved to 6-4 in dual meets, to go along with second-place finishes at the 40-team Brecksville Tournament and the Clyde Invitational, which including five ranked teams.

Shoncey Prophet (119), Jason Kresser (130), Shaun Wells (135), Jimmie Cherry (189) and John Rosekelly (215) earned pins for the Blue Streaks. Duenta Davis (160) won by technical fall, Rocky McKinney (119), Dustin Davis (160) and James Bickley (189) won by major decisions.

"We came out real aggressive," said Sandusky coach Dave Colatruglio. "We've been wrestling real hard in practice and it showed. Sandusky-Fremont is a big rivalry in all sports, so that added to it too."

Colatruglio moved some of his wrestlers to give the Little Giants a different look.

"We saw Fremont in the Brecksville Tournament, and we'll see them in the

Wrestling

Clyde 3rd in poll

The Clyde wrestling team, fresh off a resounding win in the Clyde Invitational this past weekend, stayed at No. 3 in the latest Ohio High School Wrestling Coaches Association poll. The Division II Fliers, who received 140 points and four first-place votes, were ranked behind Ravenna (176-13) and Walsh Jesuit (158-1).

Bellevue, which finished fourth at the Clyde Invitational, came in eighth with 47 points. Sandusky, which beat Fremont Ross 62-6 in a dual meet Wednesday night, was tied with Wadsworth for fifth in the Division I poll.

■ Pairings for this weekend's SBC Duals. Page B2.

conference and sectional meets," he said. "So we wanted to mix them up a little."

McAllister started things off right for Ross, as he posted a 12-6 decision over Bryan Woodruff, giving the Little Giants a 3-0 lead.

"Stu did a real nice job," Dowell said. "He's come a long way. He's a real hard-working, coachable kid. We have a group of freshmen that are going to have to be reckoned with down the road."

Ross's lead was short-lived, as Sandusky won the next 13 matches to put the match away. Only two of the Blue Streaks' victories came in tough matches. At 125, Rocky McKinney, who improved to 18-0 on the year needed a solid third period to put away Derek Wensinger in a 19-10 win. At 140, Endrako Carr survived a defensive struggle, edging Kyle Iliff 2-0.

Hill closed the meet on a positive note for Ross. He overpowered Eric Gilson and held on for a 6-5 win.

"I was just too strong for him," said Hill. "That was it."

