

2000 Season Review...

Wrestlers return to the mats

Clay tops Ross

News-messenger reports

OREGON — The Fremont Ross wrestling season opened on a down note, as Oregon Clay beat the Little Giants 50-21 in a Great Lakes League dual meet.

Tommy Wagner and Rick Legg got off to a strong start for the Little Giants. Wagner pinned Clay's Joe Herrera in three minutes, 32 seconds to win the 140-pound match. Legg pinned Jacob Coleman in 4:45.

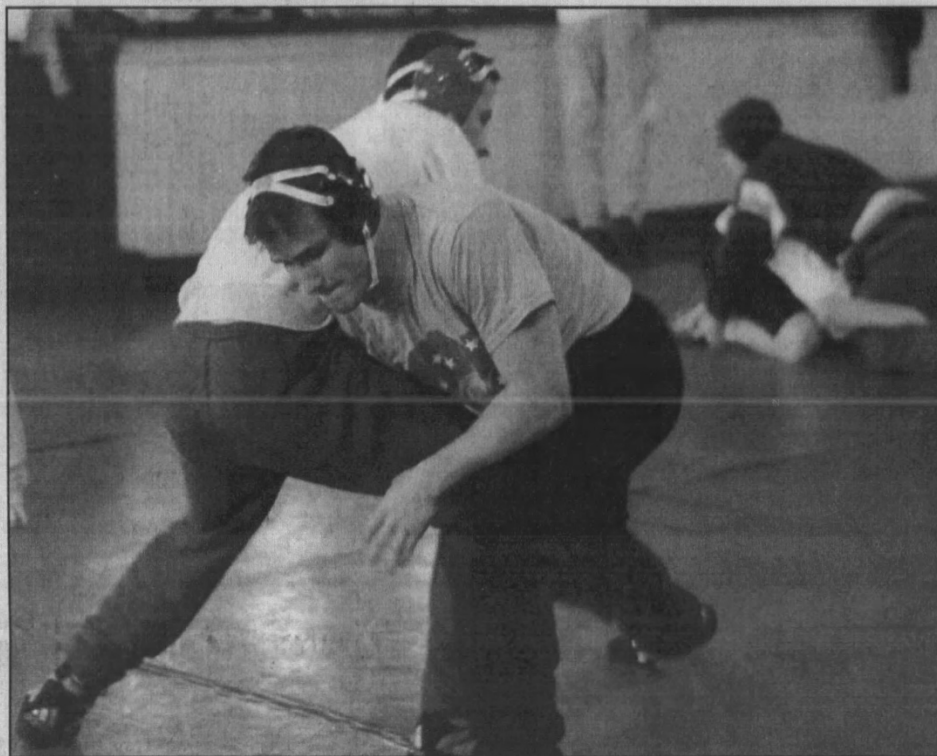
Ross also recorded three decisions. Zac Potridge beat Eric Seferian 14-8 at 112. Cody Amor topped David Wolf 5-1 at 145 and Mike Adams beat Ryan Pfefferlie 5-3 at heavy-weight.

The rest of the night belonged to the Eagles. At 103, Jason Baer beat Roy Zamarripa 12-10; at 119, Matt Reynolds pinned Stuart McAllister in 3:20; at 125, Josh Lewis pinned Kyle Wensinger; At 130, Zach Martin pinned Jake Wiechman; at 135, Brandon Beach pinned Robert Cooley; at 152, Ryan Franke pinned Dale Wisneuski; at 160, Wade Bell pinned Chris Kayser; at 171, Casey Donley pinned Luke Cole; and at 189, Ryan Donley beat Tobe Forshtay 18-5 for Oregon Clay.

Ross fell to 0-1, while Clay improved to 1-0.

Clay also won the junior varsity match. Aaron Autullo, Jason Andrendis, Luke Swint and Ryan Cooley were winners for the Little Giants.

Ross will compete in the Ashland Invitational Saturday.



News-Messenger/Shantel Shriver

CRAIG HEPPNER (front) grapples with St. Joe teammate Mark Szymanowski during practice on Wednesday.

Several area teams have high hopes for season

By SCOTT BLACK

News-Messenger correspondent

It's high school wrestling time again in Ohio, and promise abounds in the area.

How will Ross fare in the changing Great Lakes League? Can St. Joe replace four state qualifiers? Will Clyde challenge for a state title again? Can Gibsonburg maintain a larger roster?

Fremont Ross

The good news for Fremont Ross is that the Little Giants have 44 kids out for wrestling. The bad news is that only six of them are returning lettermen.

"We are very young and inexperienced," said Ross coach Grover Dowell. "Be-

cause we are so young, we don't expect a lot out of this team. However, these kids will hold their own just because of their athleticism."

Ross will definitely feel the loss of good wrestlers like Derek Wensinger, Cody Franks, John Forshtay and Brian Hill.

Coming back to lead Ross is district qualifier Kyle Iliff (28-10). Joining Iliff will be letterwinners Cody Amor, Zac Potridge, Tommy Wagner, Roy Zamarripa, Tobe Forshtay and Ryan Cooley.

"Our home fans will see a lot of quality teams coming into Fremont this year," said Dowell. "I am excited about the Mackey tournament, which we've won five years in a row. Sandusky will be

here this year, and Sandusky is always a big rivalry no matter what the sport. They are always fun to wrestle."

"This may be the fans' last chance to see top-rated Bedford come here. This is their last year in the league. I'm going to try and keep them on the schedule because they are always so good."

Dowell is also a big fan of the dual meet as opposed to the now popular tournaments.

"Too many tournaments are hurting the sport," said Dowell. "Dual matches are better for the spectators, the school and wrestling. Students and fans have a better chance to connect with the team. It's your school against another. It creates

rivalries and excitement.

"The fans don't have to sit around in the gym all day and evening to see the wrestlers. The really good kids take the opportunity to be a hero away from the average kid in tournaments."

St. Joe

St. Joseph Central Catholic coach Chuck Lenhart feels that a tough schedule provides his team with a lot of experience and makes for good wrestlers.

"We believe that the strength of our schedule played a very important part in four of our wrestlers qualifying for the state tournament," said Lenhart.

See WRESTLING, B2

Wrestling

High School

Clay 50, Ross 21

At Clay

103—Jason Baer (C) dec. Roy Zamarripa 12-10. 112—Zac Potridge (R) major dec. Eric Seferian 14-8. 119—Matt Reynolds (C) p. Stuart McAllister. 125—Josh Lewis (C) p. Kyle Wensinger. 130—Zach Martin (C) p. Jake Wiechman. 135—Brandon Beach (C) p. Robert Cooley. 140—Tommy Wagner (R) p. Joe Herrera. 145—Cody Amor (R) dec. David Wolf 5-1. 152—Ryan Franke (C) p. Dale Wisneuski. 160—Wade Bell (C) p. Chris Kayser. 171—Casey Donley (C) p. Luke Cole. 189—Ryan Donley (C) dec. Tobe Forshtay 18-5. 215—Rick Legg (R) p. Jacob Coleman. Hvy—Mike Adams (R) dec. Ryan Pfefferlie 5-3.

Records: Ross 0-1, Clay 1-0.

Junior Varsity

Clay 33, Ross 29

112—Brian Baer (C) p. Eric Elizondo. 119—Blain Napler (C) p. Jamie Rezendes. 125—Aaron Autullo (R) p. Pat Mullins. 130—Jason Andrendis (R) p. Mike Free. 135—Justin Hughs (C) p. Kyle Bingaman. 140—Steve Everett (C) p. Kevton Hattrick. 152—Mike Zielee (C) dec. Jesse Wukie 8-4. 171—Luke Swint (R) major dec. Ziad Kadri 20-5. 189—Aaron Riches (C) p. Andrew Lopez. Hvy—Ryan Cooley (R) p. Adam Heilman.

Ashland Tournament

ASHLAND — Fremont Ross got five top-four finishes en route to a sixth-place finish at the Ashland tournament.

