

2009 Season Review...

2008-09 Fremont Ross Wrestling

Injuries could take toll on Little Giants as season begins

By JEFF ARENZ
Sports Writer

FREMONT — Injuries have thrown the Fremont Ross wrestling team for a loop at the beginning of the 2008-2009 season.

Tri-captain Cody Evans (senior, 160 pounds) and Kent Weaver (junior, 145) are expected to miss the first month of the season while rehabbing knee injuries. Tyler Trautwein (sophomore, 171), who made an impact this fall for the Little Giants football team, has also been experiencing knee problems and is weighing his options before committing to wrestling. All three grapplers were lettermen last season.

"We're going to take our lumps at the beginning of the season," said Ross coach Mike Mezinger, who enters his fifth year guiding the Little Giants. "Some of the newer kids are going to get some time (on the mat)."

Five more lettermen are ready to go for Ross, which claimed second at the Greater Buckeye Conference Wrestling

Tournament one year ago. Senior Yohe Rohas (135) and junior Tony Rodriguez (119), who are also tri-captains with Evans, return in leadership roles for the Little Giants. Senior Shane Grubb (171), junior Wyatt Wukie (171) and sophomore Gavin Murray (189) are back to provide depth for Ross.

The Little Giants are forced to replace three talented wrestlers — Devon Mezinger, Derek Flores and Jordan Rodriguez — to graduation. Mezinger (130) was a state qualifier as a junior and Flores (119) was a two-time district competitor. Both left the program after winning more than 100 matches. Rodriguez (125) also was a district qualifier.

Rohas, who has an eye on breaking Andrew Legg's school record of 135 wins in a career, enters this season with 110 victories. He qualified for the Division I state tournament as an alternate last year.

"I'm really excited about getting to where I'm at right now," Rohas said. "I want to thank my coaches, and especially to Cindy and Jamie Evans, who helped

2008-09 Schedule

Dec. 6	at Ashland Invite
Dec. 13	at Oak Harbor Invite
Dec. 17	at Genoa, Oak Harbor
Dec. 29-30	at Tiffin Invite
Jan. 3	Mal Mackey
Jan. 8	at Sandusky at Clyde
Jan. 13	Whitmer
Jan. 16-17	at Perrysburg Invite
Jan. 28	at Port Clinton, Norwalk
Feb. 7	at Celina Tournament
Feb. 14	GBC
Feb. 20-21	Sectionals
Feb. 27-28	Districts

me out a lot."

Rohas and Evans spent the entire summer on the mat. They both competed in Florida at The Disney Duals and in Michigan at the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics, where Rohas went 13-1 to attain All-American status.

Rodriguez and Grubb are both district qualifiers from a season ago. Rodriguez is a two-time district qualifier.

"I see good leadership and our technique is very good," Rodriguez said. "We're a really good attacking team. I think most of our offensive shots will be helping us out a lot."

Mezinger and Rohas are impressed with the Little Giants' conditioning.

"I think our team is ready to go because we're conditioned," Rohas said. "We ran a lot during the summer."

"We're a very conditioned team," Mezinger said. "We want to pick up the pace (in bouts), if we can help it. We're looking to score a lot of points by pressing the issue in the third period after two very fast-paced periods."

Rodriguez subscribes to Mezinger's philosophy.

"I want to hit my moves and get (a match) over really quick," Rodriguez said. "I want to be aggressive with my moves and not mess around. I have pretty good endurance, which means I won't get tired out. I work really hard during my matches."

Mezinger would like to see the Little Giants develop more of a mean streak.

"We're aggressive on the mat, but we need to develop our stubbornness," Mezinger said. "When we want something, we need to go and get it. We're a very technical (wrestling team), but the kids have to show more

firepower on the mat."

Other wrestlers competing for time in the Little Giants starting lineup include seniors Gilbert Gutierrez (112, 119), Zack Huether (140) and Cameron Journigan (285), juniors Juan Chavez (285), Matthew Christensen (125), Sam Eberly (145), James Gardner (215), Aaron Gonzalez (215, 285), Derek McDonald (145) and Mikel Stanley (152, 160), sophomores Jalen Heidelberg (125), Eric Hogle (119, 125), Steven Johnson (130) and Coty Perkins (152, 160), and freshmen Miguel Estrella (112, 119), Miguel Marquez (112) and Nathan Mills (130).

Mezinger listed Johnson as the Little Giants' most improved grappler, with Wukie, Murray, Heidelberg, Christensen also showing good progression during the offseason.

Napoleon and Findlay are expected to be the top teams in the GBC, according to Mezinger. Ross, Sandusky and Marion Harding have a shot to be dark horses this season.

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lost to Montpelier's Jake Keller by technical fall in the title bout at 152.

Stephen Klotz and Jarett Smith helped the Raiders make an impact in the upper weight classes. Klotz (215) and Smith (285) both ended up third.

Montpelier won the team title over Lakota 410-299.

Ashland Invitational

ASHLAND — Two Fremont Ross wrestlers competed in the championship round at the Ashland Invitational on Saturday.

Yohe Rojas picked up his 114th career win after going 5-0 to finish first at 135 pounds. The Little Giants' grappler is 21 wins away from tying Andrew Legg's school record of 135 all-time

victories.

At 119, Tony Rodriguez went 4-1 to post a second-place effort.

At 125, Steven Johnson captured third place after going 4-1.

Edison Invitational

MILAN — Margaretta was eighth among 10 teams at the Edison Invitational on Saturday.

The Polar Bears had a pair of third-place finishers — Josh Beekman at 140 and Cody Pridemore at 145.

Edison was the team champion with 419 points. Margaretta scored 165 points.

Editor's note: For complete results, turn to *The Scoreboard* on Page B2.

