

## Ritzman first in cross country meet for Little Giants

News-Messenger reports

Amy Ritzman of Fremont Ross won a girls cross country meet Tuesday at East Side Park.

The Little Giants, though, fell to Bowling Green 28-30.

The Ross boys split a double dual meet with Toledo St. John's and Bowling Green.

In other cross country action, Lakota's girls swept the top five places in victories over Gibsonburg and Northwood, while Gib-

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sonburg defeated Lakota and Northwood in a boys event; Tiffin Columbian won a five-team boys and girls meet which also included Clyde, Oak Harbor and Bellevue; and Genoa had an easy time with the Eastwood and Elmhurst boys teams.

Ritzman finished first in 22:22. Kaylene Bartson was third and

Bridget Boda fourth for Ross.

Ross scored 26 points to defeat the BG boys and amassed 31 but fell short against St. John's.

Tim Nesbitt was second behind BG's Matt Hover in the boys race with an 18:01 and Shane Hill finished fourth for the Little Giants.

### Gibsonburg tri-meet

At Gibsonburg, Lakota's girls swept the top five places. Sonya Conrad was first in 24:09.

second through fourth. Columbian meet

At Tiffin, Clyde finished second and Oak Harbor fourth in the girls event while the Rockets and Fliers were fourth and fifth, respectively in the boys race.

Amy Zilch led the Clyde girls with a 10th place finish and Michelle Gladieux was 11th for Oak Harbor.

### Genoa tri-meet

The Comets took the first seven places in victories both

## Ritzman, Nesbitt finish strong against Perkins

News-Messenger reports

Amy Ritzman of Fremont Ross continued her fine early-season running Tuesday with a first place finish in a girls cross country meet against Sandusky Perkins at Osborn Park in Sandusky.

Despite Ritzman's 21:25, which was 25 seconds better than her nearest competitor, the Little Giants lost to the Pirates 21-37.

Bridget Boda finished sixth for Ross, 0-2.

In the boys race, which Perkins won 17-56, Tim Nesbitt finished fourth for Ross in 17:10.

In other action, Clyde won a boys and girls tri-meet at Oak Harbor, Gibsonburg's boys and girls defeated Eastwood, Port

### Cross Country

Clinton defeated Oregon Clay twice and Lakota's girls defeated Woodmore.

In a boys triangular, Genoa defeated Lakota and Woodmore and the Raiders topped the Wildcats.

### Oak Harbor tri-meet

At Oak Harbor High School, Clyde won the boys meet with 18 points to 25 for Huron and 27 for Oak Harbor, while Clyde defeated the Rocket girls 23-32.

Gwen Yates, Lisa Renfro and Rochelle Martin finished second through fourth behind Huron's Peggy Palmer.

### Gibsonburg-Eastwood

At Eastwood High School, Gib-

sonburg won the boys and girls meets 16-47 and 27-30, respectively.

Gibsonburg swept the top four places led by Don Miller's 17:53.

Stacy Hart of Gibsonburg finished second behind Eastwood's Jenny Preston.

### Port Clinton-Clay

At East Harbor State Park, Scott Thomas paced a 1-2-3 finish for Port Clinton's boys and Amy Gaydos led a 3-4-5 finish for the Redskin girls.

PC won the boys' meet 17-42 and took the girls meet 25-36.

### Lakota-Woodmore-Genoa

At White Star Park in Gibsonburg, Jenny Helmecki and Angie

Helmecki finished first and second, but Lakota picked up a 27-28 girls victory as the Raiders placed girls third through sixth.

In boys duals, Genoa swept the top three places led by Bill Werner's 17:34, while Matt Miesle was fourth for Woodmore and Dale Smith fifth for Lakota.

Genoa posted 19-58 and 17-44 victories over the Wildcats and Raiders, respectively. Lakota topped Woodmore 22-46.



# Ross boys, PC girls win meet in Fremont

News-Messenger reports

Port Clinton's Scott Thomas ran a 17:14 Thursday to win individual honors, but Fremont Ross walked away with the team title in a high school cross country meet at Wolf Creek Park.

