

Ross has three at each weight

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Fremont Ross wrestling coach Grover Dowell has 10 lettermen returning, which is nice he says, but he still lists inexperience and youth as his team's weakness.

"We do have a lot of numbers," said Dowell, in his third season as the Little Giants head coach, about a turnout of 45-50. "We have at least three wrestlers in every weight class and that gives us good competition for those positions."

Gone from the team are four-year lettermen Dave Alejandro and John Lugar. Returning are seniors Shawn Heidelberg, Eric Straube and Josh Carnahan; juniors Matt Merrill, Jason Hatfield, Ken Kreilick, Brandon Willer, Jamie Ross and Russ Mylander; and sophomore Ryan Patterson.

That corps will lead the Little Giants in the season opener against Toledo Whitmer at 6:15 p.m. Thursday in the Purple Pit.

Dowell's team was 2-5 in dual meets a year ago with a 2-4 mark in Great Lakes League matches. The team tied for second in the GLL tournament.

Dowell's lineup is set, but wrestle-offs could change the makeup slightly for the opener.

The tentative lineup will have Fred Ivy at 103, Patterson at 112, Emmanuel Heidelberg at 119, Pete Devore at 125 and Jason Lather at 130.

Matt Merrill, a GLL tourney champ as a sophomore, will open at 135 with Shawn Heidelberg at 140. Ross is at 145 and Carnahan, a transfer along with Devore, from St. Joseph Central Catholic, at 152.

Ken Kreilick will be at 160 and Mylander at 171. Brandon Willer will be at 189 and the heavyweight is Paul Cruz.

One possible change could be at 130, where Hatfield and Lather are competing. Both are having problems getting down to that weight.

"A third-stringer might be in there for the first match," Dowell said.

"What I like about the whole group, besides the high numbers if the attitude and work ethic. They are hard workers and that will help us."

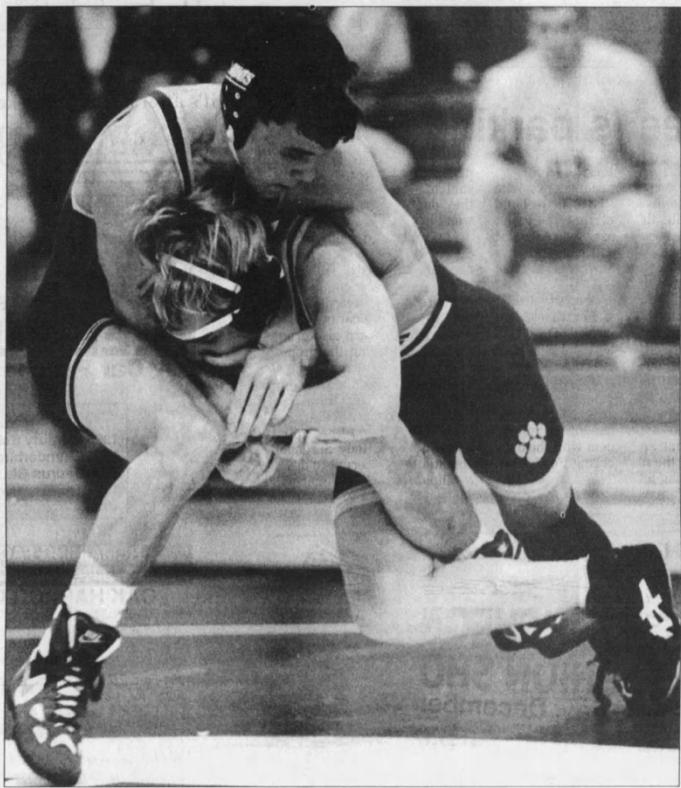
The Little Giants schedule includes hosting the Mal Mackey Tournament on Jan. 8 and the GLL Tournament Feb. 12.

Ross will also compete in the two-day Wendy's Tournament in Tiffin Dec. 28 and 29. It's the first time Ross will compete in that tourney.



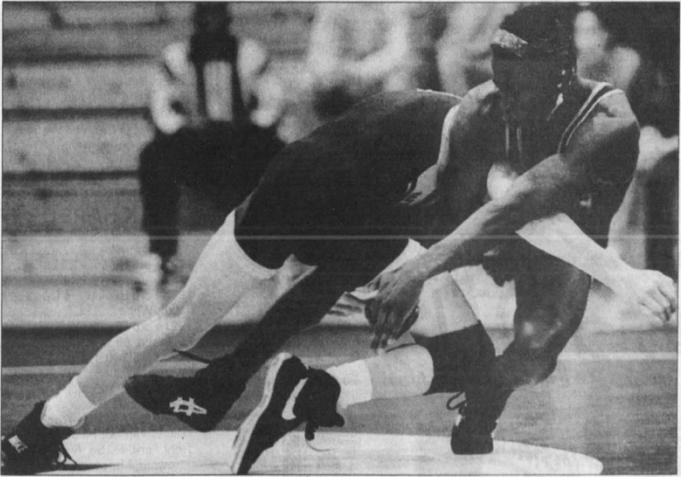
Returning Little Giants

Returning lettermen for the Fremont Ross wrestling team are left to right, front row: Eric Straube, Russ Mylander, Ken Kreilick and Josh Carnahan; back row: Jason Hatfield, Ryan Patterson, Matt Merrill, Shawn Heidelberg, Jamie Ross and Brandon Willer. They will lead Ross as it opens the season tonight by hosting Toledo Whitmer.



News-Messenger/Jeremy Wadsworth

MATT MERRILL (left) of Fremont Ross gains control of Toledo Whitmer's Jeremy Bick during their 135-pound match Thursday night at Ross High School. Merrill pinned Bick in 2:52 and Ross won the match 33-25.



News-Messenger/Jeremy Wadsworth

EMMANUEL HEIDELBURG of Fremont Ross tries to avoid a takedown by Eric Dubendorfer of Toledo Whitmer during their 119-pound match Thursday night. Dubendorfer defeated Heidelberg 7-2.

Cooper still predicts bowl victory

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — John Cooper on Thursday reiterated his guarantee that Ohio State will win its bowl game. Besides bravado, he's got history on his side.

When Cooper made the guarantee at a postseason banquet two weeks ago, he didn't know if the No. 11 Buckeyes would play UCLA in the Rose Bowl or the Western Athletic Conference champion in the Holiday Bowl here on Dec. 30.