Wrestling

High School

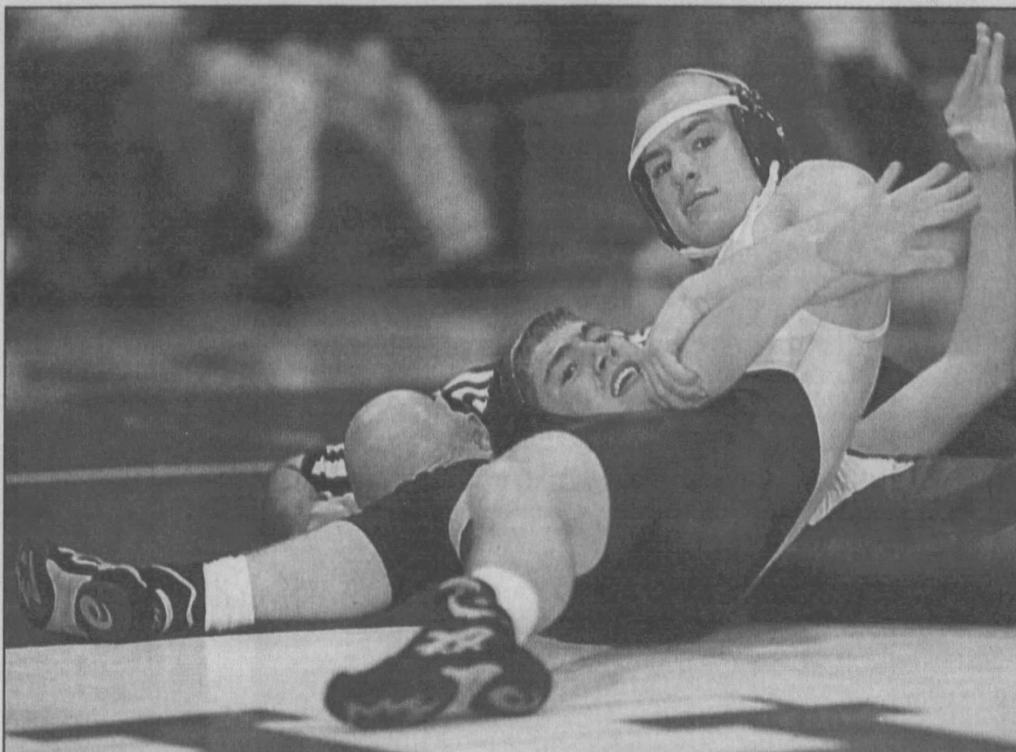
Sandusky 62, Ross 6

At Sandusky

103 — Stuart McAllister (R) dec. Bryan Woodruff 12-6; 112 — Dustin Smith (S) won by forfeit; 119 — Shoncey Prophet (S) p. Jake Wiechman in :17; 125 — Rocky McKinney (S) maj. dec. Derek Wensinger 19-10; 130 — Jason Kresser (S) p. Tommy Wagner in 1:40; 135 — Shaun Walls (S) p. Cody Franks in 1:39; 140 — Endrako Carr dec. Kyle Iliff 2-0; 145 — Duenta Davis (S) won by tech fall over Brian Holland 15-0; 152 — Shonsai Aaron (S) won by forfeit; 160 — Dustin Davis (S) won by maj. dec. over Josh Martin 17-5; 171 — James Bickley (S) won by maj. dec. over Tobie Forshtay, 15-4; 189 — Jimmie Cherry (S) p. John Forshtay in 2:12; 215 — John Rosekelly (S) p. Mitch Holland in 3:48; Hvy. — Brian Hill (R) dec. Eric Gilson 6-5.

Wrestling

Ross flattens Findlay



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

DEREK WENSINGER of Ross records a pin over Findlay's Taylor Roynon during their 125-pound match Wednesday.

Seven Little Giants record pins in win

By MICHAEL PIDANICK
Staff writer

After enduring a somewhat subpar season, Fremont Ross wrestler Tobie Forshtay turned to a little divine guidance before Wednesday's match.

"This season hasn't been going too well for me," Forshtay said. "So I said a little prayer before I went out there and then just did what I had to do to win."

Forshtay was one of seven Little Giants to win by pin, as Ross posted a convincing 54-27 win over Great Lakes League rival Findlay at the Purple Pit.

The victory improved Ross's dual meet record to 2-2 on the year, with the losses coming to GLL pow-

Wednesday

Ross.....54
Findlay27

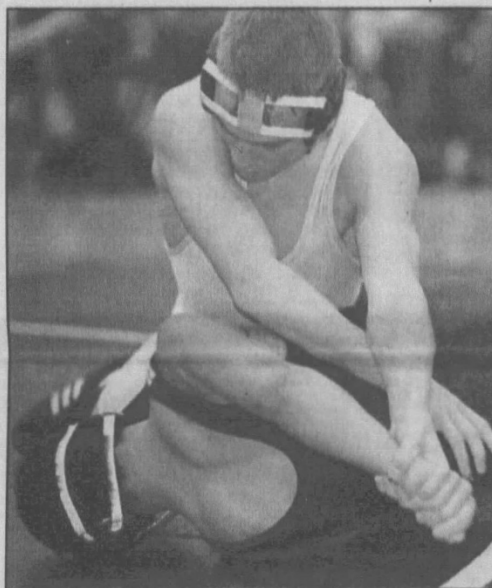
Saturday

Ross at Clay Inv., 9 a.m.

ers Sandusky and Bedford (Mich.).

"The boys came out real aggressive," said Ross coach Grover Dowell. "They executed pretty well, I can't take anything away from anyone. They all did a real nice job."

Ross led 24-21 when a string of pins put the Little Giants in control of the meet. Brian Holland got things going, as he controlled Findlay's Dave Ohs



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

TOMMY WAGNER of Ross turns Ryan Duenke of Findlay during their 130-pound match. Wagner pinned Duenke in 2:53.

See ROSS, B2

Ross wrestlers pound Findlay

Continued from B1

for most of the 152-pound match, before pinning him at 3:30.

Josh Martin followed suit for Ross, as he stopped the Trojans' Kyle Nalman in 2:31. Martin credited his strength advantage to a little extra time spent in practice.

"It starts with working down in the practice room and then it carries out here," he said. "I use a tilt. It's when you use an arm bar on him to stack him straight up on his back."

