

2000-01 PREP WRESTLING PREVIEW

New crop of champions?

Little Giants take aim at GLL crown

By SCOTT BLACK
News-Messenger correspondent

Fremont Ross is expecting one of its strongest wrestling teams in quite some time. The Little Giants have 32 kids out for the team with a wealth of experience coming back to blend in with some exceptional freshmen wrestlers.

"We really have a good group of kids coming back," head coach Grover Dowell said. "We should be a really nice team. With the young kids we have returning and the new freshmen coming out, this team is going to be fun to coach the next couple of years."

The key losses for Ross were Tobe For-

**Ross/
St. Joe**



R. LEGG

shtay, Roy Zamarripa, Ryan Cooley and Mike Adams.

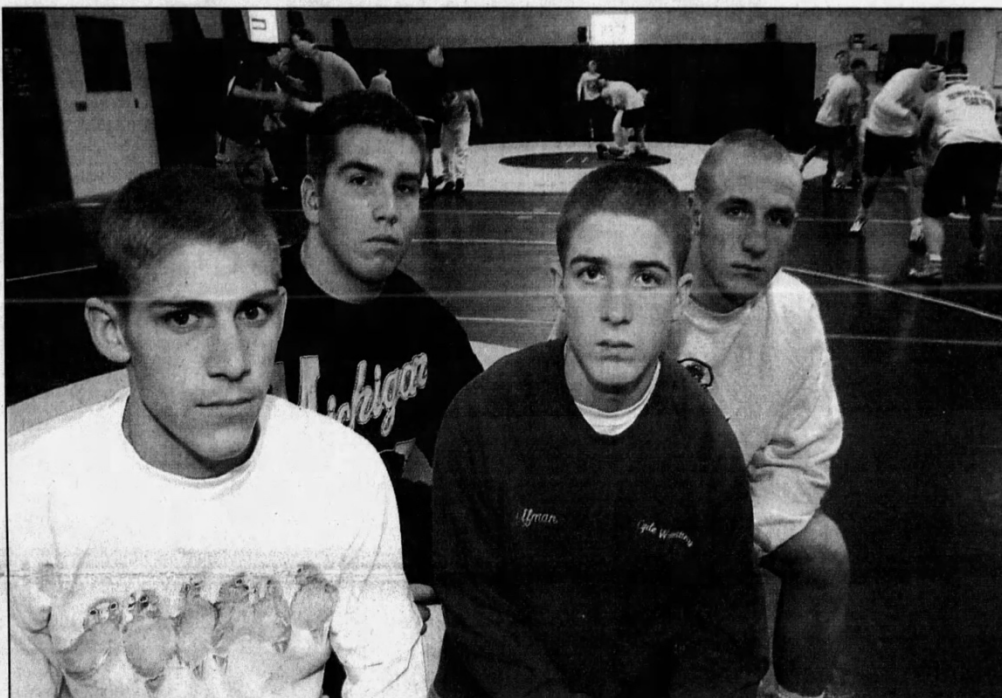
The Little Giants will return seven lettermen, with Rick Legg and Zac Potridge leading the way. Cody Amor and Tommy Wagner will also add firepower to the Ross lineup.

As for newcomers, Andrew Legg was a state and national junior high champion, and Brock Davis was a state placer. Austin Earle has been a pleasant surprise to Dowell.

"I am really excited about the young kids coming up," Dowell said. "They have been very receptive to coaching and have been working their tails off. I have been impressed with the whole team's aggressiveness. We've added Matt Merrill, who wrestled for Ross and Eastern Michigan, to the staff and the kids have responded well to him."

Dowell said Ross can compete for the Great Lakes League title.

See ST. JOE, B3



News-Messenger/Ben French

CLYDE WRESTLERS, from left, Nathan Shearer, Austin Balogh, T.C. Hoffman and Adam Dymond are back for coach Dale Carroll after qualifying for state last year. The Fliers, who finished fourth in the state in Division II, must replace two state champions from last season.

State qualifiers hope to continue Clyde tradition

By SCOTT BLACK
News-Messenger correspondent

Clyde wrestling coach Dale Carroll definitely has his work cut out for him this year. Carroll has the daunting task of trying to replace two state champions in Doug West and Rondall Blackburn and a state qualifier in Jeff Sosa as well as a three-time district qualifier in Brock Conner.

But then again it seems as if Clyde always has to replace good wrestlers because they keep turning them out. The Fliers finished fourth as a team in the Division II state meet last year.

Even with all the key losses, the



CARROLL

Sandusky Bay Conf.

Fliers will return four state qualifiers to their lineup: Austin Balogh, T.C. Hoffman, Nathan Shearer and two-time qualifier Adam Dymond.

"We have four state qualifiers back this year," Carroll said. "But none of them has been able to take their game to the next level yet. We need these qualifiers to move up to state placers."

One of the things that Carroll must figure out is where to put everybody in the lineup. The biggest concern will be heavyweight and 112 pounds.

"We would like to move Balogh to 215 so that we can fit Luke Seal into the lineup at heavyweight," Carroll said. "But there is always concern when you try to move a state qualifier to a new spot. At 112, we have five quality wrestlers. We have to

find a way to spread them out and get a couple of them in the lineup.

"We have some nice experience back, but we are really lean at some weight classes and injuries will hurt us. Even without injuries, we will be very green throughout the lineup."

The Fliers were picked to finish third behind Oak Harbor and Perkins in the Sandusky Bay Conference by the league coaches at their annual meeting.

Oak Harbor Rockets

The Oak Harbor wrestling program has always been successful, and this year will be no different as Oak Harbor has 41 kids out for wrestling.

The Rockets will be trying to improve upon a season that saw them qualify 11 wrestlers to the district and five to the state tournament.

SBC coaches' poll

Following are how Sandusky Bay Conference coaches ranked the conference wrestling teams in a preseason poll:

1. Oak Harbor
2. Perkins
3. Clyde
4. St. Mary
5. Edison
6. Port Clinton
7. Huron
8. Margareta

The Rockets also won the SBC Duals and finished second in the SBC Tournament to Division III state champion St. Mary Central Catholic.

See POLAR BEARS, B3

Inside: Lakota, Woodmore contend for SLL title; Bellevue leads NOL pack again, B3

Legg's title leads Little Giants to 3rd

News-Messenger reports

ASHLAND — Rick Legg's championship at 215 pounds propelled the Ross wrestlers to a third-place finish at the Ashland Tournament.

Legg pinned Lexington's Dean Delacruz in 3 minutes, 31 seconds for the Little Giants.

Also for Ross, Jake Gutschalk (125) and Stuart McCallister (130) placed second.

Ross finished with 155½ points. Austintown Finch won with 206.

Ross is at Oregon Clay on Wednesday in its Great Lakes League opener.

Jim Derr Northwood Inv.

St. Joe finished sixth out of 20 teams and won the championship trophy in the small-school division. The Streaks scored 97 points. Overall champion Toledo Waite had 160.5 points.

Ryan Autullo (125), Jerry Freeh (189) and Kris Klotz (215) led the Streaks with third-place finishes. Robbie LeJeune (103) finished fourth, Josh Seikel (119) fifth and Brady Smith (135) sixth.

St. Joe hosts Genoa Dec. 18.

Gibsonburg Invitational

GIBSONBURG — The host Golden Bears took third with 133½ points. Sophomore Curtis Bursiek (189) took first for Gibsonburg, beating Willard's Andy Hicks 5-0 in the final.

"It was the biggest surprise for us the whole weekend," Gibsonburg coach Glenn Owens said.

Troy Wilburn (112), Mike Perez (125) and Chad Perkins (130)

Wrestling

were second.

Willard won with 247½ points.

Gibsonburg is at the Southview Invitational Friday and Saturday.

