

1999 Norm Bray Invitational...

Champions return for Saturday's Norm Bray

Fans should expect quality

By SCOTT TAPPA
Sports editor

Fremont Ross cross country coach John Elder wanted to beef up the field at this year's Norm Bray Invitational. The way things stand now, Walsh Park might be bursting at the seams on Saturday.

"We've got over 20 teams combined," said Elder. "It's probably too big to fit all the buses."

Parking be damned, the strengthened field should make for an event that has

better overall race quality in both Divisions 1 and 2-3.

In the Division 2-3 races, the two-time defending champion St. Joseph Central Catholic girls figure to be race favorites, as well as the Lakota and Huron boys.

One girls team that would normally give St. Joe a run for its money, Woodmore, will instead be competing in the Division 1 race, in a move to strengthen that field.

"They're good, they're always competitive," Elder said. "The Division 1 girls race has always been light. (Toledo) Start's also coming down, I think those are the only significant additions."

Cross country

Last year, St. Joe coach Gary Logsdon saw five of his girls finish in the top 15, Keri Oxley, Kerri Zimmerman, Joni Wilhelm, Tracy Snyder and Trisch Snyder. All five are back, making St. Joe the prohibitive favorite.

Lakota won the Division 2-3 boys race last year, and should be tough again, but the top individual battle will be between rivals Mike Chapman of St. Joe and Jeremy Riehm of Old Fort. Last year, Riehm beat Chapman by four seconds for the individual title, finishing in 16 minutes, 49 seconds.

Both won their first races of

the season, Chapman taking the NWOCSA title in 16:37, Riehm winning the Liberty-Benton Invitational in 17:03.

In Division 1, the Maumee boys team returns to defend its title. The Panthers won their regional last year, and though they lose ace Brian McNutt, they return top runner Nick Wingland. Elder said his team is just looking to improve on Tuesday's fourth place showing at a Tiffin five-team event.

"I'm not sure where we're going to fit in," he said.

Elder's uncertainty can be traced to injuries, and his runners' conflicts with family and church events and other sports.

Norm Bray Schedule

The schedule of events for Saturday's Norm Bray Invitational, set for Saturday at Walsh Park.

10 a.m. — Div. 2-3 girls
10:30 a.m. — Div. 2-3 boys
11 a.m. — Div. 1 girls
11:30 a.m. — Div. 1 boys
Noon — JV girls
12:30 p.m. — JV boys

counted on heavily this year.

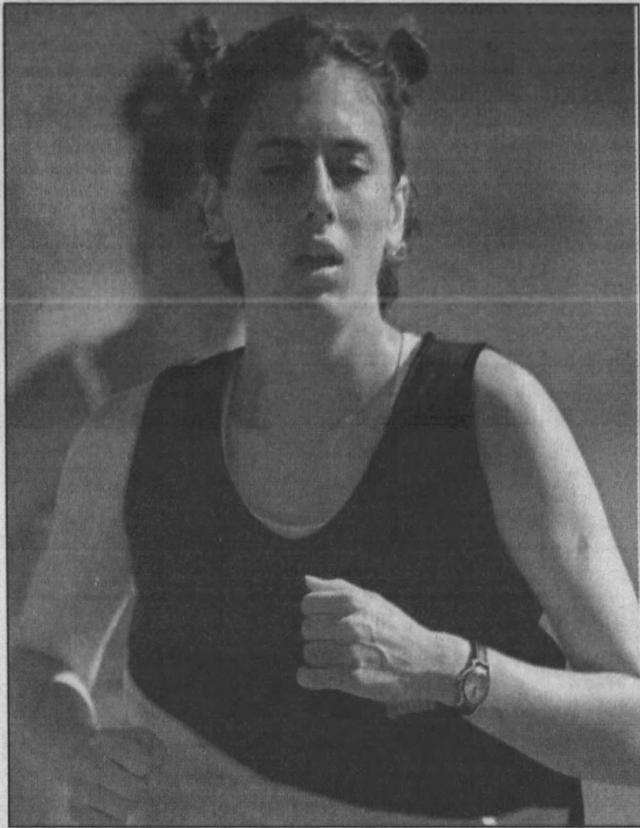
Ross girls coach Cathy Esposito's girls figure to be among the favorites in the Division 1 girls race, along with newcomer Woodmore and Bowling Green. Four seniors return, Molly Gocke, Abby Cominsky, Jenny Gabel and Jeannette Frontz, to give Esposito veteran leadership.