Wrestling

High School

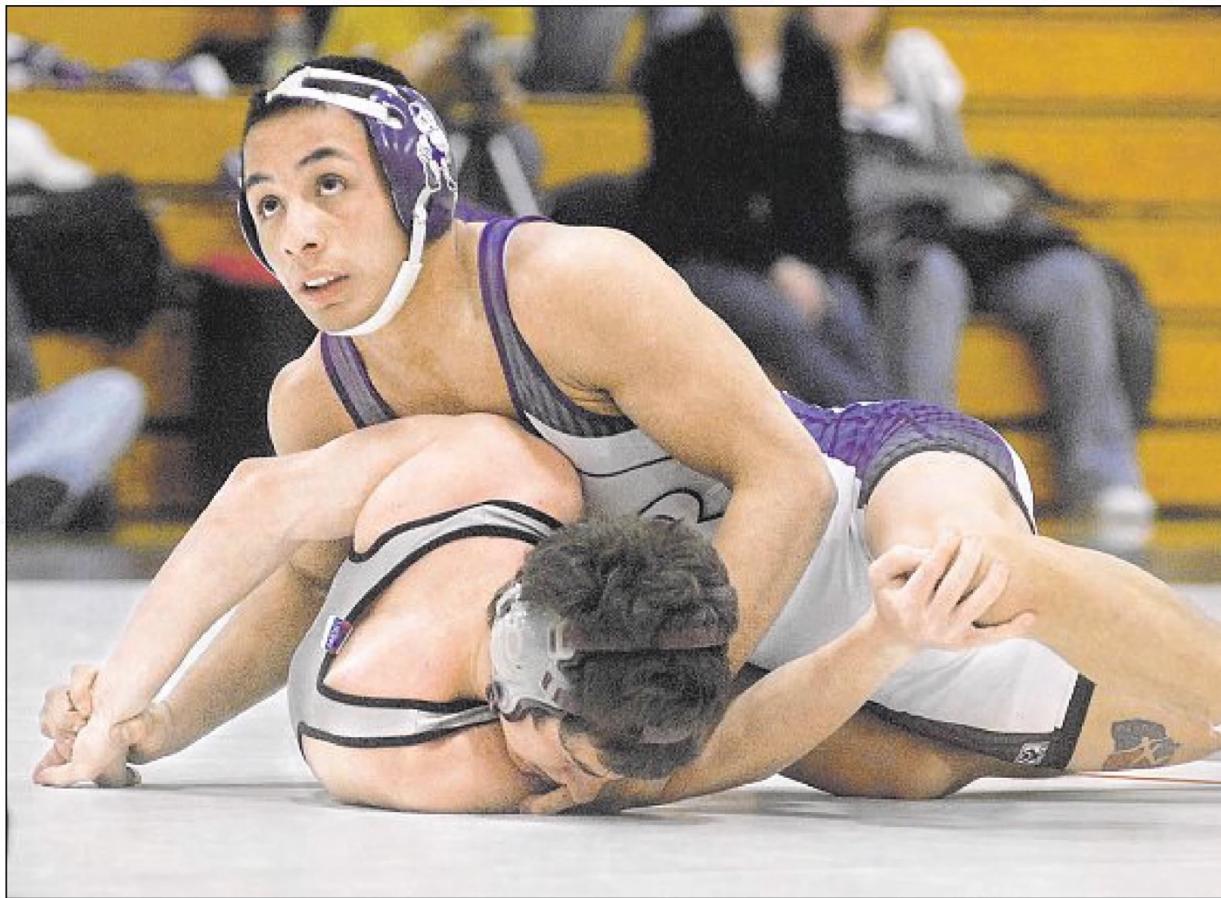
Ashland Invitational

Team scores — 1. Lorain Southview 186; 2. Shelby 138 1/2; 3. Hubbard 129 1/2; 4. Northwestern 124 1/2; 5. Marion Franklin 112 1/2; 6. Ashland 91 1/2; 7. Fremont Ross 90; 8. Massillon 60 1/2; 9. Lakeside 59; 10. Galion 56.

Fremont Ross results

112 — Miguel Marquez 0-4, did not place.
119 — Tony Rodriguez 4-1, second.
125 — Steven Johnson 4-1, third.
130 — Jalen Heidelberg 3-2, fourth.
135 — Yohe Rojas 5-0, first.
140 — Zach Huether 2-3, fourth
145 — Derek McDonald 2-3, fifth.
152 — Mikel Stanley 1-3, did not place.
171 — Wyatt Wukie 2-3, sixth.
189 — Gavin Murray 0-4, did not place
285 — Aaron Gonzalez 1-3, did not place.

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING



Jonathon Bird/News-Messenger

FREMONT ROSS WRESTLER YOHE ROJAS competes against Genoa's Scott Traver.

Rockets look like well-oiled machine

By JEFF ARENZ
Sports Writer

OAK HARBOR — In their first two dual meets this season, the Oak Harbor Rockets looked like a well-oiled machine.

On Tuesday night, Oak Harbor cast aside challenges from Genoa (54-22) and Fremont Ross (60-12) at Oak Harbor High School.

"I thought we wrestled pretty sharp," Rockets coach George Bergman said. "I thought the kids were aggressive, and I was pleased. We just have to correct some mistakes that I saw."

In duals against the Comets

and Little Giants, Oak Harbor produced 10 pins, was awarded seven forfeit wins and, more importantly, allowed only two opponents to gain pins.

Against Genoa, the Rockets received pins from Drew Stone (against Shawn Gantka at 119), Tyler Hackworth (versus Josh Pierce at 130), Ian Miller (against Troy Espinoza at 140), Konnor Witt (versus Justin Upham at 152) and Alex Bergman (against Adam Klavinger at 112).

The Comets forfeited bouts at 125 (to Jake Cramer), at 171 (to Mike Malernee) and at 103 (to

Anthony Hopkins).

Oak Harbor built a 27-0 lead before Taylor Schneider's pin over Kyle Mincheff at 145 broke up the Rockets' shutout. The Comets' only other win in a contested match came from Garrett Scott, who scored a 9-1 major decision against Brandon Veler.

Jake Schreuder (215) and Caleb D'Clute (285) were the benefactors of Oak Harbor forfeits.

"Most of our team is made up of freshmen and sophomores," Genoa coach Rick Wagner said. "(Oak Harbor) has a lot of fresh-

men and sophomores but, of the ones I know, most of them wrestle during the summer. There's a big difference when you have a lot of that experience."

Against Ross, the Rockets won 11 of 13 bouts. The 215-pound contest was a double forfeit.

Oak Harbor won the first eight matches en route to piling up a 42-0 lead, including a trio of forfeits awarded to Zach Bergman (135), Mincheff (145) and Veler (160). Cramer decisioned Steven Johnson 4-0 at 125, Hackworth

See ROCKETS, B2

Rockets

Continued from B1

pinned Jalen Heidelberg in 1:07 at 130, Witt pinned Sam Eberly in 52 seconds at 152 and Malernee pinned Wyatt Wukie in 3:58 at 171.

"We ran into their studs and our forfeits played right into their hands," Fremont Ross coach Mike Mezinger said.

But the marquee bout of the night was Miller's 6-1 decision against Ross grappler Yohe Rojas, who jumped up a weight class to compete at 140. Both are contenders to place at state this season.

