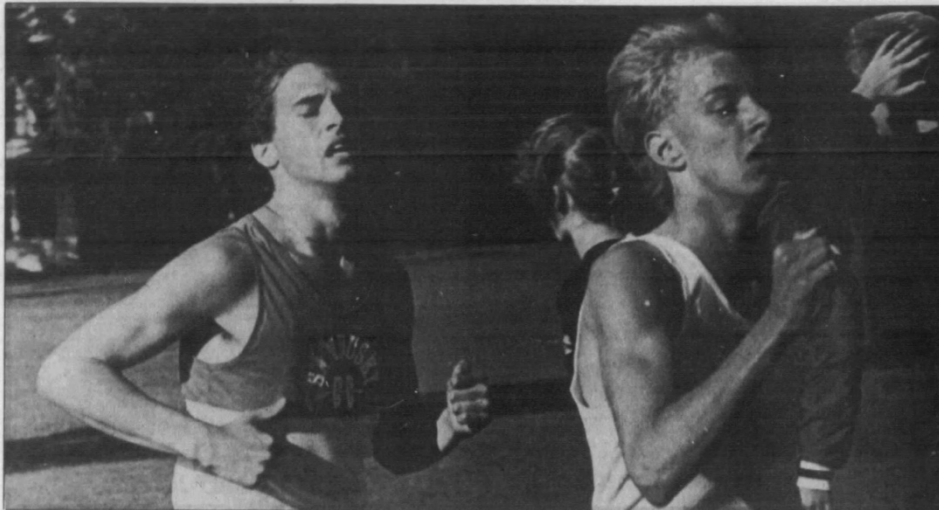


1986 Buckeye Conference...



SCOTT NOSSAMAN (right) of Ross strains to keep ahead of Dave Blier of Sandusky 50 yards from the finish of the Buckeye

Conference Cross Country Meet Tuesday. The Ross runner was 11th in a season-best 17 minutes and 44 seconds.

News-Messenger/Bob Marker

Bridesmaids at the Buckeye

Both Ross teams finish 2nd at BC Cross Country Meet

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

SANDUSKY — Fremont Ross doubled up on its bridesmaid act Tuesday, finishing second not once but twice in the Buckeye Conference Cross Country Meet at Mills Creek Golf Course.

Host Sandusky waltzed to the boys title and Findlay ran away with the girls crown on a sunny but cool and windy afternoon.

The meet had originally been slated for the Findlay Country Club but was moved to Sandusky when last week's heavy rains put the Findlay course under water.

Sandusky finished with 34 points in the boys run, a comfortable 39 points ahead of Ross. Lorain Senior was third with 97 followed by Marion Harding with 100. Findlay, Elyria and Admiral King comprised the bottom three.

In the girls run, Findlay had 34 to runner-up Ross's 53. Marion Harding was third, four points behind the Little Giants, and Elyria was fourth with 102 followed by Sandusky with 111. Admiral King and Lorain Senior did not have enough runners to figure in the team scoring.

Ross's second-place finishes come on the heels of a second-place finish in the Buckeye Conference Golf Tournament by Ross two weeks ago.

"I'm a little disappointed," Ross Coach Norm Bray admitted. "I thought both teams could win. But second is better than last."

It is the second consecutive year that Ross teams have finished second.

Bray, although not offering it as an excuse, said he felt the switch from Findlay to Sandusky played into the Sandusky boys' favor, and Blue Streaks' Coach Pat Logue would not discount that.

"Psychologically, it was a big plus for us," Logue said while noting that all seven of his runners recorded their best times this season over the 3.1-mile course.

"When they called me Sunday and asked if I would agree to have the meet here, I said 'Yes,' before they had the question asked," Logue laughed.

Bray, even though down a bit by the second-place finishes, could see another light at the end of the tunnel.

"Four of the boys had their best times of the season and five girls bettered their season bests here," he said. "If they keep that up, we will do OK in the district meet."

That meet is slated for Oct. 18 in Lima.

Carlo DeFrancesco of Lorain Senior was the individual boys winner with a clocking of 16 minutes and 45 seconds. Mike Millott and Jeremy Lilje, both of Sandusky, were second and third in 17:00 and 17:01, respectively.

Brian Doty, despite a fall at the two-mile mark, finished 10th for Ross in 17:43. Scott Nossaman was 11th in 17:44, his best of the season for the Little Giants, and Aaron Potter took 15th with Kevin Brooks 16th, also for Ross. The Little Giants' fifth finisher was Eric Middleton in 21st.