Springfield Duals

SPRINGFIELD — Oak Harbor won the Springfield Dick Hoover Duals at Springfield High School.

On Friday, the Rockets whipped Defiance 46-15 and Bryan 75-3. Oak Harbor beat North Canton Hoover 47-16 and topped Perrysburg 56-16 in the semifinals.

The Rockets then handed host Springfield a 29-21 loss in the championship match.

Oak Harbor is at Lakota on Thursday.

Ashland Crestview Invitational

ASHLAND — Woodmore won the Ashland Crestview Invitational as the Wildcats crowned three champions.

Jon Bedford Jr. won the 119-pound weight class, while fellow seniors Billy Weiland took the 130-pound crown and Ray Lewis won the 171-pound title as the 'Cats registered 306 points.

Bedford Jr., the tournament MVP, beat Taylor Scott of Loudonville 3-1 in the final. Weiland pinned Shane Garver of Burton Berkshire in the finals in 3:48. Lewis needed 1:06 to pin Janas Burns of Crestview in the title match.

Chris Arndt (135), Grant Sarver (152), Jason Dunn (160) and Matt Garber (189) finished second and Dana Wend (215) took third.

Wrestling

High School

Ashland Tournament

Team scores

Austintown Finch 206, Ashland 193.5, Ross 155.5, Massillon 146.5, Medina 140, Lexington 138.5, Shelby 109.5, Upper Sandusky 94, Mapleton 52.5, Lincoln West 26.

Ross results

Champions: Rick Legg (215); second place: Jake Gutschalk (125), Stuart McCallister (130); third place: Chris Kayser (171); fourth place: Brock Davis (119), Cody Amor (140), Mike Shanahan (145); fifth place: Andrew Legg (160); sixth place: Eric Elizondo (112), Jarrod Pena (Hwt.).

Clay claims upper weights, beats Ross

News-Messenger reports

OREGON — Brock Davis, Tommy Wagner and Rick Legg recorded pins Wednesday, but the Fremont Ross wrestling team dropped a 43-28 decision to Oregon Clay in the Great Lakes League opener.

Davis, wrestling in the 119-pound division, pinned Clay's Brad Schwartz in 41 seconds.

Wrestling

Wagner (135 lbs.) took just 53 seconds to dispose of Mike Free. And Legg (215 lbs.) took care of James McAllister in 2:36.

After Wagner's pin gave Ross a 16-15 lead, Clay recorded victories in six of the final

seven contested matches. The Little Giants' Jarrod Pena won the heavyweight match by forfeit.

Ross also got a decision victory from Kyle Polter in the 103-lb. division. Polter defeated Bud Klören 12-4.

Stuart McAllister of Ross lost the closest match of the night, dropping a 2-1 decision to Eric

McFerian in the 130-lb. weight division.

The Ross junior varsity team tied the Eagles at 24. Little Giants Jake Gutschalk (130), Jason Andreadis (135), Jesse Wukie (160) and Brandon Wolf (171) each got pins.

Ross is at the Toledo Rogers tournament on Friday and Saturday.

Ross wrestlers drop GLL opener

OREGON — The Fremont Ross wrestling team braved the inclement weather but couldn't come away with a victory in its first Great Lakes League match Wednesday.

Oregon Clay overcame a 16-15 deficit by winning six of the final seven contested matches and claimed a 43-28 victory.

Kyle Polter, Brock Davis, Tommy Wagner, Rick Legg and Jarrod Pena recorded victories for the Little Giants. See complete story, B3.

Wrestling

High School

Oregon Clay 43, Ross 28

103 — Kyle Polter (R) dec. Bud Kloten 12-5.

112 — Blair Napier (C) p. Eric Elizondo 1:48.

119 — Brock Davis (R) p. Brad Schwartz :41.

125 — Josh Lewis (C) p. Jamie Resendez 1:30.

130 — Eric McFarian (C) dec. Stuart McAllister 2-1.

135 — Tommy Wagner (R) p. Mike Free :53.

140 — Brandon Beach (C) dec. Cody Amor 8-4.

145 — Mike Zeiler (C) dec. Mike Shanahan 7-5.

152 — Dave Wolfe (C) p. Kevin Henry 1:21.

160 — Ryan Franke (C) dec. Andrew Legg 20-11.

171 — Casey Donely (C) p. Chris Kayser 4:24.

189 — Double forfeit.

215 — Rick Legg (R) p. James McAllister 2:36.

Hwt. — Jarrod Pena (R) won by forfeit.

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO — The Fremont Ross wrestlers had a case of déjà vu at the Toledo Rogers Invitational this past weekend.

Senior Rick Legg won his weight division for the second straight year, Cody Amor came in second again, and the Little Giants duplicated last season's seventh-place team finish.

Maumee won with 342 points, while North Ridgeville finished a distant second with 241 points. Ross had 172 points.

Legg defeated his Maumee opponent 13-8 in the 215-pound title match for his second crown.

"He had another good tournament," Ross coach Grover Dowell said. "He pretty well walked through it. It wasn't much of a challenge for him."

Amor was pinned in his 140-pound championship match.

The Little Giants had seven total placers, up from four last year. Also placing for Ross were Mike Shanahan (second, 152), Chris Kayser (third, 171), Stuart McAllister (5th, 130), Tommy Wagner (5th, 135) and Andrew Legg (5th, 160).

Ross hosts Fostoria on Wednesday.

Clyde third at Dublin Coffman

DUBLIN — Clyde freshman Tanner Shearer won his second tournament in as many tries as the Fliers finished third at the Dublin Coffman Invitational.

Shearer (112 pounds) turned in a technical fall for Clyde's lone individual title.

"He's an outstanding fresh-

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross won five matches by pin and rolled to a 49-24 Great Lakes League win over Fostoria on Wednesday in its home opener.

For the Little Giants (1-1), Eric Elizondo (112 pounds) pinned Aaron Puckett in 3 minutes, 31

seconds;

Brock

Davis (119)

stopped

Phil Cooley

in 2:48;

Cody Amor

(140)

pinned

Zach

Schroeder

in 37 seconds; Chris Kayser

(171)

pinned An-

drew Lopez

in 1:28; and

Rick Legg

(215)

stopped

Brian

Williams in

55 seconds.

Stuart

McAllister

(130) posted a 9-2 decision

over Jesus Holquin and An-

drew Legg (160) defeated

Rich Gerritsen, 9-1 for Ross.

Tommy Wagner (135) and

Jason Andreadis (145) won

by forfeit.



AMOR



KAYSER

Wrestling

High School

Fremont Ross 49, Fostoria 24

103: Jake Keegan (F) won by forfeit.

112: Eric Elizondo (R) p. Aaron Puckett, 3:31.

119: Brock Davis (R) p. Phil Cooley, 2:48.

125: Rory Oren (F) dec. Jake Gutschalk, 8-5.

130: Stuart McAllister (R) dec. Jesus Holquin, 9-2.

135: Tommy Wagner (R) won by forfeit.

140: Cody Amor (R) p. Zach Schroeder, :37.

145: Jason Andreadis (R) won by forfeit.

152: Shane Parsons (F) dec. Kevin Henry, 7-1.

160: Andrew Legg (R) dec. Rich Gerritsen, 9-1

171: Chris Kayser (R) p. Andrew Lopez, 1:28.

189: Jeremy Bennett (F) won by forfeit.

215: Rick Legg (R) p. Brian Williams, :55.

Hwt: Adam Grine (F) p. Jarrod Pena, 2:21.

GIBSONBURG — Gibsonburg guards Heather Hill and Sarah Taulker combined for 40 points Thursday as the Golden Bears ran their record to 8-0 with a 62-17 triumph over Danbury.