The coach is also high on a bumper crop of freshman talent, led by Lindsay Swope, Stacy Hall, Kelly Biebler and Shana Frontz.

"I'd like to win that race, that would be a good goal for them," said Esposito, who picked BG as the Little Giants' key rival in the race.

Cross Country

St. Joe rules Norm Bray



News-Messenger/Liz Margerum

ABOVE: KERRI ZIMMERMAN placed eighth at the Norm Bray Invitational for the St. Joe girls. Right: Mike Chapman set a new course record with a 16:34 at Walsh Park.

SJCC girls win third straight title

By MICHAEL PIDANICK
Staff writer

Early morning fog caused the Norm Bray Cross Country Invitational to be delayed by 30 minutes on Saturday.

The performance of the St. Joseph Central Catholic girls team left coach Gary Logsdon feeling a little foggy by the end of the race.

The Crimson Streaks won their third consecutive Norm Bray title with 55 points at Walsh Park.

"I'm elated, you could say I'm in a fog," said Logsdon. "I'm real happy to see the girls blossom the way they have."

The Crimson Streaks won the Division II-III race, topping second-place Huron, which totaled 61. Hopewell-Loudon, led by winner Amy Jacobs and runner-up Nikki

Jones, was third with 67.

Lakota was fourth with 104, followed by Margaretta (132), Genoa (142), Tiffin Calvert (214), Lake (232) and Toledo Christian (243).

Sophomore Trischa Snyder was third with a time of 21:21 to lead the Crimson Streaks. She said being used to the tough Walsh Park course proved to be an advantage for her team.

"It definitely helps," she said. "We practice here, so that's an advantage. The hill I'd say is the toughest part and we're used to it."

Kerri Zimmerman, who was eighth in 21:57 for St. Joe, said the course was tough but an advantage for the Crimson Streaks.

"This is definitely not my favorite course," she said. "But it's nice to have that little secret. It's a

lakota was fourth with 104, followed by Margaretta (132), Genoa (142), Tiffin Calvert (214), Lake (232) and Toledo Christian (243).

INSIDE: Framstad leads Ross boys. Page B3

tough course, especially in the heat."

Also for SJCC, Joni Wilhelm was ninth in 22:08, Katie Kosta was 17th in 23:33, Maryanne Pickett was 18th in 23:37, Keri Peiffer was 24th in 23:49 and Tracy Snyder was 28th in 24:05. St. Joe was without senior Keri Oxley, who missed the event due to a prior commitment.

For the Lakota girls, Rachel Hoover was fourth in 21:32, Kathy Vukopal was 20th in 23:43, Michelle Hudak was 23rd in 23:46, Heather Hill was 27th in 24:04, Jessica Rupright was 30th in 24:17 and Tia Tucker was 43rd in 25:55.

See STREAKS, B3

Senior Chapman sets new Walsh Park course record

By MICHAEL PIDANICK
Staff writer

When St. Joseph Central Catholic's Mike Chapman was a freshman, he hated running at Walsh Park. Four years later, he has mastered the cross country course.

Chapman set a course record Saturday, running the race in 16 minutes, 34 seconds, and won the boys Division II-III competition at the Norm Bray Invitational.

"I'm real happy," said Chapman. "It was a great time, this is a tough course. I remember my freshman year; when I heard we had a race here and I was so mad. But the more I've run here, the more I got used to it."

The old record of 16:39 was set in 1994 by Findlay's Sam Bell, who went on to win the state title.

The senior's effort helped

a vastly-improved St. Joe boys team to a second place finish with 84 points, three behind meet-champion Toledo Christian.

Chapman outdistanced Old Fort senior Jeremy Riehm for the title.

