

2002 Great Lakes League...

Ross boys track chases history

Whitmer stands between Giants and first Great Lakes League title

By TIMOTHY R. WOLFRUM
Sports editor

During a team meeting Thursday, Fremont Ross boys track-and-field coach Cathy Esposito played up the Little Giants' position as underdogs heading into today's finals of the Great Lakes League meet.

It wasn't a hard sell to athletes whose school owns exactly zero GLL championships in boys track.

"It's us against the world," senior sprinter Tyrus Hamilton said as his teammates worked out on the track. "Nobody cares for Fremont Ross."

Before practice, Esposito distributed a sheet that fea-

tured a News-Messenger quote from Hamilton: "I always love coming in as the underdog."

"We are the underdogs now, and the underdog always prevails in meets like this," Esposito typed on the bottom of the sheet.

The Little Giants enter today's finals in second place, trailing host Whitmer 44-32 after finals of the shot put, long jump, 3,200-meter relay and pole vault held Wednesday. Today's field events begin at 4:30 p.m. The track finals start at 6 p.m. at Whitmer.

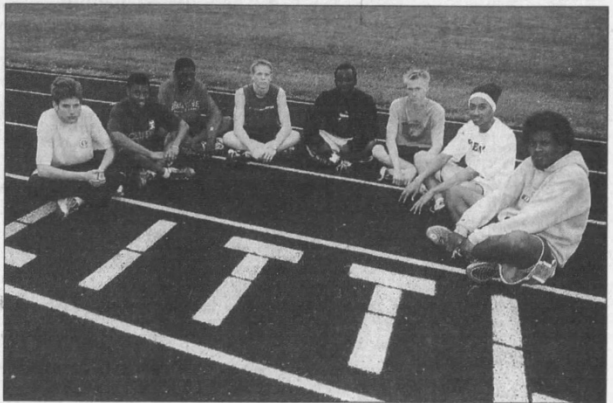
Ross is hardly despairing despite its current position. The Little Giants still have

their best events — the open sprints, 400 relay and discus — ahead of them.

"We have tons of potential to score points," Esposito said. "Even though we're the underdogs, we have a lot of great athletes who haven't even competed yet."

"Whitmer, I'm of the feeling they're going to walk in too comfortable, sitting back knowing they're 12 points ahead."

Esposito, a second-year head coach and a former assistant and Little Giants runner, said she wasn't aware of Ross's boys title drought until she received league meet



News-Messenger/Ben French

MEMBERS OF THE Fremont Ross boys track-and-field team get together during practice Thursday at the high school track. The Little Giants, from left to right, are Bo Hudson, Eric Edwards, Elon Simms, Myles Porter, Tyrus Hamilton, Adam Wilhelm, Torrey Lewis and Bo Martin.

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Giants aim for GLL title

Continued From B1

information from Whitmer about two months ago.

She waited until last week to tell the team.

"I didn't believe her at first," said senior Bo Hudson, who recorded Ross's first league title by winning the long jump on Wednesday.

"I was shocked," junior sprinter Eric Edwards said. "To know we could be the first ones to win the GLL is a big surprise."

But, thanks to a so-so day on Wednesday, the Little Giants have some work to do today.

They have high hopes for Hamilton, who is peaking after victories in the 100 and 200 dashes last week at the Fremont Invitational. Freshman Adam Wilhelm set an invitational record in his first attempt at the 400 dash and will battle for an individual championship.

Hamilton is also the anchor to an ever-changing 400 relay team that currently also includes Edwards, Wilhelm and Torrey Lewis. That team also won a Fremont Invitational crown and is hopeful of winning a league title.

"I have to win," Hamilton said. "And we need some help from (third-place) Sandusky. They need to take some of Whitmer's spots for us."

Ross discus thrower Chris Kayser

is also a good bet for a high place, and Hudson will vie for a high jump title.

"We've got to work hard," Edwards said. "We've got to focus hard on what we're doing and place as high as we can."

