

2001 Regional Meet...

Ross sprints to Saturday's regional finals

Lutes denied by disqualification

News-Messenger reports

AMHERST — Fremont Ross sprinters Fallon Bailey and Kelly Lytle are on track for a return to the state track and field meet after the first day of the Division I regional meet.

But a veteran Ross state qualifier may have seen his chance for another trip to Dayton short-circuited by circumstances beyond his control Thursday.

Senior long jumper Allen Lutes was disqualified from his final event after the team bus arrived three minutes late to the Amherst High School track, Ross coach Cathy Esposito said late Thursday night.

Initially, meet officials permitted Lutes to warm up and enter the event. But an opposing coach objected, and the head judge disqualified Lutes, Esposito said.

A heated argument between Esposito and meet officials ensued, but the officials refused to reinstate Lutes, who came into the meet with the second-best jump.

The top four placers in each event qualify for next week's state meet. Lutes placed fifth in the state in the high jump as a sophomore and 13th last season.

Division I Track

Ross athletics director Art Bucci planned to lodge a protest with an Ohio High School Athletic Association commissioner this morning. The school hopes Lutes will be permitted to jump during the second day of competition Saturday. Lutes will also compete in the high jump competition, along with teammate Bo Hudson.

"There's still a shot, as far as I'm concerned," Esposito said. "There have to be unforeseen circumstances taken into consideration at some point. This is supposed to be for the kids. They want to have the best kids at the state, and I don't think they have that."

The Ross bus got lost in Cleveland and arrived at the track at 4:03 p.m., Esposito said. Field events began at 4 p.m.

The other Little Giants successfully entered their field events Thursday. Sophomore Richy Teeters finished ninth in the pole vault with a top vault of 12 feet, 6 inches. Meg Nalley and Jen Hillier placed 10th

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Giants sprinters set up for finals

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and 11th, respectively, with tosses of 39-4.5 and 34-4.5.

The Ross sprinters qualified impressively for Saturday's finals.

Bailey, who had a hand in four district titles, turned in the best time in 100-meter dash qualifying with a time of 12.45 seconds. She was third-best in the 200 dash in a time of 25.97.

Bailey anchored two relay teams that qualified for the finals as well. The 400 relay team of Taneshia McKinstry, Keia Irons, Adrienne Robertson and Bailey recorded the top time at 49.66 seconds. The 800 relay team of McKinstry, Irons, Delana Simms and Bailey turned in the sixth-best time at 1:46.69.

Lytle, who is attempting to qualify for his fourth consecutive state meet despite a second offseason knee surgery, ran the 100 dash in 10.9 seconds, good for the second-best qualifying time behind Lima Senior's Kendall Stevens. Lytle's 200 dash of 22.06 was the fourth-best qualifying time.

The Ross sprinters, discus thrower Jamie Smith and high jumpers Lutes and Hudson will compete for trips to state Saturday. Field events begin at 11:30 a.m.; track finals start at 12:30 p.m.

Bailey leads Giants to state

Lytle, Smith join girls relay team

News-Messenger reports

AMHERST — There are the usual suspects and a surprise among the six Fremont Ross athletes who qualified for the state track and field meet at Saturday's Division I regional.

Senior sprinter Fallon Bailey is headed back to Dayton's Welcome Stadium in three events, classmate Kelly Lytle returns in two events and the girls 400-meter relay team will make a second consecutive trip.

The surprise? Senior thrower Jamie Smith claimed the fourth and final qualifying spot in the discus with an effort of 121 feet, 7 inches.

Bailey, Smith and the relay team led the Little



BAILEY

Giants girls to sixth place at the regional. Ross scored 31 points. Elyria won the meet with 53 points.

"The girls fared well as a team and individually," Ross coach Cathy Esposito said. "We destroyed our two league rivals, Whitmer (18th) and Findlay (40th). Fallon was strong in the 100, and the 400 relay also had a very good race. Jamie Smith held her own in the field with a great qualifying throw."

Bailey won the 100 dash in 12.12 seconds and finished fourth in the 200 dash in 25.51 seconds. She anchored the 400 relay team — it also included Taneshia McKinstry, Keia Irons and Adrienne Robertson — that finished second to Toledo Central Catholic in 49.55 seconds.

Bailey finished fourth in the 100 at last year's regional before placing fourth at the state meet.

Lytle sewed up his fourth consecutive trip to the state meet by finishing second in the 100 dash in 21.74 seconds and fourth in the 200 dash in 10.87. Lytle and third-place Marcus Moore of Cleveland East Tech turned in identical times in the 200.

"Kelly had a great day," Esposito said. "He was very fast on the first 100 meters of his 200. It was a close finish in the 100."

The Ross girls 800 relay team of McKinstry, Irons, Delana Sims and Bailey missed qualifying for state with a sixth-place finish. Its time of 1:44.98 was less than a second behind fourth-place Brunswick's 1:44.14.

Bo Hudson and Allen Lutes placed ninth and 10th

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Giants send group to state track meet

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in the high jump competition.

Lutes, a two-time state qualifier, saw his season ended Saturday after the Ohio High School Athletic Association denied Ross's appeal of his disqualification Thursday. The Ross team bus arrived three minutes late for Thursday's long jump finals, and meet officials disqualified Lutes.

Ross athletics director Art Bucci called an OHSAA

commissioner Friday morning. The commissioner said the state abides by national rules and had no discretion to overturn the meet officials' decision.

The Little Giants are disappointed by the circumstances surrounding Lutes' absence but look forward to the state met.

"In my mind, the goal was to take 10 down to state, but we did very well," Esposito said. "These athletes not only qualified but, with a great performance, should all make it to the podium at state."