

2001 District...

Area wrestling district qualifiers

A list of the 61 area district-qualifiers. The top four placers in each district advance to state.

**Division I
to Mentor District**
ROSS (3) — Tommy
Wagner (135), Andrew Legg
(152), Rick Legg (215).

Legg ends Ross state drought

LeJeune, Freeh qualify for SJCC; Woodmore, Lakota send 4 each

News-Messenger reports

MENTOR — Rick Legg lost his first match of the season Saturday, but that didn't keep him from his first state berth.

The Fremont Ross senior finished third in the tough 215-pound division at the Division I Mentor District and grabbed his school's first state bid in three years.

"He's a quality kid," Ross coach Grover Dowell said. "I figured he was a shoo-in."

Legg is the first Ross wrestler to qualify for state since Aaron Root, also a 215-pounder, in 1998.

Legg was one of 21 area wrestlers to qualify for the state meet, which begins Thursday at the Schottenstein Center in Columbus.

Woodmore and Lakota led area teams by qualifying four wrestlers apiece. John Bedford of Woodmore, Mason Brand of Lakota and Margaretta's Dustin Malott won individual district titles.

The top four placers in each weight class advanced to the state tournament.

Legg pinned Peter Gillette of Cleveland St. Ignatius in two minutes, 33 seconds, to win third place. Craig Katafiasz of Sylvania Northview, who finished second, handed Legg his only loss of the season, 3-1, in the semifinals Saturday.

Legg, who is 39-1, will meet Joe Juby of Garfield Heights in his opening state match. Juby is 34-6.

"We're looking for him to be in the top four. He's coming out of a tough district," Dowell said.

Legg's brother, freshman Andrew Legg, failed to qualify for state in the 152-pound division.

Division III

TOLEDO — St. Joseph Central Catholic will send two first-timers to the state tournament in Columbus this weekend.

Sophomore 103-pounder Robbie LeJeune

State qualifiers

A list of the 21 area state wrestling qualifiers.

Division I

ROSS (1) — Rick Legg (215).

Division II

CLYDE (3) — Bobby Blackburn (125), Adam Dymond (171), Luke Seal (275).

OAK HARBOR (3) — Dominic Lachotzki (119), Paul Bergman (160), Zach Levy (215).

BELLEVUE (2) — Dan Jarrett (140), Robert Edgington (215).

Division III

ST. JOE (2) — Robbie LeJeune (103), Jerry Freeh (189).

GIBSONBURG (1) — Tony Binder (275).

WOODMORE (4) — John Bedford (119), Bill Weiland (130), Grant Sarver (152), Ray Lewis (171).

LAKOTA (4) — Tim Ollom (112), Chris Stines (119), Presley Bloom (125), Mason Brand (152).

MARGARETTA (1) — Dustin Malott (135).

finished third and senior 189-pounder Jerry Freeh placed fourth at the district tournament at Waite High School.

"I'm real happy," SJCC coach Mike Naufel said. "Robbie and Jerry wrestled real well."

LeJeune, whose older brothers Pete and Jamie are past state qualifiers, was pinned in the second round on Friday by Elmwood's Aaron Clemans.

But he rallied for four straight victories on Saturday to finish third and earn his berth at state.

LeJeune did not allow an offensive point in any of those four matches, winning by scores of 8-1 over Ryan Rufenacht of Archbold, 4-1 over Chris Starr of Tinora, 9-0 over Jeremy Amburgey of New London and 7-0 over Mike Buckingham of Mohawk in the consolation finals.

That last victory gave LeJeune a share of the SJCC school record for wins in a season. He is now tied with his cousin, Brett Reineck, at 36.

LeJeune (36-6) will wrestle Cadiz Harrison Central freshman Jesse Emery (31-7) in the first round at state.

"Jamie was the last kid from St. Joe to win a match at state (in 1999)," Naufel said. "I think Robbie can do it too."

Freeh beat Jon Haber of Ontario 8-2 and Matt Garber of Woodmore 7-4 on Friday before falling 8-4 to eventual champ Matt Nagel of Delta 8-4 in the semifinals on Saturday. He then beat Aaron Zavala of Archbold 11-2 in his first consolation match to clinch his berth at state.

"He came back mentally after the loss and really beat up on the next guy," Naufel said. "He had fire in his eye Saturday afternoon."

He then lost in the consolation finals to Josh Barker of Crestview.

Freeh (29-10) will open against senior Carl Way of West Salem Northwestern (40-5) at state.

St. Joe district qualifiers Kris Klotz (215), T.J. Sauber (160), Ryan Autullo (125), Aaron Autullo (130) and Zach Jenkins (152) did not advance. Klotz came the closest, winning two matches before being eliminated in the consolation quarterfinals.

Binder (275), a Gibsonburg junior, placed third and advanced to state. He will face Northmor senior Nick Stoff (41-6) in his state opener.

Bedford Jr. (119) will be joined at the state tourney by teammates Billy Weiland (130), Grant Sarver (152) and Ray Lewis (171).

Bedford Jr., who took sixth in the state at 112 pounds a year ago and is now 46-0 this season, won the 119-pound title on Saturday with a 16-1 technical fall over Tinora's James Estrada.

"He is on a mission and he proved it," Woodmore coach John Bedford said of his son. "He's wrestling smart and he's peak-



LEGG



LEJEUNE



FREEH

ing at the right time."

He will meet Ross Luckett of Worthington Christian (38-9) at state.

In matches for third place, Weiland lost a 13-0 major decision to Sean Finneran of St. Mary, Sarver got past Elmwood's Robert Siebert 3-2 and Lewis lost a 3-1 decision to Ayersville's Jeff Lichty.

Weiland and Lewis, both seniors, and Sarver, a junior, are making their first trips to the state tourney for the Wildcats.

At state, Weiland (45-3) meets Tony Blaine of Newark Catholic (30-4), Sarver (40-10) takes on Jeff Shultz of Brookville (29-10) and Lewis (41-11) battles C.B. Dollaway of Galion Northmor (46-0).

Lakota's Brand (152) won his 27th consecutive match, beating Trent Ohl of Ontario 11-6 in overtime. Brand, a senior who is 42-5, faces Kenny Sims (31-5) of Lafayette Allen East in his state opener.

"We felt he was the best wrestler in the district coming in," Lakota coach Joe Wyman said. "If he wrestles like he has, I think he's got a great chance to place."

Presley Bloom (125) finished second in the district, and Tim Ollom (112) and Chris Stines (119) were third for the Raiders.

Bloom, who is 39-9, fell to St. Mary Central Catholic powerhouse Drew Opfer 16-4 in his final match. He will meet Ethan Reynolds (23-11) of Carlisle in the state opener.

Ollom and Stines each won overtime matches to clinch their trips to state. Ollom (40-8) faces Joe Rhodes of Brookville, while Stines meets Steve Smith of Versailles (25-12) in the state.

Malott (135) beat Adam Foster of Swanton 11-4 in the title match. The 34-3 Margaretta junior will meet Josh Kosa (24-9) of Jackson-Milton.