The Ross athletes were hard-pressed to identify a weakness in the Whitmer team. The Little Giants must beat the Panthers head to head, they said. Ross won 84-65 over Whitmer during a tri-meet at home on April 16, and the Panthers finished higher by 12 points in the Bill Krause Invitational on April 29 in Tiffin.

"They're just as tough as us in every aspect," Hamilton said. "We just have to be flawless, no mistakes. We have to be the smarter team."

Although they're similar, the two teams waste little time consorting off the track.

The competitiveness was stoked in the regional meet last season when a Whitmer official insisted on the disqualification of Ross long jumper Allen Lutes when the Ross bus arrived minutes late. Lutes has graduated, but the ill will remains.

"Everything's the same. It's nuts," Esposito said. "They run the same, they throw the same, they jump the same."

"It's so much more than a rivalry. In a rivalry you respect the other team. With Whitmer, uh, it's a different feeling."

Little Giants settle for 2nd; Wilhelm wins

Whitmer boys, Findlay girls earn titles at GLL track meet

By TIMOTHY R. WOLFRUM
Sports editor

TOLEDO — Just as Fremont Ross sprinter Adam Wilhelm set up his blocks for the 400-meter dash Friday at the Great Lakes League meet, Whitmer's public-address announcer read the up-to-date boys team standings.

Whitmer boasted a comfortable 98.5-61.5 margin over second-place Ross.

The Little Giants' condition was worse than critical. It bordered on hopeless.

That didn't matter to Wilhelm. Though the war may have been lost, the freshman still had his personal battle to wage.

Wilhelm started slowly but sling-shotted out of the final turn to come from behind and win the 400 Friday, turning in Ross's lone victory on an otherwise disappointing final day at the league meet at Whitmer Memorial Stadium.

"I heard it, but I wanted to go out and run hard and get us up in the points," Wilhelm said of the scoring announcement. "It's cool to win because I can try and come back and four-peat."

The Panthers boys went on to cruise to a GLL championship, their fourth in five years, with 187.5 points behind boys Athlete of the Year Chris Watkins. Watkins won the 100 and 200 dashes and ran on two winning relays for Whitmer.

Ross settled for second place at 103.5 points. Little Giants coach Cathy Esposito and Whitmer's Greg Ku-



WILHELM ESPOSITO

bicki shared Coach of the Year honors.

Esposito said she wasn't disappointed by the loss to Whitmer, even though the Little Giants had high hopes for earning the first GLL title in boys history.

"Not when you look at that score," she said. "Any time you score more than 100 points and finish second, you can't be disappointed. They have a nice team. They're incredibly strong. They took a lot of firsts, and we took seconds. We couldn't finish the races."

Esposito agreed that Wilhelm's run — he caught and passed Whitmer's Jordan Simmons on the final turn and easily won a sprint to the finish — was the high point for the Little Giants.

Wilhelm's time of 50.74 seconds was his best of the season. He joined Bo Hudson, who won the long jump on Wednesday, as Ross's boys league champions.

"That was impressive," Esposito said of Wilhelm's race. "It's also great to see someone young and inexperienced run hard and become a league champion. He's become a 400 runner over the past two weeks."

See ROSS, B2

Ross boys take second at GLL

Continued From B1

Wilhelm started the season running the 100 and 200 dashes but asked to try the 400 before last week's Fremont Invitational. He set a meet record in his first 400 race.

"My 100 times were bad because of my slow starts," Wilhelm said. "And I was getting frustrated. I thought it might be a good idea to try the 400."

The Little Giants got three second-place finishes Friday. Chris Kayser threw the discus 140 feet, 10 inches, for second in his event, and Jeremy Framstad came in second in the 1,600 run in 4:34.90. The Ross 400 relay team of Eric Edwards, Wilhelm, Bo Hudson and Tyrus Hamilton placed second in 44.8 seconds.

The GLL girls meet was much closer with Findlay pulling away for the title with 127 points. Whitmer was second with 114 points, Sandusky third with 98 points and Oregon Clay fourth with 96 points. Ross finished fifth with 69 points.