Hill scored 22 points, Taulker 18. Gibsonburg led 24-14 at halftime and pulled away with a 24-15 advantage in the fourth period.

Gibsonburg shot 26-of-70 from the field. Danbury shot 19-of-45.

Christene Benyak led Danbury with 24 points. Ashley Dress added 15.

Gibsonburg hosts St. Joe on Saturday.

Sandusky 63, Bellevue 53

SANDUSKY — Sheena Devese's 29 points led Sandusky to its first win of the year over the Lady Red.

Freshman Leslie King led Bellevue with 19 points. Ashley Hill and Steff Kath added 12 points apiece for the Lady Red (1-7).

Bellevue hosts Norwalk on Saturday.

WRESTLING

Ross seventh after first day

TIFFIN — Four Fremont Ross wrestlers remain in the championship bracket after the first day

Area roundup

at the Wendy's Invitational.

Tommy Wagner (135 pounds), Cody Amor (140), Jesse Wukie (160) and Rick Legg (215) each won two matches and will compete for individual titles today.

The Little Giants stand seventh with 42.5 points after the first day of competition. Sandusky Perkins is in first place with 84.5 points.

The following Ross wrestlers lost Thursday but remain alive in the consolation bracket: Brock Davis (112), Derek Earhart (119), Kyle Wensinger (130), Andrew Legg (152), Chris Kayser (171).

St. Wendelin 53, St. Joe 18

St. Wendelin took advantage of four pins and three forfeits to defeat the Streaks at St. Joe.

St. Joe's victories came from Josh Seikel, who edged Art Bugner 9-8 at 119 pounds, Ryan Autullo, who beat Steven Yarris 12-1 at 130, and Zack Jenkins, who scored a 16-0 technical fall over Ben Kimes at 152.

The Streaks' Robbie LeJeune won by forfeit at 103.

Ross's Legg takes first at Wendy's

TIFFIN — Rick Legg took first place at 215 pounds on Friday to lead the Fremont Ross wrestling team to a 12th-place finish at the Wendy's Invitational.

The Little Giants totaled 73.5 points. Sandusky Perkins was the champion with 199.5 points.

Legg beat Robbie Haddox of Groveport Madison 7-4 in the final. He was one of four Ross placers.

Tommy Wagner (135), Cody Amor (140) and Jessie Wukie (160) were fifth and Andrew Legg (152) took sixth for the Little Giants.

— *News-Messenger reports*

Five Giants get pins in victory

News-Messenger reports

SANDUSKY — Five Fremont Ross wrestlers recorded pins as the Little Giants defeated rival Sandusky 42-27 Wednesday in Great Lakes League action.

Jake Gutschalk, Tommy Wagner, Cody Amor, Andrew Legg and Jesse Wukie each pinned his Blue Streak opponent. Ross also got victories from Brock Davis, Mike Shanahan and Rick Legg.

Gutschalk pinned Brannon Johnson in three minutes, 27 seconds in the 125-pound weight class. Wagner (135) took care of Tyson Conway in 1:11, Amor (140) pinned Adam Crawford in 3:22, Andrew Legg (152) dispatched Brandon Jarrett in 3:59 and Wukie (160) downed John Leibacher in 1:54.

Davis (112) outscored Jarred Jenkins 12-3 for his victory. Shanahan (145) beat Raynard Brown 17-11, and Rick Legg (215) got a 20-4 technical fall over Danny Johnson.

Ross, now 2-1 in the GLL, hosts the annual Mal Mackey Invitational at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Wrestling

High School

Ross 42, Sandusky 27

103 — Jay Dreshel (S) won by forfeit.

112 — Brock Davis (R) dec. Jarred Jenkins 12-3.

119 — Ray Flores (S) p. Derek Earhart 3:27.

125 — Jake Gutschalk (R) p. Brannon Johnson 3:27.

130 — Matt Thomas (S) dec. Kyle Wensinger 12-5.

135 — Tommy Wagner (R) p. Tyson Conway 1:11.

140 — Cody Amor (R) p. Adam Crawford 3:22.

145 — Mike Shanahan (R) dec. Raynard Brown 17-11.

152 — Andrew Legg (R) p. Brandon Jarrett 3:59.

160 — Jesse Wukie (R) p. John Leibacher 1:54.

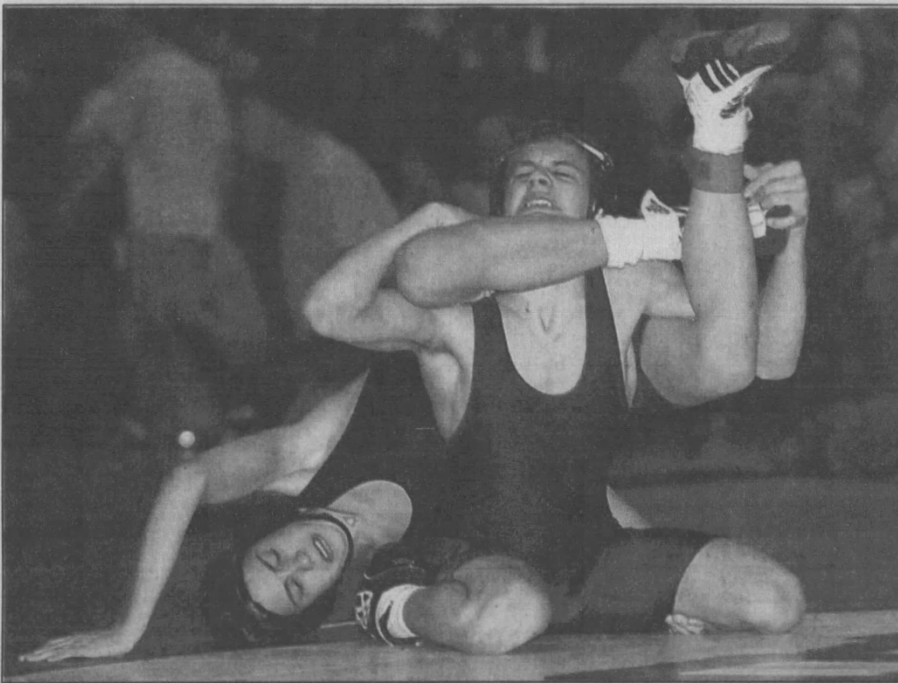
171 — Willie Walker (S) dec. Chris Kayser 10-0.

189 — Double forfeit.

215 — Rick Legg (R) dec. Danny Johnson 20-4.

Hwt — Aaron King (S) p. Jarrod Pena 3:41.

Ross rolls at Mackey



News-Messenger photos/Ben French

BROCK DAVIS (right) of Fremont Ross wrestles Noah Zyduck of Perrysburg in the 112-pound class during Saturday's Mal Mackey Tournament at the Purple Pit. Davis was one of seven Ross wrestlers to claim titles at the 28th annual tournament.

Little Giants claim seven individual titles

By **SCOTT BLACK**
News-Messenger correspondent

When the dust settled from the morning and afternoon sessions, there was no doubt Ross was going to win its eighth consecutive Mal Mackey Tournament.

The question was how bad of a whipping Ross was going to put on the rest of the teams in the 28th annual event at the Purple Pit.

Going into the finals, Ross held a 165-114.5 lead over second-place Perrysburg. Ross also had 12 of the 13 wrestlers it entered in the tournament wrestling in the finals.