Wisconsin beat Michigan State 41-20 in Tokyo to earn the Big Ten's Rose Bowl berth, sending Ohio State (9-1) to San Diego to play Brigham Young (6-5) in a rematch of the 1982 Holiday Bowl.

"We're going to win the game," Cooper said at a news conference also attended by BYU coach LaVell Edwards.

"The kind of football team we have, we've got to end this season with a victory. I think if you ask any football coach if they're going to win a bowl game, they'll tell you yes."

The Buckeyes have lost four straight bowl games under Cooper, but they are 2-0 against BYU in the postseason. They won that 1982 Holiday Bowl game 47-17, and then beat BYU 10-7 in the 1985 Citrus Bowl.

Edwards said he understood Cooper's boast.

"If I had his team I'd guarantee one, too," Edwards said. "They've got a great football team. There's not many weaknesses, if any, on that football team."

"We're going to have to play about as well as we're capable and then get a few breaks."

Ross wrestles tough

■ **First win:** The Little Giants beat Toledo Whitmer 33-25 Thursday night.

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Fremont Ross made up for a lack of sharpness with intimidation in a 33-25 season-opening high school wrestling win over Whitmer Thursday night at Ross High School.

"We did not wrestle too badly," Ross coach Grover Dowell said after the Great Lakes league match, "but I see there is a lot of work we have to do. I didn't think we were as sharp as I thought we were going to be."

The Little Giants were sharp enough to move out to a 30-7 lead against the young Panthers.

After a forfeit to Ross at 103 pounds, Ryan Patterson put Ross up 9-0 with a 12-6 win over Shawn Szkatulski in the 112-pound match. Following a pair decision losses in the next two matches, Jason Lather started Ross on a four-match win streak with a 16-9 win over Brandon Wolfe at 130.

Matt Merrill (135), Shawn Heidelberg (140) and Jamie Ross (125) followed with falls for Ross, putting the Little Giants up 30-7. Merrill's win in two minutes, 52 seconds over Corey Himebaugh was the quickest of the three pins.

"We are young through the middle of the lineup," Whitmer coach Dennis Brighton said, "plus they intimidated and we just did not wrestle well because we were intimidated."

The Panthers wrestled without 1993 state tournament placer Jason Pitzen.

"He was fourth in the state," Brighton said. "He hurt his toe and we did not want take the chance of him doing any more damage to it."

Strangely, Dowell missed Pitzen, too.

"That helped us a lot," Dowell said, "but I would have liked to see him wrestle. I hate to see good wrestler not in the lineup."

Pitzen would have wrestled at either 135 or 140, costing Brighton maneuverability with his lineup.

"Well, when you take the best kid out of the lineup, it makes it tough," Brighton said.

Dowell, despite his assessment that his team lacked sharpness, could smile about the bout that clinched the win. Brandon Willer struggled while hanging on for 12-10 win in the 189-pound match. That gave Ross an insurmountable 33-19 edge.

It was the first time, according to Dowell, that Willer has had any "contact" this season.

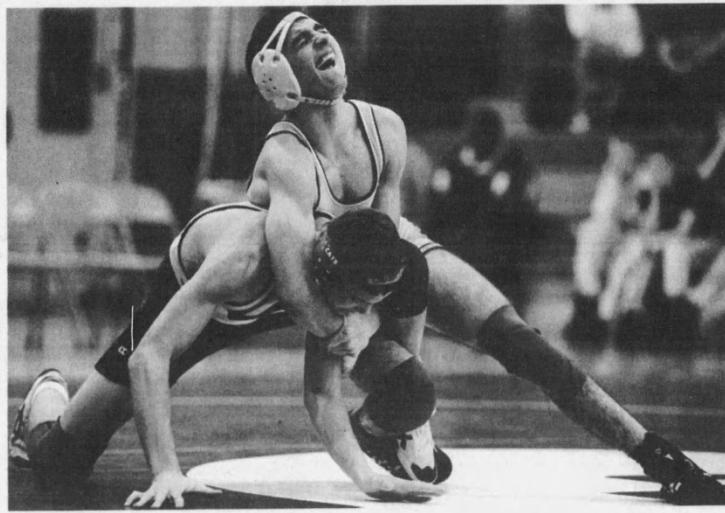
"He was just been running and riding bike," Dowell said.

Ross wrestles in the Toledo Rogers Tournament next week.

"What we have to work on are our shots," Dowell said.

"We're not following through on our second step. Too many were just taking a shot and sitting."

Intimidation, though, made up for that.



JASON HATFIELD (top) of Fremont Ross applies pressure against Napoleon's Jason Seiler Thursday night

News-Messenger/Jeremy Wadsworth
during their 130-pound match. Hatfield defeated Seiler 15-3, and Ross won its second straight match.

Cavaliers suffer one-point loss

Associated Press

MIAMI — Steve Smith scored Miami's last four points, including a 17-foot jumper with 7.3 seconds remaining, to give the Heat a 90-89 victory Thursday night over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Mark Price made his third 3-pointer of the fourth quarter with 49.2 seconds left to give Cleveland an 89-86 lead, capping the Cavs' comeback from a 17-point deficit in the final period.

Smith, who was playing his first game in a week after recovering from the flu, nailed a 16-footer to cut the deficit to 89-88. Then, following a miss by Price, Smith sank a turnaround that gave Miami the winning points.

Cleveland's Terrell Brandon took the inbounds and was hounded by Smith before taking

a forced 15-footer that rolled off the rim. Glen Rice grabbed the rebound as time expired.

"The shot felt good, but I guess I didn't get it up there enough," Brandon said.

Price, nursing a score right calf, scored 22 points for Cleveland, which lost its fourth in a row and has dropped seven of eight. Cleveland, held below 100 points in all seven losses, has lost its last seven road games.

Brad Daugherty led Cleveland with 25 points, and Tyrone Hill had 15 rebounds.

Smith, who missed three games, didn't start but he came through down the stretch.

"It was important for our confidence even though we lost a 17-point lead," Rice said. "Steve's very capable of doing anything."

Mills hospitalized

Associated Press

MIAMI — Rookie forward Chris Mills of Cleveland was hospitalized Thursday night for an irregular heartbeat after the Cavaliers lost to the Miami Heat, 90-89.

