

1977 District...

Heidelberg and Smith qualify

Sandusky cops district

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

TOLEDO — Sandusky walked away with its second consecutive Class AAA District Wrestling Tournament crown but Ross will have two repeat performers in this weekend's Ohio School State Wrestling Tournament in Columbus.

The Blue Streaks, third in the Buckeye Conference Tournament two weeks ago, topped off its sectional tourney win a week ago at Bellevue with the district win at Toledo Rogers High School Saturday. Sandusky rolled up 137 points, 36½ more than runnerup Toledo St. Francis.

Third in the team standings went to Mansfield with 83 while fourth was taken by Toledo St. John's at 60. Ross finished fifth with 51½ points.

Jessie Heidelberg (105) and Jim Smith (heavyweight) of Ross will be making the journey to Columbus again for Ross. Heidelberg won his second district title while Smith finished second for the second straight time.

Another Little Giants wrestler, Clarence Parks, narrowly missed a shot at the state tourney.

In the district, only the top two

wrestlers in each weight division advanced to the state tourney.

"I think I was satisfied," Ross Coach Al Voggenthaler pondered Sunday afternoon while thinking about his state qualifiers. "I was disappointed that Clarence (Parks) did not make it. I wasn't disappointed in him but for him because of the job he did."

Parks had upset the tourney favorite Kirk Osgood of Rogers on Friday in the second round. The Ross junior had built up a 5-2 lead before Osgood defaulted with a knee injury.

On Saturday in the semifinals, Parks was stopped by Jim Ryan of Toledo St. John's on a referee's decision in overtime, costing him a state berth. In the first round of the consolation, Parks dropped another overtime verdict, this time to Dave Elderbrock of Findlay 1-0.

"Clarence had the toughest job as any one kid we had in the tourney," Voggenthaler said.

Heidelberg, looking a little sluggish in Saturday's semis, still had way too much for Jim Davenport of St. John's. The Ross senior lightweight did everything he could do to Davenport except pin him in winning the match 16-6, putting him into his second state tourney.

In the finals Saturday night, Heidelberg manhandled sophomore Dan Spoerl of DeVilbiss 10-2 for his second district crown.

Smith knocked off 320-pound Chris Presley of Whitmer in his all-important semifinal match. Avenging an early season 5-3 loss to the giant Presley, Smith ran away with this match 9-1.

Luther Henson of Sandusky was Smith's opponent in the finals. It was the fifth time this season that the two have met and for the fifth time, Henson came out on top.

The Blue Streaks' senior survived 50 seconds of the second period on his back to nip Smith 7-6. The loss left Smith 21-7 for the season while Henson is now 21-0.

Henson's crown was one of four for Sandusky. Kelvin Irby pinned his way through the tourney at 119; Raymond Williams captured the 138-pound crown and Tony Jones cruised to the 167-pound crown. Kirk Wyatt was second at 175 for Sandusky.

Bill Weaver of Bellevue was second at 119 pounds but still qualified for his second straight state tournament berth. The Bellevue senior was 1-0 in overtime by Doug Finch of St. Francis.

Stiff tests: an eye, two wrestlers

Jessie Heidelberg's most serious challenger in the Class AAA Sectional Wrestling Tournament this past weekend was his left eye.

"I could not see out of it," the Ross 105-pounder said as he gently fingered an angry red bump above the eye. Heidelberg banged the eye on the head

of his first tourney opponent, Mike Davis of Wapakoneta, Friday night.

Jim Smith had it a little rougher than his small Ross teammate. He had two big obstacles; he whipped one but was felled by the other.

"I started to walk around," Heidelberg recalled after taking the

blow above the eye, "and it started to open up and I could see."

Had it been serious enough, Heidelberg might have had to default and lose his shot at a state crown. Was he thinking about that aspect?

"No," he said, "all I was thinking about was not putting that mask on me."

The "mask" the Ross wrestler referred to is one that is used, generally, to protect broken noses.

"I would have put it on him," Al Voggenthaler, Ross coach confirmed, "we had it handy if he needed it."

Thinking about his second state tourney trip, Heidelberg smiled and said, "I want to win it (state title)." His smile broadened when asked if he would say that he was going to win it.

"I feel pretty good about winning the district — just like last year," Heidelberg explained. "I think that I have enough experience and know what to expect now down at the state."