Zac Potridge won at 112 for the Little Giants, and Mike Adams won at heavyweight. Rick Legg took second at 215, and Kyle Polter (102) and Jason Andreadis (130) took fourth place.

Wrestling

High School

Ashland Tournament

1-Ashland, 2-Massillon, 3-Austintown Fitch, 4-Upper Sandusky, 5-Lexington, 6-Ross, 7-Medina, 8-Mapleton

Ross results

103: 4-Kyle Polter
112: 1-Zac Potridge
119: 6-Stuart McAllister
130: 4-Jason Andreadis
135: 6-Robert Cooley
145: 5-Cody Amor
160: 5-Chris Kayser
171: 5-Tobe Forshtay
215: 2-Rick Legg
Hvy: 1-Mike Adams

Zac attack tough for Ross

Potridge solid at 112

By MICHAEL PIDANICK
Staff writer

At a quick glance, Zac Potridge may not seem very big. But don't be fooled, he is every bit as tough as the next guy.

In fact, some people think the Fremont Ross sophomore's lack of size may make him a better wrestler.

"He's the smallest kid on the team, so he's trying to make a name for himself," said Ross 171-pound wrestler Tobe Forshtay. "I think that's making him want to work harder and push more to become better. He's looking really tough this year."

Potridge, The News-Messenger Athlete of the Week, has already made a name for himself on the mat at 112 pounds. On Saturday, he swept the competition and took first place at the Ashland Invitational.

"I wasn't expecting to win," he said. "I just went down there hoping to do well, and I got my goal. I just go in trying to win all the time."

Winning all the time is exactly what Potridge has done thus far. He opened

Athlete of the week

Zac Potridge profile

School: Ross.

Grade: Sophomore.

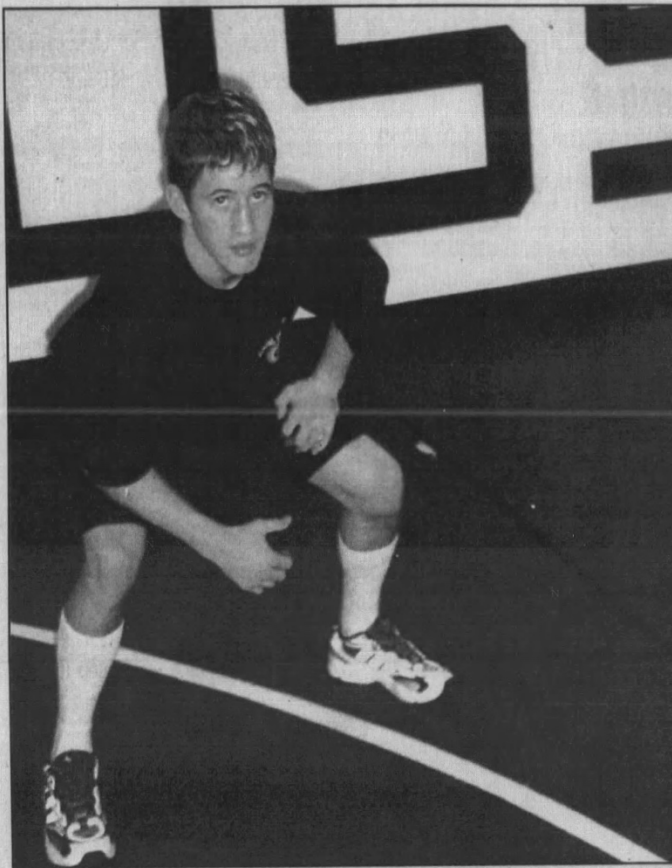
Sport: Wrestling.

Parents: Karla and Jeff Potridge.

Hobbies: Watching auto racing, building and driving Go-Karts.

the season with a 14-8 decision of Oregon Clay's Eric Seferian in a Great Lakes League dual meet, and remains unbeaten.

"He's really drilling hard," said Ross coach Grover Dowell. "He's really been working on his moves, and it showed at this weekend's tournament. I think part of it is his stubbornness, his hardheadedness. He has that desire to win, he doesn't bail out, he doesn't want to lose a takedown, he doesn't want to lose a reversal. That's what it takes to be successful."



News-Messenger/Michael Pidanick

See POTRIDGE, B2

ZAC POTRIDGE is off to a quick start for the Fremont Ross wrestling team this season.

Potridge starts quickly for Ross

Continued from B1

Last season, Potridge was 7-5 during the regular season at 103 pounds. He moved up to 112, "his natural weight," said Dowell, and has shown vast improvement.

"His attitude has improved tremendously," said Dowell. "He started strong as a freshman. He had a letdown at the end of the season, but he's bounced back. In Division I, it's awful tough as a freshman to get to state."

As a sophomore, Potridge has the same goal as every other wrestler.

"My goal is to make it to state this year," he said. "I just have to take one match at a time, I have to work a little harder this year for the goals I want."

Dowell said making it to

state at 103 may have been a little easier. But the coach said the sophomore has a legitimate shot, not only this year, but in the next two as well.

"I think he's got a legitimate shot," said Dowell. "He'd have a real good chance at (103), but he's a quality enough kid to make it at 112."

"If he keeps going the way he is, he has a real shot at a couple years of placing at state."

Potridge said he would like to wrestle at the collegiate level if the opportunity presents itself, but it is still too early to make any decisions. Dowell thinks Potridge has a good chance at making it at the next level.

"If he gets his head together, maintains grades and stuff, as far as wrestling in college goes he has a legitimate shot of getting into school," said

Dowell. "I'll probably try to get him into a community college first, to get acclimated, it's a little slower pace, and then he can transfer on."

Potridge has been wrestling since he was in the fourth or fifth grade. He said he became interested after watching family and friends excel in the sport.

"I like competing with other people," he said. "I like throwing people around. I had some people in my family that did it, and that made me want to do it."

When he is not wrestling, Potridge also enjoys auto racing. He enjoys building Go-Karts, and has been successful, winning the Clyde Street Race and taking fourth in a season championship. His favorite NASCAR driver is Jeff Gordon, who began his career in Go-Karts.

Ross easily gets by depleted Fostoria 78-4

Little Giants finish quickly

By MICHAEL PIDANICK
Staff writer

Fostoria didn't bring some of its best wrestlers to Fremont Ross Wednesday night, something that didn't please Little Giants coach Grover Dowell.

Ross took that frustration out on the Redmen that did come to wrestle and rolled to a 78-4 win at the Purple Pit.

"Fostoria didn't bring their best, which upset me," said Ross coach Grover Dowell. "I told the kids to go out there and kick their ... butts. And they went out, they listened well, they executed pretty well, and I have got to be happy for having a young team."

Ross won seven of the eight contested matches — all by pin — and improved to 1-1 overall and 1-1 in the Great Lakes League. Aaron Autullo (119 pounds), Kyle Wensinger

Wednesday

Ross	78
Fostoria	4

Friday

Ross at Rogers Invitational

(125), Robert Cooley (130), Kyle Iliff (152), Tobe Forshtay (171), Rick Legg (215) and Mike Adams (275) won by pin for the Little Giants, while Kyle Polter (103), Zac Potridge (112), Tommy Wagner (135), Cody Amor (140), Chris Kayser (160) and Luke Swint (189) won by forfeit.

Three of the matches ended in the first minute. Cooley needed just 27 seconds to catch Stan Strickland in a mistake and record the pin.

"They didn't bring a full team, so we just messed around with them, teased them a little bit," Cooley said. "(Strickland) messed up a little bit. I was going to throw him in a half, but he gave me his legs so I just put him in a cradle. I was expecting (to pin

him) maybe in the last two periods, but not that quick."

Legg was tested about as much as Cooley, as the Little Giants junior needed just 31 seconds to pin Dustin Miller.

