

1995 State...

## DIVISION I

Matt Merrill of Fremont Ross qualified for his second state tournament after finishing third in the district at Rogers High School in Toledo.

Merrill lost to projected state champ Brad Harris of Pickerington in the semifinals. Merrill defeated Rick Steele of Springfield 12-8 in the match for third. It was his 113th win at Ross, tying him with school record holder Jamie Ramirez.

Jason Hatfield (135) and Jamie Ross (145) are the other Little Giants in the state meet. Hatfield, who passed the 100-victory mark for his high school career on Friday, finished fourth.

Ross finished third despite a loss in the quarterfinals.

Brandon Willer (189) came in sixth for the Little Giants, a position away from qualifying.

## DIVISION I

135-Jason Hatfield (Fremont Ross) d. Brandon Gibbs (Uniontown Lake) 8-6.

140-Joe Veres (Bedford) d. Matt Merrill (Ross) 11-10.

145-Jason Babinec (Milford) d. Jamie Ross (Ross) 11-4.

## QUARTERFINALS

135-Jason Hatfield (Ross), 33-4 vs. Gino Iannaggi (North Royalton), 32-3.

## TEAM SCORES

1. Walsh Jesuit 31; 2. Lakewood St. Edward 14.5; 3. Eastlake N. 12; 4. Dublin 9; 5. Huber Hts. Wayne, Strongsville, Tol. Woodward, W. Carrollton, W. Chester Lakota, Wadsworth 8; 11. Maumee 7.5; 12. Solon 7; 13. Cin. Oak Hills, Euclid, Massillon Perry, Milford, N. Royalton, Padua, Pickerington 6; 20. Akron Spring., Austintown Fitch, Cin. St. Xavier, E. Liverpool, Hilliard, Holland Spring. 5; 26. Ashland, Carrollton, Cin. Winton Woods, Cloverleaf, Harrison, Howland, Marysville, Massillon, New Philadelphia, Tiffin Columbian, Tol. Rogers, Vandalia-Butler, Westerville S. 4; 39. Beavercreek, Garfield Hts., Medina, Xenia 3; 43. Alliance, Barberton, Bedford, Cin. Glen Este, Cin. LaSalle, Cin. Northwest, Day, Meadowdale, Fairfield, Franklin Hts., **Fremont Ross**, Gahanna, Geneva, Madison, Mansfield Madison, Mansfield Sr., Massillon Jackson, Mt. Vernon, Stow, Tecumseh, Tol. St. John's, Tol. Whitmer 2.

# Merrill, Hatfield take place in Ross history

By BOB MARKER  
Sports Editor

FAIRBORN, Ohio — It's a one-time occurrence unless someone proves otherwise.

"No one can remember of that happening," Fremont Ross wrestling coach Grover Dowell said after Matt Merrill finished fifth and Jason Hatfield placed sixth in the Division I portion of the 58th Ohio High School State Tournament.

It is the first time, according to Dowell, that Ross has had two state placers in one tournament.

The Little Giants finished in a tie for 30th with East Liverpool, both with 17 points, as the tournament concluded at the Nutter



MERRILL



HATFIELD

Center on the Wright State University campus.

Merrill, after suffering an 11-10 loss to Joe Veres of Bedford in the first round, defeated Veres 13-2 in the match for fifth place in

the 140-pound division.

"Matt separated his ribs this morning (Saturday)," Dowell said, "and it is like a continuous injury. The trainers taped him up and told him if he could stand the pain, he could go."

"He did a nice job against the kid that had beaten him before."

Merrill finished his high school career with a Ross record 116 victories.

Hatfield was forced to default to Aaron Boucher of Mt. Vernon in the match for fifth place at 135 pounds. He had suffered a head injury in a match Friday night and aggravated it in the consolation semifinals Saturday morning.

"The doctor did not recommend him to go," Dowell said, "but it was my choice and I said no."

Ironically, Hatfield was on the verge of being awarded the match when Boucher was late reporting to the mat.

"According to the state rule book, they have five minutes to show ready to wrestle," Dowell said. "He did not have his head gear on, but we let that go."

It was Hatfield's first appearance in the state tournament. A senior, he finished his career with 103 wins.

Jamie Ross was the third Little Giant at the state meet but after a first-round loss, did not get

"pulled back" into the tournament. Wrestlers losing in the first round could only get back into the tournament if the wrestler they lost to made it to the championship semifinals.

"It's still an honor just to make it down here," Dowell said.

### ■ All in the family

Oak Harbor's Tait Miller wins an individual state title, the fourth for his family. **B2**

### ■ Finals results

The results from Saturday's finals as well as team results and area finishers. **B2**