

2004 Norm Bray Invitational...

NORM BRAY INVITATIONAL

No bull, Giants ride high

Hill, boys are third; girls happy with fifth

By RYAN AUTULLO
News-Messenger correspondent

As long as Derek Hill steers clear of any unforeseen hazards in the next couple months, the Fremont Ross boys cross country team should be sitting pretty.

He survived a close call on Friday.

While riding a mechanical bull at the Sandusky County Fair, Hill thought he pulled his groin muscle. He woke up the next morning in pain.

"My groin was hurting, but once I started running it was fine," Hill said after finishing fourth in the Division I boys race at the Norm Bray Invitational on Saturday.

"That thing is brutal," Hill said of the bull. "I'm not doing that again."

Good thing, because he's already in Ross coach Cathy Esposito's dog house.

"I didn't want to hear that," Esposito joked after Hill informed her of the injury.

But she most certainly enjoyed hearing the ring of a third-place finish by her young and inexperienced Little Giant squad.

Toledo St. John's and Toledo Central Catholic finished first and second in the boys' large-school division.

Powerhouse Bowling Green easily won the girls large-school division. Ross was fifth.

Perkins swept the Division II-III boys and girls team titles.

Old Fort's second-place finish led the area boys contingent in the small-school division. Lakota (fifth), Woodmore (seventh), Oak Harbor (eighth) and St. Joseph Central Catholic (10th) finished in the top 10. Clyde was 11th.

On the girls side, Old Fort was the area's top team with a fifth-place finish. Oak Harbor, SJCC, Lakota and Woodmore finished seventh through 10th, respectively. Clyde was 15th.

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HILL

Miller, Old Fort boys second at Norm Bray invite

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In addition to the top-five finish by Hill (in 17:05), the Little Giants received help from Nathan Bowen (13th place), Derek Flores (30th place), Andre Velez (31st place) and Josh Bowen (33rd place).

"Hill had a nice time, but I think he could have run a little quicker," Esposito said. "But, under the conditions, he did good."

Those conditions were a runner's nightmare. A humid forecast resulted in many athletes nearly passing out after running the course at Walsh Park. Throw in the mud that was produced by heavy rain throughout the past week, and it was clear that the runners weren't treated nicely in the opening event of the season.

"All of the runners aren't used to (the heat)," said Oak Harbor junior Kelly Gephart. "It was wet and it got humid, that's got to be the cause for the injuries and exhaustion."

Gephart, who finished fourth in the girls' Division II and III race, was not only happy with her individual finish, but also the Rockets' place in the team standings.

"I'm happy with my time and the team's times," she said. "It's a good start to the season. I wasn't expecting anything too great."

And neither was Jamie Gilbert.

The SJCC coach watched her team run lackluster times at a time-trial one week ago at the same Walsh Park course. Her girls turned it up a notch for Saturday's meet.

"Everyone's time improved from the time-trials," Gilbert said. "I'm pretty happy with those times. It's a pretty good starting point."

Leading the pack of Streak runners was sophomore Sarah Stierwalt with a 17th-place finish.

Despite his squad's runner-up finish, Old Fort coach Tony Miller wasn't all smiles.

"We could have done better," he said. "A couple guys could have done better, but I'm happy finishing second."

Dustin Miller finished second in 17:27 for the Stockaders.

"Miller is a tough little runner," Tony Miller said about his No. 1 runner, who is unrelated. "He's a good leader for the team. As the season goes on, he'll get stronger."

Esposito was elated at the improvement of her girl runners from last year to this year.

A year ago, they finished last at the Norm Bray Invitational.

This year, they were boosted by strong performances from Ashley Fischer (12th place) and Alyssa Bowerman (14th place).

"They are real determined and real young," Esposito said about her entire squad. "They're going to have a good team this year."

Unless, of course, they decide to tag along with Hill to the fair.