"I didn't expect my match to be that easy," Legg said. "I thought I'd have a hard time with him." Two other matches ended in the first period, as Autullo pinned Aaron Puckett in 32 seconds and Wensinger stuck Tim Maw in 1:20. Forshtay and Adams ended their matches in the second period. Forshtay pinned Ben Hammons in 2:23 and Adams stopped Alex Grine in 3:03. Iliff pinned Jose Valasquez in 5:39.

The Little Giants will compete at the Toledo Rogers Invitational this weekend. Friday's competition begins at 4 p.m., and Saturday's action starts at 11 a.m. with the finals scheduled for 6 p.m.

"It's a tough tournament," Dowell said. "I sent in seeds for six kids. I think we'll do real well, I really do."

Wrestling

High School

Ross 78, Fostoria 4

at Ross

103- Kyle Polter (R) won by forfeit; 112- Zac Potridge (R) won by forfeit; 119- Aaron Autullo (R) p. Aaron Puckett in :32; 125- Kyle Wensinger (R) p. Tim Maw in 1:20; 130- Robert Cooley (R) p. Stan Strickland in :27; 135- Tommy Wagner (R) won by forfeit; 140- Cody Amor (R) won by forfeit; 145- J.J. Riley (F) dec. Dale Wisnewski 13-4; 152- Kyle Iliff p. Jose Valasquez in 5:39; 160- Chris Kayser (R) won by forfeit; 171- Tobe Forshtay (R) p. Ben Hammons in 2:23; 189- Luke Swint (R) won by forfeit; 215- Rick Legg p. Dustin Miller in :31; 275- Mike Adams p. Alex Grine in 3:03.

Wrestling

Ross seventh at Rogers Invitational

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO —Fremont Ross has five wrestlers still fighting for a championship after three rounds of the Rogers Invitational, held Friday.

In semifinal action, Zac Potridge will meet Jason Harvey of Fairless at 112. At 140, Cody Amor will meet Tony Schultz of North Ridgeville.

At 152, Kyle Iliff will meet Tom Bergener of Fairless. At 215, Rick Legg will meet Ian Robertson of St. Francis. Heavyweight Mike Adams will meet Jason Mercurio of St. Francis.

Kyle Polter, Aaron Autullo, Kyle Wensinger, Robert Cooley, Tommy Wagner, Chris Kayser, Tobe Forshtay and Luke Swint will all compete in the consolation bracket.

Ross was in seventh place after three rounds, with North Ridgeville leading the tournament.

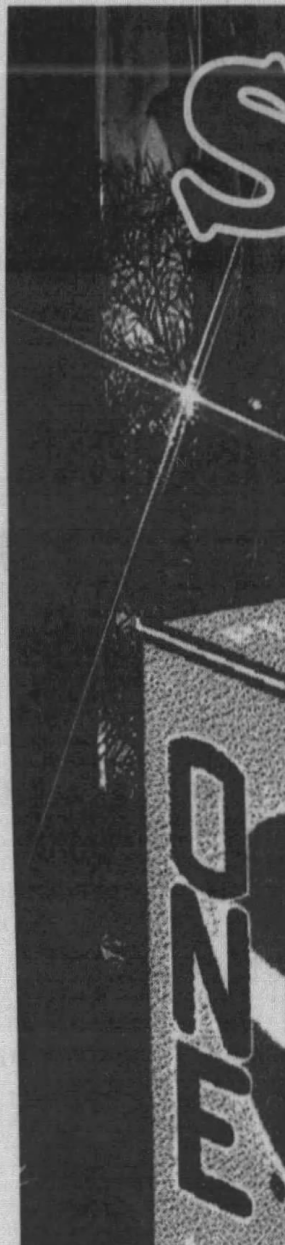
In other wrestling action Friday:
Hopewell-Loudon Inv.

BASCOM — Woodmore was in fourth place after one day of competition at the Hopewell-Loudon Invitational.

At 113, John Bedford pinned Mike Ottenbecker of Huron in 44 seconds. Billey Weiland decisioned Carey's Josh Courtad 5-3, and Juventino Gullien pinned Huron's Rick Wilbert in 1:30.

Josh Thompson pinned Lake's Josh Spagner at 145, Ray Lewis pinned Rich Gerritsen of Fostoria at 160 and Lucas Wilson pinned New London's Allen Hale at 215.

Northwestern led after one day, followed by Elmwood and Mohawk.



Wrestling

High School

Rogers Invitational

Friday's results

1-North Ridgeville, 2-Defiance, 3-Swan-
ton, 4-Wauseon, 5-Maumee, 6-Fairless,
7-Ross, 8-Elida, 9-St. Francis, 10-Rogers

Today's Ross matchups

Semifinals

112-Zac Potridge vs. Jason Harvey
(Fairless)

140-Cody Amor vs. Tony Schultz (N.
Ridgeville)

152-Kyle Iliff vs. Tom Bergener (Fair-
less)

215-Rick Legg vs. Ian Robertson (St.
Francis)

Hvy: Mike Adams vs. Jason Mercurio
(St. Francis)

Consolation

103-Kyle Polter; 119-Aaron Autullo,
125-Kyle Wensinger, 130-Robert Cooley,
135-Tommy Wagner, 160-Chris Kayser,
171-Tobe Forshtay, 189-Luke Swint

Wrestling

Ross fourth at Rogers Invite

St. Joe 17th at North Canton

News-Messenger reports

Behind a first place finish and three second place finishes, the Fremont Ross wrestling team finished sixth in the Rogers Invitational on Saturday.

Rick Legg was the lone champion for the Little Giants, winning the 215-pound title. Legg decided Jeremy Lowaleski of tournament champion North Ridgeville 10-3 in the finals.



Zac Potridge finished second for Ross at 112, losing a 4-0 decision in the finals to Josh Bement of North Ridgeville. Cody Amor finished second at 140, dropping a 14-5 decision to Swanton's Brian Madden in the finals.

Kyle Iliff took the other second place for Ross, losing to Chad Marzec of St. Francis by technical fall in the finals.

Mike Adams finished third at heavyweight for Ross, beating Wauseon's Tyson Hoste in the consolation finals.

Tobe Forshtay (171) and Luke Swint (189) each earned fifth place finishes for Ross.

Ross is off until the Dec. 28 Clyde Invitational.

Inside: Clyde fourth at Dublin Coffman. **Page B3**

North Canton Invitational

NORTH CANTON — St. Joseph Central Catholic had four wrestlers place en route to a 17th-place finish at the North Canton Invitational. It was the most placers St. Joe has had in its three-year involvement in the tournament.

The event, which features mostly Division I and II teams in the 32-team field, is ranked as one of the toughest in the state. Wadsworth won the event, followed by St. Peter Chanel and Canton South.

Brian Lenhart and Dan Szymanowski recorded the highest finishes for the Streaks, taking third at 140 and 171, respectively.

Lenhart suffered a shoulder injury in his semifinal match and had to default, but came back strong in the consolation finals, defeating a wrestler from Michigan. All of Lenhart's wins were pins.

Szymanowski overcame a 6-2 deficit with a five-point move in the final seconds to win his match for third 7-6.

Dan's brother, Mark, finished fourth at 135.

At heavyweight, Dave Klotz took seventh place, losing to the eventual champion and the fourth-place finisher.

Freshman Ryan Autullo won his first career varsity match, beating a wrestler from Akron Buchtel at 125.

The Streaks are off until Jan. 4 when they host Port Clinton.