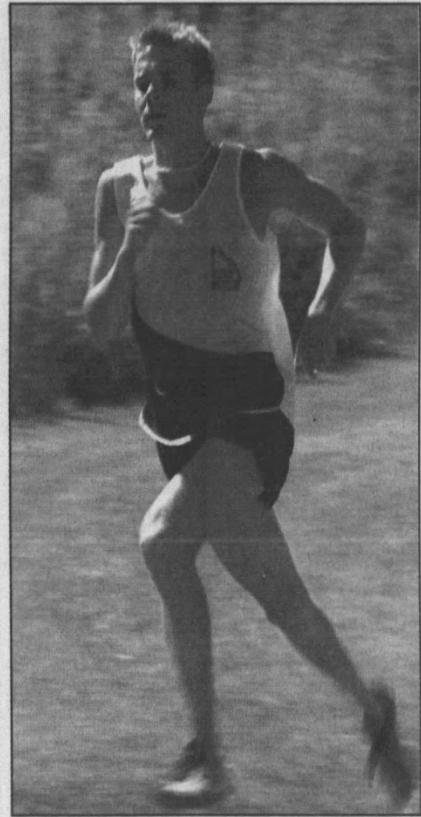
Riehm finished second in 16:57. Riehm and Chapman have battled for the last four years, and Riehm's presence helped push Chapman on Saturday.

"I knew Jeremy would be here and we both would go hard after it," said Chapman.

"Every time Jeremy's going to be in a race, you know you have to go out and run a great race."

Riehm, who won last year's race by four seconds over Chapman, battled a cold on Saturday. He was pleased with his run.

"I'm happy for how I felt today," said Riehm.



Framstad fourth to lead Little Giants

By MICHAEL PIDANICK
Staff writer

Fremont Ross's Jeremy Framstad was slowed by an illness in the Little Giants opening meet.

At full strength Saturday, Framstad showed what he can do, as the Little Giants junior took fourth place in the Norm Bray Invitational as Ross took fifth as a team.

"I'm real happy," Framstad said. "I wasn't feeling too hot last week at Tiffin, but today I'm real pleased."

The Little Giants totaled 107 points. Maumee won with 43, followed by Toledo Start (60), Whitmer (70), Clyde (92), Ross and Bowling Green (129).

Ryan Werling was ninth in 18:19, Clay Huffman was 27th in 15:48, Roy Zamaripa was 29th in 19:52, Aaron Chapman was 33rd in 20:25, Dan Burris was 38th in 21:29, Mark Thomson was 40th in 22:06 and Habner Herrera was 41st in 22:21.

Ross coach John Elder was satisfied with the effort of the Little Giants.

"I have no complaints," he said. "Our goal as a team is just to improve on a week-to-week basis."

For the Fliers' boys, Ryan Mendoza took 12th in 18:25, Skip Turner was 13th in 18:29, Kyle Gettys was 21st in 19:16, Cliff Moore was 22nd in 19:17, Nick Rogers was 24th in 19:26, Rick Greiner was 31st in 20:13 and Ko Chan was 37th in 21:26.

In a move to strengthen the field of the Division I girls race at the Norm Bray Invitational, Woodmore was asked to move

up, despite being a Division II school.

The Wildcats proved they were more than up to the challenge, as they placed second in the race.

"She (Woodmore coach Alicia Wollmering) was worried they they'd have trouble," said Fremont Ross coach John Elder, an organizer of the event. "I don't know why, she has a real nice team."

Cathy Camp won the individual race with a time of 20:31 to help the Wildcats take second place with 47 points, 15 more than team champion Bowling Green in the seven-team race.

"I was kind of expecting to win," Camp said.