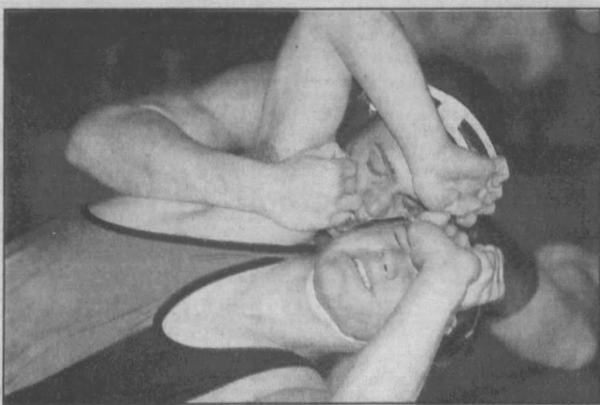
Ross went on to score 202.5 points and crown seven champions. Perrysburg was second with 131.5 points and Lima Senior was third with 112.

"Winning the Mackey always feels good," Ross coach Grover Dowell said. "It's always one of our goals to win our own tournament in front of the home crowd."

Winning titles for Ross were Brock Davis (112 pounds), Derek Earhart (119), Tommy Wagner (135), Cody Amor (140), Chris Kayser (171) Luke Swint (189) and Rick Legg (215).

Placing second for Ross were Kyle Wensinger (130), Andrew Legg (152) and Jesse Wukie (160). Mike Shanahan (145) and Jerrod Pena (275) finished third.

Davis got the Ross train rolling with



JESSIE WUKIE (back) of Ross puts a hold on Josh Shiple of Otsego at the Mal Mackey Tournament.

an unusual pin of Thomas Downie of Bowling Green at four minutes and 35 seconds of the 112-pound match.

"The kid started going high and trying to throw in a leg," Davis said. "I caught his head and pulled him down into a stack. I knew I had him as soon as I hit it. It felt good."

Earhart recorded a 17-7 win at 119. "This feels so good because last year I got eliminated right away," Earhart said. "This year I won it all."

"In the finals we both had the same moves. I just hit mine better."

Wagner won the 135 title 8-7 win over Garret Bays of Otsego.

"This was just a sweet win," Wagner said. "The final was a tough match. He was a good kid, but it was fun to wrestle him. There were a couple of times I thought I had takedowns on him at the edge of the mat, but the ref didn't

Shearer takes title at Gorman Invitational

News-Messenger reports

MANSFIELD — Nathan Shearer won his weight division, and Adam Dymond recorded his 100th career victory as the Clyde wrestling team finished second at the 21-team J.C. Gorman Tournament on Saturday.

Inside: Oak Harbor wrestlers win own invitational; Woodmore second in its tourney. **Page B3**

Shearer recorded a 12-4 major decision victory over Upper Sandusky's Darren Rowland in the 119-pound championship match. Shearer, a senior, improved to 16-1 on the season by winning all four of his matches.

"He wrestled very well," Clyde coach Dale Carroll said of Shearer.

Clyde scored 157 points and finished behind only Mount Vernon (178.5).

Dymond, a 171-pound senior, got his 100th victory by beating Lexington's Bob Hudak 17-0 in the tournament opener. Dymond (15-3) won four of his five matches and finished third in his class.

"That's quite a feat for him," Carroll said. "Only eight or nine wrestlers have ever done that for us."

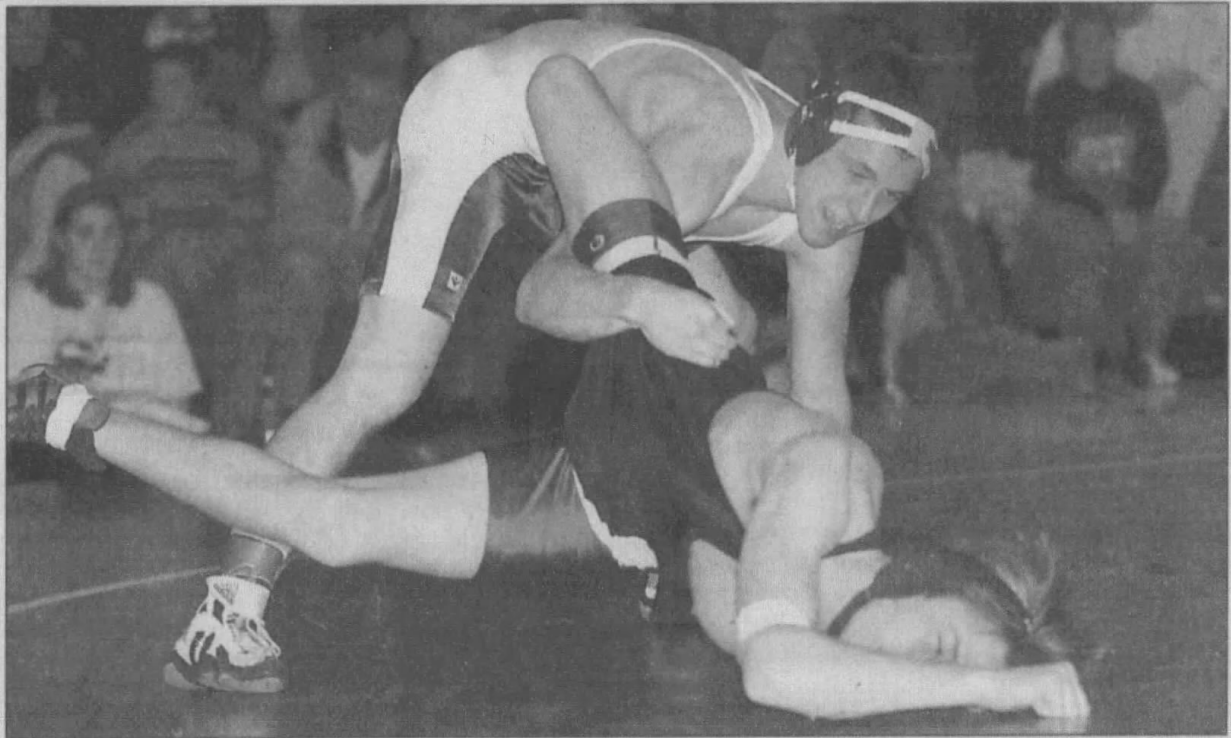
Standout Clyde freshman Tanner Shearer (16-1) finished second in the 112-pound class after dropping his first match of the season, a 4-1 decision to Loudonville's Tyler Scott in the championship. Scott won a state title in the 103-pound division last season.

J.R. Ysguirre (13-5) also finished second for Clyde. He defaulted to Willard's Mike Compton in the 103-pound finals.

Other third-place finishers for Clyde were Austin Balogh (215) and Luke Seal (Hwt.). Balogh is 15-4 on the season, Seal 14-4.

The Fliers host the Clyde Invitational on Saturday.

See **ROSS, B3**



News-Messenger/Ben French

CODY AMOR of Ross works on Drew Johnson of Shawnee during the 140-pound title match.

Ross wins Mackey again

Continued From B1

see it that way and called us out. Those points would have made it a little easier."

Amor won the 140 title with two pins and an 18-1 technical fall. His pin of Drew Johnson of Shawnee in 1:51 earned him the title.

"This is the home crowd," Amor said. "That's what makes it feel so good. I was going to try a stack with my guy but I pinned him with a cradle."

Kayser started a string of three straight Ross titles with an 8-2 win over Chris Hires of Perrysburg.

"This is my second Mackey in a row and it feels just as good as the first one," Kayser said. "In my first two matches, I worked scissors and stretched their arms. In the final, nothing was working but my double leg so I went with it."

Swint was up next for Ross and pinned his way through the tournament. He pinned Dan Bahler of Perrysburg first, then Terrance Ramsey of Lima Senior in 3:01 for the title.

"He was a strong kid," Swint said. "I got an ankle pick and then worked to keep him down when I was on top until he wore out."

Legg picked up his second Mackey title and Ross's last of the night at 215 with a 16-0 technical fall of Dan McPheron of Lima Senior.

