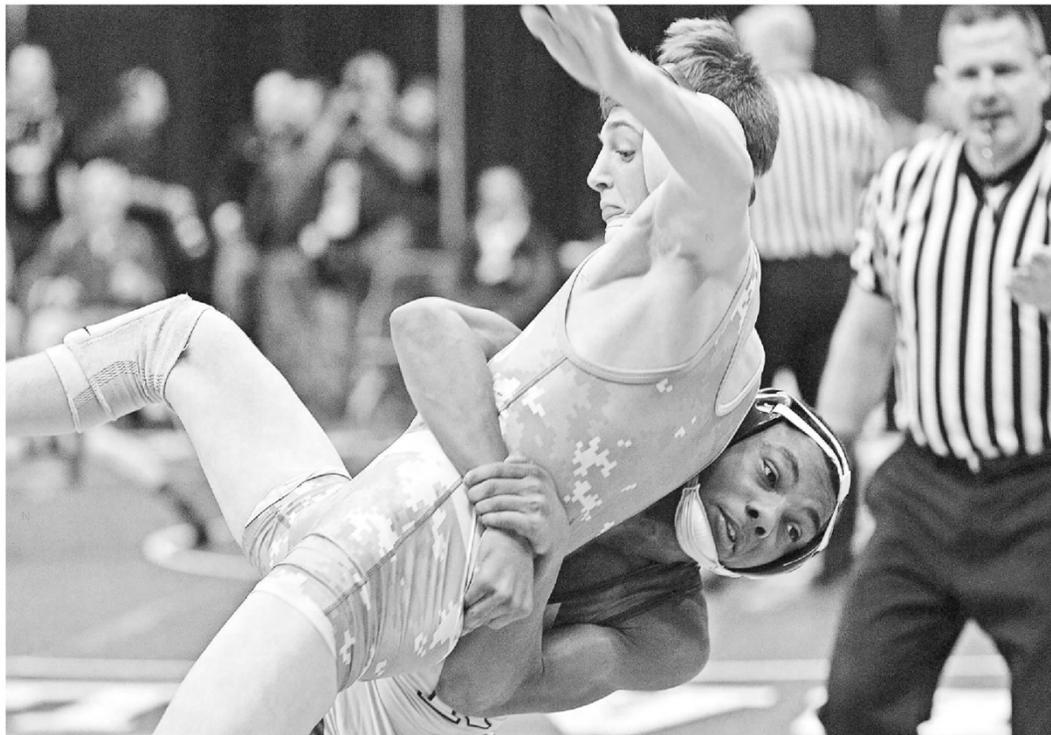


2017 (LIMITED) SEASON REVIEW

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING



USA TODAY NETWORK-OHIO FILE PHOTOS

Lamonte Chapman, bottom, of Fremont Ross competes on the first day of the state tournament in March.

AREA TEAMS FACING LOFTY EXPECTATIONS

Ross' Chapman looks to reach goal of becoming state champ

MATTHEW HORN
REPORTER

Junior Lamonte Chapman of Fremont Ross was on the cusp of earning a state championship last season.

Chapman (132 pounds) has two chances to finish the task. He will compete at the Ironman Tournament at Walsh Jesuit this season.

"We are looking forward to Lamonte getting back to state and finishing his goal of becoming a state champion," Little Giants coach Chad Long said. "His hard work and dedication got him to second place last year."

Seniors Jalen Cooper (152), Tyler Grine (152), Hayden Abdoo (182) and Kieler Foster (195); junior Garrett Barth (170) and sophomores Carter Smith (113), Deshea Pettiford (120), Keaton Jordan (126), Charles Chapman (138), Brandon Garcia (160), Caleb Wood (182) and Mike Thomas (285) also earned letteres last season.

Smith, Jordan, Charles Chapman, Cooper, Grine, Barth, Wood, Foster and Thomas qualified to districts.

Junior Mason Gluth and freshmen Bryce Moreland and Jackson Weissinger are varsity newcomers.



FREMONT ROSS BLASTS PAST CLYDE IN HOME OPENER

Later matches make the difference

BY JOSH MORGRET
CORRESPONDENT

FREMONT - Fremont Ross led by just three points after six matches in a non-league wrestling meet against Clyde.

But when the Little Giants got rolling, they were hard to stop.

Ross scored four pins, a forfeit, and a technical fall in the final eight matches - all wins for the Little Giants - to defeat Clyde, 60-15, on Wednesday.

"It was a good match in terms of the score," Ross coach Mike Mezinger said. "We're still sloppy and our technique isn't there yet. A couple of the guys are just coming off of injury and aren't there yet with their conditioning."

DeShea Pettiford pinned Jared Norman at 120 pounds and Keaton Jordan pinned Dalton Warwick at 126 to increase the Ross lead to 30-15. Warwick used a technique that could've led to a pin but Jordan countered.

"If Warwick finished his move correctly, it could have been did points our way," Clyde coach Bob Blackburn said. "We're really trying to work on our mentality and being more aggressive."

Lamonte Chapman used a handful of takedowns to cruise to a 19-3 technical fall over Lucas McKee at 132. Charles Chapman took a forfeit win at 138 for the Little Giants before Jackson Weissinger scored an 8-0 decision win over Levi Graham.

"I don't think there were many surprises in the matches," Mezinger said. "We could've had a couple guys work a little harder. We made a few mistakes but we can clean up mistakes."

The match of the night came at 152 where Jalen Cooper squeaked out a 3-1 overtime decision over Derick Coleman.

Brandon Garcia pinned Nick Ortiz at 160 and Garrett Barth pinned John Laparo at 170 pounds to end the evening.

"We have to work on conditioning and cleaning up mistakes," said Mezinger. "We've got some basic technique but we haven't done a lot of technique. We're trying to get them in shape and a lot of these guys have experience."



MOLLY CORFMAN/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

Clyde's James Batesole, left, wrestles Fremont's Carter Smith during Wednesday night's match.

Caleb Wood started the night off right for Ross with a pin of James Devanna at 182 before Kieler Foster took a forfeit win at 195.

Ryan Kelley scored a win for the Fliers when he pinned Isaiah Delahamioe at 220 pounds. The Little Giants responded with a pin at 285 when Mike Thomas took down Kris Mange.

"I was kind of disappointed in the conditioning overall," said Mezinger. "It is early in the season. It's a good win and anytime we can beat Clyde, it's a good win."

Clyde won the two lower weight classes as Rush Andres pinned David Boda at 106 and James Batesole took a 6-1 decision over Carter Smith at 113.

"We are really young and we knew Fremont has a really good team," Blackburn said. "We wanted to go out and show our improvement. We wanted to put up a fight and not just roll over because they're good. We lost some matches maybe we shouldn't have and had some mistakes but it's early in the year."

Fremont Ross 61, Springfield 18

The Little Giants beat Springfield 61-18 in the semifinal round of the D-I State Dual Tournament on Wednesday.

Fremont Ross was led by Carter Smith (113), Deshea Pettiford (120), Keaton Jordan (126), Lamonte Chapman (132), Charles Chapman (138), Jackson Wessinger (145), Jalen Cooper (152), Brandon Garcia (160), Garrett Barth (170), Hayden Abdoo (182) and Shawn Newsome (220).