

## SECTIONAL WRESTLING

# Ross sends five to district

News-Messenger reports

MANSFIELD — The top, middle and bottom of the Fremont Ross lineup will be represented in the Division I district tournament at Toledo Rogers High School.

Two champs, Jason Hatfield at 135 pounds and Matt Merrill at 140, lead the Little Giants after they shared second place in the sectional tournament on Saturday at Malabar Junior High School.

The third member of the Little Giants' core, 145-pounder Jamie Ross, finished third.

"They controlled the whole tournament...the matches all the way through, including the finals," Ross coach Grover Dowell said. "Jason wrestled better in the finals than I've ever seen him."

### Division I

Hatfield pinned 1994 state qualifier Eric Palmer of Wapakoneta in the first period in the finals.

Merrill beat Carlos Marroquin of Defiance 17-2 in the finals, needing a little more than a period to record the technical fall.

Also advancing to the district meet for Ross are 112-pounder Ryan Patterson and 189-pounder Brandon Willer, who both placed second.

"I had the confidence that (Patterson) could do it, but I don't think he did," Dowell said. "He was aggressive and hit his moves very well."

"Brandon has been up-and-down all year. He seems to rise at the end of the year. He did it last year. This was a goal of his, and he worked for it."

Sandusky won the sectional team championship with 194 points, while the Little Giants and Defiance each compiled 156.