"Last year I got a pin to win my title," said Legg. "So I was a little disappointed that I didn't get another pin. I had a lot of energy and felt very determined today."

Perrysburg's Kyle Hreben, who won the 130-pound championship, was named the tournament's MVP. Dowell was named the tournament's outstanding coach.

Ross will host Toledo Whitmer on Wednesday.

Wrestling

High School

Mal Mackey Tournament at Fremont Ross

1-Ross	202.5
2-Perrysburg	131.5
3-Lima Senior	112
4-Otsego	100.5
5-Northwood	73.5
6-Bowling Green	50
7-Lima Shawnee	38

103: 1-Dan Vallant (Ots), 2-Patrick Metting (PB), 3-Adam Liggett (NW).

112: 1-Brock Davis (Ross), 2-Thomas Downie (BG), 3-Noah Zyduck (PB).

119: 1-Derek Earhart (Ross), 2-Josh Miller (SH), 3-Gabe Downing (SR).

125: 1-John Risner (PB), 2-Brandon McGaharan (NW), 3-Josh Keiffer (BG).

130: 1-Kyle Hreben (PB), 2-Kyle Wensing (Ross), 3-Mike Lambert (Ots).

135: 1-Tommy Wagner (Ross), 2-Garret Bays (Ots), 3-Kyle Weekly (SR).

140: 1-Cody Amor (Ross), 2-Drew Johnson (SH), 3-Josh Keatly (Ots).

145: 1-Joe Gerwin (Ots), 2-Shane Patton (NW), 3-Mike Shanahan (Ross).

152: 1-Bryan Asmus (Ots), 2-Andrew Legg (Ross), 3-Justin Vance (SR).

160: 1-P.J. Fought (SR), 2-Jesse Wukie (Ross), 3-Saeed Aboelzahab (PB).

171: 1-Chris Kayser (Ross), 2-Chris Hires (PB), 3-Cordell Turner (SR).

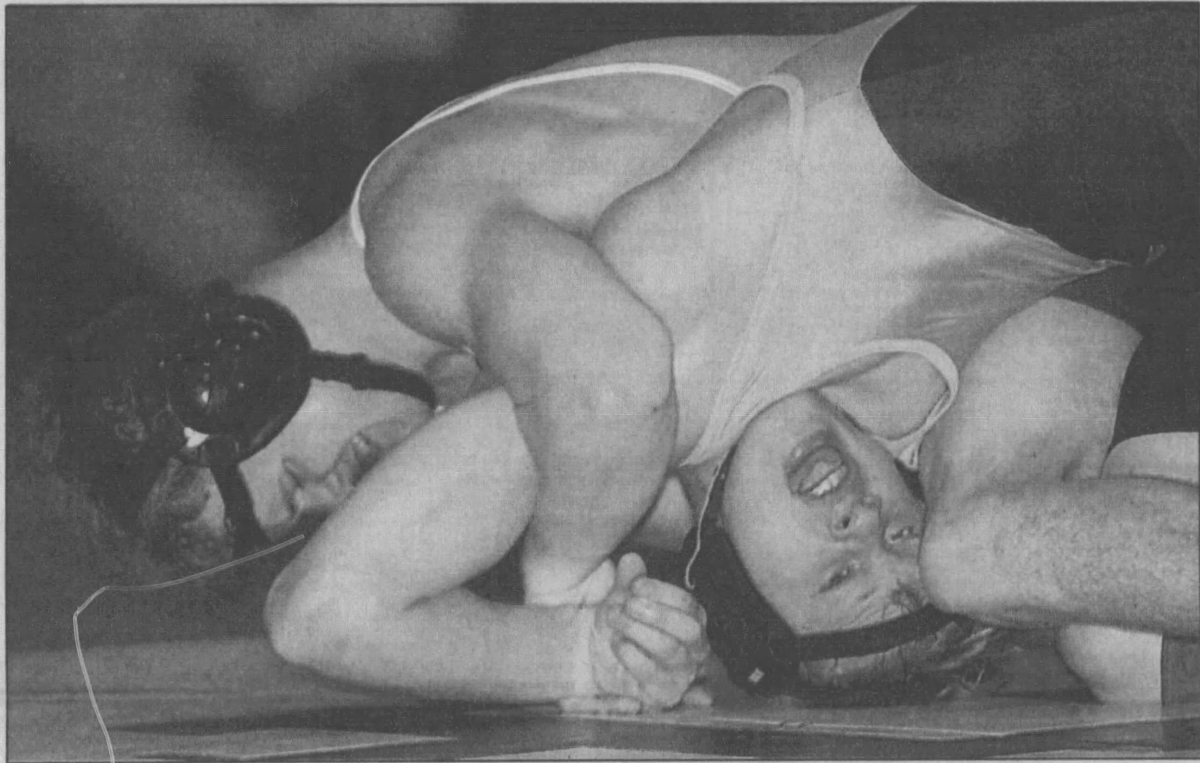
189: 1-Luke Swint (Ross), 2-Terrance Ramsey (SR), 3-Dan Bahler (PB).

215: 1-Rick Legg (Ross), 2-Dana McPherson (SR), 3-Jamie Teachout (PB).

HW: 1-Kris Lafair (NW), 2-Zack Johnson (PB), 3-Jerrold Pena (Ross).

High School Wrestling

Whitmer pins Little Giants



News-Messenger photos/Ben French

ANDREW LEGG of Ross holds Whitmer's Mike Breiht to the mat during a 152-pound match on Wednesday at the Purple Pit. Legg beat Breiht 10-0, but the Panthers won the meet 47-19.

Panthers use experience to roll past Ross 47-19 in GLL match

By **MICHAEL PIDANICK**
Staff writer

It's not that Fremont Ross wrestling coach Grover Dowell doesn't have faith in his team. But all he had to do was look at the senior count to figure out his Little Giants were going to be in for a tough night against Toledo Whitmer.

The Panthers used a convincing advantage in experience and rolled to a 47-19 Great Lakes League win at the Purple Pit.

"I was afraid that would happen," Ross coach Grover Dowell said. "Whitmer's got a nice program and they have seven se-

niors to our one. So I thought that might happen.

"It happens. And we had a couple of kids get caught (and pinned). When you're the aggressor and taking the offensive, those things can happen."

The patient Panthers won eight of the 12 contested matches and recorded four pins. All four of Ross's victories were by decision.

"All they really did was stall," said Ross senior Rick Legg, a winner at 215-pounds. "We couldn't really do any of the moves we practiced all week."

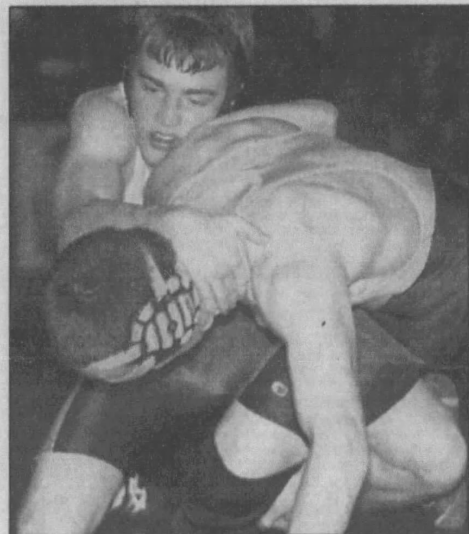
Legg, Andrew Legg, Stu-

art McAllister and Derek Wensinger were victorious for the Little Giants. Chris Kayser won by forfeit at 171. Rick Legg improved to 27-0 with an easy 9-2 win over Nick Dolik.