Mills was taken by ambulance to Palmetto General Hospital. He was seen clutching his chest as he left the court after the game and was given an electrocardiogram in the lockerroom.

"He had heart flutterings and was very short of breath and we're very concerned right now," Cavaliers coach Mike Fratello said.

Mills played 24 minutes with six points and three rebounds.

Ross wrestlers avenge another 92-93 setback

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Fremont Ross got an early start to win its second successive Great Lakes League wrestling match Thursday night at the Purple Pit.

The Little Giants built a 40-5 lead before settling for a 46-17 victory.

"I think it got started in the first junior varsity match (Ross won 25-6) and kept right on going," Ross coach Grover Dowell said.

The two Ross wins came over teams that had beaten Ross last season.

"That's kinda nice, isn't it?" Dowell asked no one in particular.

Dowell said his team, unlike a week earlier in a 33-25 win over Whitmer, was sharp. Backing up that summation were six pins for the Little Giants, half of them under a minute.

Fred Ivy started the Little Giants off on the right foot, pinning 103-pound opponent Mike Rohda in 43 seconds. Emmanuel Heidelberg pinned David Rittenhouse in 36 seconds of the 119-pound match, fattening the Ross lead to 15-0. Then came a Ross loss that, oddly, Dowell said was a key to the victory.

"What really got the kids going," Dowell said, "was when we stuck a JV wrestler (Dan Hickam) in at 125 and he fought to keep from getting pinned and saved a team point. That happened all up through the lineup."

Hickam lost on a technical fall, allowing Napoleon five team points and not six had he been

pinned.

The other Little Giants Dowell referred to were Ken Kreilick at 160 and Russ Mylander at 171. Kreilick lost a major decision (four match points) and Mylander a regular decision (three match points). Both wrestlers fought from their backs to keep the Wildcats from a possible 12 team points. Instead, Napoleon settled for seven.

"They saved team points by coming back," Dowell said. "Really, all through the lineup, I am tickled pink with the aggressiveness and the moves they showed tonight. We were much sharper."

Napoleon coach Karl Yunker discounted any possibility that his team may have been hampered by the system's teachers strike. Many programs were being run by volunteers before a court order put the teachers back in the classroom.

"I don't think the strike had anything to do with this," Yunker said. "I think Fremont Ross had a lot to do with this."

"I was afraid this would happen. Once it got started, it rolled."

The Little Giants also got pins from Matt Merrill at 135, Shawn Heidelberg at 140, Josh Carnahan at 152 and Brandon Willer at 189.

The Little Giants return to action today at the Toledo Rogers Tournament beginning at 4 p.m. The 15-team tournament will Saturday with semifinals and consolations at 11 a.m. Admission is \$3 for adults per session and \$2 for students.

Wrestling

Ross 46, Napoleon 17*

103-Fred Ivy (R) p. Mike Rohda 0:43; 112-Ryan Patterson (R) d. Steve Spencerr 12-7; 119-Emmanuel Heidelberg (R) p. David Rittenhouse 0:36; 125-John Rice (N) t.f. Dan Hickam 15-0, 2:47; 130-Jason Hatfield (R) d. Jason Seiler 15-3; 135-Matt Merrill (R) p. Randy Dachenhaus 2:08;

140-Shawn Heidelberg (R) p. Israel Hernandez 0:43; 145-Jamie Ross (R) d. Kevin Fraker 7-5 (OT); 152-Josh Carnahan (R) p. Michael Allen 3:37; 160-Josh Smith (N) d. Ken Kreilick 17-8; 171-Jason Westhoven (N) d. Russ Mylander 15-10; 189-Brandon Willer (R) p. Ryan McGhee 3:06; 275-Shane Stoner (N) d. Paul Cruz 2:54.

*Point deducted for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Records: Ross 2-0 (2-0).

Ross JV 25, Napoleon 6

(Matches wrestled)

112-Jeremy JRossen (R) p. Scott Baker 0:53; 119-Brian Frank (R) p. Eric Cowlinski 0:55; 125-Jason Loghanbach (R) p. Bart Dickerson 2:56; 152-Brian Reinbolt (R) d. Doug Fraker 11-3; 160-Keith Mosser (R) d. Nick Zamarripo 15-7; 275-Joe Gustweiller (N) p. Chris Meinke 2:31.

Records: Ross 2-0

Ross finishes 3rd at Rogers

Hatfield takes 130-pound title

News-Messenger reports

Jason Hatfield won the 130-pound championship, and Fremont Ross placed third at the Toledo Rogers Tournament this weekend.

Hatfield scored a technical fall over Springfield's Jason McCourt 19-2 in the finals. Hatfield, who was seeded fourth, also beat top-seeded Justin Vondenberg of Tiffin Columbian by technical fall before knocking off the third-seeded McCourt.

Ross finished with 127 points, trailing team champ Wauseon and Springfield. Wauseon compiled 218 points and Springfield 172 in the 15-team event.

"Three kids didn't place that I thought would," Ross coach Grover Dowell said. "If they would have placed, we would have gotten second."

Shawn Heidelberg of Ross also advanced to the finals before losing 12-8 to Springfield's Rick Steele in the finals at 140 pounds.

Matt Merrill, meanwhile, finished third at 135.

"He ran into a real tough kid in the semifinals," Dowell said. Jeff Blidner of Westerville South edged Merrill 7-5 in the semifinals.

Other placers for Ross were heavyweight Paul Cruz, who finished fourth; Jamie Ross, who was fifth at 145; and Fred Ivy, sixth at 103.

"All six kids that placed did a real nice job," Dowell said. "Fred Ivy at 103 and Paul Cruz at heavyweight were two that came through surprisingly."

Wrestling

Rogers Invitational

1. Wauseon.....	90
2. Springfield.....	70
3. Fremont Ross.....	49
4. Tiffin Columbian.....	44
5. Westerville South.....	44
6. Dayton Meadowdale.....	41
7. Galloway Westland.....	39
8. Swanton.....	38
9. Toledo Woodward.....	37
10. Port Clinton.....	36
11. Anthony Wayne.....	29
12. Toledo Rogers.....	29
12. Toledo Waite.....	29
14. Toledo Scott.....	18
15. Toledo Bowsher.....	14

Ross semifinal pairings

130-Jason Hatfield (FR) vs. Justin Vondenberg (TC); 135-Matt Merrill (FR) vs. Jeff Blidner (WS); 140-Shawn Heidelberg (FR) vs. Chris Dodd (Sw); 275-Paul Cruz (FR) vs. Ben Meyer (W).