In other cross country action, Gibsonburg defeated Eastwood and lost to Lake in both a boys and girls meet and Genoa's boys won dual meets over Maumee, Toledo Waite and Oregon Clay.

The Little Giants, with 47 points, got a second-place finish from Tim Nesbitt to edge runner-up Sandusky by a point.

Port Clinton finished third with 59 points and Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic was fourth with 73. St. Joe's Tim Arndt finished third.

Amy Ritzman took first and Bridgett Boda finished second for Ross in 21:40 and 22:51, respectively, but Angie Royster's 12th-place finish enabled Port Clinton to win as a team.

The Redskins and Little Giants

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## Cross Country

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each had 30 points. Royster, PC's sixth runner, finished three places better than that of Ross's Erin Appleby.

Sandusky was second with 66 points.

Jenny Ayres finished third for St. Joe, which did not compete with a full team.

### Lake tri-meet

At Lake High School, Gibsonburg's Tom Wasserman won the boys race in 18:02 as the Golden Bears topped Eastwood 17-46 and lost to Lake 25-31.

Lake defeated the Gibsonburg girls 25-31 and the Golden Bears edged Eastwood 26-31 as Stacy Hart took sixth place.

### Genoa at Maumee

The Comets won three duals behind Bill Werner's first-place time of 17:01 to improve to 10-0.

Chris Haeft, Chris Lau, Pat Jones and Bret Hilbert finished third through sixth for Genoa.

# Ritzman wins fifth race

News-Messenger reports

Amy Ritzman turned in her best time of the season Tuesday to lead Fremont Ross to a girls cross country victory over Fostoria at Wolf Creek Park.

Ritzman clicked off a 20:59 to win her fifth race of the season, and Bridget Boda and Kaylene Bartson finished second and third, respectively, as the Little Giants tallied 23 points to 32 for Fostoria.

In the boys race, Ross fell 21-36 despite a second-place finish by Tim Nesbitt.

In other action, Lakota ran past Elmwood, Woodmore's boys defeated Northwood and Eastwood while Woodmore's girls topped Eastwood, Clyde lost twice to Sandusky Perkins, Otsego's girls defeated Gibsonburg in a meet that also included Genoa, the Comets topped Gibsonburg and Otsego and the Golden Bears defeated the Knights in a boys race and Port Clinton's boys defeated Oak Harbor and Sandusky St. Mary's while the St. Mary's girls won twice.

## Lakota-Elmwood

At Elmwood, Lakota's boys

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swept the top three places led by Dale Smith and Julie Harrison won the girls race for the the Raiders.

## Eastwood tri-meet

At Eastwood, Jenny Helmecki and Angie Helmecki finished first and second for Woodmore. Matt Miesle finished second for the Woodmore boys.

## Clyde-Perkins

At Community Park, the Pirates took the top five places in the boys race and all Clyde could manage was a fourth place by Lisa Renfro in the girls race.

## Genoa tri-meet

At Veteran's Park, Genoa took four of the top five places including first by Bill Werner in the boys race, Gibsonburg's Don Miller was fourth.

In the girls race, Susan David was second for Genoa and Stacy Hart sixth for Gibsonburg.

## St. Mary's tri-meet

At Osborn Park, Port Clinton's Scott Thomas won the boys race and St. Mary's swept the top five in the girls race.

# Arndt leads St. Joe to fifth-place finish

News-Messenger reports

St. Joseph Central Catholic's Tim Arndt overcame a driving rain and finished third Saturday at the 21-team Perrysburg Invitational.

The Crimson Streaks finished fifth as a team, with 169 points. East Canton won with 34.

Also on Saturday, Ross's boys team finished fourth out of nine Division I teams at the Galion Invitational. Ross' girls team finished third out of nine teams in Division I.

Also, Clyde's girls team finished fifth at the Perrysburg meet in Class AA. Lakota won the meet with 87 points, while Margaretta was eighth with 207 points.