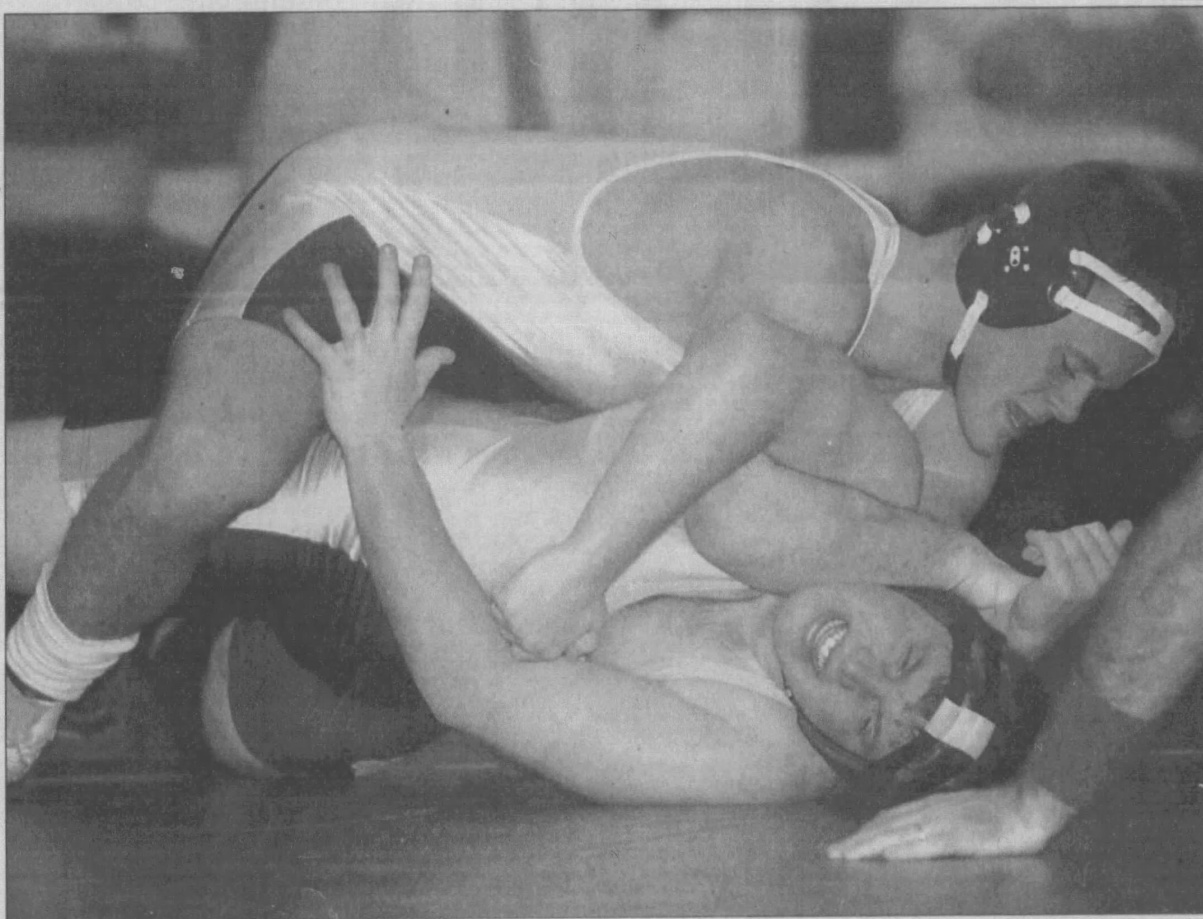
"I thought I'd beat him a little bit more than I did," Legg said. "But all he did was stall, so there wasn't much I could do."

Andrew Legg, Rick's younger brother, was the most convincing Ross winner of the evening. Andrew whipped Mike Breiht in a 10-0 major decision at 152 pounds.

See **WHITMER, B3**



STUART McALLISTER of Ross grabs ahold of Whitmer's Jason Dalton during a 135-pound match



News-Messenger/Ben French

RICK LEGG of Fremont Ross controls opponent **Nick Dalik** during Wednesday's Great Lakes League dual meet. Legg beat Dalik 9-2.

Whitmer routs Little Giants

Continued From B1

Legg said he was looking to bounce back from a disappointing second-place finish at Saturday's Mal Mackey Invitational.

"I had a bad week last week and I was trying to make up for it," he said. "This week I worked a lot harder in practice and practiced what I needed to practice."

"I felt good going into the match and I felt good after the match."

McAllister's win at 135 pounds was part of a busy night for the

Ross junior. He had an 8 p.m. class at Terra, so his match was moved to the start of the slate. McAllister posted a 7-3 decision over Jason Dalton.

"We actually bumped him up a class," Dowell said. "He usually wrestles at 130. He did a nice job in a good match."

McAllister's usual practice partner, sophomore Kyle Wensinger, won the most competitive match of the night. Wensinger rallied with five points in the last 30 seconds to post a 14-12 decision over Chad Sharp at 130 pounds.

"Kyle showed a lot of heart," Dowell said. "Those two (Wensinger and McAllister) practice and wrestle-off together and they're at each other all the time. You can see that in a match. They're both very competitive."

The rest of the night belonged to the Panthers. Whitmer's Kirk Bowman (112) pinned Eric Elizondo in one minute, 23 seconds; Tim Root stopped Jake Gutschalk in 3:47, Eric Herman pinned Cody Amor in 4:50 and Chris Brown (heavyweight) stopped Jarrod Pena in 1:46. The

Panthers' Brent Maldonado won by injury default after Ross's Luke Swint was stopped by a shoulder injury just two seconds into the 189-pound match.

Also for Whitmer: Antonio Ahumada (119) beat Brock Davis 17-12, Rick Morrison (145) used a late near-fall to beat Mike Shanahan 9-6, Mike Spink (160) posted a 15-0 technical fall win over Jesse Wukie and Ryan Macut won by forfeit at 103.

Ross is at Admiral King on Wednesday in another GLL dual meet.

Wrestling

High School

Whitmer 47, Ross 19

103: Ryan Macut (W) won by forfeit.

112: Kirk Bowman (W) p. Eric Elizondo, 1:23.

119: Antonio Ahumada (W) dec. Brock Davis, 17-12.

125: Tim Root (W) p. Jake Gutschalk, 3:45.

130: Kyle Wensinger (R) dec. Chad Sharp, 14-12.

135: Stuart McAllister (R) dec. Jason Dalton.

140: Eric Herman (W) p. Cody Amor, 4:50.

145: Rick Morrison (W) dec. Mike Shanahan, 9-6.

152: Andrew Legg (R) maj. dec. Mike Breiht, 10-0.

160: Mike Spink (W) tech. fall over Jesse Wukie, 15-0.

171: Chris Kayser (R) won by forfeit.

189: Brent Maldonado (W) def. Luke Swint by injury default.

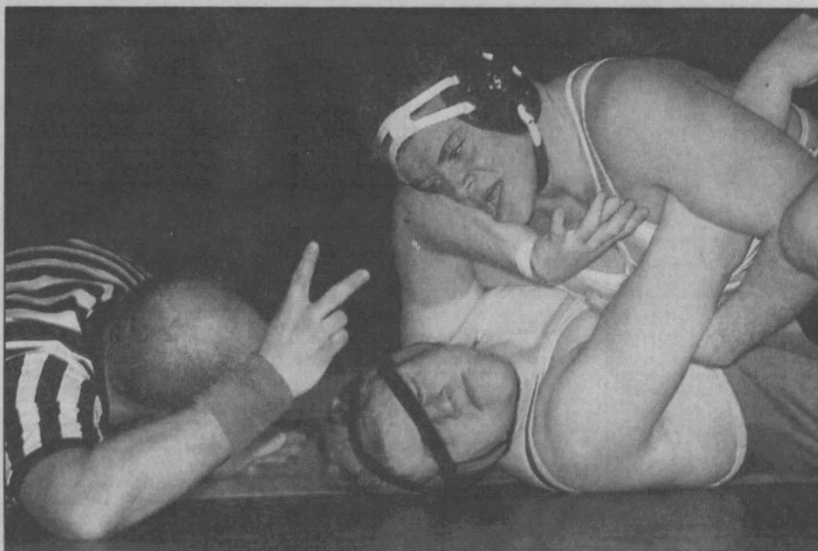
215: Rick Legg (R) dec. Nick Dalik, 9-2.