Clay sophomore Kate Achter, who won four individual events, and Sandusky sprinter Tamala Perryman shared Athlete of the Year honors. Harry Will of Whitmer and Mark Gleason of Findlay were named Co-Coaches of the Year.

Stacy Hall turned in Ross's top girls performance, placing second in the 3,200 run. Her time was 11:57.99.

Rachel Ruiz and Adrienne Robertson each placed third as did all three of the Little Giants' relay teams. Ruiz ran a personal-best time of 49.5 seconds in the 300 hurdles, and Robertson came up with a long jump of 15-6.5.

"I thought the girls had a nice meet," Esposito said. "Their times were good. They have a long way to go to be a No. 1 team. But the potential is there. We've got two seniors and about 40 freshmen."

Ross will compete at the Division I district meet on Wednesday and Friday at Fostoria.

Gibsonburg hitting: Aaron Kaseman 1-3, AJ Sleet 1-3.
Records: Lakota 1-14 (4-10 SLL).

Perkins 5, Margaretta 2
Margaretta 022 010 0 — 5 9 1
WP — Shanon Colvin LP — Dan McGory (4-2).
Margaretta pitching: McGory 4 inn., 3 hits, 2 ER, 1 walk, 4 strikeouts.
Records: Margaretta 13-7 (9-4 SBC).

Softball

High School

Gibsonburg 16, Lakota 0
Gibsonburg 022 1000 2 — 16 10 0
Lakota 000 000 0 — 0 0 2
WP — Jamie Wonderly LP — Bursiek
Gibsonburg pitching: Wonderly 0 walks, 14 strikeouts.
2B — Kelly Krotzer 2 (G), Kresley Lotycz (G).
LP — Lotycz (G).
Gibsonburg hitters: Krotzer 5-5; Lotycz 3-5.

Otsego 5, Woodmore 0
Otsego 300 20 — 5 7 0
Woodmore 001 00 — 1 1 1
WP — Lings LP — Tarah Jacobs (3-13).
Woodmore pitching: 4 inn., 7 hits, 1 walk.
Woodmore hitting: Erin Stoffan 1-2.
Record: Woodmore 3-17 (1-10 SLL).

Otsego 5, Woodmore 0
Otsego 000 00 — 0 1 3
Otsego 202 02 — 6 8 0
WP — Smith LP — Tarah Jacobs (3-14).
Woodmore hitting: Erin Deel 1-2.
Record: Woodmore 3-16 (1-11 SLL).

Hockey

NHL

Daily Playoff Glance

CONFERENCE FINALS

Today's Game

Colorado at Detroit, 3 p.m.

Sunday's Game

Toronto at Carolina, 4 p.m.

Monday's Game

Colorado at Detroit, 7 p.m.

Tuesday's Game

Carolina at Toronto, 7 p.m.

Wednesday's Game

Detroit at Colorado, TBD

Thursday's Game

Carolina at Toronto, 7 p.m.

Friday, May 25

Detroit at Colorado, 3 p.m.

Saturday, May 26

Toronto at Carolina, 7 p.m., if necessary

Sunday, May 27

Colorado at Detroit, 7 p.m., if necessary

Tuesday, May 28

Carolina at Toronto, 7 p.m., if necessary

Wednesday, May 29

Detroit at Colorado, TBD, if necessary

Thursday, May 30

Toronto at Carolina, 7 p.m., if necessary

Friday, May 31

Colorado at Detroit, 7 p.m., if necessary

Basketball

NBA

Daily Playoff Glance

CONFERENCE FINALS

Today's Game

L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday's Game

Boston at New Jersey, 5:30 p.m.

Monday's Game

L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday's Game

Boston at New Jersey, 8:30 p.m.

Friday's Game

Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, 9 p.m.

Saturday, May 25

New Jersey at Boston, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 26

Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, 8:30 p.m.