## **Perrysburg Invitational**

Arndt ran the course, which was shortened to three miles, in 17 minutes and 30 seconds. Scott Reineck was 25th in 18:44 and Jason Root 28th in 18:51.

Junior high runner Brad Logsdon won a plaque by finishing in 13th place in the junior high race.

For the Clyde girls, Lisa Renfro was seventh in 21:50 and Gwen Yates took 26th in 23:42.

## **Galion Invitational**

Tim Nesbitt took the top finish for Ross, placing fifth in 16:48. Shane Hill was 19th in 17:48, followed by Phil Missig (21st, 17:58) and Steve Jay (25th, 18:25).

For the Ross girls, Amy Ritzman was second in 20:12, while Bridget Boda was fifth in 20:53, Kaylene Bartson was ninth in 21:35, Leah Lomax was 13th in 22:14 and Erin Appleby was 29th.

In the junior high race, the Little Giants' Jeff Pasch was 20th in 13:55. Heather Mears finished fifth in the girls race with a time of 15:07.

## **Cross Country**



# Nesbitt runs well at Maumee

News-Messenger reports

Tim Nesbitt set a school record as the Fremont Ross boys cross country team finished fourth Saturday at the Maumee Invitational.

Nesbitt finished with a time of 16 minutes and 28 second, good for individual honors in the big school division.

The Little Giants finished fourth in the 11-team event with 73 points behind Toledo Rogers with 46, Toledo Start with 70 and Toledo Waite with 71.

Amy Ritzman finished third and Kaylene Bartson seventh for the the Ross girls, who finished third behind Toledo Whitmer and Sylvania Northview in the eight-team competition.

Phil Missig backed up Nesbitt with a ninth-place finish for the Ross boys.

In other cross country action, Woodmore's girls finished second at the Lake Invitational while the Wildcat boys finished eighth and Oak Harbor's boys and girls teams finished fourth and fifth, respectively, in the same meet.

Margaretta's boys won the Lake meet and the Polar Bear girls finished seventh.

At Maumee, Bellevue's Shelly Cotterill won the girls race in 19:19 to lead the Lady Redmen to second place behind Perrysburg among smaller schools.

Lisa Renfro's 20:50 was good for seventh for the Fliers who also placed Gwen Yates 12th and Rochelle Martin 23rd.

Clyde finished fifth among 10 teams with 123 points behind Swanton and Anthony Wayne. Bellevue finished with 86 to Perrysburg's 48.

Clyde's boys were 10th of 12 teams as Andy Madell was 25th in 17:32.

Swanton won the boys competition with 51 points followed by Perrysburg, Bellevue with 94, Toledo Christian and Northview rounding out the top five.

Port Clinton got another strong performance from Scott Thomas but the Redskins' boys and girls cross country teams finished sixth and 12th with 164 and 141 points, respectively.

Thomas ran a 16:14 for a second-place finish and Heather Britt was 12th for the Redskin girls.

# Arndt leads St. Joe past Gibsonburg

News-Messenger reports

Tim Arndt led Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic to a boys high school cross country victory over Gibsonburg Tuesday with a first-place time of 17:29.

Each team had five runners in the top 10 as the Crimson Streaks edged the Golden Bears 27-28 at East Side Park.

In other cross country action, Fremont Ross split a dual meet with Findlay, Clyde's girls and Port Clinton's boys were victorious in a tri-meet with Edison, Margaretta edged Oak Harbor twice and Woodmore's boys team topped Danbury and Bettsville in a tri-meet.

At East Side Park, Don Miller and Tom Wasserman of Gibsonburg finished second and third, in 18:00 and 18:05, while St. Joe's Jason Root and Scott Reineck rounded out the top five.

Gibsonburg's Stacy Hart, meanwhile, won a girls open race in 23:13.

## Ross-Findlay

At Findlay, Tim Nesbitt led Ross with a first-place time of 17:14.

Findlay placed six to Ross's

## Cross Country

four runners in the top 10, but the Little Giants also held down spots four through six for a final count of 27-29.

Phil Missig was fourth for Ross, Shane Hill fifth and Steve Jay sixth.