Wrestling

High School

Rogers Invitational

1-N. Ridgeville, 2-Defiance, 3-Maumee,
4-St. Francis, 5-Swanton, 6-Ross, 7-Fair-
less, 8-Rogers, 9-Wauseon, 10-Elida

Ross results

112: 2-Zac Potridge; Josh Bement (N.
Ridgeville) dec. Potridge 4-0 in finals

140: 2-Cody Amor; Brian Madden
(Swanton) dec. Amor 14-5 in finals

152: 2-Kyle Iliff, Ross; Chad Marzec (St.
Francis) def. Iliff 2:27 in finals

171: 5-Tobe Forshtay; Forshtay def.
Todd Akenberger (Bowsher) 2:14 in fifth
place match

189: 5-Luke Swint; Swint dec. Dan
Close (Rogers) 6-1 in fifth place match

215: 1-Rick Legg; Legg def. Jeremy
Lowaleski (N. Ridgeville) 10-3 in finals

275: 3-Mike Adams; Adams def. Tyson
Hoste (Wauseon) 4:22 in third place match

Wrestling

High School

Tiffin Invitational

Team Standings

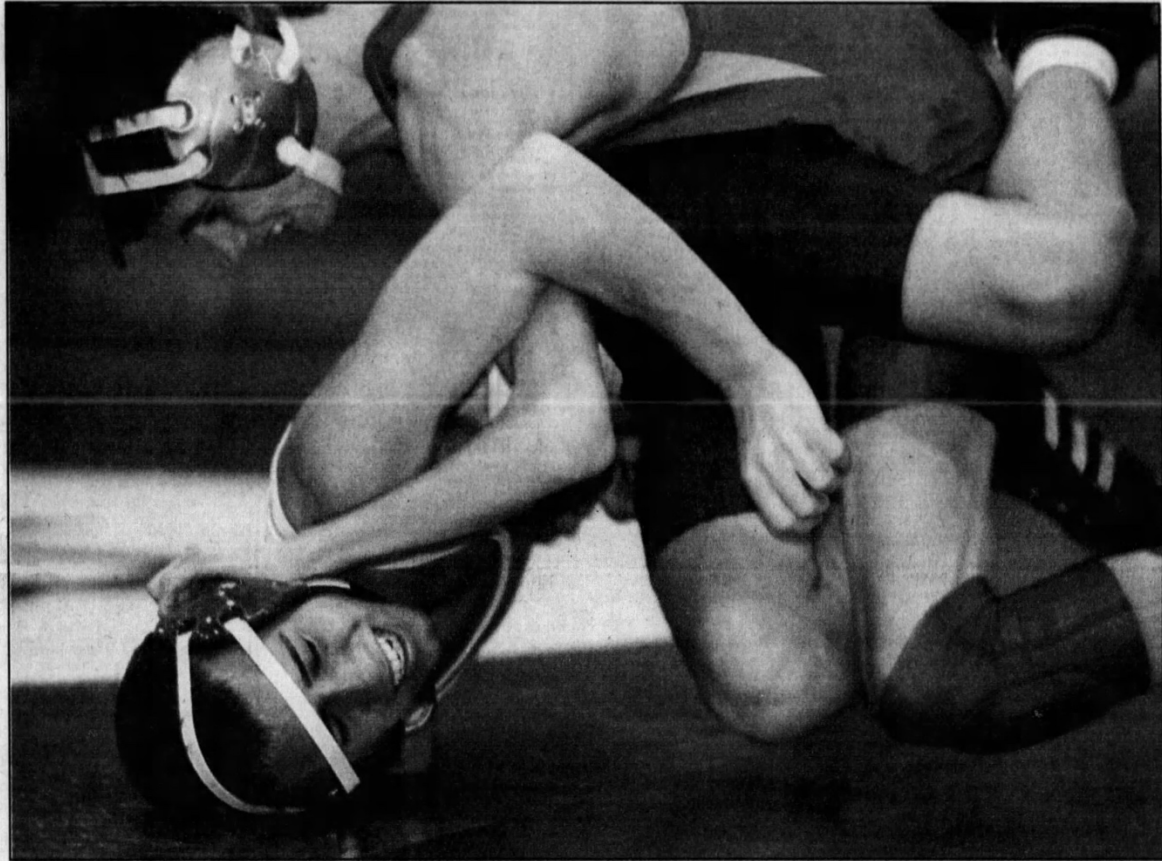
1-Hilliard Darby, 2-Columbian, 3-Clay, 4-Groveport Madison, 5-Perkins, 6-Tol St Francis, 7-Maumee, 8-Tol Central Catholic, 9-Ross, 10-Elida, 11-Swanton, 12-Marysville, 13-Lexington, 14-Whitmer, 15-Col Brookhaven, 16-Maysville, 17-Huron, 18-Lancaster

Ross results

112— Zac Potridge, 4th; 140— Cody Amor, 5th; 171— Tebe Forshtay, 4th; 215— Rick Legg, 2nd; 275 — Mike Adams, 5th

Wrestling

Ross falls to powerful Bedford



News-Messenger/Liz Margerum

AARON AUTULLO, above, was pinned by Bedford's Brad Groffeston in 1:12 in the Mules' 53-18 win Wednesday. Zac Potridge, below, fell 12-6 to Denny Brighton.

Three Little Giants record quick pins

By MICHAEL PIDANICK
Staff writer

It's not often a coach is pleased with a 35-point loss. But considering the competition, Fremont Ross coach Grover Dowell wasn't all that upset with Wednesday's 53-18 loss to Michigan power Bedford in a Great Lakes League match.

"We've got returning state champions coming at us," Dowell said, "and with the majority of my kids being sophomores and freshmen, I just told the kids to go out and do the best they could. There wasn't one kid that gave up out there."

Wednesday

Bedford53

Ross.....18

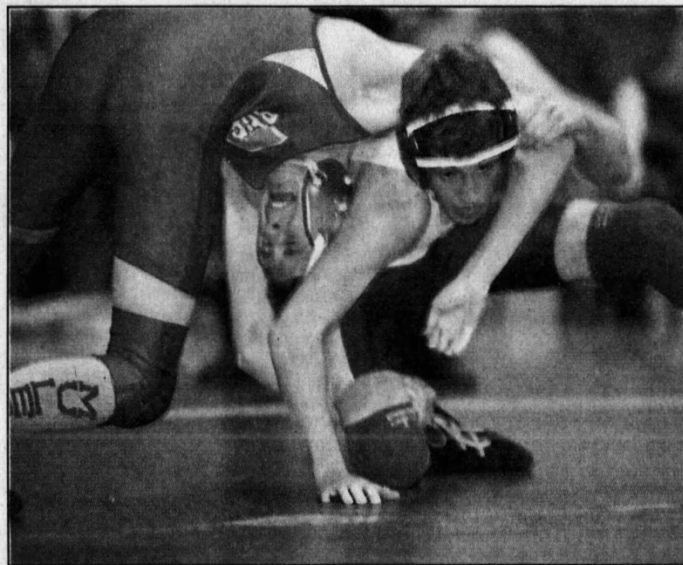
Saturday

Ross JV at Sandusky Invitational

"Actually, I hate to say it with the score being what it was, and I'm not happy with the score, but I'm happy with the way the kids went at the match."

The Little Giants, who fell to 1-2 in GLL meets, won three matches, as Robert Cooley, Rick Legg and Mike Adams recorded pins.

See ROSS, B2



Ross falls in GLL dual against powerful Bedford

Continued from B1

The Kicking Mules won the other 11 matches, three by pin and two more by technical fall.

Cooley recorded Ross's first win of the night, as he took control in the second period and pinned Angelo Milano in 3 minutes, 29 seconds.

"The kid was pretty tough, and he knew exactly what he was going to do," Cooley said. "He was trying to run me over into a half (nelson), and I pulled it off with a cradle and put him on his back. That's just kind of how it worked out. I wasn't expecting to pin him."

The Little Giants also won

the evening's final two matches. At 215, Legg made quick work of C.J. Winkleman and pinned him in just 35 seconds. In the heavyweight match, Adams was equally dominant, needing just 47 seconds to pin Rick Nieman.

"I just put him in a bear hug," Adams said. "I didn't do anything special. I just treated this like any other match."

One of the better matches of the night came at 135. After falling behind 4-1 early, Ross's Tommy Wagner nearly recorded a second-period pin and took a 6-4 lead. But Bedford's Chad Johnson survived and posted a 12-6 decision.