Prep wrestling

Two championship matches at the Wendy's Classic in Tiffin could pit a Fremont Ross wrestler against one from Clyde.

If Clyde's Mike Andres and Matt Merrill of Ross each win semifinals at 135 pounds, they will meet for a title. At 140, Shawn Heidelberg of Ross and Clyde's Chad Long could meet.

Sandusky Perkins, meanwhile, held the lead in the team standings as wrestling began this morning. The Pirates had $55\frac{1}{2}$ points, while Gahanna Lincoln had 51. Elida was in third place with 47 points, while the Fliers had $46\frac{1}{2}$ and Ross stood fifth at $45\frac{1}{2}$.

Ross has two other wrestlers in the semifinals — Emmanuel Heidelberg (119) and Jason Hatfield (130). Fred Ivy (103), Jeremy Roosen (112), Jamie Ross (145), Josh Carnahan (152), Ken Kreilick (160), Russ Mylander (171) and Brandon Willer (189) are still alive in consolation wrestling for Ross.

Jason Lamson (112), Tim Arden (125), Steve Yates (145), Justin Chagnon (171) and Jay Collins (189) advanced to today's semifinals for Clyde.

The Fliers also have Chris Staats (103), Cory Laub (119), Stoni Warwick (130), Lucas Borer (152), Matt Meggitt (160) and heavyweight Andy Bonnette still alive in consolations.

Clyde wins Wendy's Classic

News-Messenger reports

There were standouts, but Clyde defended its wrestling championship in the Wendy's Classic Wednesday by showing strength throughout its lineup.

Four Fliers won individual titles, led by 135-pounder Mike Andres, who was named MVP of the 16-team tournament.

But eight other Clyde wrestlers **Wrestling** placed as the Fliers amassed 204½ points to outdistance runner-up Sandusky Perkins.

"We had six byes in the first round, and we knew we lost the opportunity to score points in the early rounds (Tuesday)," Clyde assistant coach Dale Carroll said. "We wrestled very well in the semifinals."

Andres defeated Matt Merrill of Fremont Ross 19-5 in the finals.

Ross finished fourth as a team, compiling 126 points to trail Perkins (178), Maumee (137 1/2) and Elida (137).

Three tournaments highlight area high school wrestling

News-Messenger reports

Four Lakota wrestlers and two from host Fremont Ross were seeded first for their weight divisions in Saturday's 21st Mal Mackey Memorial Wrestling Tournament at Ross High School.

Coaches from the eight competing schools voted on the seedings.

Brock Quaintance (103), Andy Yonikus (119), Jeremy Schmeltz (152) and Dustin Bowman (275) were the Raiders picked as the favorites to win their weight divisions.

Jason Hatfield (130) and Matt Merrill (135) are the Little Giants who will take the top billing into the tournament.

Besides Ross and Lakota, Bryan, Elida, Lima Shawnee, Port Clinton, Spencerville and Sylvania Southview will compete.

Port Clinton had a pair of top-seeded wrestlers: Travis Woodworth (140) and Zach Morgan (145).

Wrestling begins at 11 a.m. with the championship and consolation finals at 6 p.m.

In other area tournaments, the two-day, 18-team Woodmore Classic

begins this evening while the Oak Harbor Invitational is slated for a 11 a.m. Saturday start.

The tournament was formerly known as the "A" Classic and was held for the past 20 years at Cory Rawson High School.

Woodmore will be in a field with Lima Central Catholic, Archbold, New London, Edgerton, Ayersville, Carey, Liberty Center, Hopewell-Loudon, Cory Rawson, Gibsonburg, Riverdale, McComb, Columbus Grove, Delphos St. John's, Tiffin Calvert, Bluffton and Stryker.

Tonight's matches get under way at 6 p.m. On Saturday, matches continue at 10:30 a.m., with finals set for 6 p.m.

Saturday at Oak Harbor High School, the host Rockets will be joined by Bellevue, Cardinal Stritch, Fostoria, Toledo St. Francis, Margaretta, Wauseon and Elwood.

Bellevue has won the tournament the past two years with Oak Harbor second. Wrestling begins at 11 a.m. with matches for third and fourth place scheduled for 5:30 p.m. and the first-place matches at 6:30.

Little Giants win Mackey title

■ Back to roots:

Ross wrestling team wins tourney named for its first coach.

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

Fremont Ross wrestlers won five of seven championship matches, leading the Little Giants to the team title in the 21st Mal Mackey Memorial Wrestling Tournament Saturday at Ross High School.

It was the fifth time the host Little Giants have won the tournament, which is named in honor of the coach who began the wrestling program at Ross. Previous titles came in 1985, '86, '87 and '88.

The Little Giants scored 181 points in the eight-team tourney, easily outdistancing runner-up Lakota's 151 1/2. Port Clinton was third with 136 and Elida rounded out the top four with 111 points. Sylvania Southview was fifth with 87, followed by Spencerville 60 1/2, Lima Shawnee 43 1/2 and Bryan 29.

It was the second tourney title for Ross coach Grover Dowell, in his second season as head coach. Last season, Dowell's team won the Lima Tournament.

"I did not think we would be that far out in front," Dowell said. "We had a good second round; that was the spark."

Ross entered the tournament with eight seeded wrestlers.