275: Chris Brown (W) p. Jarrod Pena, 1:46.

JV score: Ross 30-12.

Ross JV winners: Chris Foresman, Derek Earhart, Tim Freeman, Myles Porter, Brandon Wolf, Chris Ickles.

Unbeaten Legg aims for state



News-Messenger file photo/Ben French

RICK LEGG (top) of Fremont Ross puts Dana McPherson of Lima Senior on his back in the 215-pound final match at the Mal Mackey Tournament earlier this season.

Ross senior reaching high goals in final campaign

By **MICHAEL PIDANICK**
Staff writer

The last time Fremont Ross was represented at the state wrestling tournament, Rick Legg was the only current Little Giant team member even in high school.

Now the team's leader and only senior, Legg is looking to end Ross's two-year state drought while wrestling in the same class as the school's last state-qualifier.

"It's been a while," Ross coach Grover Dowell said. "I'm ready for someone to go all the way. We'll see what happens. He's been going real well lately. I just hope it continues."

Wrestling at 215 pounds in 1998, then-senior Aaron Root won his first match at state before dropping his next two. Ross has had only three wrestlers advance as far as district since then.

The Little Giants haven't had a placer since Matt Merrill was fifth and Jason Hatfield was sixth in 1995.

But Legg is thinking of breaking the longer drought.

"I want to go all the way to state," Legg said. "But I want to place up there too, hopefully first or second."

Jim Mooney, at 120 pounds in 1960, is the only Ross wrestler to win a state championship. Three Little Giants have placed second:

"I want to go all the way to state. But I want to place up there too."

— **Rick Legg,**
Ross wrestler



Dick Swedersky (1959), Tony Munoz (1975) and Chad Green (1991).

The way Legg has been wrestling this year, his goals aren't out of the question. He's 27-0 with three tournament championships for the Little Giants.

"That's sweet, isn't it," Dowell said of Legg's record. "He's got a real positive attitude and he's looking like he can do big things for us this year."

Legg won the Ashland Tournament on Nov. 10, the Wendy's Invitational in Tiffin on Dec. 29 and the Mal Mackey on Jan. 6. He has easily won all three of his GLL matches.

"He's been doing real well," said freshman Andrew Legg, Rick's brother and Ross's 152-pound wrestler. "He has a positive chance of reaching state. He's been working hard for that."

Rick Legg was the only district qualifier for the Little Giants last season. He won three matches at

Hilliard Darby, but fell one win shy of reaching state.

"I don't want what happened last year to happen again," Legg said. "I wasn't in as good of condition as I could have been, and I kind of gassed out before the third period every match. I've been working a lot harder on that so I'm in a lot better shape."

Legg will turn his interests to football permanently after the wrestling season. He has been nominated for the Air Force Academy by U.S. Rep. Paul Gillmor. If accepted, he will play football.

As an offensive lineman for the 6-4 Little Giants, Legg earned All-Ohio special mention, all-district first-team and GLL lineman of the year honors.

But for now, his attention is on the wrestling mat. As well as breaking the state tournament drought, Legg has been called upon to lead an extremely young Little Giants team. Ross has only six returning lettermen on the active roster.

But despite the lack of classmates on the team, Legg insists it has been a fun season.

"We're definitely a young team," Legg said.

"But it's not really all that lonely for me. I've been wrestling with all these guys since eighth grade. I'm just one of the guys."

Ross wrestlers pound Findlay

FINDLAY — Six Fremont Ross wrestlers recorded pins Wednesday as the Little Giants routed Findlay 52-16 in Great Lakes League action.

Cody Amor, Mike Shanahan, Jesse Wukie, Chris Kayser, Rick Legg and Jarrod Pena had pins for Ross.

Amor (140-pound division) pinned Josh Widman in three minutes, nine seconds. Shanahan (145) took care of Chad Munsey in 1:14. Wukie (160) downed Bill Seng in 5:07, and Kayser (171) pinned Justin Franks in 1:59. Legg (215) stopped Jim Almond in 2:33, and Pena (275) pinned Erc Bremm in 3:10.

Other Ross winners were Kyle Polter (103), Kyle Wensinger (130), Tommy Wagner (135) and Andrew Legg (152).

The Little Giants are home against Lorain Southview on Wednesday.

Wrestling

High School

Ross 52, Findlay 16

103 pounds: Kyle Polter (R) tech fall Josh Schumacker 17-2.

112 lbs.: Rikki Alessi (F) dec. Eric Elizondo 10-5.

119 lbs.: Paul Hogan (F) dec. Derek Earhart 10-5.

125 lbs.: Chris Kukay (F) maj. dec. Jake Gutschalk 12-3.

130 lbs.: Kyle Wensinger (R) dec. Ryan Duenke 14-6.

135 lbs.: Tommy Wagner (R) d. Matt Mercer 15-5

140 lbs.: Cody Amor (R) p. Josh Widman 3:09.

145 lbs.: Mike Shanahan (R) p. Chad Munsey 1:14.

152 lbs.: Andrew Legg (R) maj. dec. Ryan Nelson 11-1.

160 lbs.: Jesse Wukie (R) p. Bill Seng 5:07.

171 lbs.: Chris Kayser (R) p. Justin Franks 1:59.

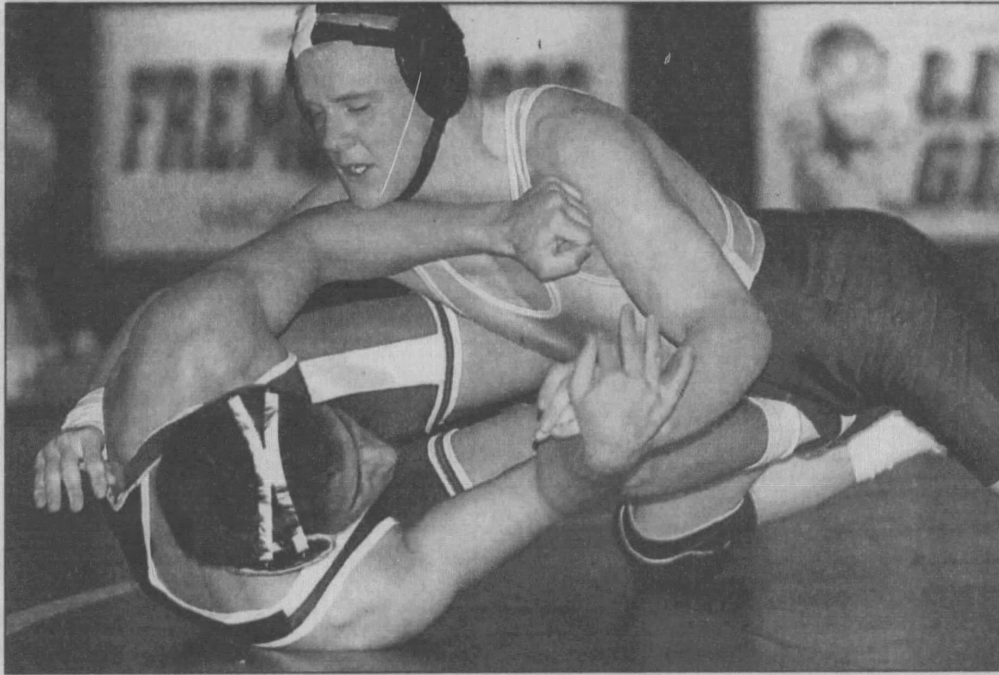
189 lbs.: Jeff Thomas (F) p. Luke Swint 2:42.