Amy Ritzman lost her first dual race of the season as the Ross girls lost to the Trojans 24-35.

Ritzman finished third in 21:28 and was followed by Kaylene Bartson in fourth and Leah Lomax in fifth. Findlay had seven runners in the top 10 led by Christina Taylor, first in 19:55.

## Edison tri-meet

At Edison High School, Scott Thomas' 17:09 topped the Edison course record by 40 seconds and led the Redskins.

Port Clinton had 29, Edison 46 and Clyde 47.

Andy Madell finished fourth for Clyde in 18:24.

In the girls race, Clyde had 37, Port Clinton 41 and Edison 48.

Clyde's Lisa Renfro was first in 21:27, a half-minute ahead of Port Clinton's Theresa Darr and

led the Fliers to the team win over the Redskins and Chargers.

## Margaretta-Oak Harbor

At Castalia, Jason Yates and Angie Lewis won races for Margaretta as the Polar Bears defeated Oak Harbor 23-35 in the boys meet and 27-28 in the girls running.

Yates ran a 17:40 to edge Oak Harbor's Steve Sager by one second, and Lewis clocked in at 21:06. Michelle Gladieux finished third for Oak Harbor's girls.

## Woodmore tri-meet

At White Star Park, Woodmore dominated by placing runners in places two through eight led by Matt Meisle's 17:38, which was five seconds behind Danbury's first-place finisher.

The Wildcats had 20 points, Danbury 43 and Bettsville 80.

Woodmore also took the top four spots in a girls race in which Bettsville and Danbury did not have enough girls for a team competition.

Angie Helmecki and Jenny Helmecki each ran 22:19 for the Wildcats followed by Traci Sandwisch and Michelle McLaughlin.

# Genoa boys Lakota girls win titles

News-Messenger reports

Genoa, the state's second-ranked boys cross country team, flexed its muscles Saturday at the 12-team Clay Eagle Invitational at Pearson Park.

The Comets, behind Bill Werner's third-place finish,

captured first

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place in the Class A-AA race with 50 points, six ahead of runner-up Napoleon. Lakota took fourth with 133 points and Oak Harbor was eighth with 234 points.

In the A-AA girls race, Lakota was the team champion with 60 points. Otsego was second, while Oak Harbor was 10th in the 11-team race.

In the AAA boys race, Fremont Ross was ninth out of 21 teams with 265 points. The Ross girls finished 13th out of 19 teams with 303 points.

In another meet Saturday, Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic junior Tim Arndt won a meet for the second straight week, taking the the Western Reserve Invitational. The Crimson Streaks finished third overall with 111 points, and the St. Joe girls took 10th. Eagle Invitational

For the Genoa boys, Werner clocked in at 16:18, Chris Haeft was eighth in 16:36 and Pat Jones was 13th in 17:01.

For Lakota, Dave Smith was 10th overall in 16:50.

The Raiders' Julie Harrison finished third in 20:31.

Michelle Gladieux had the top finish for Oak Harbor, placing ninth in 21:17.

In AAA, Ross's boys were led by Shane Hill's 28th-place (17:11) finish.

The Ross girls got a sixth-place finish from Amy Ritzman (20:13) and a 12th-place finish from Kaylene Bartson (20:36).

Perrysburg took first place in the girls race with 96 points.

### Western Reserve Invite

At Collins, 15 teams competed in the boys meet and 10 in the girls. Arndt, who won the Old Fort Invitational last week, won the meet with a time of 16:34.

Jason Root was 10th in 17:30 and Scott Reineck was 16th in 17:44.

Firelands won the boys meet with 72 points and Seneca East was second with 107.

For the St. Joe girls, Jenny Ayres was 44th in 24:28.

# Ross hosts Purple meet

News-Messenger reports

The Purple Invitational was born because there was nowhere else to go.

"Normally, every Saturday in the cross country season, you go to an invitational," Ross Athletic Director Tom Easterday said, "but we did not have one to go to this Saturday, so we decided to have an invitational meet of our own."

This first Purple Invitational meet has a twist.

