

2001 District...

Regional qualifiers

Following are the area track and field athletes who qualified for regional during the opening day of district meets Wednesday:

Fremont Ross: Richy Teeters, pole vault; Allen Lutes, long jump; Jamie Smith, discus.

Lutes, Teeters, Smith advance for Ross

Lytle, Bailey qualify for finals on Friday

News-Messenger reports

FOSTORIA — Three Fremont Ross athletes qualified for regionals during the first day of competition at the Division I district meet Wednesday.

Allen Lutes, Richy Teeters and

Jamie Smith each finished in the top four in their respective events and advanced to next week's Amherst Regional.

Preliminaries were held in several other events Wednesday. Finals will be Friday.

Lutes came in second in the boys long jump with a leap of 21 feet, 2.5 inches. Smith was second in the girls discus with an effort of 120-5.

Teeters was third in the pole vault at 13-3.

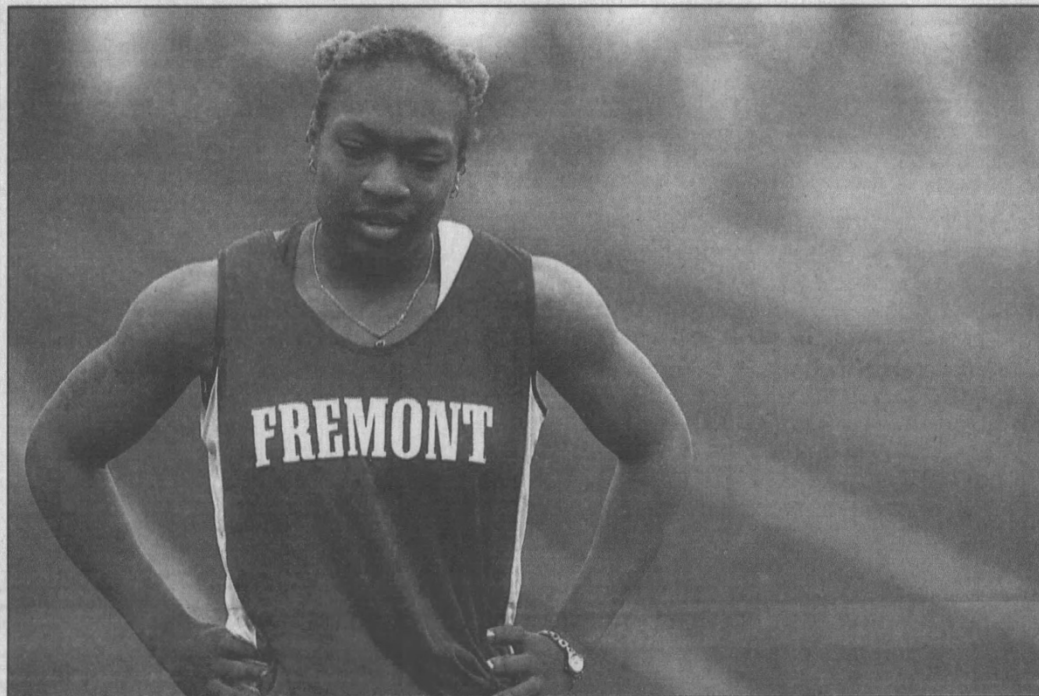
"It was a great start for both teams going into the finals," Ross coach Cathy Esposito said. "We have three regional qualifiers with more to come."

Senior sprinting stars Fallon Bailey and Kelly Lytle each qualified for the finals in the 100- and 200-meter dashes. Teammate

Adrianne Robertson will join Bailey in the both races. Tyrus Hamilton qualified for the 100 dash.

Lutes qualified for the 110 hurdles final. The Little Giants advanced Bryson Ford and Delana Simms to the boys and girls 400 dash finals, respectively. Matt Salas made it to the 800 run final as did Stacy Hall.

Four times a champion



FALLON BAILEY of Fremont Ross recovers from one of her four victories Friday at the Division I district track and field meet at Fostoria. News-Messenger photos/Ben French

Bailey leads Ross girls; Lytle overcomes pain to qualify twice

By TIMOTHY R. WOLFRUM
Sports editor

FOSTORIA — Fallon Bailey did all she could for the Fremont Ross girls' track and field team Friday at the final day of the Division I district meet.

Four events entered. Four victories.

It was almost enough to make the Little Giants district champions.

But Bailey had to watch helplessly as the 1,600-meter relay team she used to be a part of tried to clinch the team championship on the final event of the day.

Ashland finished fourth in the relay to Ross's sixth and used the two extra points to vault over the Little Giants and into first place for an 80.5-79.5 victory. Ross settled for second place.

"We should have won this meet," Ross coach Cathy Esposito said. "When you lose by one point, you should have won. But they tried their hardest, and Ashland's a good team. They beat us by 20 points on two occasions this year. I'm still very happy with the meet."