Miller led 2-1 heading into the third period, where he scored points on a technical foul called against Rojas, an escape with 1:33 left and a takedown with 42 seconds remaining.

"That was the feature match of the evening, and Yohe's an outstanding wrestler," Bergman said. "I give Fremont Ross a lot of credit for bumping him up. We wanted that matchup too because they both need quality matches."

But the original plan didn't include Rojas moving up.

"We weren't going to do it until Zach (Huether) got hurt against Genoa," Mezinger said. "Then, Yohe said he wanted to wrestle up and I said, 'all right.' But that's what Yohe needs. He needs intense competition and that's also what Ian needs. There's a good chance you'll see both of the down in Columbus at the end of the year."

Tylor Trautwein, who was the only Little Giants' wrestler to win two contested matches, capped his night by pinning John Bergman in 2:24 at 189. The only other Ross victory against Oak Harbor was Aaron Gonzalez's forfeit win at 285.

"We got Trautwein back (from a knee

injury), and he gave us two wins tonight," Mezinger said. "We have to concentrate on getting him in shape."

At 103, Hopkins won his second match of the night by forfeit before Alex Bergman and Stone were pinfall winners against Miguel Marquez (112) and Tony Rodriguez (119), respectively.

Genoa split its duals Tuesday. The Comets overcame a 17-6 deficit to win the first dual of the night 36-27 against the Little Giants.

Fremont Ross won seven bouts, but none of them were decided by pinfall. Genoa received three pins — from Klavinger against Marquez at 112, from Espinoza against Huether at 140 and from Upham against Eberly at 152.

Combined with three other bouts forfeited by Fremont Ross at 145 (to Schneider), 160 (to Scott) and 215 (to Schreuder), the Comets scored six team points in six different bouts. That accounted for all of Genoa's points.

"I think they had a little more experience than us in some weights," Wagner said. "They had a couple of good guys that matched up well with some of our good guys. In the couple of matches that we won, we just ended up with a little more experience."

At 125, Johnson was the only Ross wrestler to pick up a forfeit win from Genoa.

In matches that were contested, the Little Giants earned wins behind Rodriguez (a 10-3 decision over Gantka at 119), Heidelberg (an 11-4 decision against Pierce at 130), Rojas (a 16-1 technical fall versus Traver at 135), Wukie (a 9-4 decision against Dufendock at 171), Trautwein (a 16-4 major decision over Winters at 189) and Gonzales (a 4-2 decision versus D'Clute at 285).

The 103-pound bout was a double forfeit.

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Wrestling

High School

Genoa 36, Fremont Ross 27

103 — Double forfeit.
112 — Adam Klavinger (G) pinned Miguel Marquez (FR), 3:03.
119 — Tony Rodriguez (FR) dec. Shawn Gantka (G), 10-3.
125 — Steven Johnson (FR) won by forfeit.
130 — Jalen Heidelberg (FR) dec. Josh Pierce (G), 11-4.
135 — Yohi Rojas (FR) tech. fall Scott Traver (G), 16-1.
140 — Troy Espinoza (G) pinned Zach Huether (FR), 2:45.
145 — Taylor Schneider (G) won by forfeit.
152 — Justin Upham (G) pinned Sam Eberly (FR), 0:45.
160 — Garrett Scott (G) won by forfeit.
171 — Wyatt Wukie (FR) dec. Seth Dufendock (G), 9-4.
189 — Tyler Trautwein (FR) major dec. Jake Winters (G), 16-4.
215 — Jake Schreuder (G) won by forfeit.
285 — Aaron Gonzalez (FR) dec. Caleb D'Clute (G), 4-2.

Oak Harbor 54, Genoa 22

103 — Anthony Hopkins (OH) won by forfeit.
112 — Alex Bergman (OH) pinned Adam Klavinger (G), 1:56.
119 — Drew Stone (OH) pinned Shawn Gantka (G), 2:53.
125 — Jake Cramer (OH) won by forfeit.
130 — Tyler Hackworth (OH) pinned Josh Pierce (G), 0:28.
135 — Zach Bergman (OH) dec. Scott Traver (G), 6-1.
140 — Ian Miller (OH) pinned Troy Espinoza (G), 0:30.
145 — Taylor Schneider (G) pinned Kyle Mincheff (OH), 2:34.
152 — Konnor Witt (OH) pinned Justin Upham (G), 0:47.
160 — Garrett Scott (G) major dec. Brandon Veler (OH), 9-1.
171 — Mike Malernee (OH) won by forfeit.
189 — John Bergman (OH) dec. Jake Winters (G), 6-2.
215 — Jake Schreuder (G) won by forfeit.
285 — Caleb D'Clute (G) won by forfeit.

Oak Harbor 60, Fremont Ross 12

103 — Anthony Hopkins (OH) won by forfeit.
112 — Alex Bergman (OH) pinned Miguel Marquez (FR), 1:26.
119 — Drew Stone (OH) pinned Tony Rodriguez (FR), 3:21.
125 — Jake Cramer (OH) dec. Steven Johnson (FR), 4-0.
130 — Tyler Hackworth (OH) pinned Jalen Heidelberg (FR), 1:07.
135 — Zach Bergman (OH) won by forfeit.
140 — Ian Miller (OH) dec. Yohi Rojas (FR), 6-1.
145 — Kyle Mincheff (OH) won by forfeit.
152 — Konnor Witt (OH) pinned Sam Eberly (FR), 0:52.
160 — Brandon Veler (OH) won by forfeit.
171 — Mike Malernee (OH) pinned Wyatt Wukie (FR), 3:58.
189 — Tyler Trautwein (FR) pinned John Bergman (OH), 2:24.
215 — Double forfeit.
285 — Aaron Gonzalez (FR) won by forfeit.

MAL MACKEY MEMORIAL WRESTLING INVITATIONAL

Five champions crowned for Ross

Little Giants outduel Port Clinton, capture second place

By JEFF ARENZ
Sports Writer

FREMONT — In the final round of the 2009 Mal Mackey Memorial Wrestling Invitational, a battle for second place ensued between Fremont Ross and Port Clinton on Saturday at The Purple Pit.

With Perrysburg having se-

cured the team title before the finals, the Little Giants led the Redskins for the No. 2 position by less than 15 points entering the championship round.

"We were hoping to sneak up on them, and jump into that second place spot," Port Clinton coach John Hazzard said. "We had a great final round with four champions, because it's been a while since we've done that. We thought that might be enough points to finish second."

