

2006 Season review...

CROSS COUNTRY

Kirwen, Eli win at invite

By KRISTI EGBERT

News-Messenger correspondent

Genoa's Simone Eli is starting off this year's cross country season strong.

The sophomore finished in first place on Saturday for girls divisions 2-3 at the Norm Bray Cross Country Invitational at Walsh Park in Fremont. She also set a new personal record, finishing the 5k run with a time of 20:14.80.

"It feels awesome. It was one of my goals, but I just did it," said Eli of bettering her record, "so I'm just going to keep trying to break it and break it."

By shaving five seconds off of her previous personal best time, Eli also nabbed the record for Genoa High School. She missed a trip to state last year by nineteen seconds, but thinks this will be her year to make it.

"I just went out there fast and kept up with that," said Eli of what led to her win. "There's no pain. You can't have any pain."

Gibsonburg's Jordan Kirwen finished first out of a whopping 95 runners for boys divisions 2-3. The junior, who finished third in the SLL last year, boasted a time of 17:05.30 and led his team to a third place finish.

Old Fort was fifth, Clyde was sixth, Saint Joseph Central Catholic was seventh, Genoa was eighth, Oak Harbor was ninth, and Lakota was tenth.

See LAKOTA, B2

Fremont Ross competed in the division 1 races, with the girls team finishing sixth and the boys finishing seventh.

"I was more confident that our team would do well," said senior Josh Bowen. "I think we'll probably be pretty good and have a good shot at winning the league this year."

Ashley Fischer led the girls team with a time of 20:08.13, good for third place, and teammate Jessica Soule was 17th. Senior Andre Velez came in eighth for the boys, and Bowen was 15th.

Cross country

High School Boys

Norm Bray Invitational

Division I

Team Standings

1. Perkins	64
2. Columbian.....	73
3. Maumee	75
4. Bowling Green	109
5. Whitmer	121
7. Ross	148

Ross results: 8. Andre Velez 17:53.03,
15. Josh Bowen 18:27.46, 34. Ricky
Ramirez 19:19.30, 40. Michael Flores
19:47.77, 51. Cody Brunthaver 20:28.45.

High School Girls

Norm Bray Invitational

Division I

Team Standings

1. Bowling Green.....	18
2. Toledo Notre Dame Academy	87
3. Sandusky	98
4. Perrysburg.....	121
5. Toledo Central Catholic	133
6. Ross	141

Ross results: 3. Ashley Fischer 20:08.13,
17. Jessica Soule 22:32.23, 35. Lisa Carter
24:07.45, 38. Ashley Brunthaver 24:20.96,
48. Andra Ruiz 25:47.99.

CrossCountry

High School

Fremont Boys

Findlay	48
Tiffin Columbian.....	59
Bowling Green	69
Fremont Ross	69
Oregon Clay.....	119

Individual Results

1. Scott Denham (TC)	17:21
2. A. Velez (FR)	17:26
3. Kyle Hermiller (Fin)	17:38
4. Eric Budge (BG).....	17:39
5. Jake Stover (TC)	17:41
6. M. Flores (FR)	17:52
7. J. Bowen (FR)	17:53
26. R. Ramirez (FR)	20:01
28. C. Brunthauer (FR)	20:25
29. A. Wukie (FR)	20:27
34. D. Mezinger (FR)	21:00
35. M. Yohas (FR).....	21:02
37. T. Rodriguez (FR)	21:08
38. A. Ruh (FR)	21:15
42. D. Flores (FR).....	21:45

Fremont Girls

Bowling Green	23
Findlay	71
Oregon Clay.....	72
Tiffin Columbian.....	96
Fremont Ross	103

Individual Results

1. Christy Titus (BG).....	18:57
2. Barbra Powers (BG)	17:20
3. Alison Leckrone (Fin)	17:31
4. Ashley Fischer (FR)	17:43
5. Alyssa Glenn (BG)	20:05
16. Jessica Soule (FR)	22:00
26. Lisa Carter (FR)	23:46
28. Liz Munoz (FR).....	24:21
29. Ashley Brunthauer (FR)	24:33
33. Anora Ruiz (FR)	26:06
35. Alayan Dorbeck (FR).....	27:55

CROSS COUNTRY

Fischer wins Green Invitational

News-Messenger reports

Ross's Ashley Fischer won the Chris Green Invitational with a time of 19:20, pacing the Little Giants to a sixth-place finish.