"We decided to have a meet made up of teams whose main school color is purple," Easterday said about the decisions made while scheduling cross country meets last school year.

"We went through the high school directory and invited every school that had purple as its color."

In addition to the host Little Giants, Toledo Waite, Barberton, Vermilion, Maumee, LaGrange Keystone and Reynoldsburg accepted invitations.

"Hopefully, it will get bigger each year," Easterday said.

There will be boys and girls races, in open, junior high and varsity divisions, a total of six races.

The running at Wolf Creek Park —south of Fremont off State Route 53 — begins at 12:30 p.m., Saturday.

# Nesbitt paces Ross boys over Maumee in dual meet

News-Messenger reports

Tim Nesbitt's first-place finish led Fremont Ross to a boys cross country victory over Maumee Thursday.

Nesbitt crossed the finish line in 17:02 to win by 46 seconds.

In the girls race, Amy Ritzman finished first with a 20:23 although team scores were not tallied because Ross's fifth runner, Kaylene Bartson, had to drop out.

In other cross country action, Seneca East's boys and Sandusky St. Mary's girls won a quadrangular meet with Fremont St. Joseph Central Catho-

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lic, and Danbury, Gibsonburg's boys and girls won a five-meet with Old Fort, Elmwood, Arcadia and Hopewell-Loudon, Oak Harbor's boys and girls split a double dual with Lake and Oregon Clay as the Rockets defeated Clay and lost to Lake and Genoa's boys team whipped Perrysburg and Toledo Central Catholic in a double dual.

### St. Mary's quadrangular

Tim Arndt won the boys race in 16:27 and the St. Joe boys fin-

ished second behind Seneca East.

St. Mary's took three of the top five places in the girls race while St. Joe's girls finished third. Jenny Ayres was third for the Crimson Streaks.

### Old Fort meet

Gibsonburg won the boys meet behind a 1-2 finish by Don Miller and Tom Wasserman, who finished in 17:32 and 17:34, respectively. Howard Webb was third for Old Fort.

The Golden Bears won the girls meet despite a 1-2 finish by Old Fort's Becky Magers and Chris Havens, who ran 20:53 and

21:33, respectively. Gibsonburg's Addie Overmyer finished fifth in 22:53.

### Oak Harbor-Lake

Lake defeated Oak Harbor, but the Rockets had enough to down Clay 24-35. Tom Hallett took fifth for Oak Harbor's boys in 18:09, and Michelle Gladioux was fourth for the Rockets girls in 23:44.

### Genoa-Perrysburg-TCC

Bille Werner won the meet for the Comets in 17:40, followed by Chris Haft in second, Brett Hilbert in third and Chris Lau in fourth.

# Nesbitt captures Purple Invitational

Maumee, Reynoldsburg win team titles

By BOB MARKER  
Staff writer

Tim Nesbitt won the individual title but Reynoldsburg and Maumee took home team championships Saturday at the first Ross High School Purple Invitational cross country meet at Wolf Creek Park.

The meet was comprised of seven schools which have purple as its central color.

In addition to Ross, teams from LaGrange, Keystone, Maumee, Reynoldsburg, Vermilion, Toledo Waite and Barberton competed. All of those teams, with the exception of Barberton, competed in both boys and girls varsity races. Barberton runners competed only in the open races.

Nesbitt, a junior who came out for cross country this year after playing football his first two years of high school, ran the 3.1 miles in 16:58, 33 seconds ahead of K.C. Newnham of Maumee.

Nesbitt started out hard, sprinting the first quarter of a mile, building up a comfortable lead by the mile marker.

"I wanted to win it," Nesbitt said, "that's why I went out hard. I ran easily; it was not my best race because I have ran quicker this year."

Newnham paced Reynoldsburg's boys team victory. The Raiders had 41 points, comfortably ahead of Ross's 59. Third

was Waite with 62 while fourth was Maumee at 91. Keystone was fifth with 108 and Vermilion finished on the bottom at 157.

Phil Missig was the second Ross runner, finishing seventh in 17:45. Steve Jay was 18th in 18:33 with David Boda 22nd in the 38-man race.

