

2013 Division I State Meet.

STATE CROSS COUNTRY

Locals fall short of state goals

Sievert, Guardiola disappointed; happy to compete

By Kevin Shields
Sports writer

HEBRON — Four seconds back of the leader at the first mile, Oak Harbor's Tyler Sievert was right in the position he wanted to be at.

The junior entered Saturday's OHSAA Division II boys state cross country championships with an all or nothing attitude and had his sights on a top 15 finish and trip to the podium. But after running just one spot behind his goal, Sievert began to slip back through the pack in the race's final two miles, finishing 34th in a time of 16 minutes, 55.43 seconds in the race run at National Trail Raceway.

"I kind of died at the end," Sievert said. "That first mile was against the wind and I al-

ways run poor in wind.

"Still I'm happy. A lot of kids I knew didn't do too well either in those conditions and I was able to beat some of the kids that beat me at the regional race."

Sheridan's Matt Bromley earned the state title with a run of 16:04.58. A total of 42 runners finished under 17 minutes.

"It was suppose to be a really fast course," Sievert said. "A lot of runners thought they'd set new personal records."

Sievert, who will play basketball for Oak Harbor in the winter, was making his first state appearance. He was also a second-team all-Sandusky Bay Conference and second-team all-district defender for the Rockets' boys soccer team, which tied a school record with 16 wins.

"I couldn't be much happier with my fall," Sievert said. "I'm really looking forward to basketball and then I'm hoping to do good things this spring in track."

Guardiola 89th in Division I race

Disappointment would be the best word to use in summing up the feelings of Ross' Louis Guardiola, following an 89th place finish in Saturday's boys Division I race.

"I really wasn't too happy about that performance," the Little Giants' senior said. "Things just didn't click on race day. The preparations were there. But, unfortunately, I didn't perform to my standard

See STATE, Page 7A



Fremont Ross' Louis Guardiola runs in the boys' Division I State Cross Country Championship race Saturday afternoon at National Trail Raceway in Hebron. Guardiola finished 89th in the race. MATTHEW BERRY/CENTRALOHIO.COM

State

Continued from Page 6A

in the actual race.”

Guardiola was 44th at state as a junior. He finished his four-year Ross career earning first-team all-conference honors all four seasons.

Guardiola’s time of 16:46.66 would have been good enough for 24th in the Division II race and 26th in the Division III meet. The Division I race had 21 runners run sub-16 minute times. Winner Mark Hadley of Boardman had a winning time of 15:10.63.

“The Division I race is a different animal,” Guardiola said. “You really got to be ready for it. Even little minor missed details can cost you in

a race like that against those caliber of runners.”

Guardiola has no plans to run in any national cross country events like a year ago. He’s now focused on the spring and trying to qualify to Columbus in the 1,600 and 3,200 — two events in which he holds the school record. He was fifth in the 1,600 at last year’s regionals, missing state by one spot.

“I’m going to use this as a learning experience going forward,” Guardiola said. “Overall, it was a really good season for me. I’m happy with the performances I had. Days like Saturday will just motivate me even more to train and get better.”

KShields@gannett.com

419-334-1043

Twitter: @KShieldsNM