Denny Brighton got Bedford

started, as he decisioned Zac Potridge 12-6 at 103. Chad Ditty pushed the lead to 9-0 with a pin of Derek Earhart in 2:50. Also for the Kicking Mules, Brad Groffeston (130) pinned Aaron Autullo in 1:12, Josiah Boyer (140) technical falled Cody Amor 18-1, Casey Roberts (145) posted a major decision over Dale Wisniewski 14-1, Travis Lusky (152) major decisioned Jesse Wukie, Justin Zink (160) won a major decision over Chris Kayser, Troy Lusky (171) tech falled Tobe Forshtay 17-1 and Joe Kay (189) pinned Luke Swint in 4:24.

"Bedford's a quality program," said Dowell. "They

have quality coaches and quality kids.

"But I'll tell you what, we had a bunch of gutsy kids tonight, they really wanted to take it at these boys. I saw some things that needed to be worked on, but it'll come with experience."

The Little Giants travel to Toledo Whitmer on Wednesday, and also have GLL dates with Sandusky and Findlay looming.

"I really expect us to go undefeated from this point on," Dowell said. "The Clay match was a tough loss and Bedford is tough, but I think we should win the rest of them."

Giants fall at Whitmer

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO — Fremont Ross fell to 1-3 in Great Lakes League dual meets with a 39-27 loss at Toledo Whitmer Wednesday night.

Two Little Giants recorded pins. Kyle Polter pinned Brian Helpple in 1 minute, 1 second at 103 pounds and Ryan Cooley stopped Dan Curry in 4:43 at heavyweight.

Also for Ross, Tommy Wagner posted a 14-6 major decision over Mike Sprink at 135, Cody Amor (140) decisioned Rick Morrison 7-6, Luke Swint (171) won by major decision 19-10 over Brent Maldonado and Rick Legg (215) major decisioned Nick Duric 14-3.

Wrestling

For the Panthers, Kirk Bowman (112) decisioned Zac Potridge 3-2; Antonio Ahumada (119) major decisioned Kyle Wensinger 17-8; Tim Root (125) pinned Jake Weichman 3:40; Eric Herman (130) won by technical fall over Robert Cooley, 17-2; Dave McDowell (145) major decisioned Dale Wisniewski 14-5; Erich Metzger (152) pinned Jessie Wukie in 1:34; Jeff Root (160) pinned Chris Kayser in 1:20 and Andy Georgakopolous (189) pinned Andrew Lopez in 1:34.

Ross will host Sandusky Wednesday in a GLL match.

Wrestling

High School

Whitmer 39, Ross 27

103-Kyle Polter (R) p. Brian Helpple, 1:01; 112-Kirk Bowman (W) dec. Zac Potridge, 3-2; 119-Antonio Ahumada (W) maj. dec. Kyle Wensinger, 17-8; 125-Tim Root (W) p. Jake Weichman, 3:40; 130-Eric Herman (W) tech. fall Robert Cooley, 17-2; 135-Tommy Wagner (R) maj. dec. Mike Spink, 14-6; 140-Cody Amor (R) dec. Rick Morrison, 7-6; 145-Dave McDowell (W) maj. dec. Dale Wisniewski, 14-5; 152-Erich Metzger (W) p. Jessie Wukie, 1:34; 160-Jeff Root (W) p. Chris Kayser, 1:20; 171-Luke Swint (R) maj. dec. Brent Maldonado, 19-10; 189-Andy Georgakopolous (W) p. Andrew Lopez, 1:34; 215-Rick Legg (R) maj. dec. Nick Dulic, 14-3; 275-Ryan Cooley (R) p. Dan Curry, 4:43.

Junior varsity

Whitmer 12, Ross 6

112-Brian Marinelli (W) p. Derek Earhart, 4:54; 135-Jack Johnson (W) p. Kenton Hetrick, 1:39; 215-Steve Sieberg (R) p. Pedro Negrin, 1:38.

Wrestling

Giants seek sixth straight Mackey

Tough seven-team tourney is Saturday

By SCOTT BLACK
News-Messenger correspondent

Fremont Ross will host the 27th annual Mal Mackey Memorial Wrestling Tournament at the Purple Pit on Saturday.

"Winning the Mackey is one of the goals that we set for ourselves every year," said Ross coach Grover Dowell.

"This tournament is for the fans and we want to put on a good show.

"We won it the last five times we had it, but this year it will be a tough task with the bunch of young kids that

we have. I'm confident though that we will place really high. Six in a row would be nice to get."

Wrestling action starts at 10 a.m. and the finals start at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$4 per session for adults and \$3 for students. A pass for both sessions is \$6 for adults and \$4 for students.

Last year, inclement weather caused the Mackey to be postponed.

Bad weather it seems is no stranger to this tournament. In 1967 a snowstorm caused two teams to drop out and forced the tournament into a dual meet between the remaining teams.

"I'm looking forward to the Mal Mackey," said Ross

wrestler Tobe Forshtay. "Last year it was canceled and it was kind of a disappointment.

"But this year I'm expecting to, if not take the tournament, come close. I really want it this year. This is a chance for our crowd to come out and support us. Our parents are here. My brother (John) won it his year so now it's my turn."

Joining Ross will be: Norwalk, Bryan, Perrysburg, Lima Shawnee, Sylvania Southview and Bowling Green. Toledo Scott recently pulled out of the tournament.

"Events like this just do a tremendous job of helping out the school," said Ross athletic director Art Bucci.

Tournament is named for legendary coach

The Mal Mackey Wrestling Tournament is named in honor of the coach who began the wrestling program at Ross in 1953. Mackey coached the Giants until his death in 1972.

Al Voggenthaler started the tournament in 1974. It was a junior varsity tournament until 1980.

Mansfield won the first varsity Mackey. Ross was the runnerup the first year, but has gone on to win nine titles. Clyde

and Lakota are the other teams to have won multiple titles.

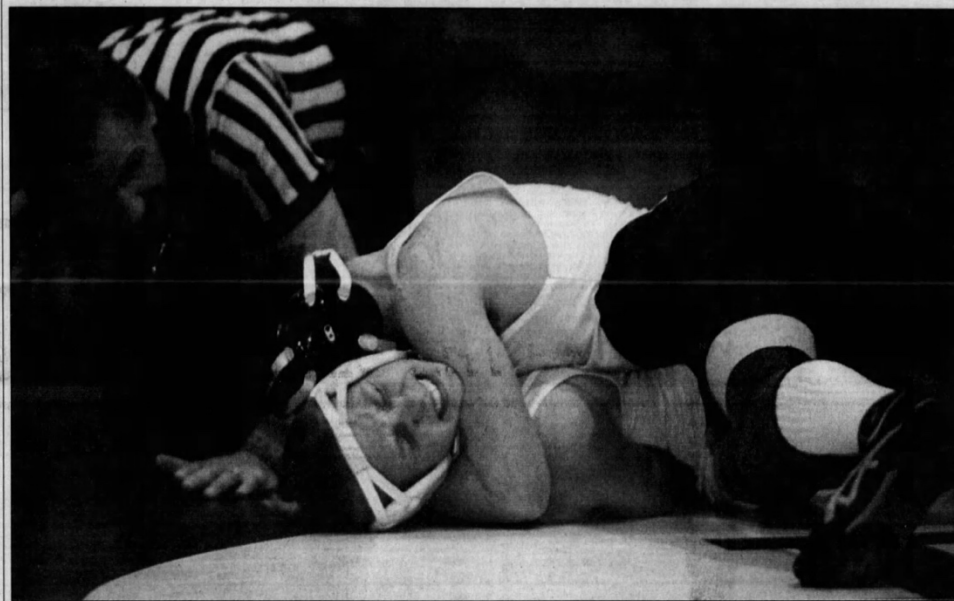
Only two wrestlers have won four Mackey titles: Matt Marini (1985-88) and Jaime Ramirez (1986-89) both of Ross. Two wrestlers have won three titles, Brandon Willer of Ross and Matt McCumber of Rossford. Ramirez also holds the record for fastest pin in the championship round when he recorded a fall in 13 seconds in 1986.