Amy Ritzman of Ross placed second in the girls varsity race in 20:33, two seconds behind winner Katina Terry of Reynoldsburg but Maumee captured the team title with 64 points, two fewer than Reynoldsburg.

Elaine Bell in seventh and Sara Sanzenbacher in eight paced Maumee. Tina Geyer was 10 for the Panthers.

Waite was third with 73 and Ross had 79 for fourth. Keystone finished fifth with 84 and Vermilion was sixth with 115.

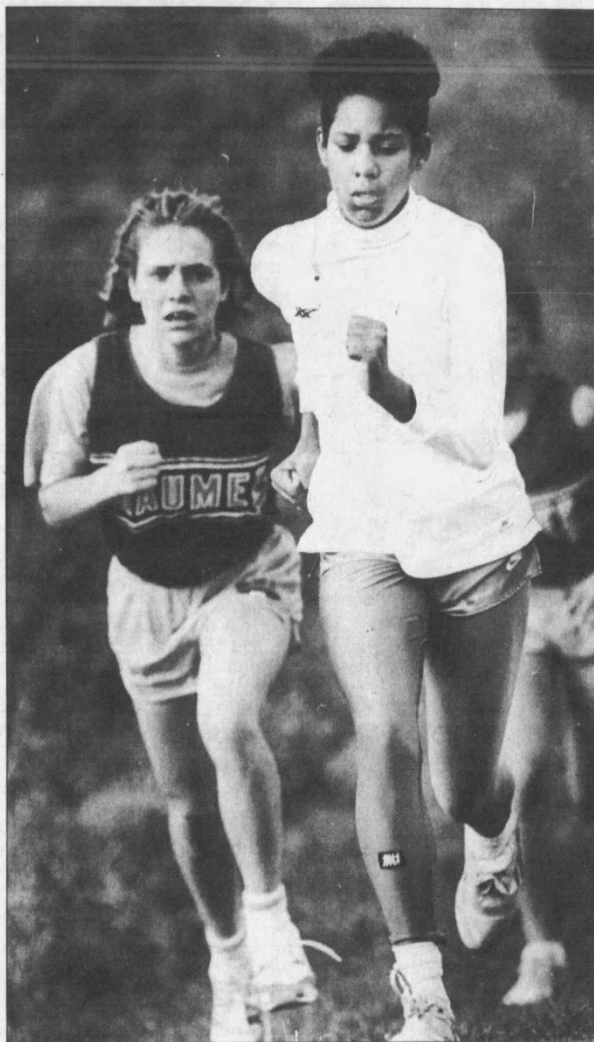
Kaylene Bartson of Ross was fifth in 21:39 and Leah Lomax was ninth in 22:22.

Mary Weaver of Barberton won the girls open race in 24:50 and Aaron Hammond of Reynoldsburg was first in the boys open. Mark Schwartz of Ross, competing for the first time after injuring an ankle several weeks ago, was 12th in 25:23.

In the junior high division, just two teams were entered with Fremont defeating Keystone 25-33. Jeff Pasch, Matt Walter, Dan Snyder, Dan Grossman and Doug Jibilian finished second through seventh and Heather Mears was ninth for Fremont. Steve Reisinger of Keystone won the 2-mile run in 12:31.



NESBITT



News-Messenger/Terry Reimer

FREMONT ROSS runner Leah Lomax, right, heads toward the finish line Saturday at the Purple Invitational. Lomax took ninth overall.



**ROSS WINS:** Tim Nesbitt and Amy Ritzman paced the Fremont Ross boys and girls cross country team to tri-meet victories over Oak Harbor and Danbury Tuesday. Nesbitt and teammate Shane Hill finished in front of Oak Harbor's Matt Norgard. Nesbitt ran a 16:45. Ritzman's winning time of 20:01 was 1:01 better than Oak Harbor's Michelle Gladieux. The Little Giants tallied 24 points in the boys race to 31 for Oak Harbor and 81 for Danbury. The Ross girls had 24 points to 36 for the Rockets and 74 for the Lakers.