Bellevue finished one spot above Ross, led by Wendy Sumser's sixth place finish. Margaretta had four girls participating, led by Samantha Hoelzer, who finished 13th. Seneca East won the girls meet.

For the boys, Andre Velez was fifth with a time of 17:08 as Ross finished in



FISCHER

fourth place. Sandusky Perkins won the meet.

Michael Flores was 10th for the Little Giants.

Bellevue finished fifth, led by Matt Gildemeister with an 18th-place time of 18:18. Josh Beekman was 34th with a time of 18:59 as Margaretta finished ninth.

Bucyrus Invitational

Clyde finished fifth at the Bucyrus Invitational with a total of 140 points.

Marion Harding won the event with 57 points.

Craig Gerber led the Fliers, finishing 10th.

CROSS COUNTRY

Lakota, Gibsonburg girls in top 10 at Carnival

Ross's Ashley Fischer finishes eighth overall in Division I

By KYLE TIMMONS
News-Messenger correspondent

TIFFIN — Saturday's Tiffin Carnival meet at Hedges Boyer Park gave cross country fans across the state plenty to get excited about.

Featuring more than 150 teams and 6,500 racers, the Tiffin Carnival is known as one of the country's largest high school races with some of the best talent in the state being exhibited.

Much of that talent came

from the area Saturday as several teams finished with high rankings while several individuals brought home some hardware.

In the Division III girl's race, Lakota and Gibsonburg both finished in the top 10, each with several runners finishing in the top 100 of their race.

The Raiders, who took 5th, were led by Carly Reese's 19th place finish in 20:03.

Also leading the pack for Lakota were Julia Windom (20:12, 23rd place), Ashley Brockschmidt (20:40, 43rd place) and Sarah Girard (21:03, 56th).

"The Tiffin Carnival is always a huge event," said Lakota coach Don Windom. "We just had really solid

races.

"One of our biggest surprises was Ashley Brockschmidt. When she was a sophomore she was all-Ohio and finished 23rd in the state. Then, she lost her entire season last year. It has been kind of a slow go for her but she stuck her nose in the race and made a huge, huge breakthrough for us."

Leading the way for Gibsonburg, ranked ninth in Division III by The Associated Press, was Ashley Fisher, who took 15th place in 19:49. The Golden Bears finished 10th overall.

"She ran a great race," said Gibsonburg coach Beth Kohler. "She been struggling with running a



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little tense over the season but she just concentrated on being more relaxed."

Alaina

Haubert added a 61st place finish in 21:15 for Gibsonburg.

Finishing 19th in the Division III race was Old Fort, led by Alexa Stults (19:47) and Becky Miller (19:58) who finished 13th and 17th, respectively.

Stults, a freshman who won the women's News-Messenger Camelback in Fremont in June, credited

her teammate in her race.

"I could have done a little better," said Stults. "Becky Miller helped push me harder."

Woodmore's Lynne Schroeder finished 21st in 20:07 as the Lady Wildcats finished 36th in the 49 team field.

Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic also had an outstanding performance during the division III race as the Streaks placed 23rd. Senior Antonia Alcala finished 74th in 21:36.

"It's been a really exciting day," Alcala said. "We all caught on to the energy and went out a little fast but we ended up with good times."

Leslie Celek added a

time of 22:26 for the Streaks.

In the Division I race, Fremont Ross senior Ashley Fischer brought home an 8th place finish with a time of 19:21.

Little Giant coach Cathy Esposito complimented Fischer's run.

"She had an awesome finish," said Esposito. "It was pretty phenomenal. Before the race I told her to go for the win."