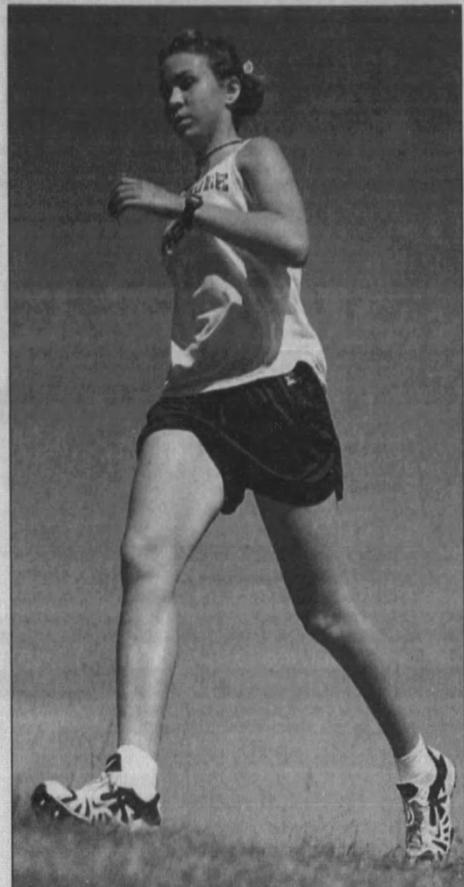
"This is the same time as my last race. Normally I'm our second runner, but with Meredith (Magsig) hurt I had to step up to No. 1."

Woodmore's Casey Ulinske was fourth in 21:27. Cindy Drevvert was 14th in 22:29, Heather Michael was 16th in 22:34, Janelle Dangler was 28th in 24:25 and Amanda Weidner was 40th in 30:05.

Fremont Ross coach Cathy Esposito entered two teams into the race. The "A" team was third with 65 points and the "B" team was fifth with 107. Maumee was fourth with 82, Start was sixth with 158 and Clyde was seventh with 195.

Ross suffered a blow when Lindsay Swope went down with an injury and couldn't finish.

Freshman Shannon Hall stepped up and led the Little Giants, taking fifth in 21:35. She



CATHY CAMP of Woodmore keeps up her pace during the Norm Bray Invitational Saturday at Walsh Park. Camp won the Division I race in 20:31 to help the Wildcats to a second place finish.

News-Messenger/
Liz Margerum

said running at Walsh Park helped her cause.

"It's a little easier because we're used to running the course," she said. "I like running here through the woods."

Also for the Little Giants "A" team, Abby Cominsky was eighth in 21:44, Molly Gocke was 13th in 22:26, Kelly Biehler was 19th in 23:17 and Jenny Gabel was 20th in 23:19.

For the Ross "B" team, Shan-

na Frontz was 21st in 23:22, Wendy Farrell was 22nd in 23:27, Monica McElfresh was 25th in 23:58, Jeanette Frontz was 29th in 24:51, Morgan O'Connor was 30th in 25:01 and Brittany Dohanos was 31st in 25:15.

For Clyde, Kendra Horn was 35th in 26:10, Stephanie Lyons was 26:24, Amanda Weidner was 40th in 30:05, Amber Barnes was 41st in 31:20 and Erica Wylie was 42nd in 32:46.

Streaks take second place at Norm Bray Invitational

Continued from B1

In the boys Division II-III competition, Mike Chapman won with a course record time of 16:34, and the Crimson Streaks were second with 62 points. Toledo Christian won with 62, Woodmore was third with 85, followed by Huron (87), Hopewell-Loudon (129), Lakota (145), Margaretta (181), Lake (193), Genoa (210), Tiffin Calvert (210) and Maumee 221.

Also for the Crimson Streaks, Jeremy Velliquette was 15th in 18:44, Adam Miller was 17th in 18:47, Dave Hoelzle was 25th in 19:25, Brad Harman was 26th in 19:29, Dan Chudzinski was 28th in 19:33 and Adam Huss was 37th in 20:21.

Logsdon credited the performance of Chapman with leading the boys effort.

"Mike, what a leader he is," said Logsdon. "He inspires the others to do well."

I was just elated with being runner-up. We have some kids out that can really do a nice job for us. As the season develops, these kids are going to keep getting better."

For the Wildcats, Seth Bringman was 12th in 18:20, Montana Garcia was 13th in 18:34, Jason

Haar was 18th in 18:49, Tim Nowak was 19th in 18:52, Nick Garcia was 23rd in 19:07, Adam Hammitt was 27th in 19:31 and Todd Schack was 49th in 22:03.

For the Raiders, Josh Graber was 20th in 18:57, Troy Halfhill was 24th in 19:17, Dan Naderer was 35th in 20:11 and Adam Burstik was 50th in 22:06.

Old Fort did not finish enough runners to score a team total. Jeremy Riehm was second with a 16:57 and David Myers was 57th in 23:29.1.



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