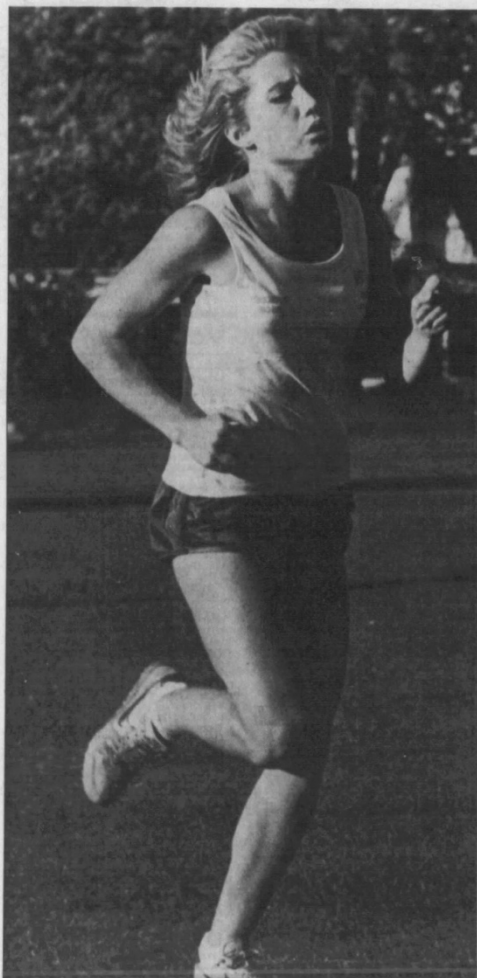
The top seven finishers won All-Buckeye Conference first-team honors and the next seven won second-team honors. Doty and Nossaman are on the second team.

Laural Didham of Findlay was the girls winner in 20:23. She led five Trojans finishing in the top 11.

Tami Stanley of Ross was fourth in 21:03 with teammate Shelly Hines seventh in 21:33. Lisa Abdoo finished 12th and Cathy Mallia 14th. The fifth Ross girl was Nicole Buehler in 19th.

Stanley and Hines won first-team all-conference honors and Abdoo and Mallia are on the second team.

DiFrancesco and Didham, by virtue of their wins, were named the conference's runners of the year while Logue was voted by his peers as the coach of the year.



TAMI STANLEY of Ross is on her way to a fourth-place finish in the Buckeye Conference girls cross country race Tuesday.

News-Messenger/Bob Marker

High school boys

Buckeye Conference

TEAM STANDINGS

Sandusky 34, Ross 73, Lorain Senior 97, Harding 100, Findlay 102, Elyria 119, Admiral King 188.

Top 15 runners-x

1-Carlo DeFrancesco-y (LS) 16:45, 2-Mike Millott (S) 17:00, 3-Jeremy Lilje (S) 17:01, 4-Mike Ward (F) 17:18, 5-Brian Shind (H) 17:28, 6-Terry Komlosi (E) 17:29, 7-Greg Sopczak (H) 17:33, 8-Todd Mackall (S) 17:37, 9-Mike Moore (S) 17:38, 10-Brian Doty (R) 17:43;

11-Scott Nossaman (R) 17:44, 12-Dave Bier (S) 17:46, 13-Norm Marks (E) 17:48, 14-Matt Shillick (LS) 17:49, 15-Aaron Potter (R) 17:57.

x-The first seven finishers won All-Buckeye Conference first team honors and the second seven won second team, all-conference honors.

y-Runner of the year.

Cross country

High school girls

Buckeye Conference

TEAM STANDINGS*

Findlay 34, Ross 53, Harding 57, Elyria 102, Sandusky 111.

*Admiral King and Lorain did not have enough runners to figure in the team scoring.

Top 15 runners-x

1-Laural Didham-y (F) 20:23, 2-Jody Butler (H) 20:41, 3-Tracy Bell (H) 20:53, 4-Tami Stanley (R) 21:03, 5-Dawn Drouillard (S) 21:16, 6-Julie Williamson (F) 21:30, 7-Shelly Hines (R) 21:33, 8-Gina DiFrancesco (LS) 21:36, 9-Heather Creel (F) 21:53, 10-Jenny Lobdell (F) 22:01;

11-Missy Freel (F) 22:05, 12-Lisa Abdoo (R) 22:28, 13-Christina Taylor (F) 22:34, 14-Cathy Mallia (R) 22:38, 15-Michelle Foster (H) 22:41.

x-The first seven finishers won All-Buckeye Conference first team honors and the second seven won second team, all-conference honors.

y-Runner of the year.