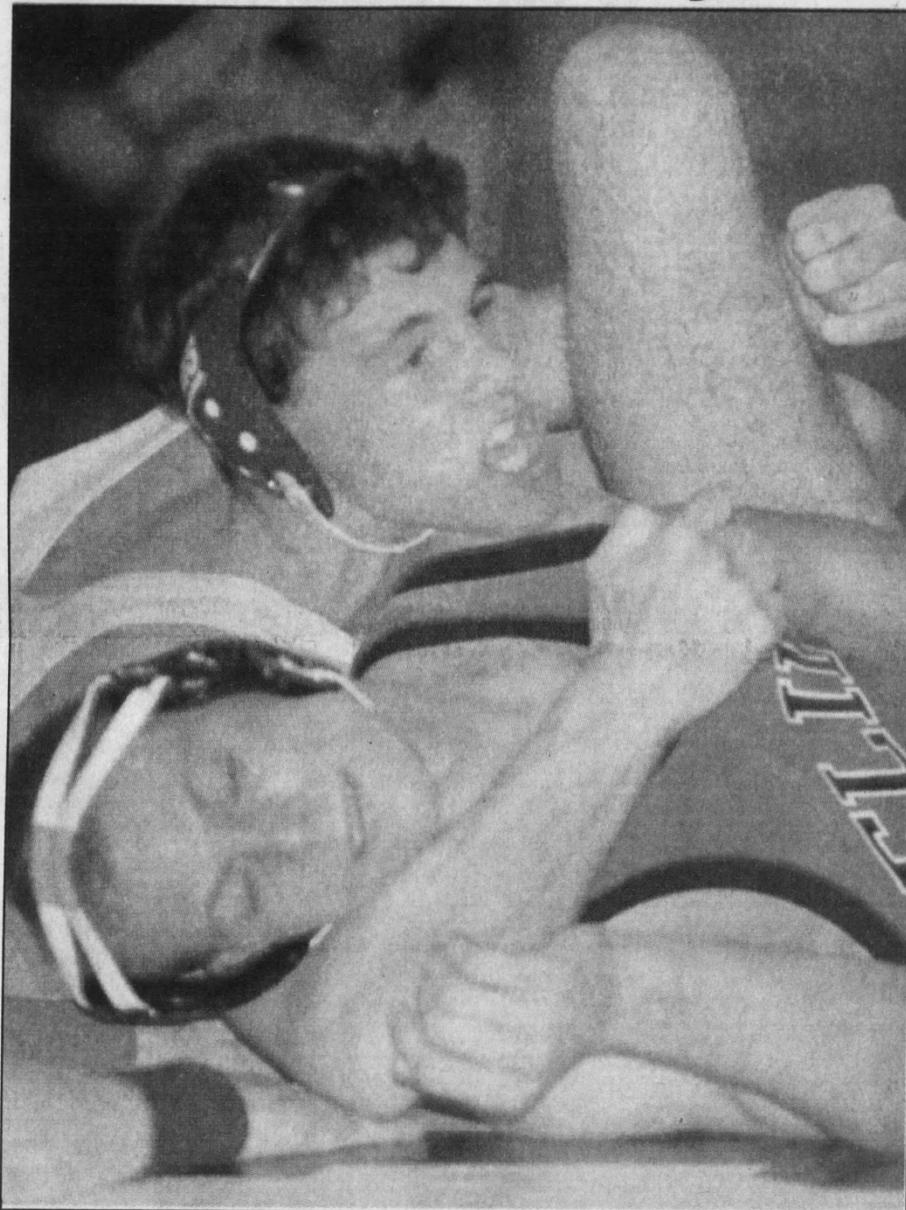
"But we placed 10," Dowell said. "That shows the kids did an outstanding job."

Ryan Patterson (112), Emmanuel Heidelberg (119), Jason Hatfield (130), Matt Merrill (135) and Brandon Willer (189) won individual titles for Ross. Shawn Heidelberg (140) and Ken Kreilick (160) were runners-up, Jamie Ross (145) and Paul Cruz (275) were third and Brian Reinbolt (152) finished fourth as the Little Giants lost only once in their 10 matches in the championship round.

Dowell pointed out the effort of Emmanuel Heidelberg, who was third-seeded.

"He pinned the second-seeded kid (Ryan Reed of Southview) and technical failed the first-seed (Andy Yonikus of Lakota)," Dowell said. "He did an excellent job."

Adam Milligan (145) and Jere-Schmeltz (152) won titles for



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

MATT MERRILL of Fremont Ross works for a pin against Elida's Ben Selvaggio during their 135-pound championship match Saturday at the Mal Mackey

Memorial Wrestling Tournament Saturday at Fremont Ross High School. Merrill pinned Selvaggio in 4:27 and the Little Giants won their first Mackey title since 1988.

Lakota, Schmeltz was voted the tournament's most valuable wrestler by the coaches.

Brock Quaintance (103), Al Sachs (112), Yonikus (110) and Dustin Bowman (275) finished second for the Raiders with Rob Timmons (125), Terry Johnson (135) and Aaron Bomer (140)

placing third.

"Coming in, I was hoping to finish in the top three," Lakota coach Bob Young said, "but earlier today, I thought we could give Ross a good push."

Young said while his team's performance was consistent most of the day, there were a few

matches the Raiders lost that he felt they should have pulled out.

Andy Czerwinski, PC's 171-pounder, won the award for most pins in the least amount of time: three in six minutes, 39 seconds.

■ Other results, B3

Wrestling

Mal Mackey Memorial

TEAM STANDINGS

1, Fremont Ross	181
2, Lakota	151 $\frac{1}{2}$
3, Port Clinton	136
4, Elida	111
5, Sylvania Southview	87
6, Spencerville	60 $\frac{1}{2}$
7, Lima Shawnee	43 $\frac{1}{2}$
8, Bryan	29

Championship finals

103-Don Miller (E) d. Brock Quaintance (L) 12-4; 112-Ryan Patterson (FR) 11-0, OT; 119-Emmanuel Heidelberg (FR) p. Andy Yonikus (L) 4:07; 125-Matt Stemen (E) d. Steve Martinez (PC) 12-5; 130-Jason Hatfield (FR) p. Albert Hayes (E) 4:00; 135-Matt Merrill (FR) p. Ben Selvaggio (E) 4:27; 140-Travis Woodworth (PC) d. Shawn Heidelberg (FR) 6-0;

145-Adam Milligan (L) d. Zach Morgan (PC) 4-2; 152-Jeremy Schmeltz (L) d. Jeremy Stemen (E) 9-5; 160-Tom Price (S) d. Ken Kreilick (FR) 8-3; 171-Aaron Gronas (LS) won by default over Steve Taylor (E); 189-Brandon Willer (FR) d. Mike Saggese (SS) 8-7; 275-Adam Saggese (SS) p. Dustin Bowman (L) 0:59.