The Little Giants finished 33rd of 35 teams in the race.

Other area girls team finishers were Clyde's 31st place finish in the division II A-race and Bellevue's

See KIRWEN, B2

Fremont Ross finished 31st in division I with Andre Velez taking home the top Little Giant finish with a time of 17:12.

Cross Country

Tiffin Carnival

Boys Division I-A Individual Results

1. Bo Waggoner (Maumee) 15:18.25
2. Chris Lemon (St. John's) 15:30.50
3. Taylor Williams (Sycamore) .. 15:32.60
4. D.Rafailedes (Jackson) 15:34.50
5. Greg Roeth (Miamisburg)..... 15:34.45
92. Andre Velez (FR) 17:12.30
127. Michael Flores (FR)..... 17:31.40
176. Josh Bowen (FR) 18:02.35
204. Patrick Ramirez (FR) 18:26.55
242. Michael Slayton (FR) 19:08.85

Team Scores

1. Toledo St. John's Jesuit 148
2. North Canton Hoover 193
3. Cin. Elder 219
34. Fremont Ross..... 841

Girls Division I-A Individual Results

1. H. Charbel (Vandalia Butler). 18:31.95
2. Emily Pritt (Jackson) 18:43.75
3. S. Norman (Louisville) 18:52.20
4. Andrea Kelsey (Fairmont) 18:53.40
5. A.Pearce (N.Canton Hoover) .19:01.95
8. Ashley Fischer (FR) 19:21.50
182. Jessica Soule (FR) 22:40.45
211. Lisa Carter (FR) 23:35.55
224. Liz Munoz (FR)..... 24:31.75
232. Ashley Brunthaver (FR) ... 25:00.00
235. Andra Ruiz (FR) 25:41.35
237. Alayna Dorbeck (FR)..... 25:55.85

Team Scores

1. Kettering Fairmont..... 133
2. Rocky Riv. Magnificat 159
3. Medina 184
33. Fremont Ross..... 857

Cross Country

Galion Invitational

Division I - Boys

Team Scores

Team	Points	Ave. Time
1. Toledo St. John's	62	16:02.43
2. Hilliard Darby	74	16:22.70
3. Clev. St. Ignatius	114	16:41.53
22. Fremont Ross	590	18:07.54

Individual Times

1. Matt Lemon	St. John	15:20.25
2. Chris Lemon	St. John	15:32.11
3. Joseph Jackson II	Hil. D.	15:35.47
33. Andre Velez	Fremont	16:57.33
90. Michael Flores	Fremont	17:46.06
116. Josh Bowen	Fremont	18:05.89
171. Tony Rodriguez	Fremont	18:49.73
180. Patrick Ramirez	Fremont	18:58.65
208. Derek Flores	Fremont	19:49.41

Division I - Girls

Team Scores

1. Bowling Green	40	19:15.75
2. Rocky Riv. Magnificat	89	19:56.68
3. Brecksville-Broadvw Hts	135	20:11.86
18. Fremont Ross	442	22:24.39

Individual Times

1. Titus Christy	BG	18:30.47
2. Barbara Powers	BG	18:54.53
3. Alison Leckrone	Fin	19:06.92
47. Jessica Soule	Fremont	21:10.29
125. Lisa Carter	Fremont	23:25.66
130. Ashley Brunthaver	Fremont	23:51.81
134. Liz Munoz	Fremont	24:14.58
141. Andra Ruiz	Fremont	25:10.34
144. Alayna Dorbeck	Fremont	25:53.18

Cross country

High School Boys

Cardinal Stritch Invitational

Team Standings

1. Bryan.....	84
2. Findlay	111
3. Maumee	114
4. Bowling Green	116
5. Whitmer.....	137
9. Fremont Ross.....	200
11. Bellevue	275
12. Genoa	330
15. Oak Harbor	400

Ross results: 11. Andre Velez 17:33, 23. Ricky Ramirez 17:53, 26. Josh Bowen 17:59, 56. Michael Flores 18:53, 84, Michael Yuhas 19:33, 90. Michael Slayton 19:58, 100. Derek Flores 20:38.