The Redskins had seven wrestlers compete in the finals,

going 4-1 in championship bouts and 1-1 in third-place contests. Greg Willis (103 pounds), Derick Johannsen (130), Jared Fleming (152) and Richard Harris (160) all won their weight classes for Port Clinton.

It took a valiant effort from the Little Giants to hold onto the runner-up position.

Five Ross wrestlers competed in title matches, and all five posted victories. Aaron Gonzales (285) slipped past Margaretta's Charlie Chesser 9-7 with a takedown in overtime. Wyatt Wukie (171) won

the award for the Most Pins in the Least Amount of Time (three falls in 3:54), including a pin of Northwood's Mike Miller in 2:31 for the title. At 189, Tyler Trautwein, who began the season recovering from a knee injury, pinned Perryburg's Micah Carter in 2:24 for first place.

"The heavier weights had been struggling a little bit (coming into this tournament)," Ross coach Mike Mezinger said. "We have been so strong in the lighter weights for so many years that they would carry us. If our heavier weights keep coming through, it could fall into place for us. Don't count us out."

Yoh Rojas claimed the 135-pound title for the Little Giants with a 23-8 technical fall against Perryburg's Tom Mori. Steven Johnson denied Port Clinton a fifth champion in the 125-pound championship bout, where he used a 12-7 decision to defeat Jacob Fleming.

"I think we only lost one match in the finals. We had to forfeit an-

See MACKEY, B4

Mackey

Continued from B1

other (Tony Rodriguez, 119 pounds, third-place bout) on an injury default," Mezinger said. "To go 5-0 in the championship finals is awesome."

Tiffin Columbian's Delian Schneider secured the 119-pound title en route to being named the Most Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament. In his title bout, Schneider needed 21 seconds to

pin Lima Senior's Javon Wright, who appeared to be unconscious before being transported on a stretcher to an area hospital.

Perrysburg scored 192 points to become the team champions. The Yellow Jackets advanced six wrestlers to first-place bouts, but each one of them came away without a title.

Ross finished second with 159 points, in front of Port Clinton (134), Margaretta (124½), Sandusky Perkins (92), the All-Stars (84), Tiffin Columbian (81), Lima Senior (74½), Franklin Heights (74), Northwood (70½), Toledo Bowsher (69).

In fifth-place bouts, Miguel Marquez and Derek McDonald came away with wins for the Little Giants.

Margaretta salvaged its status in the tournament by posting a 6-3 record in the final round. At 145, Cody Pridemore recorded the Polar Bears' only championship after a 11-6 decision over Toledo Bowsher's Richie Henneman.

"We looked a lot better in the final round than we had throughout the day," Margaretta coach Keith Taylor said. "We came out real flat today and we showed no emotion. In the last

round, some of the guys came through, and really went after it, which was good to see."

A trio of Polar Bears — David Siesel (130), Josh Ackerman (140) and Brad Neumeyer (152) — won third-place matches. Mike Schwanger (119) and Matt Smith (125) added victories in fifth-place contests.

Other weight class winners were Northwood's Tyler Mack (112), Franklin Heights' Brian Williams (140) and Lima Senior's D.J. Quintana (215).

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Wrestling

High School

Mal Mackey Invitational

At The Purple Pit

Team standings — 1. Perrysburg 192; 2. Fremont Ross 158; 3. Port Clinton 134; 4. Margaretta 124½; 5. Sandusky Perkins 92; 6. All-Stars 84; 7. Tiffin Columbian 81; 8. Lima Senior 74½; 9. Franklin Heights 74; 10. Northwood 70½; 11. Toledo Bowsheer 69.

103

First place — Greg Willis (PC) dec. Justin Kopp (TC), 2-1.

Third place — Nick Lang (A-S) dec. Matt Schlichter (N), 5-4.

Fifth place — Kolin Cookson (P) pinned Brittany Hanson (M), 0:16.

112

First place — Tyler Mack (N) dec. Drew Shadler (P), 14-7.

Third place — Jon Bloss (FH) pinned Zach Guinnin (TB), 3:32.

Fifth place — Miguel Marquez (FR) pinned Matt Hammons (LS), 3:39.

119

First place — Delian Schneider (TC) pinned Javon Wright (LS), 0:21.

Third place — Brian Granatir (P) won by injury default versus Tony Rodriguez (FR).

Fifth place — Mike Schwanger (M) pinned Kevin Westfall (TB), 0:54.

125

First place — Steven Johnson (FR) dec. Jacob Fleming (PC), 12-7.

Third place — Derek Devema (P) won by injury default versus Devonte Wright (LS).

Fifth place — Matt Smith (M) tech. fall Kyle Baker (TC), 3:00.

130

First place — Derick Johannsen (PC) pinned Josh Jordan (P), 3:10.

Third place — David Siesel (M) major dec. Jason Townsend (SP), 12-3.

Fifth place — Lance Mendoza (N) major dec. Jason Hunter (LS), 11-3.

135

First place — Yohe Rojas (FR) tech. fall Tom Mori (P), 23-8.

Third place — Stephen Pastor (PC) pinned Daniel Otis (FH), 3:39.

Fifth place — Nathan Mills (A-S) won by forfeit.

140

First place — Brian Williams (FH) dec. Logan Buehler (P), 4-3.

Third place — Josh Ackerman (M) tech. fall Zach Huether (FR), score not available.

Fifth place — Tyler Brownell (SP) pinned Matt Allred (TB), 2:09.

145

First place — Cody Pridemore (M) dec. Richie Henneman (TB), 11-6.

Third place — Mike Wurth (P) dec. Caleb Vrancken (TC), 4-1.

Fifth place — Derek McDonald (FR) pinned Joe Miller (A-S), 1:39.

152

First place — Jared Fleming (PC) major dec. Travis Davlin (SP), 10-1.

Third place — Brad Neumeyer (M) pinned Austin Morris (P), 0:41.

Fifth place — Joey Schwindt (FH) major dec. Nate Williams (TB), 14-2.

160

First place — Richard Harris (PC) dec. Luke Boff (P), 13-9.

Third place — Trey Tyree (TC) dec. Cameron Brake (M) 5-2.

Fifth place — Kyle Baugess (FH) pinned Vince Williams (LS), 2:25.

171

First place — Wyatt Wukie (FR) pinned Mike Miller (N), 2:31.

Third place — Shane Grubb (A-S) pinned Steven Beatty (SP), 0:38.

Fifth place — Alex Morse (P) pinned Tommy Marshall (LS), 4:01.

189

First place — Taylor Trautwein (FR) pinned Micah Carter (P), 2:54.

