

2001 State...

State Tournament Pairings

COLUMBUS — First round pairings for weight classes involving area athletes in this week's state boys wrestling championship at the Value City Arena:

Division I

215 lbs.: Matt Koz, Lakewood St. Edward, So., 41-1 vs. Michael Skonieczny, Stow-Munroe Falls, So., 34-8; Shawn Ritzenthaler, Worth, Kilbourne, Sr., 25-6 vs. Jeremy Slaven, Lebanon, Sr., 39-3; Bill Beechum, Marion Harding, Jr., 34-6 vs. Brad Williams, Liberty Twp. Lakota E., Jr., 24-7; Peter Gillette, Cle. St. Ignatius, Sr., 26-10 vs. Aldo Campea, Parma Padua Franciscan, Sr., 41-6; Andrew Adams, Dublin Scioto, Jr., 39-6 vs. Derek Ankney, Sidney, Jr., 34-7; Anthony Mohler, Wadsworth, Sr., 29-9 vs. Craig Katafiasz, Sylvania Northview, Sr., 38-1; Joe Juby, Garfield Hts., Sr., 34-6 vs. **Rick Legg, Fremont Ross, Sr., 39-1**; Matt Burgei, Hilliard Darby, Sr., 31-6 vs. Pat Barrentine, Day, Carroll, So., 38-4

Great expectations

Wrestlers have high hopes for Columbus

By MICHAEL PIDANICK
Staff writer

Fremont Ross senior Rick Legg's third-place finish at last weekend's Mentor district tournament marked the end of the Little Giants' state tournament drought.

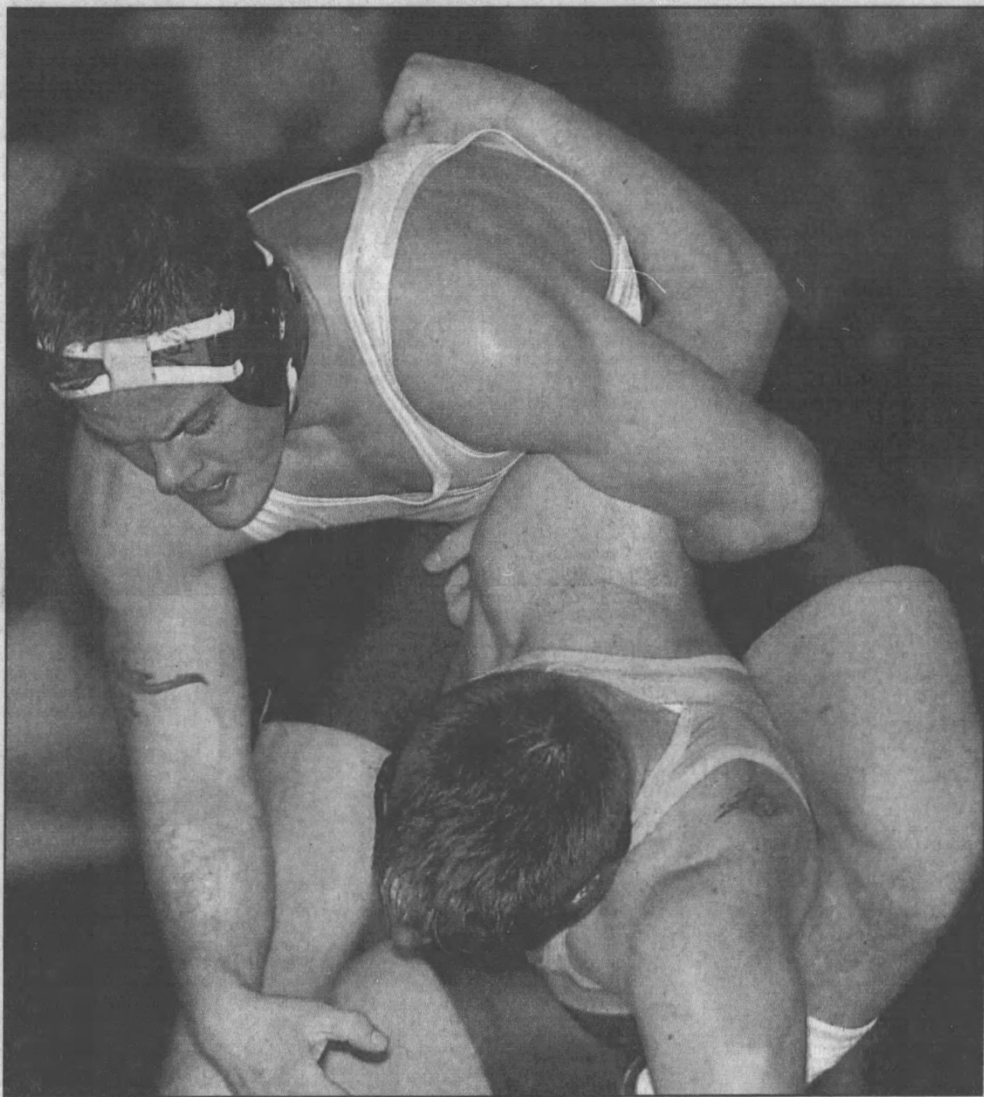
Inside: Bedford still unbeaten. **Page B3**

But Legg and coach Grover Dowell think it should also guarantee the heavyweight a place in the top six in Columbus.