— Scott Black

"This tournament is one of the best run and organized tournaments in the state. People around Ohio know and respect the name Fre-

mont Ross and the athletic reputation we have here. Tournaments like this one are good for the school and the community."

Ross ends Sandusky streak



News-Messenger/Liz Margerum

ZAC POTRIDGE of Fremont Ross battles Sandusky's Dustin Smith at 103. Potridge posted a technical fall as the Little Giants beat Sandusky 41-40.

Little Giants beat Blue Streaks for first time since 1993

By MICHAEL PIDANICK
Staff writer

Fremont Ross senior Tobe Forshtay said he doesn't normally get overly excited before a match. Then again, Forshtay doesn't normally win dual matches and Fremont Ross doesn't normally beat Sandusky on the wrestling mat.

It all changed Wednesday night, as a fired-up Forshtay pinned Willie Weiker in 1 minute, 50 seconds, and the Little Giants posted a thrilling 41-40 victory over the Blue Streaks in a Great Lakes League at the Purple Pit.

"I almost never get wound up before a match," Forshtay

said. "But I really wanted to win this one. It was my last match here in a dual, and I was trying to show my coach and the team that I don't get enough credit for how I practice."

"I think I proved that no matter what a person's record is, or what they've done before, you've got to decide to win it out there right now."

The Little Giants, who lost to then-state ranked Sandusky 62-5 last year, beat their arch-rival in a dual meet for the first time since 1993. For a senior like Forshtay, the feeling could not have been sweeter.

"That felt really good," he said. "It's always been a ri-

Wednesday
Ross.....41
Sandusky.....40

Saturday
Mal Mackey Tournament
10 a.m. at Ross

valry ever since I've been here, and forever I guess. To beat them and see the look on their faces, that's rewarding."

Forshtay was one of four Little Giants to win a contested match Wednesday, but the hero of the night may have been one that lost. The Little Giants held a 41-36 lead entering the last match, when heavyweight Mike Adams took the mat against Sandusky's Eric

Gibson. Although Gibson posted the 21-9 major decision, Ross needed Adams to avoid being pinned or tech failed to seal the win.

"I told Mike when he went out there if he did not get pinned, we should be OK," said Ross coach Grover Dowell. "I didn't think he'd get tech failed (a 15-point loss), and we kind of lucked out with that."

Although Adams said he was glad he did his part to help the team win, he said he was unhappy with the way he wrestled.

"I went out there knowing I just couldn't get pinned," he said. "But I guess I didn't prepare enough to beat him. I'll get him next

time. I kept trying to turn him to get some points back, but I didn't have enough energy."

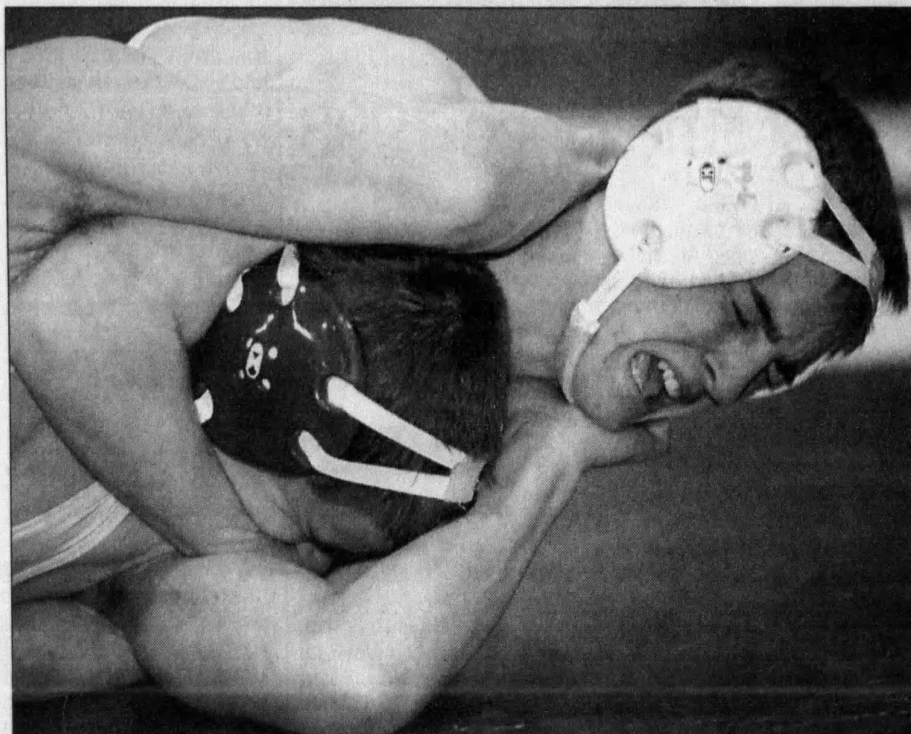
Three Little Giants (2-3) won by pin. Aaron Autullo (125) shook off a tough start and pinned Devin Johnson in 4:44.

Autullo was taken to the mat three times in the first period, but was able to recover.

"He's still got a lot of work to do," Dowell said of Autullo.

"He had the desire to win, which is what brought him through that match, but he's got to listen a little better, and drive more."

See ROSS, B2



News-Messenger/Liz Margerum

KYLE WENSINGER (left) battles Sandusky's Matt Thoman Wednesday during Fremont Ross's 41-40 dual meet win over Sandusky.

Ross nips Sandusky

Continued from B1

Ross's Rick Legg was dominant at 215, and put away Chaz Tiller at the 1:33 mark. The Little Giants' other winner was Zac Potridge at 103. The Little Giants sophomore was in control from the opening whistle and needed less than two periods to post a 16-1 technical fall win.

"I wanted to pin the kid, but I guess a tech fall is better," Potridge said. "I've been working down to a different weight class, and I'm finally getting my energy back and my muscle back."

Tommy Wagner (135), Cody Amor (140) and Dale Wisniewski (145) won by forfeit for the Little Giants. Sandusky won seven of the 11 contested matches.

For the Blue Streaks (3-2), Philip Montgomery (112)

pinned Derek Earhart in 1:44, Matt Thoman (119) pinned Kyle Wensinger in 5:13, Dustin Davis (152) pinned Jesse Wukie in 3:18, Robert Sartor (160) pinned Chris Kayser in 5:49 and Jimmie Cherry (189) pinned Luke Swint in 44 seconds, to join Gibson as winners.

Ross snapped a two-game dual meet losing skid. Dowell was pleased to get the proverbial monkey off his team's back, but said his team still has a lot to learn.

"We still have a lot of work to do," he said. "We're still pulling and not driving, we worked all week on driving at the whistle, and we've still got kids trying to hold on. We're just not aggressive enough."

The Little Giants will host the Mal Mackey Invitational on Saturday and host Findlay next Wednesday in a dual.

Raiders roll past Calvert 63-12

News-Messenger reports

KANSAS — Lakota won 12 matches en route to a 63-12 non-league dual win over Tiffin Calvert on Wednesday.

The Raiders won the first five matches by forfeit with Matt Schultz (103 pounds), Brian Shelrick (112), Chris Stines (119), Presley Bloom (125), and Jeff Herr (130) getting the easy wins.

Tyler Durst (135) decisioned Ron Steinmetz 16-7, Troy Halfhill (140) pinned Joel Kummerer in 3:43, Brad Bloemer (145) pinned Pat Boehler in 3:26, Jon Barnes (152) major decisioned Jon Arbogast, 19-2, Brian Jacobs (160) decisioned Briton Kimmel, 5-3, at 160, David Reinhart (171) pinned Chris Mathias in 3:51 and Dustin Shively (189) decisioned Keven Rinaman, 6-5.