Track & Field

High School Boys

GLL Meet

Team Scores

Whitmer 187.5

Ross 103.5

Sandusky 72

Fostoria 59

Clay 46

Findlay 24

Results

Long Jump: 1. Bo Hudson (R) 22-25; 2. Edwin Hood (W) 21-8.25; 3. Troy Sedlar (W) 21-5; 4. Steve Wooten (S) 20-5.5; 5. Bo Martin (R) 20-3.5; 6. Robert Lequillard (C) 19-3.5.

Discus: 1. Ray Zelenak (Fo) 145-0; 2. Chris Kayser (R) 140-10; 3. Curtis Echelberry (Fo) 138-10; 4. Dennis Grobe (S) 135-11; 5. Jeremy Joseph (R) 135-4; 6. Matt Calhoun (W) 131-1.

Shot Put: 1. Calhoun (W) 50-11; 2. Zelenak (Fo) 49-1; 3. Joe Kaiser (R) 48-8; 4. Bobby Cranford (R) 48-6; 5. Pedro Negrier (W) 46-10; 6. Lauren (C) 44-5.

High Jump: 1. Nate Matthews (S) 6-4; 2. Darnell Randolph (W) 6-4; 3. Matt Warner (C) 6-2; 4. Bill Myers (Fo) 6-0; 5. Hudson (R) 6-0; 6. Danarius (S) 5-8.

Pole Vault: 1. Lee Vito (Fo) 14-2; 2. Dan Pease (W) 13-3; 3. Robert Stein (S) 12-4; 4. Andrew Stromen (Fo) 12-6; 5. Richy Testers (R) 12-6; 6. J.T. White (W) 12-6.

4x800 relay: 1. Whitmer 8:26.64; 2. Ross 8:31.28; 3. Sandusky 8:51.0; 4. Clay 9:19.06; 5. Fostoria 9:20.97.

110 hurdles: 1. Hood (W) 14.7; 2. Matthews (S) 15.2; 3. Warner (S) 15.2; 4. Chris Wulf (W) 15.3; 5. Myers (Fo) 16.1; 6. Martin Burke (Fo) 16.7.

100 dash: 1. Chris Watkins (W) 11:0.2; 2. Mike Pavely (C) 11:2; 3. Tyrus Hamilton (R) 11:3; 4. Calvin Grace (W) 11:3; 5. Jermaine Knight (S) 11:6; 6. Brady Waters (Fo) 11:6.

1600 run: 1. David Espinoza (W) 4:30.10; 2. Jeremy Framstad (R) 4:34.90; 3. Greg Kierczak (W) 4:40.00; 4. Jay Chms (W) 4:40.87; 5. Matt Moses (S) 4:56.16; 6. Albert (S) 4:56.66.

4x100 relay: 1. Whitmer 48.8; 2. Ross 44.4; 3. Findlay 44.7; 4. Sandusky 44.7; 5. Clay 45.9; 6. Fostoria 46.1.

400 dash: 1. Adam Wilhelm (R) 50.74; 2. Jordan Simmons (W) 51.21; 3. Matt Pavely (C) 51.81; 4. Adam Bursdecker (W) 52.11; 5. Martin (R) 52.91; 6. Pearson (S) 52.28.

300 hurdles: 1. Wulf (W) 39.55; 2. Matthews (S) 40.65; 3. Sylvester McSwain (S) 41.82; 4. Hood (W) 42.32; 5. Jeremy Zunk (C) 43.19; 6. Myers (Fo) 43.59.

800 run: 1. Ryan Sprout (F) 2:00.19; 2. Greg Kierczak (W) 2:03.16; 3. Matt Salas (R) 2:03.21; 4. Framstad (R) 2:05.26; 5. Grant Rowland (C) 2:05.80; 6. Jon Christ (W) 2:06.20.

300 dash: 1. Watkins (W) 22.31; 2. Pavely (C) 22.96; 3. Grace (W) 23.24; 4. Knight (S) 23.26; 5. Adam Wilhelm (R) 23.31; 6. Brandon Hedges (C) 23.34.