Third place — Kody Kaser (SP) dec. Brock Naufel (A-S), 6-5.

Fifth place — Matt Schimmerhorn (TB) dec. Taylor Meek (N) 4-3.

215

First place — D.J. Quintana (LS) pinned Allen Crum (SP), 5:20.

Third place — Nash Uhl (A-S) pinned Brandon Meadows (PC), 3:48.

Fifth place — Caden Chapman (TC) pinned Abed Ramadan (TB), 3:09.

285

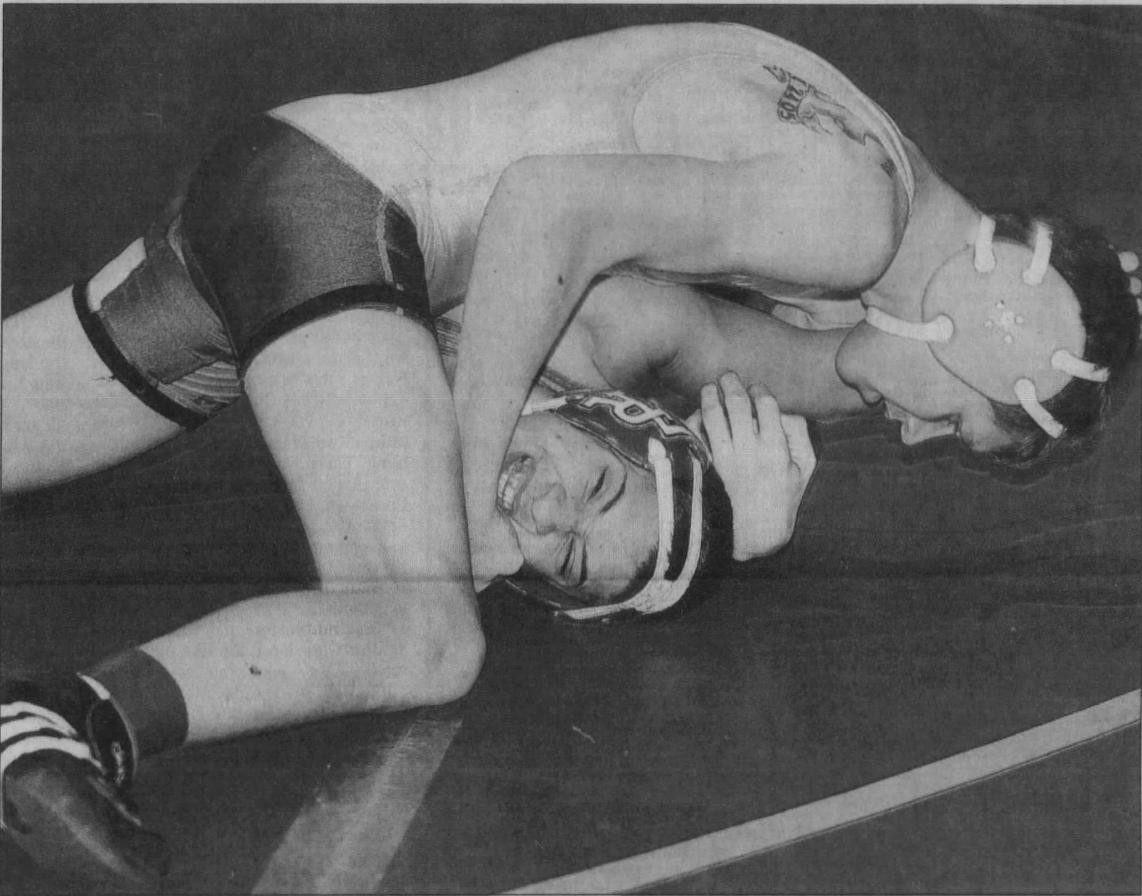
First place — Aaron Gonzalez (FR) dec. Charlie Chesser (M), 9-7, OT.

Third place — Mark Kutzke (TB) dec. Cameron Jourigan (A-S), 6-0.

Fifth place — David Spangler (FH) pinned John Murray (TC) 3:55.

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Clyde earns 2 victories



Mike Masella/News-Messenger correspondent

CLYDE'S ZACH THURN (top) twists the body of Fremont Ross's Miguel Marquez in a 112-pound wrestling match Wednesday at Clyde. Thurn would win the contest with a pin.

Ten Fliers, 3 Little Giants take both their matches

By KEVIN SHIELDS
News-Messenger correspondent

CLYDE — It wasn't the performance Clyde wrestling coach Matt Merrill was looking for, but two wins are still two wins.

The Fliers earned wins over visiting Ross and Sandusky Wednesday night in a tri-match, beating the Little Giants 52-17 and the Blue Streaks by a score of 39-16. In the other match, Sandusky edged Ross 33-31.

"I was glad we walked away with the wins, but I don't think the team performed that well tonight," said Merrill. "We had a bad week of practice and it showed out here today."

Winning both their individual matches on the night for the Fliers were Zach Thurn at 112, Craig Gerber at 119, Dylan Stiffler at 135, Sahen Fultz at 130, Kalob Andrews at 135, Brandon Flores at 145, Tyler Rex at 152, Tyler Ludrowsky at 160 pounds, Trevor Strickland at 215 and Garrett Purdham at 285.

"I thought Garrett at heavyweight had a really good night for us," said Merrill. "He won two matches and had two pins. He looked the strongest for us tonight."

Also earning points for Clyde was Cody Ortolani at 171 pounds. Finishing in second on the

night with a win over Ross was Sandusky, who had nine wrestlers earn points for them on the evening.

Earning wins for the Blue Streaks were Gavin Blanchard at 130 pounds, Alvin Kirksey at 135, Justin Palma at 140, Denzel Banks at 145, Jerrell Valliant at 152, Sam Terrell also at 152, Kendrick Aaron at 171, Marquette Watson at 189, Jacob Lynn at 215 and Mike Brown at 285.

Coming in third was the Little Giants, who finished with a total of 48 points. The Little Giants lost points however, at 103 pounds, 152, 160 and 215 due to forfeits.

Despite the lack of depth, Ross

still got strong performances from Miguel Marquez at 112 pounds, Yohe Rojas at 140 and Tyler Trautwein at 189, who all went 2-0 on the evening.

"We're still kind of struggling to put a full lineup together," said Ross coach Mike Mezinger. "We're getting there, but we were missing a few guys that could of given me wins tonight."

Others earning points for the Little Giants were Steven Johnson at 125 pounds, Eric Hogle at 130 and Cody Evans at 171.