Forshtay followed with his pin, as he stopped Josh Dean in 2:51 at 171.

John Forshtay, Tobie's brother, won by forfeit at 189, pushing the Little Giants' lead to 48-23.

Frank McCoy pinned Mitch Holland at 4:06 for the Trojans, but Brian Hill won by forfeit for

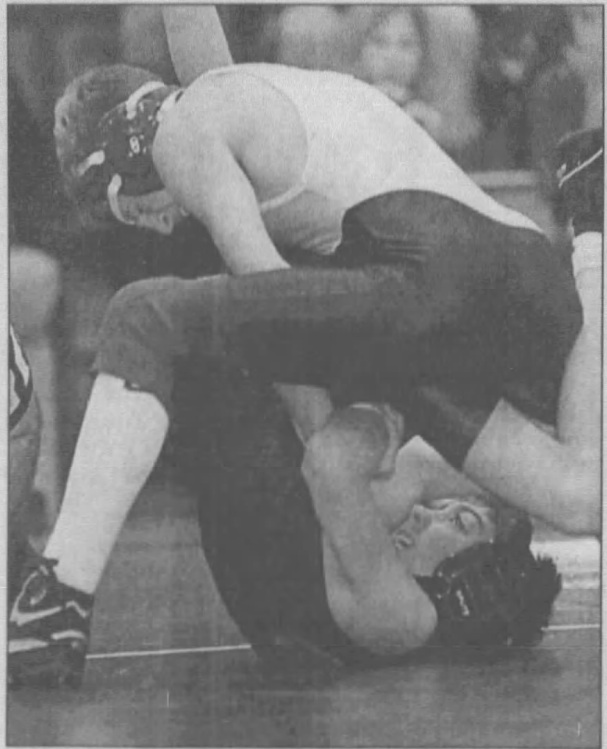
Ross at 275.

Zac Potridge got Ross started at 103, and he scored an easy pin of Sean Oman in 1:03. Chris Kniley answered for the Trojans with a pin of Tad Zweifel in 1:13. Jim Brown of Findlay pinned Jim Rupp at 119 in 3:14 to give Findlay its only lead of the night at 12-6.

But Derek Wensinger answered for the Little Giants at 125, with a quick pin of Taylor Roynon in 1:10. Tommy Wagner followed with a pin of Ryan Duenke in 2:53 at 130 to put Ross up to stay.

Cody Franks followed with an easy pin of Ryan Nelson in just 48 seconds at 135. John Forsythe (140) won by pin and Josh Palmer (145) earned a decision for the Trojans, cutting the gap to 24-21.

The Little Giants travel to the Oregon Clay In-



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

ZAC POTRIDGE of Ross pins Findlay's Sean Oman in the Little Giants' 54-27 dual match win Wednesday.

vitational Saturday, and then travel to Clay next Wednesday. Ross will re-

turn home Feb. 5, as it hosts Toledo Whitmer in a rescheduled match.

Wrestling

High School

Fremont Ross 54, Findlay 27

103 — Zac Potridge (R) p. Sean Oman in 1:03; 112 — Chris Kniley (F) p. Tad Zweifel in 1:13; 119 — Jim Brown (R) p. Jim Rupp in 3:14; 125 — Derek Wensinger (R) p. Taylor Roynon in 1:10; 130 — Tommy Wagner (R) p. Ryan Duenke in 2:53; 135 — Cody Franks (R) p. Ryan Nelson in :48; 140 — John Forsythe (F) p. Cody Amor in 4:46; 145 — Josh Palmer (F) dec. Kyle Illif 10-6; 152 — Brian Holland (R) p. Dave Ohs in 3:30; 160 — Josh Martin (R) p. Kyle Nalman in 2:31; 171 — Tobie Forshtay (R) p. Josh Dean in 2:51; 189 — John Forshtay (R) won by forfeit; 215 — Frank McCoy (F) p. Mitch Holland in 4:06; 275 — Brian Hill (R) won by forfeit.

Junior varsity

215 — Ryan Cooley (R) p. Chaz Miller in 2:06.

Ross wrestlers beat Eagles in GLL dual

By MICHAEL PIDANICK
Staff writer

After a Findlay forfeit cost him a chance to wrestle last week, Fremont Ross wrestler John Forshtay just got hungrier.