The day belonged to Bailey, a senior sprinter. She won the 100- and 200-meter dashes and anchored the winning 400 and 800 relay teams.

"I just wanted to come up and do what I could for my team and finish my senior year off right."

— Fallon Bailey,
Fremont Ross sprinter

She came from about 40 meters behind to catch Celina's Tiffany Hehmeyer with room to spare and lead the 800 relay team to victory. The team of Delana Sims, Taneshia McKinstry, Keia Irons and Bailey had only been together for a week after Bailey was switched from the 1,600 to the 800. The team turned in a time of 1:45.26, two seconds off the school record.

"Our 4 by 200 is amazing," Esposito said. "Their hand-offs were so unbelievable. I couldn't keep the time because I couldn't tell when they handed off."

Bailey couldn't pick her favorite race of the day.

"I think they're all pretty memorable, especially the 4 by 200 because we just put this relay together this week," Bailey said. "I just wanted to come up and do what I could for my team and finish my senior year off right."

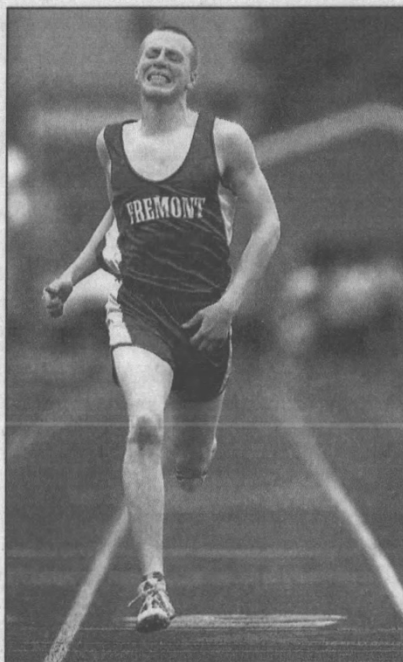
The top four placers in each event advanced to the regional meet at Amherst.

Bailey beat Sandusky's Tamala Perryman for the first time in the 200 with a time of 25.24 seconds. The duo had a controversial finish in the Great Lakes League meet last week, when Perryman nosed out Bailey at the wire. Bailey thought she had won that race.

This time, Bailey claimed a comfortable victory by a half-second.

"It's special, but I don't think it's that special because I think I worked pretty hard to stay with her all year long," Bailey said. "I feel like a couple times it was stolen away from me. I promised myself I would come out after the GLL, and if I beat her I was going to beat her outright. That's what I did."

Bailey won the 100 dash in 12.28 seconds and joined Irons, McKinstry and Adrienne Robertson on the 400 relay team, which won in 49.74 seconds.



KELLY LYTLE of Ross grimaces as he finishes a semifinal heat Friday at Fostoria. Lytle said he experienced pain during the preliminaries but felt better during the finals.



News-Messenger/Ben French

DELANA SIMS of Ross competes in the long jump Friday at Fostoria.

Giants send gaggle of athletes to regional

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Also advancing to next week's Amherst Regional for Ross will be the shot put duo of Meg Nalley and Jen Hillier, who finished second and third, respectively. Nalley fired a top throw of 35 feet, 7 inches. Hillier came through with a 34-8.25. Beth Mallory of Ashland won with a toss of 40-1.25.

Jamie Smith, Ross's senior discus thrower, qualified for regional during the first day of competition Wednesday.

The Ross boys finished fourth with 57 points, two behind third-place Napoleon.

"That's very good," Esposito said. "They've had a great season this year."

GLL champion Sandusky won the meet with 83.5 points, and Mansfield was second with 77 points.

The Little Giants got a boost from the return of senior sprinter Kelly Lytle, who overcame soreness in the semifinals to turn in solid second-place finishes in the 100 and 200 dashes and qualify for the regional.

Lytle, who missed the GLL after aggravating an adductor injury in the preliminaries, finished

second to Kendall Stevens of Lima Senior in both races. Lytle ran a time of 10.86 seconds in the 100 dash and 21.81 seconds in the 200 dash, beating rival Durond Clark of Sandusky in each race. Clark advanced by finished third in the 100 and fourth in the 200.

"You come in hoping to win every race you go into," Lytle said. "But warming up, I didn't know if I'd finish the meet. My groin muscle was bothering me quite a bit. I was just hoping to get top four and sneak into the regional next week. It turned out a lot better than I expected."

Ross high jumpers Bo Hudson and Allen Lutes qualified for regional by placing second and fourth, respectively. Hudson leaped 6-3, Lutes 6-0. Lutes placed second in the long jump on Wednesday and will advance in that event as well.

The Little Giants got a regional-qualifying performance from Richy Teeters on Wednesday in the pole vault.

The regional meet begins with field events at 4 p.m. Thursday at Amherst. Track events begin with the 3,200 relay final at 4:30 p.m. Thursday. The finals are Saturday.