"It's just been one of those years for us," said Mezinger. "Injuries, sickness and kids just getting in trouble has cost us."

Wrestling

High School

Ross 44, Whitmer 24

103 — Adam Smith (W) won by forfeit
112 — Whitmer pinned Miguel Marquez (R) 2:46
119 — Tony Rodriguez (R) pinned Cory Duthieuicz (W) 3:35
125 — Steven Johnson (R) dec. Whitmer 12-10
130 — Eric Hogle (R) major dec. Whitmer 20-12
135 — Zack Huether (R) pinned Kris King (W) 2:53
140 — Yohe Rojas (R) won by forfeit
145 — Double forfeit
152 — Whitmer won by forfeit
160 — Wyatt Wukie (R) major dec. Whitmer 15-5
171 — Cody Evand (R) pinned Nathan Wheeler (W) 3:39
189 — Tylor Trautwein (R) pinned Nick LaPoint (W) 1:19
215 — Whitmer won by forfeit
285 — Aaron Gonzalez (R) dec. Jesse Murray (W) 3-1

WRESTLING

Perrysburg Invitational

PERRYSBURG — Oak Harbor came away with five champions and four runners-up as the Rockets won the Perrysburg Invitational on Saturday.

Oak Harbor scored a 433-329 victory over Wauseon, followed by Delta 290, Holland Springfield 247, Perrysburg 239, Napoleon 235, Defiance 224, Defiance Tinora 208, Oregon Clay 198 1/2, Fremont Ross 171, Toledo Waite 162 1/2, Northview 133 1/2, Ashland 99, Southview 66, Lorain Clearview 44 1/2 and Toledo Christian 33 1/2.

Alex Bergman (103 pounds), Drew Stone (119), Ian Miller (135), Konner Witt (145) and Mike Mallernee (160) were Oak Harbor's champions. Runners-up included Tyler Hackworth (125), Zach Bergman (130), Drew Bahnsen (215) and Zach Sandwisch (285).

Yohe Rojas finished second at 135 for Fremont Ross, while Tylor Trautwein ended up second at 189.

Perrysburg Invitational

Team standings — Oak Harbor 433, Wauseon 329, Delta 290, Springfield 247, Perrysburg 239, Napoleon 235, Defiance 224, Tinora 208, Clay 198½, Fremont Ross 171, Waite 162½, Northview 133½, Ashland 99, Southview 66, Lorain Clearview 44½, Toledo Christian 33½.

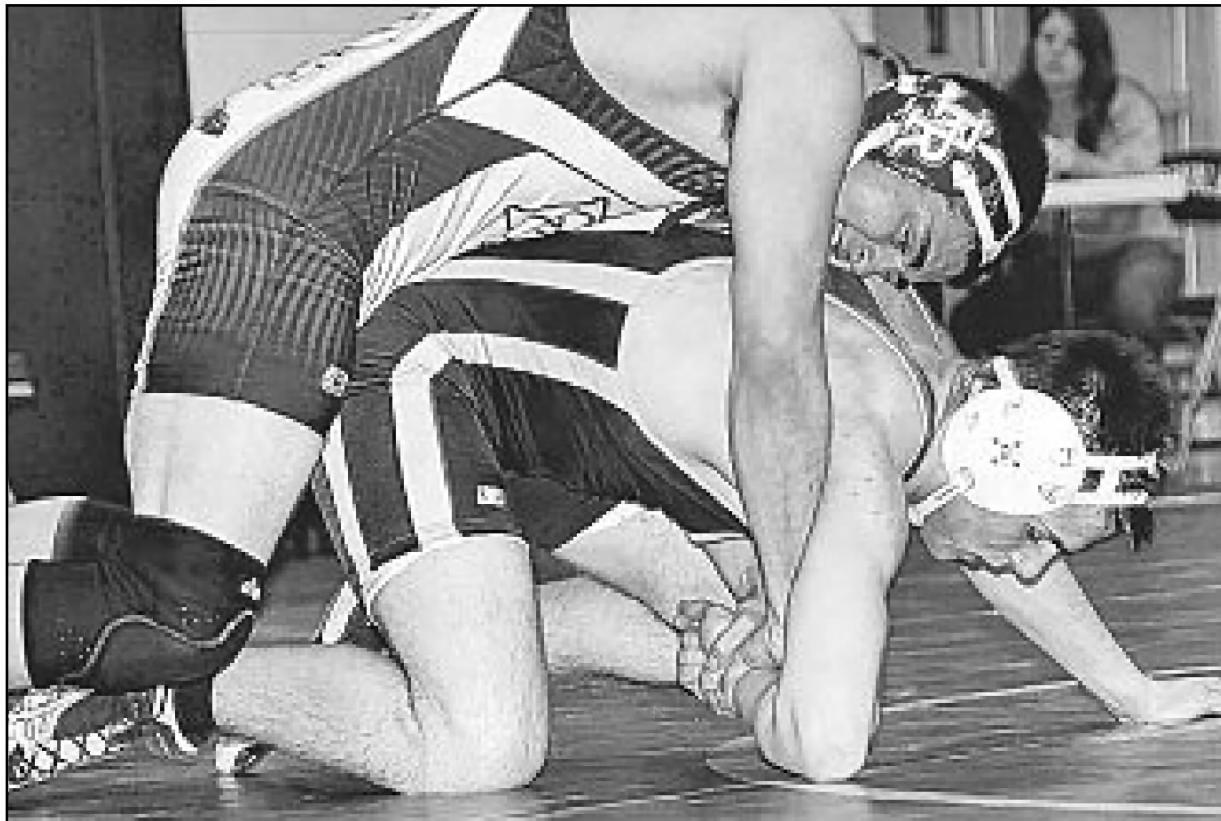
Championship finals — 103-Alex Bergman (OH) p. C.J. Reyes (Del.), 0:58; 112-Jonny Tolson (Del.) d. Garrett Manley (Spr.), 3-1; 119-Drew Stone (OH) md. Jacob Conine (Wau.), 11-3; 125-Michael Perez (Wau.) d. Tyler Hackworth (OH), 3-2; 130-Joey Bodenbender (Tin.) md. Zach Bergman (OH), 14-5; 135-Ian Miller (OH) d. Yohe Rojas (FR), 3-2; 140-Aaron Ferguson (Spr.) p. Max Pennington (Del.), 3:26; 145-Konner Witt (OH) d. Terry Wagenhauser (Def.), 1-0; 152-Tyler Derr (Wau.) d. Marc Schutte (Wau.), 4-2, OT; 160-Mike Mallernee (OH) p. Eric Brown (Nor.), 4:34; 171-Jason Brown (Nap.) d. Rick Meek (Spr.), 4-2; 189-Greg Isley (Sou.) p. Tyler Trautwein (FR), 2:49; 215-Cody Bloom (Nap.) p. Drew Bahnsen (OH), 0:54; 285-Gary Times (Spr.) p. Zach Sandwisch (OH), 5:04.