Consolation finals (for third)

103-Fred Geck (SS) d. Dan Bergman (PC) m7-6; 112-Ryan Dickson (PC) d. Jim Comstock (SS) 14-11; 119-Rick Arnold (PC) d. Ryan Reed (SS) 4-2; 125-Steve Sawmiller (S) d. Rob Timmons (L) 3-0; 1994-KGabe Sanchez (PC) d. Scott Ingelsby (SS) 3-1; 135-Terry Johnson (L) p. Josh Severs (B) 1:32; 140-Aaron Bomer (L) won by default over Jay Schwartz (S);

145-Jamie Ross (FR) d. Andy Wilgus (S) 14-8; 152-Marty Oehlef (S) p. Brian Reinbolt (FR) 2:05; 160-Mike Cuevas (PC) d. Chris Lemle (SS) 8-3; 171-Andy Szerwinski (PC) p. Shawn Eagles (B) 1:48; 189-Jason Mullens (PC) p. Justin Shutts (B) 2:56; 275-Paul Cruz (FR) p. Larry Prine (LKS) 3:40.

Most pins in least amount of time: Andy Szerwinski (PC), three in 6:39.

Most valuable wrestler: Schmeltz (Lakota, 152).

Clyde overpowers Ross

■ Fliers unbeaten:

Clyde's 53-12 victory was its sixth dual win of the season.

By BOB MARKER
Staff Writer

Jim Carothers may be the master of the understatement. "We're wrestling very well," the Clyde coach said.

That was a very accurate statement after Clyde lost only three matches while cruising to a 53-12 dual victory over Fremont Ross in the Purple Pit Thursday night.

The Fliers recorded seven falls and a technical fall in their sixth victory against no losses. Ross is 2-1.

Carothers said he expected the toughest match for his team would be at 135 pounds. His soothsaying was correct. After surviving two cradles in the final minute, Clyde's Mike Andres edged Matt Merrill of Ross 8-6.

"I just wanted to keep my balance," Andres said about surviving Merrill's potential three-point moves.

Even though his team dominated, Carothers said he sees room for improvement.

"Most of them wrestled very well," he said, "but some of them were a little bit slower than I would like to see."

Clyde started with falls by Chris Staats (103), Jason Lamson (112) and Tim Arden (125) to go with a major decision by Gary Laub (119) for a 22-0 lead before Ross got on the board.

"I knew it was going to be tough," Ross coach Grover Dowell said. "We came in without a full standard lineup. Clyde is a good squad...they just took it right to us."

The Little Giants were without regulars Ryan Patterson (112), Emmanuel Heidelberg (119) and Shawn Heidelberg (140). All three, Dowell said, sat out the match because of disciplinary reasons.

Jason Hatfield got the first match points for Ross, pinning Clyde's Stoni Warwick in three minutes, 37 seconds of the 130-pound match.

By the time Ross scored next, Clyde had built a 37-6 lead on pins by Chad Long (140) and Steve Yates (145) along with Andres' narrow win.

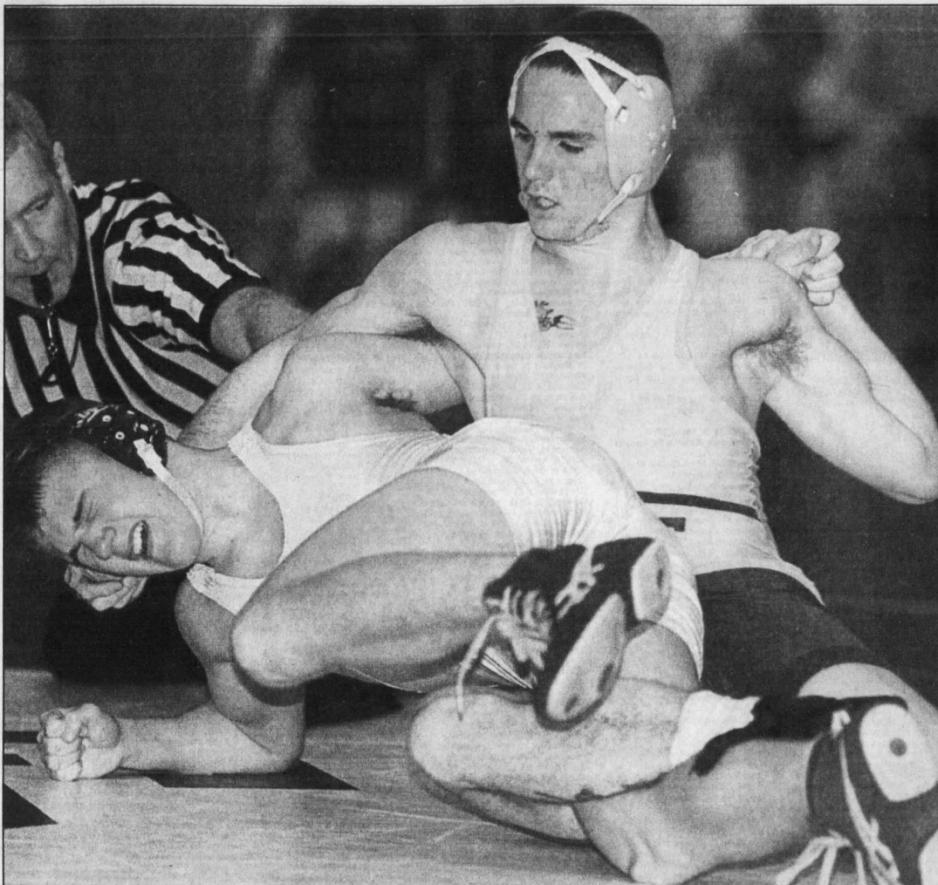
Ken Kreilick, dropping down a weight to 152, outpointed Clyde's Lucas Borer 9-8 for the second Ross match win.

Clyde followed with a technical fall by Matt Meggitt (160) and pins by Jay Collins (171) and Justin Chagnon (189) before Ross heavyweight Paul Cruz defeated Andy Bonnette 15-11.

Dowell felt, even with his jugged lineup, the match should have been closer.

"We had some boys not executing and had some who just did not do what they could have...I don't know why," he said.

Clyde's next outing is Saturday at its eight-team invitational tournament. Ross returns to the mat Thursday at Great Lakes League power Bedford.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

MATT MEGGITT of Clyde works the grapevine during his 160-pound match against Brian Reinbolt as referee Dave Shook checks the action Thursday night at Fremont Ross High School. Meggitt won a 17-1 technical fall over Reinbolt, and the Fliers beat the Little Giants 53-12.

St. Joe starts slow again in loss at North Baltimore

■ Bad mix: Poor offense magnifies faulty defense by Crimson Streaks.