Last year, Heidelberg won his first match in the state tourney but lost his next two and he freely admitted that he was more than awed by the large crowds.

Smith, on the other hand, eased his coach's worries by pinning his first two opponents in the district tourney and then soundly whipping Whitmer giant Chris Presley in the semis to gain the state title berth.

"He wrestled a perfect match against Presley," Voggenthaler said. "I was afraid that he might overlook the other two kids because he had been practicing all week on keeping on the outside of Presley."

Smith pinned his first two opponents in 1:20 and 1:29 before running into Presley on Saturday. The big 320-pounder had beaten Smith 2-0 earlier this

but it was not attributed to the action on the mats.

"I could not sleep last night. I kept getting up every 15 minutes and looking out the window to see if it was daylight yet," he remembered. "I just lay in bed thinking about the moves I was going to use. I think I got to sleep about five o'clock."

"My main goal was to get Presley and get back to the state."

He added that after that, his goal was to get Luther Henson in the title bout. He did not, losing for the fifth time to the Sandusky grappler but that was anticlimatic, he had already gotten to the state meet band besides, he can get a second shot at his Henson goal — in the state finals.

Little Giants meet



HAWK

Finish 15th in the state



MESSINA

CANTON — Fremont finished fifth in the Ohio Meet here Saturday.

The team of Hal H. Messina (breaststroke), Jim Albright (freestyle), and a tenth of a second slower posted on Friday but the enough for a one position in the Ross preliminary the first day.

"It's kind of tough to a day and improve in time said, "after dropping two the day before."

The 1:41.73 broke the R event by nearly two full seconds in the Friday race, Haw

26.7, Messina had a 28.5, K and Albright was over a other split time he had p 22.2. Hawk backed to a 26. Messina coming home dropped three-tenths to 24 a 22.5.

"All the kids did a heck

"I'm really proud of them."

"There were a lot of people could not believe that Fremont Most of them told me that swimming was dead!"

"At the first of the season the state meet," Bucciar

was finishing in the top six.

"It was something else believe it," Bucciar added.

"In the prelims on Friday go below 1:42 ... and wh the kids went wild."

The fifth place finish gave finish 15th in the state.

Canton Glen Oak won 1:36.27.

St. Xavier wound up as the eighth consecutive time. They up 194 points to second place 160. Glen Oak was third w Arlington in fourth with finished fifth with 65.

A record crowd of 2,144 Saturday.

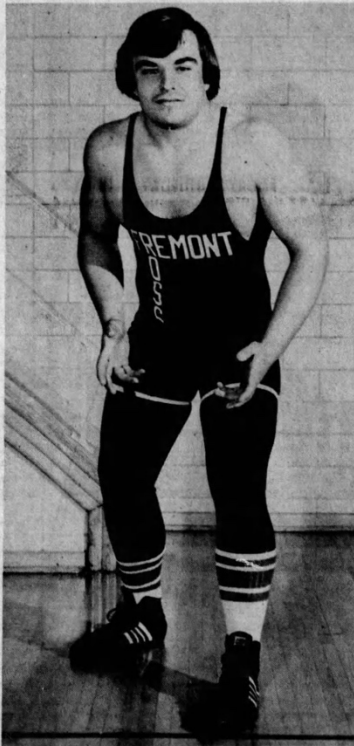
Girls basketball

Fremont area high school girls basketball teams will launch sectional tournament play tonight, Tuesday and Wednesday at six different sites.

St. Joe Central Catholic, Gibsonburg, Genoa, Bettsville and Old Fort begin play tonight. Ross, Woodmore, Lakota, Oak Harbor and Margaretta will play Tuesday, while Bellevue marks time until Wednesday and Clyde doesn't play until Friday.

St. Joe, which went through the regular season winless in 14 games, clashes in a rematch with Sandusky St. Mary's at 6:30 p.m. today in the Class A Sectional at Norwalk Junior High School.

St. Mary's pulled away from St. Joe for a 46-22



JIM SMITH OF ROSS
... Headed for second state meet



JESSIE HEIDELBURG of Ross pulls St. John's Jim Davenport onto his back during the semifinals on Saturday. The Ross wrestler won the match 16-6 to advance to the state meet.