3000 run: 1. Espinoza (W) 10:20.47; 2. Brian Presnall (W) 10:40.23; 3. Nathan Bowen (R) 10:53.97; 4. Framstad (R) 11:02.15; 5. Dan Jordan (F) 11:02.68; 6. Matt Moses (S) 1:09.75.

4x400 relay: 1. Whitmer 3:27.12; 2. Findlay 3:27.45; 3. Fostoria 3:30.74; 4. Sandusky 3:32.19; 5. Clay 3:40.39.

Athlete of the Year: Chris Watkins

Coach of the Year: Cathy Esposito-Greg Kubicki.

High School Girls

GLL Meet

Team Scores

Findlay 127

Whitmer 114

Sandusky 98

Clay 96

Ross 69

Fostoria 36

Results

High Jump: 1. Melissa Hauser (S) 5-2; 2. Jacqueline Myers (F) 5-2; Ariel Kuch (F) 5-4; 4. Anna Randsig (W) 5-5; 5. Kate Ions (R) 4-10; 6. Haley Wasserman (C) 4-8.

Shot Put: 1. Crystal Lane (S) 37-1.2; 2. Lisa Neenan (F) 33-11; 3. Megan Nallant (W) 33-0; 4. Kandra Graham (W) 32-10; 5. Rana Brown (S) 32-2; 6. Shannon Stoner (Fo) 31-4.

Discus: 1. Vallant (W) 128-4; 2. Brown (S) 131; 3. Shelia Taylor (S) 101-2; 4. Rachel Rossler (C) 99-2; 5. Courtney Wright (F) 98-3; 6. Neenan (F) 94-1.

Long Jump: 1. Kuch (F) 17-1.5; 2. Nikki Hofbauer (C) 15-11.3; 3. Adrienne Robertson (R) 13-11; 4. Emily Grayson (R) 15-5; 5. Monika House (W) 15-7.5; 6. Octavia Jones (S) 15-1.

Pole Vault: 1. Julie Rooney (F) 12-6; 2. Hofbauer (C) 7-0; 3. Laura Hayes (S) 7-0; 4. Nicole Sangrany (R) 7-0; 5. Andrea Freud (W) 6-6; 6. Kari Egan (W) 6-4.

4x800 relay: 1. Whitmer 9:58.38; 2. Clay 10:05.64; 3. Findlay 9:52.08; 4. Emily Grayson 10:28.36; 5. Ross 10:35.68; 6. Sandusky 11:14.55.

100 hurdles: 1. Archer (C) 15.28; 2. Julie Hunter (W) 15.78; 3. Jessica Drake (Fo) 17.28; 4. Rooney (F) 17.29; 5. Wasserman (C) 17.52; 6. Sangrany (R) 17.75.

100 dash: 1. Achter (C) 12.5; 2. Tamala Perryman (S) 12.6; 3. Latoya Green (W) 13.0; 4. Robertson (R) 13.2; 5. Brittany Wolter (S) 13.3; 6. Delane Johnson (R) 13.4.

4x200 relay: 1. Sandusky 1:47.73; 2. Whitmer 1:49.03; 3. Ross 1:49.33; 4. Findlay 1:51.10; 5. Fostoria 1:54.60; 6. Clay 1:51.68.

1600 run: 1. Fallon Jaeger (W) 5:18.07; 2. Rachel Moore (C) 5:19.60; 3. Jin Speddenner (F) 5:30.06; 4. Stacy Hall (R) 5:31.82; 5. Betty Marlow (W) 5:38.12; 6. Megan Foggy (S) 5:41.86.

4x100 relay: 1. Sandusky 50.2; 2. Whitmer 50.4; 3. Ross 51.4; 4. Fostoria 55.6; 5. Clay 59.2; 6. Findlay 59.4.

400 dash: 1. Amanda Wittersmeyer (F) 1:00.23; 2. Gladys Wright (F) 1:02.00; 3. Shanon Russell (S) 1:03.13; 4. Grayson (R) 1:04.93; 5. Linda Ubokudom (W) 1:05.30; 6. Kilee Baker (R) 1:05.68.