215 lbs.: Rick Legg (R) p. Jim Almond 2:33.

Hwt.: Jarrod Pena (R) p. Eric Bremm 3:10.

Wrestling

Southview pounces



News-Messenger photos/Ben French

ANDREW LEGG, top, of Fremont Ross gets the upper hand on Lorain Southview opponent Alex Torres during Wednesday's Great Lakes League match at the Purple Pit. Legg claimed a 17-1 technical fall.

Depleted Ross squad falls in league finale

By **TIMOTHY R. WOLFRUM**
Sports editor

A Great Lakes League colleague called Ross wrestling coach Grover Dowell on Wednesday to say he thought the Little Giants could knock off unbeaten Lorain Southview.

Dowell agreed.

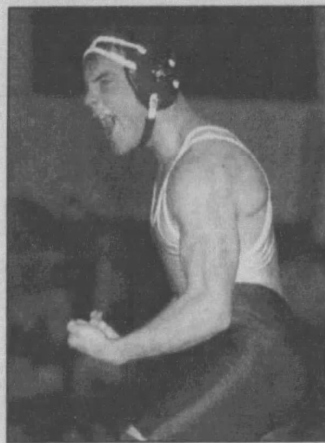
Then Dowell had to explain why there was little chance of it actually happening.

Ross entered the dual match missing six starters due to injury or illness, and Southview pounced. The Saints used five pins and a forfeit to run out to a 36-0 lead and sailed to a 62-17 victory at the Purple Pit, ensuring Southview a perfect first and only trip through the GLL regular season.

"The league is really screwed up now, with everybody bumping everybody off," Dowell said. "I told him (the GLL coach) what I was doing and what happened to the kids. He said, 'Well, tough luck.'"

Southview, which is leaving the league after the current school year, is 7-0 in league matches heading into the GLL meet Feb. 10 at Fostoria. Ross is 3-3-1.

"I think we're peaking at the right time," said Southview assistant coach



TOMMY WAGNER of Ross celebrates after pinning Lorain Southview's Sven Wolf on Wednesday.

Billy Kopp, who won a state title as a Saints wrestler in 1988. "I'm looking for a pretty tough conference tournament."

The Little Giants did without the services of Kyle Poulter (103 pounds), Jake Gutschalk (125), Stuart McAllister and Kyle Wensinger (130), Cody Amor

Inside: State AP poll, season records for area wrestlers. **Page B2**

(140), Chris Kayser (171) and Luke Swint (189). Gutschalk and Wensinger were ill, and the rest suffered from various injuries. Amor, who has a sore back, wanted to wrestle Wednesday but was held out for the GLL meet.

Ross got three victories Wednesday, two of which came from wrestlers who moved up a weight class.

Most impressive was the effort of freshman Andrew Legg, who wrestled at 160 pounds instead of his customary 152 because he was coming off a week-long illness. Legg, now 20-9 on the year, overcame a knee injury and a bloody nose to record a 17-1 technical fall over Southview opponent Alex Torres.

"I was a little bit overweight," Legg said. "I knew I was going to be. I like to keep my weight a little higher than my actual weight class. I was too sick to cut weight. ... I felt good tonight. I felt a lot better than I did yesterday at practice. But I burned a lot of energy in the first period. It was hard to keep my energy up for the whole three periods."

See GIANTS, B2

Giants wrap up GLL campaign

Continued From B1

Legg, who wears a volleyball pad on his right knee to keep the kneecap from shifting out of place, stopped the scoreless match with 26 seconds to go in the first period when he clutched his knee in pain.

He recovered with a five-point flurry before the end of the period, but suffered a bloody nose as the buzzer rang.

As Legg closed out the second period with a 9-1 lead, he grabbed the knee again, using the last of his allotted injury time. Another stoppage would have cost Legg the match. But he closed out Torres well before the clock ran out in the third period.

"I thought about it before I started back down (for the third period)," Legg said of his injury. "But once the wrestling starts, you can't think about it anymore."

Said Dowell, "Andrew's a quality competitor. He works his butt off. I was hoping he would pull through. The kid he beat is a tough kid."

Ross's Tommy Wagner, who pinned Sven Wolf with only three seconds remaining in the first period, wrestled at 140 pounds instead of his usual 135.

Wagner, now 21-5, climbed to take Amor's spot.

"He bumped up and did a real nice job at 140," Dowell said. "I'm surprised he did as well as he did, but he's a real strong kid for a 135-pounder."

Ross's top wrestler, senior Rick Legg, improved to 28-0 with a pin in one minute, 44 seconds over Moe Bryner in the 215-pound class.

Kopp said Rick Legg "is really tough. I liked him. He was moving fast, more like a lightweight than he was a heavyweight."

Ross is off until the GLL meet.

Wrestling

Lorain Southview 62, Ross 17

103: Rubin Brown (L) won by forfeit.

112: Ray Fluker (L) p. Eric Elizondo
1:24.

119: Hector Mendez (L) p. Derek
Earhart 2:55.

125: Frankie Santiago (L) p. Jamie Re-
sendez 2:57.

130: Aaron Mathews (L) p. Tim Free-
man 1:49.

135: Chris Anderson (L) p. Austin Ear-
le 4:55.

140: Tommy Wagner (R) p. Sven Wolf
1:57.

145: George Berlinger (L) tech. fall
Mike Shanahan 18-6.

152: Carl Harris (L) won by forfeit.

160: Andrew Legg (R) tech. fall Alex
Torres 17-1.

171: Josh Gregorek (L) maj. dec. Jesse
Wukie 12-4.

189: Mike Cortes (L) won by forfeit.

215: Rick Legg (R) p. Moe Bryner 1:44.

Hwt: Tony Rodriguez (L) p. Jarrod Pena
3:51.

Wrestling

High School

All-Great Lakes League

First Team: Sandusky: Jay Dreschel. Admiral King: Miguel Dejesus, Johnnie Evans. Lorain Southview: Hector Mendez, George Berlingeri, Carl Harris, Josh Gergorek. Clay: Josh Lewis, Brandon Beach, Ryan Franke. Fostoria: Alex Shiff, Jeremy Bennett. Whitmer: Eric Herman. Ross: Rick Legg.

Wrestler Of The Year: Alex Shiff, Fostoria.

Coach Of The Year: Dan Ternes, Lorain Southview.

Second Team: Lorain Southview: Rubin Brown, Ray Fluker. Sandusky: Matt Thomas, Willie Walker, Aaron King. Whitmer: Tim Root, Rick Morrison, Brent Maldonado, Nick Dulick. Admiral King: Cliff Dowell. Ross: Tommy Wagner, Cody Amor, Andrew Legg. Findlay: Bill Seng.

Ross honors swimmers, wrestlers

Brittany O'Connor, Dan Schrickel and Legg received most valuable athlete awards Tuesday as Fremont Ross honored its swimmers and wrestlers at a postseason awards banquet.

O'Connor, a sophomore and the school's only state qualifier, was named the most valuable girls swimmer. Meg Nalley and Noelle Stroempl shared the captain's award, Stroempl took home the coach's award and Jaymelee Glaspy was the most improved swimmer.

Schricket received the most valuable boys swimmer award and the captain's award. Elliot Hogan took home the coach's award, and Nate Schrickel was the most improved.

Legg, a state qualifier for the wrestling team, was the most valuable wrestler. Cody Amor and Jesse Wukie shared the captain's award, Wukie was the most improved and Derek Earhart won the coach's award.