Wrestling

High School

Ross 41, Sandusky 40

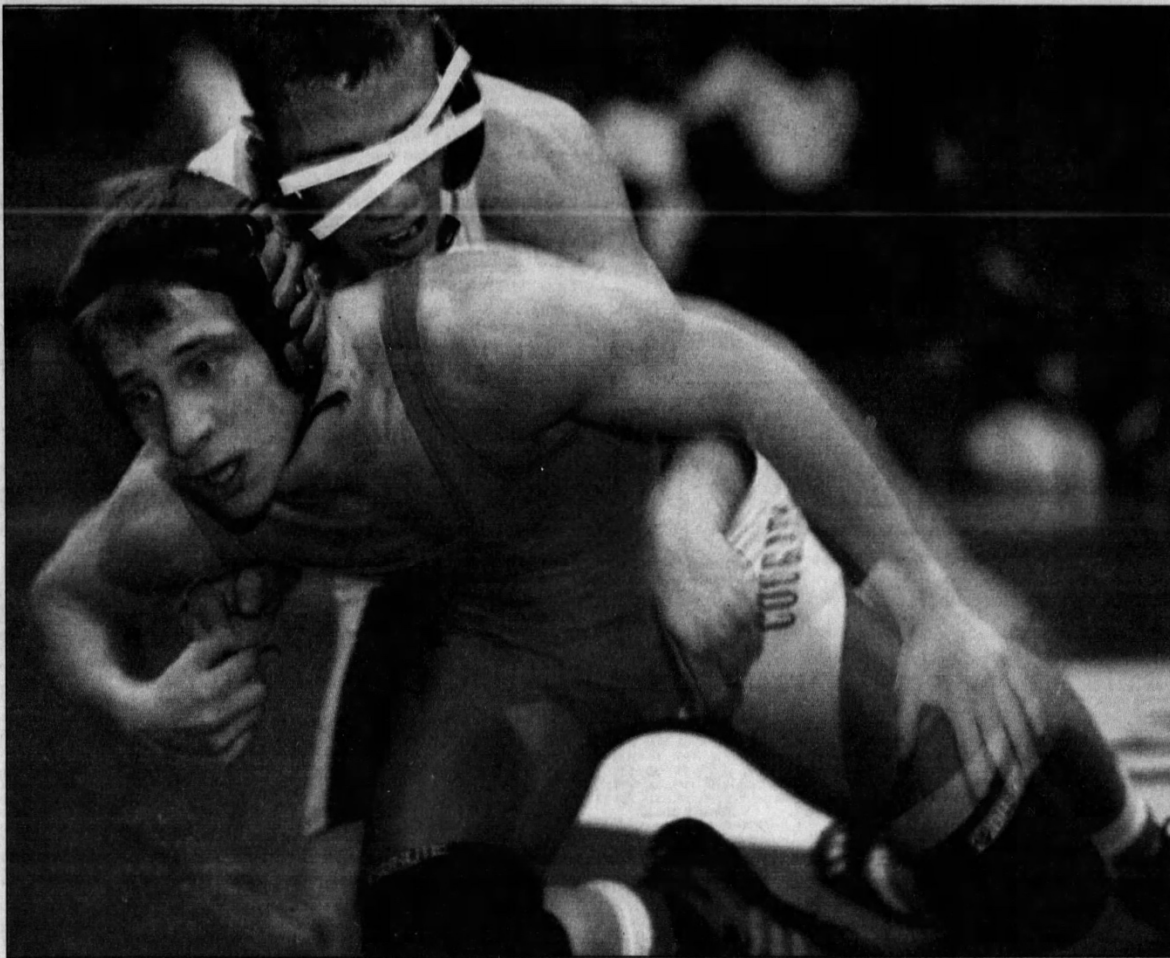
103: Zac Potridge (R) tech. fall Dustin Smith, 16-1; 112: Philip Montgomery (S) p. Derek Earhart, 1:44; 119: Matt Thoman (S) p. Kyle Wensinger, 5:13; 125: Aaron Autullo (R) p. Devin Johnson, 4:44; 135: Tommy Wagner (R) won by forfeit; 140: Cody Amor (R) won by forfeit; 145: Dale Wisnewski (R) won by forfeit; 152: Dustin Davis (S) p. Jesse Wukie, 3:18; 160: Robert Sartor (S) p. Chris Kayser, 5:49; 171: Tobe Forshtay p. Willie Waiker, 1:50; 189: Jimmie Cherry p. Luke Swint, :44; 215: Rick Legg (R) p. Chaz Tiller, 1:33; 275: Eric Gibson (S) major dec. Mike Adams (R), 21-9.

Records: Ross 2-3, Sandusky 3-2

Junior varsity: Sandusky 12, Ross 6

Wrestling

Ross honors Mackey with title



News-Messenger/Liz Magerum

AARON AUTULLO, purple singlet, finished third at 125 Saturday as Ross won the Mal Mackey Memorial wrestling tournament for the sixth straight time.

Little Giants win tourney for sixth straight time

News-Messenger reports

Another year, another Mal Mackey Memorial Tournament, another championship for Fremont Ross.

The Little Giants had four champions and won their sixth straight Mackey Saturday at Ross High School. The title was the 11th for Ross in the 20 years the tournament has been a varsity competition. It was the 27th year overall for the Mackey.

Ross finished with 171 points. Southview (138.5) was second with 138.5, fol-

lowed by Bryan (118), Perrysburg (111.5), Lima Shawnee (105.5), Norwalk (64) and Bowling Green (39).

Kyle Wensinger (119), Chris Kayser (160), Rick Legg (215) and Mike Adams (heavyweight) were champions for the Little Giants.

Wensinger beat Kyle Hreben of Perrysburg by a 12-0 major decision in the championship match. Kayser won his title with a 7-4 decision of Bowling Green's Tyler Brott.

Legg won the title match with a pin of Bryan's Kirt Watkins in just 36 seconds. Adams won his championship match with a 3-0 decision over Jim Ketteref of Lima Shawnee.

Three Little Giants took second. Zac Potridge (103) pinned his first two opponents before dropping an 11-9 decision to Perrysburg's Simon Zychowicz in the final.

Cody Amor (140) also pinned his first two foes, but dropped an 8-5 decision to

Ryan Rhodes in the final. Tobe Forshtay won his first two battles, but dropped a 17-8 decision to Dan Hulbert of Bryan in the final.

Aaron Autullo (125) and Tommy Wagner (135) took third, and Dale Wisniewski (145); Jessie Wukie (152) and Luke Swint (215) were fourth for the Little Giants.

Marcus Henderson (130) of Lima Shawnee was named Most Outstanding Wrestler. Bryan's Jason Randall (189) recorded three pins in 11:37.

Bedford gets win No. 100

BLOOMDALE — John Bedford's 100th career win highlighted Woodmore's 2-3 finish at the Elmwood duals.

Bedford, a 103-pound junior, and Billy Weiland (119) were 5-0. Chris Arndt (125), Juventino Guillen (140) and Lucas Wilson (215) were 4-1.

Woodmore beat Ottawa-Glandorf 44-35 and Tiffin Calvert 60-24, and lost to Waynesdale, Elmwood and Fostoria.

Wrestling

High School

Mal Mackey Tournament

Ross 171, Southview 138.5, Bryan 118, Perrysburg 111.5, Lima Shawnee 105.5, Norwalk 64, Bowling Green 39.