Consolation finals — 103-Cody Pontious (Wau.) d. Zach McCarty (Def.), 7-4; 112-Cody Kish (Clay) p. Jake Martinez (Nor.), 0:59; 119-B.J. Miller (Def.) p. Mike Stentz (A), 3:18; 125-Josh Lynch (Nap.) md. Jordan Smith (Del.), 10-2; 130-Carson Frey (Wau.) p. Jordan Gonzales (Def.), 2:42; 135-Tom Mori (P) d. Reid Rayfield (Del.), 8-2; 140-Brandon Volkman (Wau.) p. Anthony Resendez (Clay), 4:21; 145-T.J. Arthur (Spr.) d. Kris Richardson (P), 6-0; 152-Alex Ritzenthaler (Nor.) d. Spencer Wotring (TC), 10-3; 160-Brandon Nalley (A) d. Clay Roehrig (Def.), 12-5; 171-Eric Puehler (Del.) p. Desmond Yarnell (Def.), 2:36; 189-Tyler Benton (Waite) d. Robert Blake (Tin.), 8-3; 215-Matt Diangelo (Tin.) p. Rick Hmelwesky (Clay), 1:58; 285-Troy Spangler (P) p. Kas Stratidakis (Clay), 0:50.

More Fremont Ross results — 112-Miguel Marquez, fifth place; 119-Tony Rodriguez, seventh place; 125-Steven Johnson, sixth place; 160-Wyatt Wukie, fifth place; 171-Cody Evans, sixth place; 285-Aaron Gonzalez, seventh place.

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

Giants top Port Clinton



Jennifer Young-Bower/News-Messenger correspondent

FREMONT ROSS'S Cody Evans competes in a match Wednesday.

Raiders' Kleman earns 100th win of career

News-Messenger reports

Cody Evans (171 pounds), Tylor Trautwein (189) and Cameron Journigan (285) each notched pins as Fremont Ross's wrestling team topped Port Clinton 42-34 on Wednesday.

Tony Rodriguez (119), Yohe Rojas (135), Zack Huther (140) and Deriek McDonald (145) won by forfeit for the Little Giants.

Margaretta's wrestling team beat St. Joseph Central Catholic 51-18.

Josh Ackerman (140), Cameron Brake (160) and Mike Link (171) won by forfeit for the Polar Bears. Margaretta finishes its dual season 11-5.

"Overall, we wrestled well," Margaretta coach Keith Taylor said. "Hopefully, the next week and a half we can get healthy from illness and injuries. We

Wrestling

High School

Fremont Ross 42, Port Clinton

34

103 — Greg Willis (PC) win by forfeit
112 — Andrew Leidheiser (PC) def. Miguel Marquez 15-12
119 — Tony Rodriguez (R) win by forfeit
125 — Jacob Fleming (PC) def. Steven Johnson 12-3
130 — Stephen Pastor (PC) p. Eric Hogle 1:57
135 — Yohe Rojas (R) win by forfeit
140 — Zack Huther (R) win by forfeit
145 — Deriek McDonald (R) win by forfeit
152 — Jared Fleming (PC) win by forfeit
160 — Richard Harris (PC) def. Wyatt Wukie 9-8
171 — Cody Evans (R) p. Raymond Hopfinger 5:28
189 — Tylor Trautwein (R) p. Dominic Pusateri 1:00
215 — Jonathon Pope (PC) win by forfeit
Hwt — Cameron Journigan (R) p. Brandon Meadows 5:32

Wrestling

High School

Norwalk 57, Ross 16

103— forfeit

112— Miguel Marquez(R) pin Sparks
3:45

119— Tony Rodriguez (R) maj-dec.
Arnold 12-4

125— Hookins(N) dec. Steven John-
son 13-12

130— Hurst(N) maj-dec. Jalen Heidel-
burg 11-1

135— Yohe Rojas (R) tech fall Cook
19-4

140— Norwalk pin Zach Huether (R)
2:29

145— Teeters(N) dec McDonald (R)
13-6

152— forfeit

160— Hoyt (N) pin Wyatt Wukie 1:35

171— Evans (R) dec Alexander 9-4

189— Tyler Trowtwein maj-dec Smith

14-5

215— forfeit

289— Torrance (N) pin

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Rojas breaks Ross record

Little Giants' wrestler has most wins

News-Messenger reports

CELINA — Yohe Rojas broke the Fremont Ross High School record for wins in a wrestling career on Saturday at the Celina Invitational.

Rojas, a senior who is 28-2 this season at 135 pounds, defeated Delphos St. John's Ryan Musser by technical fall. It was the 136th victory for Rojas, who surpassed Andrew Legg's mark of 135.

"It's well deserving for him," Ross coach Mike Mezzinger said. "It's amazing what he has done in such a short amount of time."

According to Mezzinger, Rojas didn't begin wrestling until eighth grade. Rojas has competed in the 135-pound class all four years at Ross.

"He never was a biddy wrestler," Mezzinger said. In fact, a buddy of his asked him to try wrestling. And when he did, he found out that he has a natural talent for it. With the hard work he's put in during practice, he grew into athlete he has become."

The Little Giants placed fifth among 10 teams at the Celina Invitational. Greenville won the team championship with 220 points, followed by Coldwater (203 1/2), Celina (195), Versailles (175 1/2), Ross (168), Delphos St. John's (122 1/2), Toledo St. John's Jesuit (109), Ayersville (106), Otsego (76 1/2) and Oak Harbor "B" (50).

Tyler Trautwein went 5-0 to win the 189-pound class. He stopped Adam

Alig (Coldwater) with a 19-4 technical fall for the title. Trautwein won the award for Fastest Pin by pinning Devin Oliver (Versailles) in 9 seconds.

Tony Rodriguez (119) and Cody Evans (171) finished as runners-up after posting 4-1 records in their respective weight classes. Rodriguez dropped the title bout to Evan Warner (Greenville), but had to defeat the No. 1-seeded grappler to advance to the championship match. Evans knocked off the No. 2-seeded wrestler before losing the title match to Aaron Coons (Versailles) 9-1.