Oregon Clay's Jerin Donley paid the price Wednesday night. Forshtay came out aggressive and pinned Donley in 1 minute, 59 seconds, as the Little Giants posted a 48-25 win over the Eagles at the Purple Pit in a Great Lakes League dual-meet.

"I didn't get a chance to wrestle last week and that bothered me a little," said Forshtay. "So I got back in the practice room and worked even harder, and obviously that worked."

Forshtay was one of four Little Giants to win by pin. Cody Franks (135), Tobie Forshtay (189) and Ryan Cooley (215) also won by pin for Ross, which improved to 3-2 in dual-meet action. Derek Wensinger (125) won by technical fall, Kyle Iliff won by major decision, and Zac Potridge (103) won an overtime decision.

"I thought, again our kids were aggressive," said Ross coach Grover Dowell. "I was real impressed with our de-

Wednesday

Ross48
Clay25

Friday

Whitmer at Ross, 6 p.m.

sire to win. This team is really willing to work hard to do what it takes. Even the kids that lost went down fighting."

The most competitive match of the evening came at 103, as Potridge edged Jason Baer in overtime. Baer led 10-6 early in the third period, but Potridge scored a takedown and near fall to take an 11-10 lead. Baer escaped to tie the match. In the overtime, Baer came our strong, but Potridge was able to flip his opponent for the decisive points.

"It was just a switch and a throw to his back," Potridge said. "I just went in thinking with a fight-until-the-end attitude."

Clay's Matt Reynolds (112) won by technical fall over Tad Zweifel and the Eagles' Josh Lewis (119) pinned Jake Weichman to put Clay ahead 11-3. But Wensinger answered for Ross, completely dominating a 22-7 technical fall win over Sean Swigert in just 2:00.

At 130, Clay's Brandon Beach pinned Tommie Wag-

ner, who was hampered by a neck injury, in 4:40, to put the Eagles ahead.

But Franks made quick work of Zach Martin and earned a pin in just 48 seconds.

"Cody is just a real tough kid," said Dowell. "He likes to go right for the pin and that's what he did today. That is just one tough kid."

But Clay won the next two matches. Shawn McGrady (145) decisioned Mike Shanahan 8-5 and Matt Gomoll (152) won by technical fall over Brian Holland 18-3 to put Clay ahead 25-18.

However, the rest of the night belonged to the Little Giants. Josh Martin (160) won by forfeit, cutting the lead to 25-24. Tobie Forshtay, who sang the national anthem prior to the meet, pinned Casey Donley in 1:48, and John Forshtay followed with his pin of Jerin Donley.

Cooley controlled most of his match, before pinning Jacob Coleman in 3:42. Brian Hill won by forfeit to close out the evening.