News-Messenger reports

The opening minutes of Thursday night's game at North Baltimore more unfolded nothing like Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic coach Gary Geller hoped they would.

"Defensively, we did not get done what we wanted to," Geller said after the Tigers' 62-38 Midland Athletic League win. "They weren't running anything special; we just weren't executing."

St. Joe's defensive game plan



Wrestling

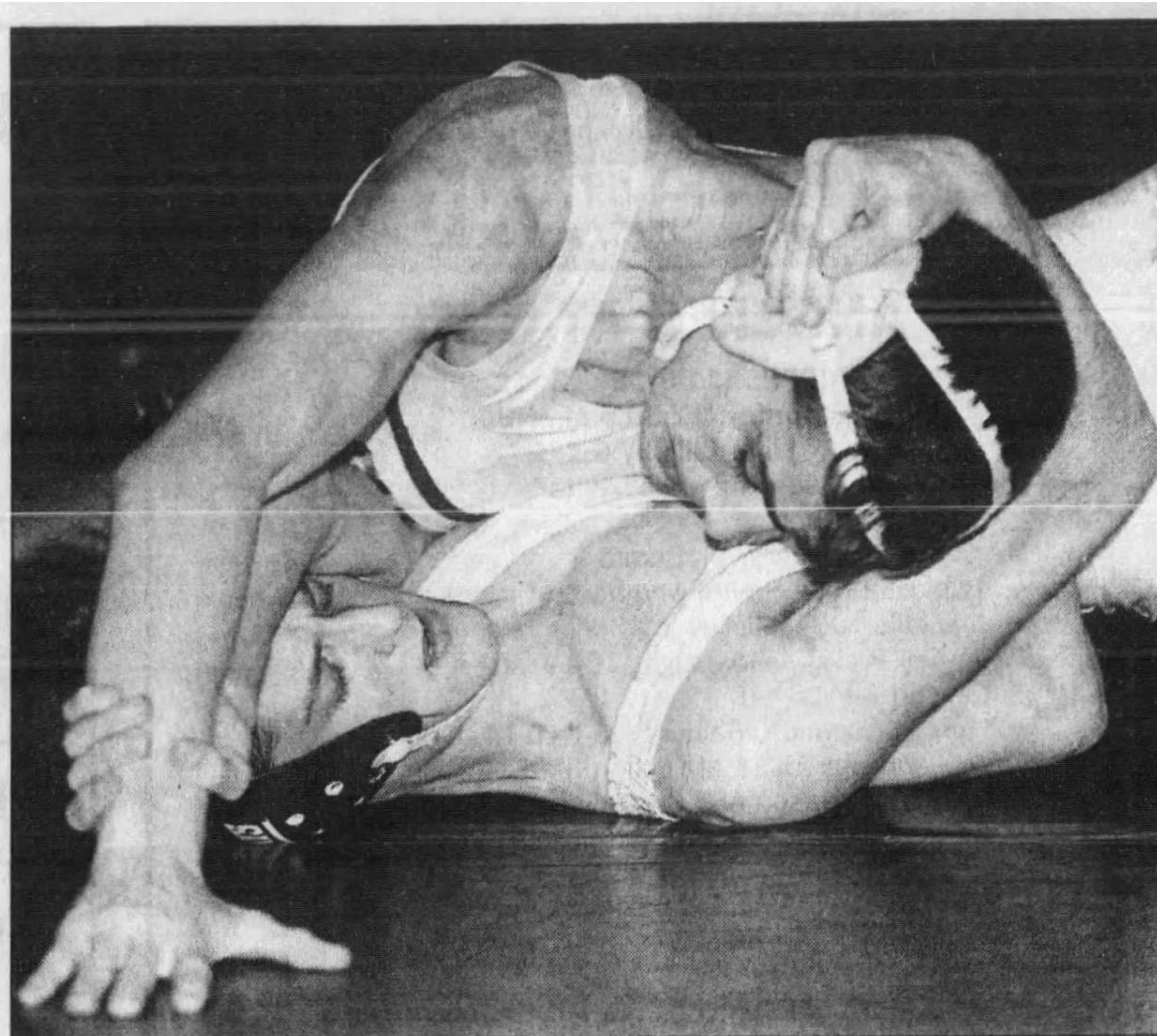
Clyde 54, Ross 12

103-Chris Staats (C) p. Fred Ivy 3:14;
112-Jason Lamson (C) p. Jeremy
Roosen 3:07; 119-Gary Laub (C) d. Dan
Hickam 15-3; 125-Tim Arden (C) p. Pete
Devore 2:58; 130-Jason Hatfield (R) p.
Stoni Warwick 3:37; 135-Mike Andres
(C) d. Matt Merrill 8-6;
140-Chad Lon g (C) p. Jason Lather
5:13; 145-Steve Yates (C) p. Jamie Ross
2:58; 152-Ken Kreilick (R) d. Lucas Borer
9-8; 160-Matt Meggitt (C) t.f. Brian
Reinbolt; 171-Jay Collins (C) p. Ricky
Price 1:56; 189-Justin Chagnon (C) p.
Brandon Willer 5:53; 275-Paul Cruz (R)
d. Andy Bonnette 15-11

Records: Clyde 6-0, Ross 2-1

Clyde JV 66, Ross 3

103-Kevin Clark (C) won by forfeit;
112-Mike Goble (C) won by forfeit; 119-
Robert Garcia (C) p. Brian Franks 2:20;
125-Don Wensinger (R) d. Jarad Lovett
13-11; 130-Dustin Weinheimer (C) d.
Jason Longanbach 19-8; 135-Rusty
Marcha (C) d. Wyane Crawford 14-8;
140-Jason Mason(C) p. Bryan Pettiford
4:39; 145-Brett Beebee (C) p. Mike
Willer 5:09; 152-Eric Notestine (C) t.f.
Keith Mosser 18-1; 160-Ben Bennet (C)
p. James Salazar 1:14; 171-Jeremi
Woodruff (R) won by forfeit; 189-Eric
Keegan (C) won by forfeit; 275-Brian
Musser (C) p. Josh Jones 2:13.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Working on a fall

Chris Staats (top) applies pressure to 103-pound opponent Fred Ivy of Fremont Ross during a match at Ross High School

Thursday night. Staats eventually pinned Ivy in three minutes, 14 seconds. Clyde 6-0, defeated Ross 53-12.