Championship Matches:

103: Zychowicz (P) def. Zac Potridge (R) 11-9; 112: Rose (P) def. Kotsko (B) 10-7; 119: Kyle Wensinger (R) md. Hreben (P) 12-0; 125: Rabideaux (P) def. Spratt (B) 3-2; 130: Henderson (LS) tf. Mundrick (P) 20-4; 135: Zyduck (P) def. Baker (LS) 6-5; 140: Rhodes (S) def. Cody Amor (R) 8-5; 145: Rymer (S) def. Little (LS) 12-9; 152: Cadri (S) md. Clemens (LS) 14-3; 160: Chris Kayser (R) def. Brott (BG) 7-4; 171: Hulbert (B) md. Tobe Forshtay (R) 17-8; 189: Randall (B) pinned Lee (S) 5:01; 215: Rick Legg (R) pinned Watkins (B) 0:36; HWT: Mike Adams (R) def. Ketteref (LS) 3-0

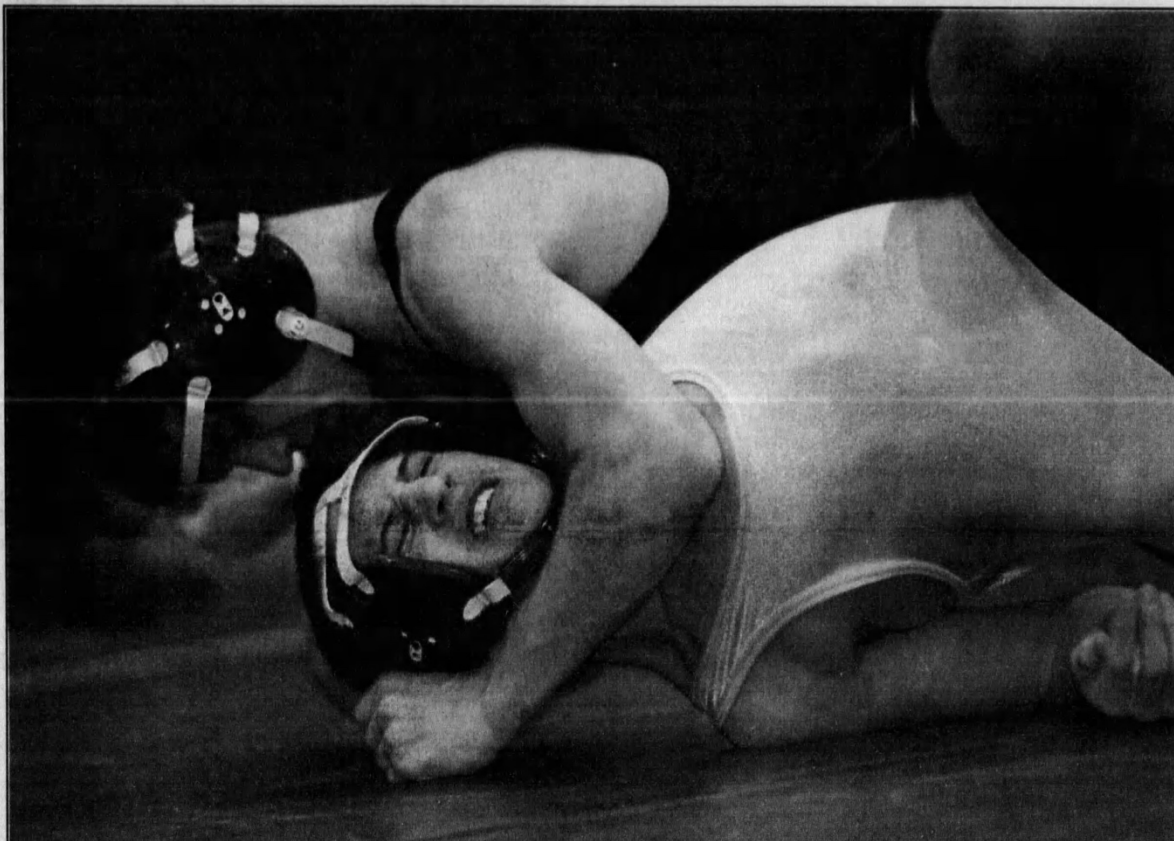
Most Outstanding Wrestler: 130: Marcus Henderson, Lima Shawnee.

Other Ross placers

125: 3- Aaron Autullo; 135: 3- Tommy Wagner; 145: 4- Dale Wisniewski; 152: 4- Jessie Wukie; 189- 4- Luke Swint; 215

Wrestling

Time for Brakeman's report



News-Messenger/Liz Margerum

ZAC POTRIDGE of Fremont Ross is projected 17th at 103 pounds in Division I in Brian Brakeman's High School Wrestling Forecast.

All area teams included in projections

News-Messenger reports

If wrestling expert Brian Brakeman is correct, four area wrestlers will find themselves in state championship matches.

Margaretta's Gregg Pressler is a projected champion at 112 in Division III in the High School Wrestling Forecast, commonly referred to as the Brakeman Report.

If the report holds to form, Pressler (25-1) would face Woodmore's John Bedford, projected second, in the state final. Clyde's Doug West (112) and Rondall Blackburn (145) are both picked second in Division II.

Bedford, who reached state last year, is 33-0 for the Wildcats. Brakeman said Bedford is a wrestler, "who can pull a big upset." Juventino Guillen (ninth at 140), Ray Lewis (11th at 160) and Bill Weiland (17th at 119) also received mention for Woodmore.

Blackburn and West are picked second for Clyde, which is picked fourth as a team. Nathan Shearer (seventh at 119), Jeff Sosa (eighth at 215), Austin Balogh (13th at heavyweight) and Jai Weinheimer (21st at 125) are the other Clyde wrestlers mentioned.

Two Fremont Ross

wrestlers received mention. Zac Potridge is picked 17th at 103 and Rick Legg is projected 18th at 215 for the Little Giants.

Three St. Joseph Central Catholic wrestlers received mention, led by Brian Lenhart, who is projected eighth at 171. Dan Szymanowski is picked 11th at 140 and Dave Klotz is 14th at heavyweight.

Gibsonburg's Chad Conrad, who placed sixth last year, is projected to move up one spot this time around. He is the only ranked Golden Bear.

Lakota has two wrestlers ranked: Brian Jacobs is pro-

jected sixth at 152 and Ken Brewer is seventh at 145.

Oak Harbor is picked 10th in Division II. Dominic Lochotzki is picked fifth at 103, Nick Thorbahn is 10th at heavyweight, Paul Bergman is 11th at 152, Jeremy Potridge is 14th at 215, Joe Bergman is 17th at 171 and Ray Snare is 22nd at 189.

For Bellevue, Aaron Garman is projected 14th at 152, Tony Edgington is 16th at 215 and Luke Spurlock (112) and Joe Rowland (119) were both picked 20th. Tony Fisher is fifth at 152, but is injured, and out for the year.

Dustin Malott was picked 19th at 130 for Margaretta.

Ross falls at Findlay

FINDLAY — Ross finished its Great Lakes League season 2-4 in dual meets with a 37-30 loss to Findlay Wednesday.

For Ross, Zac Potridge (103 pounds) pinned Troy Major in 1 minute, 26 seconds; Aaron Autullo (125) decisioned Chris Kukay 13-9 and Tommy Wagner (135) decisioned Matt Mercer 8-3. Kyle Wensinger (119) and Rick Legg (215) won by forfeit and Chris Kayser (160) won by medical forfeit.

Ross competes at the Oregon Clay Invitational on Saturday.

Wrestling

High School

Findlay 37, Ross 30

103-Zac Potridge (R) p. Troy Major, 1:26; 112-Paul Hogan (F) p. Derek Earhart, 3:19; 119-Kyle Wensinger (R) won by forfeit; 125-Aaron Autullo (R) dec. Chris Kukay, 13-9; 130-Ryan Duenke (F) maj. dec. Kyle Ernsberger, 15-1; 135-Tommy Wagner (R) dec. Matt Mercer, 8-3; 140-Josh Palmer (F) dec. Cody Amor, 7-1; 145-Ryan Nelson (F) dec. Dale Wisniewski, 6-0; 152-John Forsythe (F) dec. Jesse Wukie, 6-1; 160-Chris Kayser (R) win by medical forfeit; 171-Dane Whitted (F) p. Luke Swint, 0:55; 189-Kyle Naiman (F) won by forfeit; 215-Rick Legg (R) won by forfeit; 275-John Seng (F) p. Mike Adams, 5:05.

Wrestling

High School

Ross Awards

Coaches Award: Zac Potridge, Luke Swint

Most Improved: Mike Adams

Most Pins: Rick Legg

Most Take-Downs: Rick Legg

Most Valuable Participant: Rick Legg

1st Team GLL: Zac Potridge

2nd Team GLL: Rick Legg