Inside: Area high school wrestling leaders. **Page B2**

Wrestling

High School

Ross 48, Clay 25

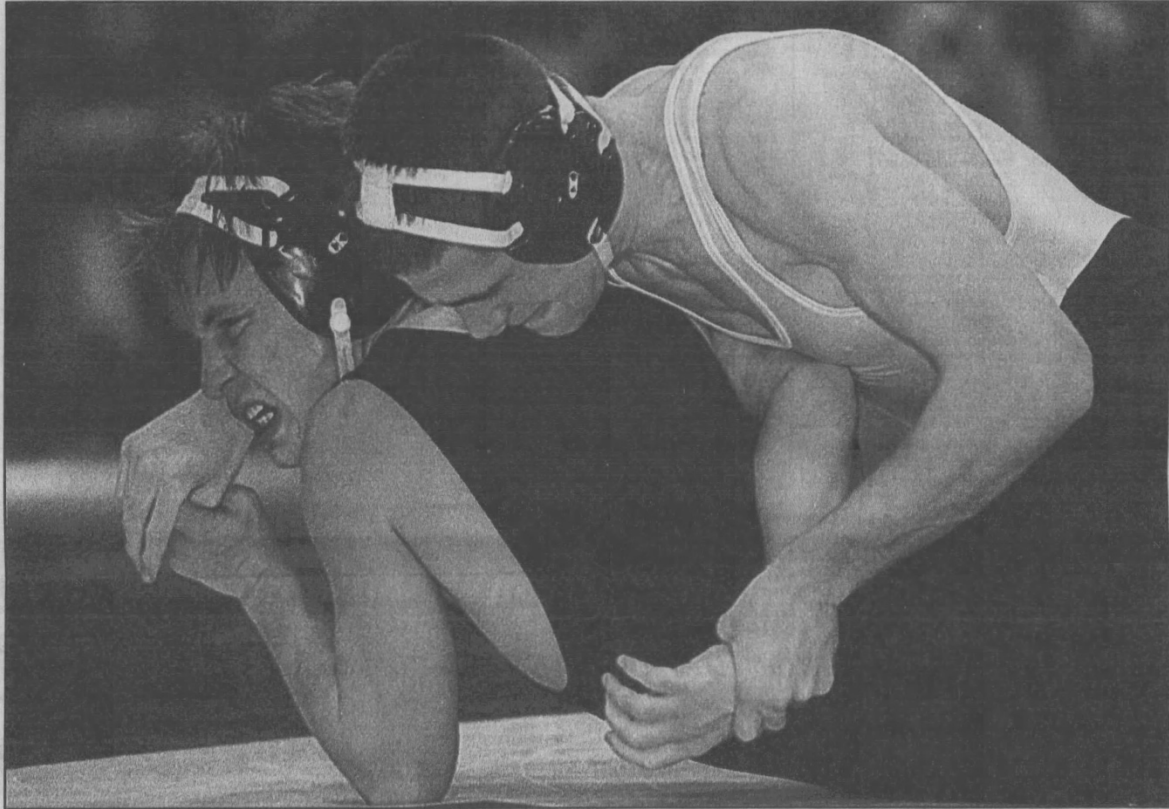
103 — Zac Potridge (R) dec. Jason Baer 13-11 in OT; 112 — Matt Reynolds (C) won by tech, fall over Tad Zweifel 18-3; 119 — Josh Lucas (C) p. Jake Weichman in 3:48; 125 — Derek Wensinger (R) won by tech fall over Sean Swigert 22-7; 130 — Brandon Beach (C) p. Tommie Wagner in 4:40; Cody Franks (R) p. Zach Martin in :48; 140 — Kyle Iliff (R) won by major dec. over Nate Muenze; 145 — Shawn McGrady (C) p. Mike Shanahan 8-5; 152 — Matt Gomoll (C) won by tech fall over Brian Holland 18-3; 160 — Josh Martin (R) won by forfeit; 171 — Tobie Forshtay p. Casey Donley in 1:48; 189 — John Forshtay (R) p. Jerin Donley in 1:59; 215 — Ryan Cooley p. Jacob Coleman in 3:42; 275 — Brian Hill (R) won by forfeit.

Junior varsity

103 — Ted Zweifel (R) dec. Pierce Viray 15-12; 112 — Ricky Ohler (C) p. Jim Rupp in 1:54; 119 — Pat Mullen p. Nate Frasure in 2:44; 140 — Cody Amor (R) p. Jameson Powlen in 1:16; 189 — Luke Cole p. Nick Shiple in 5:58.

Wrestling

Panthers top Little Giants



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

KYLE ILIFF works on Whitmer's Dave Marunowski during the Panthers' 44-24 dual meet win Friday night. Iliff won the match 19-6.

Whitmer uses run in middle weights to down Ross

By SCOTT BLACK
News-Messenger correspondent
Toledo Whitmer shuffled its lineup and used the power of the pin to take a 44-24 Great Lakes League wrestling win over Fremont Ross at the Purple Pit Friday night.

Whitmer recorded five pins and a technical fall to rack up 35 of its 44 points to spoil Ross's parents night.

"I was pretty disappointed," said Ross coach Grover Dowell. "We were just a completely different team than what we had Wednesday."

The Little Giants were coming off a victory over Oregon Clay on Wednesday.

"Some of our kids went out and wrestled like they didn't want to lose," added Dowell. "Other kids weren't driving, weren't pushing. It was like they thought Whit-

mer was going to roll over for them.

"Whitmer is a tough team, and they took it to us tonight."

Things started out well for Ross, as Zac Potridge scored a 20-9 major decision over Brian Marinelli at 103 to give Ross a brief 4-0 lead. It would be Ross's only lead of the night.

"It was really a tough match," said Potridge. "I was having success with singles, doubles and duck unders. All of my take downs were working."

"I really should have pinned him, but I got my head too far over and he rolled me."

Whitmer took a 6-4 lead at 112 when Justin Buckles pinned Stuart McAllister at 1:41. A pin at 1:19 pushed the Whitmer lead to 12-4.