300 hurdles: 1. Achter (C) 48.48; 2. Hunter (W) 48.53; 3. Rachel Ruff (R) 49.4; 4. Shay Mitchell (F) 49.5; 5. Julie Reid (F) 51.9; 6. Tashia White (W) 52.

800 run: 1. Jaeger (W) 2:25.32; 2. Moore (C) 2:27.36; 3. Kate Turner (F) 2:29.33; 4. Rose Marlow (W) 2:32.80; 5. Angelica Hernandez (Fo) 2:32.80; 6. Kristin Kempa (C) 2:32.80.

200 dash: 1. Tamala Perryman (S) 26.22; 2. Wittersmeyer (F) 27.15; 3. Wright (F) 27.31; 4. Green (W) 27.36; 5. Johnson (R) 27.67; 6. Tia Simms (R) 27.82.

3200 run: 1. Speddenner (F) 11:41.44; 2. Hall (R) 11:57.99; 3. Marlow (W) 12:08.01; 4. Libby Huffman (R) 12:23.45; 5. Lindsey Krompach (C) 12:27.02; 6. Wendy Farrell (R) 12:27.75.

4x400 relay: 1. Findlay 4:26.67; 2. Sandusky 4:28.55; 3. Ross 4:28.48; 4. Clay 4:27.41; 5. Whitmer 4:28.45.

Athlete of the Year: Kate Achter

Coach of the Year: Harry Will, Mark Gleason.

Tennis

High School

Division I Sectional

Ross Results

1. Drew Wetzel (R) Bye

2. Pete Grangard (R) def. Drew Wetzel 6-1, 6-1.

1. Brian Gibbs (R) def. Steve Webber (Sand) 2-6, 6-0, 6-1.

2. Aaron Oaken (Ash.) def. Brian Gibbs (R) 6-3, 6-1.

1. David Albrechts (R) Bye.

2. David Albrechts (R) def. Travis Groszok (Mar. Mad.) 7-6, 6-3.

3. Steve Webster (Lex.) def. David Albrechts (R) 6-3, 6-1.

1. Neil Mahindra-Nash Stobodnick (Ash.) def. Justin Orfino-Chris Orfino 6-2, 6-4.

1. Marc Brough-Paul Eckert (R) Bye.

2. Marc Brough-Paul Eckert (R) def. Brian Anthony-Arly Ziger (TBC) 6-1, 6-1.

3. Josh Adams-Drew Boleksy (Lex.) def. Marc Brough-Paul Eckert (R) 6-4, 6-1.

Division II

at Port Clinton

Results for area players

Singles

1. Cameron Luth (Oak Harbor) def. Cory Bartlett (Versailles) 6-2, 6-0.

2. Chris Higgins (Norwalk) def. Cory Whitaker (Clyde) 6-2, 6-2.

3. J.T. Mauric (St. Joe) def. Nick Holmer (St. Paul) 6-2, 6-3.

4. Nicholas Poggiali (Edison) def. Shaun Smith (Bellevue) 7-6 (7-4), 7-5.

Tied Round

1. Jeremy Miller (St. Mary) def. Lott 6-0, 6-0.

2. Andrew Caranza (Bellevue) def. Jim Ryan (St. Joe) 6-0, 6-1.

3. Justin Carmack (St. Joe) def. Adam Davis (Perkins) 7-5, 7-6 (7-4).

4. Nick McLean (Port Clinton) def. Higgins (Norwalk) 6-1, 6-0.

5. Phil Conley (Huron) def. Mauric (St. Paul) 6-0, 6-0.

6. Ryan Ruffatz (St. Mary) def. R.J. Stoner (Oak Harbor) 6-1, 6-0.

7. Dustin Sloan (Bellevue) def. Justice Foreman (Clyde) 5-7, 6-4, 6-0.

8. Ben Buch (Port Clinton) def. Kyle Boleksy (Norwalk) 6-3, 6-0.