

# Ross lands three in semifinals

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO — Three Fremont Ross wrestlers advanced to today's semifinals of the Division I district tournament at Rogers High School.

Jason Hatfield at 135 pounds, Matt Merrill at 140 and Brandon Willer at 189 are all one win from a berth in the state tournament next week.

Hatfield, who will wrestle Mike Feeney of Dublin in the semifinals, defeated Roger Woten of Delaware Hayes 10-4 in the first round Friday and Brandon Wolfe of Toledo Whitmer 6-3 in the quarterfinals.

The victory over Wolfe was the 100th of Hatfield's career.

Merrill, meanwhile, got to avenge one of his two losses in the quarterfinals. After scoring an 18-3 technical fall over Luke Willis of Grove City in the first round, Merrill beat Matt McGregor of Gahanna Lincoln 14-4.

McGregor defeated Merrill 10-8 in the finals of the Tiffin Wendy's Classic in December.

In the semifinals, Merrill will meet projected state champ Brad Harris of Pickerington.

Willer meets Dublin's Jeremy Henson in the semifinals after edging Brent Fink of Toledo Cen-

tral Catholic and beating Tim Rayburn 9-3 of Hilliard.

Another Ross wrestler, 145-pounder Jamie Ross, is alive in the consolation round. Ross must win his next two matches then one of two the rest of the way to advance to the state meet.

In the first round, Ross beat TCC's Kevin Hamel 19-6. Pickerington's Len Lightfoot defeated Ross 10-8 in the quarterfinals. Ross wrestles McKinley Roscoe of Marion Harding today.

Ryan Patterson, the Ross 112-pounder, lost his first match — 2-1 to Troy Vennon of Pickerington — and is out of the tournament.

## Wrestling

### High School

#### Area State Qualifiers

Qualifiers from the area for the Ohio High School State Wrestling Tournament Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the Nutter Center in Fairborn and their first-round match and record:

##### DIVISION I

##### Ross (3)

135-Brandon Gibbs, Uniontown Lake (28-6) vs. Jason Hatfield, Fremont Ross (32-4).

140-Joe Veres, Bedford (27-4) vs. Matt Merrill, Fremont Ross (33-3).

145-Jason Babinec, Milford (26-5) vs. Jamie Ross, Fremont Ross (30-8).