Cameron Journigan went 4-1 at 285 pounds before finishing in third place. He added an 11-second pinfall win along the way. His only loss of the tournament was a 1-0 setback by weight class champion Mike Treon (Versailles).

Wyatt Wukie (160) placed fourth for Ross after running out of time during the third-place match. Derek Minch (Celina) secured third place with a 6-4 decision.

Steven Johnson (125) was fifth for the Little Giants after pinning Ben Scott (Greenville) in 2:49.

Oak Harbor wrestler Jake Cramer won the 125-pound title after scoring a takedown against Brian Merschman (Delphos St. John's) to win 9-7 in overtime. Other Rockets to place were Brian Mallernee (140, sixth) and Sean McGee (171, fourth).

See ROUNDUP, B2

Wrestling

High School

Celina Invitational

Team Scores

Greenville	220
Coldwater	203.5
Celina	195
Versailles	175.5
Ross	168
Delphos St. Johns	122.5
Toledo St. Johns	109
Ayersville	106
Otsego	76.5
Oak Harbor "B"	50

Ross results

112 — Miguel Marquez.....	1-3
119 — Tony Rodriguez	4-1
125 — Steven Johnson.....	3-2
130 — Eric Hogle.....	1-3
135 — Yohe Rojas	5-0
140 — Zach Huether	1-3
145 — Derek McDonald	0-4
160 — Wyatt Wukie.....	3-2
171 — Cody Evans	4-1
189 — Tylor Trautwein.....	5-0
285 — Cameron Journigan.....	4-1

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING ■ FREMONT ROSS

Rojas is late bloomer

BY JEFF ARENZ
Sports Writer

FREMONT — When Fremont Ross senior Yohe Rojas took up wrestling in eighth grade, he knew that he was going to be at a huge disadvantage against other grapplers with as much as five years experience.

But when he stepped onto a mat, Rojas instantly felt at home.

"I felt really behind," said Rojas, who has competed at 135 pounds all four years with the Little Giants. "So, I just kept working hard to try to get to their level, doing extra work all the time. I wanted to get to where they were, and then get ahead of them."

But with the help of longtime friend and fellow Ross wrestler Cody Evans, Rojas decided to give his all to wrestling.

"We've been friends for a very long time ... since middle school," said

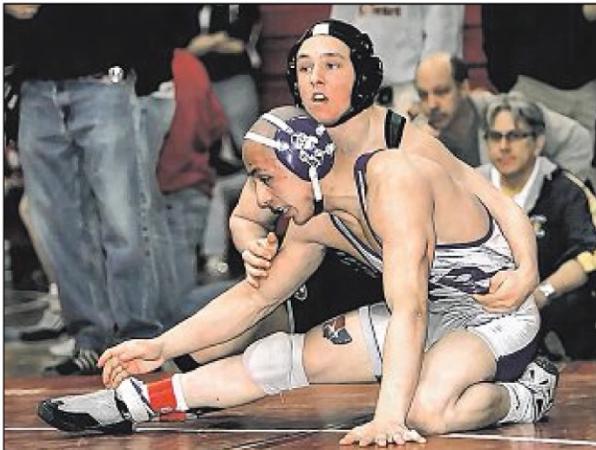
Evans, who competes for the Little Giants at 171 pounds. "I began wrestling as a seventh-grader. During my eighth grade year, I really wanted him to become a wrestler so that we could be around each other more."

Rojas said it took a lot of running, exercise and practicing wrestling moves to get up to speed.

"We started going to open tournaments, biddy tournaments and we started getting into wrestling clubs," Evans said. "From there, both of us began to take off. We got better and better because we pushed each other. We have always been training partners. This is actually the first year we have been the farthest apart in weights. I was at 145 last year."

With just five years of wrestling experience, Rojas has transformed himself from a novice to Ross's all-time leader in victories. On Saturday at the

SEE ROJAS | B2



James Miller/Gannett News Service

Fremont's Yohe Rojas, front, battles Collin Palmer of St. Edwards in the 135 pound weight class at the 2008 Marion Harding Division I District Wrestling Tournament on Feb. 23, 2008.

ROJAS FROM B1

Celina Invitational, Rojas won his 136th varsity match against Delphos St. John's Justin Musser, which put him one victory ahead of former Little Giants' record-holder Andrew Legg.

"Just look at him," Ross coach Mike Mezinger said. "You can see the work that Yohe has put in just by looking at his appearance. His body is cut."

Mezinger has seen the work Rojas has done in the gym and during practice. The Little Giants coach believes Rojas had a quick learning curve and has called him a natural.

Evans said he and Rojas have enjoyed wrestling as many as 100 matches year-round.

"Once we got to the high school level, it was mostly the offseason wrestling that helped us," Evans said. "It was the AAU, the freestyle, the Greco-Roman and even the open local biddy tournaments we wrestled. He's come a long way from the days being an eighth-grader, who barely knew how to take a shot. The more time we could spend on a mat, the better we liked it."

In each of his first three seasons at Ross, Rojas was the Little Giants' leader in takedowns.

But before Rojas could achieve his success, he had to win the right to represent Ross in the 135-pound class. As a freshman, Rojas worked to crack the Little Giants' lineup.

"It was very hard and very stressful," Rojas said. "I was always worried about breaking into the varsity lineup. I had a senior in front of me (Travis Rodriguez). During wrestle-offs, the

first time I barely beat him. The second time we met, I gained some more confidence."

Rojas ended up with the 135-pound spot. Since then, he likes using his quickness and his mind to his advantage.

"It's pretty fast, strong and mental," said Rojas, who carries a 3.3 GPA at Ross. "You can't go on the mat and have any doubts about yourself. You have to go out there and believe in yourself and believe that you can do it. Always believe that you're the better wrestler."

In order to break the Ross record for wins, Rojas has had to average 34 victories each season.

On Saturday, Ross hosts the Greater Buckeye Conference wrestling tournament at the Purple Pit. Rojas, who is 28-2 this season and is ranked seventh in the state in the Brakeman Report, is the favorite to become the GBC's 135-pound champion.

"I'm really glad that I did it," Rojas said. "I think I really deserve it because I've been working hard throughout my wrestling career. It has been one of my goals, but not yet my only goal."

Rojas still is shooting for a few more goals: Being the Little Giants' all-time leader in takedowns and earning his first appearance in the state tournament.

"I feel like I'm ready (for state)," Rojas said. "I want to stand at the top of the podium."

With his work ethic and desire, Rojas could very well be on the fast track to Columbus.

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