High School Girls

Cardinal Stritch Invitational

Team Standings

1. Bowling Green	29
2. N.D.	136
3. Findlay	143
4. Anthony Wayne	151
5. Clay.....	171
6. Oak Harbor	191
9. Bellevue	249
12. Ross.....	279

Ross results: 6. Ashley Fisher 19:55, 27. Jessica Soule 21:13, 74. Lisa Carter 23:23, 83. Liz Munoz 24:00, 89. Ashley Brunthaver 24:54, 98. Andra Ruiz 25:42, 103. Alayna Dorbeck 26:35.

Eagle Invitational

Fremont Ross' boys finished ninth in the Division I race with 259 points. The Little Giants finished ahead of Greater Buckeye Conference Findlay which bodes well for the league meet in two weeks in Lima.

See FISCHER, B2

Fischer finishes third for Ross

Continued From B1

St. John's Jesuit, led by individual champion Matt Lemon (15:47.40), won the meet with just 46 points.

Michael Flores led Ross with a 28th-place finish in 17:28. It marked Flores' best time of the season. Little Giants Andre Velez (17:38) and Josh Bowen (17:45.9) finished 35th and 40th respectively.

In the Division II-III race, Clyde finished seventh with 187 points. Margaretta finished 11th at 376, Woodmore 12th at 383 and Oak Harbor 21st with 500.

Toledo Christian had 91 points and won the meet, just ahead of Eastwood (92) and Delta (93).

Craig Gerber's 11th-place finish in 17:32 paced Clyde while teammate Jeff Whitt finished 19th in 17:48.10.

Siesel Deven of Margaretta finished fifth in 16:50.40 while Oak Harbor's top runner was Ray Hurlburt (18:56.40) who finished 59th overall in 18:56.40.

In the Division I girls race, Ross finished in 16th place with 381 points.

Bowling Green had just 34 points and breezed to the team title.

Ashley Fischer led the Little Giants with a third-place finish in 19:19.3. Jessica Soule keeps improving with each meet and added a 34th-place finish in 21:02.3.

In the Division II-III race, Lynne Schroeder of Woodmore placed sixth in 20:01.40.

Kristin Rios of Oak Harbor finished



FISCHER

15th in 20:39.10 and teammate Kaycee Hallett was 33rd in 21:24.50. Ashley Alejandro of Clyde was 23rd in 20:54.6.

Alissa Malott of Margaretta placed 25th in 20:55.70.

Liberty-Benton won the team meet with 42 points. Oak Harbor finished fourth at 172, Clyde was 11th in 325 and Woodmore 12th at 330.

Bettsville Invitational

Lakota had 43 points and won the girls event while Gibsonburg was second at 63.

Carly Reese of Lakota won the race in 20:11.27 while Raiders' teammates Julia Windom (20:49.21), Sarah Girard (20:52.59) and Ashley Brockschmidt (21:07.91) finished fourth, sixth and eighth overall.



REESE

Ashley Fisher's third-place finish in 20:29.6 led Gibsonburg. Meghan Widmer added a 12th-place finish in 21:31.40. Andrea Bender of Bettsville finished 14th in 21:40.26.

Gibsonburg had 85 points and finished second in the boys race while Bettsville (93) was third and Lakota (118) fifth. Elyria Catholic scored 50 points to win the event.

Golden Bear Jordan Kirwen led area runners with a time of 16:52.96, good for second place. Timothy Fischer (18:44.09) and Andrew Repp (18:46.04) were 16th and 17th respectively.

Jordan Allison (17:12.57) and Bryce Tiell (17:21.35) finished fourth and fifth overall to lead Lakota. Kurtis Miller (18:21.57) and Jon Trautwein (18:32.49) were 12th and 14th overall for Bettsville.

Eagle Invitational

Fremont Ross' boys finished ninth in the Division I race with 259 points. The Little Giants finished ahead of Greater Buckeye Conference Findlay which bodes well for the league meet in two weeks in Lima.