Cross Country

High School Boys

Norm Bray Invitational

Division I

	Team Scores
Toledo St. John's	43
Toledo Central Catholic	70
Ross	111
Whitmer	124
Maumee	124
Bowling Green	137
Tiffin Columbian	191
Toledo Start	229
Perrysburg	231
Springfield	259
Sandusky	269
Ross B.	343

For Ross — 4. Derek Hill 17:05, 13. Nathan Bowen 17:46, 30. Derek Flores 18:53, 31. Andre Velez 18:55, 33. Josh Bowen 18:58, 37. Michael Flores 19:08, 49. Adam Bowerman 19:32, 51. Jordan McMurray 19:35, 69. Johnnes 21:23, 72. Nathan Wike 22:31, 74. Devon Mezinger 23:16, 77. Kevin Held 24:11

Division II-III

Team Scores

Perkins	64
Old Fort	79
Toledo Christian	108
Hopewell-Loudon	111
Lakota	122
Huron	122
Woodmore	171
Oak Harbor	193
Fostoria	225
SJCC	234
Clyde	291
Hopewell-Loudon B	318
Lake	370
Genoa	395
Toledo Christian B.	414

For SJCC — 18. Billy Pietrykowski 18:39, 47. Kyle Stierwalt 20:11, 54. Brian Setzler 20:50, 55. Andy Adams 20:53, 60. Drew Dudley 21:03, 80. Brad Gabel 22:16, 81.

For Clyde — 37. Jeff Whitt 19:32, 46.

Zak Meyer 20:08, 62. Jake Zeiber 21:11,

68. Johnny Castaneda 21:24, 78. Adrian Rich 22:09, 91. Justin Cook 24:05

For Lakota — 11. Kyle Dussel 16:15,

19. Lance Brockschmidt 18:49, 26. Nath Miller 19:10, 28. Andy Wallers 19:12, 38.

Hyatt 19:15, 43. Bryce Tiel 19:52, 48. Josh Shultz 20:25

For Old Fort — 2. Dustin Miller 17:28,

6. Jackson Stultz 17:57, 13. Mike Rodriguez 18:30, 17. Greg Joseph 18:36,

41. Marcus Hoke 19:41, 52. Ron Dul 20:43, 63. Josh Ortiz 21:12

For Oak Harbor — 10. Jake Lemon 18:05, 21. Lucas Beigel 18:53, 45.

Payton Stierwalt 19:59, 51. Zach Jackson 20:41, 66. Zach Jepp 21:22, 73. Chris Warga 21:37, 77. Adam Ohlemacher 22:04

For Woodmore — 7. Jeremy Schroeder 17:59, 30. Mark Pittman 19:21, 34.

William Weger 19:26, 35. Chason Ault 19:27, 65. Pat Snyder 21:21, 81. Adam Sheldrick 22:26, 94. Adam Dunlap 24:21

High School Girls

Norm Bray Invitational

Division I

	Team Scores
Bowling Green	15
Springfield	71
Whitmer	85
Toledo Central Catholic	121
Ross	140
Perrysburg	148
Sandusky	156
Toledo Start	203

For Ross — 14. Alyssa Bowerman 22:48, 32. Allison Adams 22:34, 38.

Bryleigh Linton 24:59

Division II-III

Team Scores

Perkins	64
Maumee	91
Huron	110
Hopewell-Loudon	128
Old Fort	131

Tiffin Columbian

Oak Harbor

SJCC

Lakota

Woodmore

Perkins B.

Huron B.

Lake

Fostoria

Clyde

Toledo Christian

For SJCC — 17. Sarah Stierwalt 22:44,

40. Antonio Alcala 22:56, 45. Jenny Knisely 24:04, 51. Jenny Fresh 24:23, 52. Jessica Merritt 24:25, 53. Jennifer Ognon 24:27.

For Old Fort — 5. Lisa Ortiz 21:06, 9.

Lucy Stierwalt 19:49, 33. Becky Miller 23:39,

43. Emily Eller 21:36, 44. Jenny Kline 24:03, 68. Aurora Cleveland 25:21, 88.

Danielle Miller 26:42.

For Oak Harbor — 4. Kelly Gephart 21:04, 16. Lydia Watson 22:28, 27. Erin Zurn 23:16, 39. Stephanie Greggala 23:52, 78. Aimee Baekens 25:46, 81.

Samara Phillips 26:15, 91. Allison Mowry 27:40.

For Woodmore — 23. Kristen Jacobs 21:11, 25. Ashley Fiono 23:13, 70. Sarah Lutz 25:31, 77. Kelly Camp 25:45, 95.

Sam Walton 29:29.

For Lakota — 6. Ashley Brockschmidt 21:21, 42. Sarah Grand 23:57, 46. Patti Stiger 24:04, 67. Alycia Miller 25:17, 72.

Amber Miller 25:27, 74. Kylie Phillips 25:32, 75.

For Toledo Christian — 26. Cami Wilson 26:23,

101. Becky Sander 31:33, 104. Kelly McGinnis 32:42, 105. Teri Childress 32:43.

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