"Ever since our Bedford

Friday	
Whitmer	44
Ross	24
Today	
Ross at Rossford, 10 a.m.	

match about two weeks ago the kids have just kept coming on more and more," said Whitmer coach Rob Warren. "Us and Fremont are a lot alike, we both have a lot of young kids in the lineup, and tonight our kids were hot."

Ross closed the gap to 12-8 with Derek Wensinger (18-7) scoring a 14-4 major decision over Eric Herman at 1:25.

"I was just trying to wrestle my match," said Wensinger. "I was trying to stay away from my normal take downs. I need to work on my whole arsenal to get ready for the state tourna-

ment coming up.

"I was trying to work on double legs, tilts and wrestling on the mat. My tilts really need a lot of work. I should have pinned him."

Victories at 130 and 135 increased the Whitmer lead to 21-8 before Kyle Iliff of Ross made it 21-12 with a major decision over Dave Marinowski 19-6.

"I try to wrestle six minutes hard and to finish my take downs," said Iliff.

Whitmer ran off a string of victories at 145, 152, 160 and 171 to take an insurmountable 41-12 lead.

Ross's John Forshtay pinned Justin Dusseau at 1:59 in just 59 seconds to make it 41-18.

"I was upset with what was happening out there all night," said Forshtay who raised his record to 10-3. "I

just went out there with a kick-butt attitude. I hit a few take downs that I practiced all week with my brother. I caught him off guard and put him in a cradle and pinned him."

Ryan Cooley of Ross lost a hard-fought 8-6 match at 215 in overtime when Nic Dulik was able to score a take down. Brian Hill closed the Ross scoring with a forfeit win at 275.

Warren was very happy with his team's effort.

"I was surprised with the whole team effort," said Warren. "I think the whole team is coming around, even the kids that got beat got beat by tough opponents. It was just a total team effort."

Ross wrestles in the Rossford round robin tournament tomorrow.

Wrestling

High School

Whitmer 44, Ross 24

103— Zac Potridge (F) dec. Brian Marinelli 20-9; 112— Justin Buckles (T) pin Stuart McAllister 1:41; 119— Nick Iberra (T) pin Jake Weichman 1:15; 125— Derek Wensinger (F) dec. Eric Herman 14-4; 130— Mike Spink (T) pin Nate Fasure 1:48; 135— Shane Baumgartner (T) dec. Cody Franks 12-11; 140— Kyle Iliiff (F) dec. Dave Marunowski 19-6; 145— Jeff Root (T) dec. Mike Shanahan 4-3; 152— Dave McDowell (T) pin Brian Holland 5:37; 160— Paul Goosen (T) pin Josh Martin 1:56; 171— Brent Maldonado (T) tech. fall Tobie Forshtay 25-8 5:22; 189— John Forshtay (F) pin Justin Dussean :59; 215— Nick Dulik (T) dec. Ryan Cooley 8-6 OT; HW— Brian Hill (F) won by forfeit.

Wrestling

High School

Rossford Invitational

Team standings

1— Elmwood 235, 2— Milan 214, 3— Hilliard 212, 4— Ross 172, 5— St. Mary's 160, 6— Rossford 130.5, 7— New London 124, 8— Toledo Bowsher 100, 9— Toledo Rogers 78.5, 10— Norwalk 75.5

Ross placers

2— Derek Wensinger (125), 2— Cody Franks (135), 3— Tobie Forshtay (171), 1— John Forshtay (189), 3— Ryan Cooley (215), 3— Brian Hill (Hvy)

Most pins: Derek Wensinger, 4.

Rossford Inv.

ROSSFORD — Fremont Ross got a first-place finish from John Forshtay to finish fourth at the Rossford Invitational.

Elmwood won the event with 235 points, followed by Edison (214), Hilliard (212) and Ross (172).

"I was really pleased with the overall effort," said Ross coach Grover Dowell. "There were some tough teams and we only had three kids seeded, but six ended up placing in the top four."



FORSHTAY

Forshtay won the 189-pound division, and Derek Wensinger (125) and Cody Franks (135) came in second. Wensinger led the Little Giants in pins with four.

Coming in third for Ross were Tobie Forshtay (171), Ryan Cooley (215) and Brian Hill (Heavyweight).

"The young kids wrestled really well, with the older ones wrestling really hard also," Dowell said. "John Forshtay had an exceptional effort at 189, he did an outstanding job. I was real happy."

Ross competes in the Great Lakes League tournament this weekend.