"Getting there was my goal all year," Legg said. "Placing is a goal too, but after wrestling in the toughest district in my weight class, I should be able to place at state no problem."

Legg, 39-1 this season, is one of 21 state qualifiers from the Fremont area. The state tournament begins today and runs through Saturday at the Schottenstein Center on the campus of Ohio State University.

"I think he has a real good shot," Dowell said of Legg. "He's seemed really focused the last couple of weeks. We know what he can do, and I'm confident he'll be wrestling in the finals."



News-Messenger file photo/Ben French

See **STREAKS, B3**

RICK LEGG, top, of Fremont Ross controls Nick Dulick of Whitmer during a Great Lakes League dual meet earlier this season.

Legg (39-1) will open against Joe Juby of Garfield Heights (34-6). Legg suffered his lone loss of the season in the district championship semifinals before pinning Peter Gillette of Cleveland St. Ignatius in 2 minutes, 22 seconds to claim third place.

"More times than not, a loss is good to get out of the way," Dowell said. "Now it's done with, you don't have to worry about it and you go from there."

Nine win first match; Legg out with injury

By SCOTT BLACK
News-Messenger correspondent

COLUMBUS — On Wednesday, St. Joseph Central Catholic senior Jerry Freeh said he planned on pulling an upset at the Division III state wrestling tournament.

On Thursday, he did just that.

Freeh (189 pounds) upset West Salem Northwestern's Carl Way, who placed third at state last year, by a 7-6 count, highlighting the first day of the 64th annual tournament at the Schottenstein Center.

"I hit him with a big move early and maybe I surprised him a little bit," Freeh said. "Once I got ahead, I just tried to stay levelheaded and wrestle smart the rest of the way. It was pretty intimidating down here, but I had nothing to lose. I've seen who's in my bracket, and I'm going to take another one down tomorrow."

Freeh was one of nine area wrestlers to win his first match. Of the area's 21 state qualifiers, 15 survived the first day.

St. Joe sophomore Robbie LeJeune (103) dropped an 8-4 decision to Jesse Emery of Harrison Central in the opener but rebounded with a pin of Spencerville's Shane Porter in 2 minutes, 45 seconds. The win, his 37th, set a school record for wins in a season, breaking his cousin Brett Reineck's

record.

"Coming down here, there is a lot of anxiety," St. Joe coach Mike Naufel said, "but it was also a great feeling. Robbie and Jerry have great attitudes. They know what they have to do."

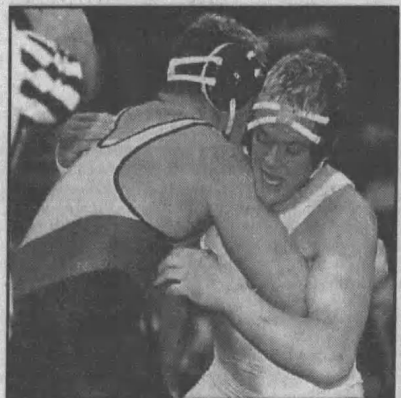
Things didn't go as well for Fremont Ross senior Rick Legg. He suffered a rib injury in his opener against Joe Juby of Garfield Heights and had to forfeit both of his matches.

Clyde's Bobby Blackburn (125) opened with a 10-5 decision over Minerva's David Collier.

"I got in control from the get-go and stayed on top," Blackburn said. "I felt confident going in. I want to get into the finals."

Clyde's Adam Dymond (171) and Luke Seal (275) dropped their openers but rebounded in the consolation round. Dymond fell to Hamilton's Jason Hackett 6-3 then beat Eric Everhard of Indian Lake 6-2. Seal lost 7-4 to Marlinton's Al Raber but then beat Ben Ryan of Lemon-Monroe 5-4.

"We're very happy with three kids still alive," Clyde coach Dale Carroll said. "We had a very hard first round; Luke Seal had to wrestle the projected state champion in his first match and Adam Dymond had to wrestle the No. 2 projected kid. So, yeah, we're very happy to have all three of them



RICK LEGG, right, of Fremont Ross battles Joe Ruby of Garfield Heights before suffering a rib injury.

still wrestling. It would have been hard to do any better than we did."

Gibsonburg senior heavyweight Tony Binder dropped a heartbreaking 3-2 overtime decision to Northmor's Nick Stuff in the opener. But he rebounded with a 6-1 decision over Ursuline's Hugh Frost in the consolation opener.

"In my second match I wrestled much more aggressive," Binder said. "I had my back to the wall, and I had to fight my way out. The butterflies are gone; I'm ready to wrestle."

See **BEDFORD, B2**