For The Record

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING: Bedford defeated Fremont Ross 35-24 in a Great Lakes League high school wrestling match Thursday. Ross got pins from Emmanuel Heidelberg (125), Matt Merrill (135), Shawn Heidelberg (140) and Eric Straube (275). Ross is 2-2 and 2-1 in the GLL.

Ross wins second Spartan Invitational crown

News-Messenger reports

LIMA—Fremont Ross won the Lima Spartan Invitational Wrestling Tournament for the second successive year Saturday.

The Little Giants, who won the Mal Mackey Invitational at Ross two weeks ago, piled up a tourney record 253 points. Runner-up Wapakoneta had 146 1/2.

Van Wert was second with 144 and Columbus Grove finished fourth with 128. Sidney with 99, Lima Series at 82, Findlay with 74 and Arcadia with 31 comprised the second division.

Fred Ivy (103), Emmanuel Heidelberg (119),

Jason Hatfield (130), Matt Merrill (135), Shawn Heidelberg (140), Jamie Ross (145) and Ken Kreilick (152) were the Little Giants champions.

Emmanuel Heidelberg was also voted the tournament's outstanding wrestler by the coaches. Hatfield received the most pins trophy.

Ross coach Grover Dowell won the coaches award.

Taking second for Ross were Jeremy Roosen (112), Russ Mylander (171) and Paul Cruz (275). Little Giants finishing fourth were Pete Devore (125) and Brandon Willer (189).

Ross wins

Fremont Ross lost only three matches while defeated Fostoria 57-12 in a Great Lakes League wrestling match Thursday night.

Ross is 3-2 and 3-1 in GLL matches.

Nine of the Ross wins were on falls, accounting for 54 points.

Fred Ivy, 103, started the Little Giants off quickly, pinning Ryan Gilliland in a minute of the opening match. Jeremy Roosen, 112, followed with a 2:24 pin on Eric Capetillo, giving Ross a 12-0 lead before Fostoria's Rob Moore posted a 9-2 win over Emanuel Heidelberg at 119.

Pete Devore, 125, Jason Hatfield, 130, and Matt Merrill followed with falls for a 30-3 Ross lead. Shawn Heidelberg's 8-2 win over Fostoria's Steve Hardie at 140 and Jamie Ross's pin at 145 put the match out of Fostoria's reach.

Ross 57, Fostoria 12

103-Fred Ivy (R) p. Ryan Gilliland 1:00; 112-Jeremy Roosen (R) p. Eric Capetillo 2:24; 119-Rob Moore (F) d. Emanual Heidelberg 9-2; 125-Pete Devore (R) p. Brett Gillis 2:46; 130-Jason Hatfield (R) p. Kevin Beamer 3:09; 135-Matt Merrill (R) p. Andy Brough 5:06;

140-Shawn Heidelberg (R) d. Steve Hardie 8-2; 145-Jamie Ross (R) p. Scott Scifers 1:41; 152-Ken Kreilick (R) p. Todd Barlekamp 2:58; 160-Ira Turner (F) t.f. Brian Reinbolt 18-2; 171-Gabe Wedge (F) d. Russ Mylander 20-8; 189-Brandon Willer (R) p. Cosmi Tey 3:11; 275-Eric Straube (R) p. Ryan Russel 2:17.

Ross JV 18, Fostoria 15

119-Brian Franks (R) 0:30; 130-Don Wensinger (R) p. Mike Botelo 1:04; 135-Wayne Crawford (R) p. Phillip Roberts 0:44; 145-Chris Hall (F) p. Isiah Noftz 3:03; 152-Jeromy Guerra 6-3; 189-Randy Scifers (F) p. Chris Meinke 3:47.

Ross wins; Clyde tops Bellevue

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross won its fourth Great Lakes League wrestling match Saturday against one loss, defeating Oregon Clay 39-27.

Five Ross wrestlers recorded pins, including Emmanuel Heidelberg's fall in a minute and two seconds over Ken Adams at 119 pounds.

Jason Hatfield (130), Matt Merrill (135), Jamie Ross (145) and Brandon Willer (189) also won by pin for Ross.

Wrestling

Ross 39, Clay 27

103-Fred Ivy (R) won by forfeit; 112-Jason Muenzer (C) d. Jeremy Roosen 13-5; 119-Emmanuel Heidelberg (R) p. Ken Adams 1:02; 125-Will Groll (C) p. Pete Devore 3:02; 130-Jason Hatfield (R) p. Tony Hernandez 3:26; 135-Matt Merrill (R) p. Dan Mittendorf 4:58; 140-Jamie Schiavone (C) d. Shawn Heidelberg 7-5.

145-Jamie Ross (R) p. Mike Cannon 5:03; 152-Ken Kreilick (R) d. Heath Schwierkin 5-2; 160-Chuck Polinski (C) d. Brian Reinbolt 10-3; 171-Jake Miller (C) d. Russ Mylander 24-9; 189-Brandon Wieler (R) p. Kelly Toth 3:13; 275-Mark Duran (C) p. Eric Straube 2:31.

Records: Ross 4-2 (4-1).

Merrill honored

Matt Merrill, a junior three-year letterman, was named the most valuable wrestler Tuesday during the Fremont Ross Wrestling Awards Program.

The award was voted on by team members.

Merrill also won the most takedowns award and received a captain's trophy.

Other special awards went to senior Emmanuel Heidelberg for the most pins; junior Brian Reinbolt, who won the coaches award; and junior Jamie Ross, voted the team's most improved wrestler by his teammates.

Coach Grover Dowell handed out three-year awards to senior Shawn Heidelberg as well as juniors Jason Hatfield, Ken Kreilick and Merrill.

Merrill and Heidelberg also received certificates of participation in the state tournament from the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

Kreilick also received a medal for being a first-team All-Great Lakes League performer, while Merrill, Ross and Hatfield received second-team medals. The medals were provided by the Fremont Athletic Boosters.

Seniors Fred Ivy and Paul Cruz, Emmanuel and Shawn Heidelberg and sophomore Brandon Willer received GLL honorable mention certificates.

Also, Dowell announced that Emmanuel Heidelberg and Shawn Heidelberg, Hatfield, Merrill and Kreilick will wrestle in the South Shores All-Star Exhibition Match at 6:30 p.m., March 23 at Clyde High School.



MERRILL