See FISCHER, B2

Marion Harding Invitational

The Fremont Ross boys were fourth and the girls were fifth in the Marion Harding Invitational.

Hilliard Davidson won the boys meet and Greater Buckeye Conference rival Findlay won the girls meet.

Andre Velez and Michael Flores led the way in sixth place with a time of 16:55.23 and in 10th with a time of 17:10.80, respectively. Michael Slayton, Michael Yuhas, Cody Brunthaver, Andrew Ruh and Andy Leemaster each had a personal best in the race as well.

As a team, the girls finished nearly two minutes better than their best, and placed the highest they have all year. Ashley Fischer finished second with a personal best of 19:12. Lisa Carter and Ashley Brunthaver also had personal bests, and Jessica Soule finished 16th with a time of 21:24.

NEWS-MESSENDER CROSS COUNTRY RUNNERS OF THE YEAR

Gibsonburg's Kirwen, Ross' Fischer have history-making years

By KYLE TIMMONS
News-Messenger correspondent

Senior Ashley Fischer became the first cross country regional champion in Fremont Ross's history.

Gibsonburg's Jordan Kirwen toppled a 23-year-old school record.

And that's why Fischer, a senior, and Kirwen, a junior, are The News-Messenger's cross country athletes of the year.

Fischer, a senior, because the Little Giant's first female runner to win a regional meet as she outlasted Bowling Green's Christy Titus in the Division I regional in Tiffin with a time of 20:11.20 in a rather soggy race.

"Winning the regional meet had to be one of the greatest moments in her life," said Fremont coach

Cathy Esposito. "It was for me to witness."

But Fischer's exciting journey didn't end at regionals as she faced the daunting task of competing in the state finals a week later.

Fischer had three goals for her final meet, all which were rather lofty, Esposito said.

"She wanted to go under 19 minutes," Esposito said. "She wanted to get on the podium (top 15) and be named all-Ohio."

"She accomplished two. What a great season as a senior."



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Fischer just finished under the 19-minute mark as she earned 17th place in a time of 18:57. The finish also named her to the all-Ohio team as the top 25 are considered.

And Fischer concluded her high school career last Saturday as she was chosen to compete in the Mid East Cross Country Meet, a meet that only an elite group of runners are chosen for each year held in Dayton.

Fischer finished 24th out of 60 runners with a time of 19:52.

Setting a new school record for Gibsonburg was junior runner Jordan Kirwen.

Kirwen, who was also named to this year's all-Ohio team, earned a third-place finish at districts,

seventh place at regionals and 21st at state.

But the one finish Kirwen will leave on the Golden Bear record books is his first place run at the Maumee Valley Invitational in which he finished in 16:17, 10 seconds faster than the previous school record held by Dale Rosenberger set in 1983.

"I'm happy with getting down to the 16 and 17 minute marks and getting the school record," said Kirwen. "That was my goal at the beginning of the season."

Kirwen's coach, Beth Kohler said setting the mark on the Maumee Valley course was even more impressive.

"It was quite an accomplishment," Kohler said. "That's kind of a hilly course. You either set your



KIRWEN

self up to do really well, or you succumb to settle at a slower pace."

Kirwen said hard work contributed to his success this season and said he was thankful for staying healthy during the season.

"I tried to get a lot of miles in and keep working and getting faster stuff in," said Kirwen of his summer training. "I was also pretty lucky that I haven't had any real injuries or anything."

Kirwen's training may be part of the reason he was so prepared as Kohler said Kirwen prepares hard in

the off season.

"He was putting in the right kind of base and mileage all summer long," said Kohler.

Kirwen, who participates in basketball and track as well, has also proved himself in the classroom, an accomplishment praised by Kohler.

"He is a great athlete," Kohler said. "He is also a great student."

"He had a 3.9 GPA and was named academic all-Ohio. He's probably one of the most focused runners I've ever coached. He's always willing to take chances and make it pay off."

And those chances did pay off as Kirwen now holds an outstanding Golden Bear record.