

2021 DIVISION I STATE TOURNAMENT

# Ross wrestling room rarely has a vacancy with Green around

**Matthew Horn**  
Fremont News-Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Heavyweight Ethan Green's friends know not to look for him during wrestling season.

If Green isn't in the wrestling room or lifting, he might be in the pool. He decompresses at home, with enough time to do his school work, if he isn't at his job.

Little Giants wrestling coach Matt Guhn nearly has a monopoly on Green's time. He trains more than 20 hours and six days each week.

"My friends tell me I disappear," he said. "Nobody sees me any more. I do it all again the next day. Wrestling is like a full-time job. The caliber for wrestling in Ohio is so high, you have to be on top of your game."

Green was on the mat for barely more than eight minutes at district in Division I. He pinned Avon's Mason Bingham in 2:54 in the final, Olmsted Falls' Jerry White in 2:39 in a semifinal and Toledo Whitmer's Logan Moody in 1:28 in a quarterfinal.

He pinned North Royalton's Jack Paukovits in 1:06 in the first round.

"Ethan is best at attacking," Guhn said. "He does extra work. Can you put yourself back together after you beat yourself down?"

Green was motivated in the off-season by setbacks in the district and sectional final last season. He wishes he could have wore his state-bound outfit from his former middle school coach and Ross grad Devon Mezinger in Columbus.

"I've prepared all season for the postseason," he said. "We've been waiting all year since state got canceled. Putting in extra time and working as hard as we can every day. Learning new moves. Matt will say, 'This will work great at state.'"

"Since we got out of football in November and got on the mat, it's been extra time and the best looks we can get in the room."

Noah Price, a former state champ from St. Joseph Central Catholic and Ross middle school assistant, occasionally trains with Green.

"The job is a state championship," Guhn said. "There's nothing else on our mind. We trained to win a state championship. His body is in shape for a state championship. We got the toughest draw. We don't care who we wrestle."

"We want to be No. 1 in the state and then we're going right after a national championship. I want him to be better than me. A two timer. This is the start of accomplishing what we're looking to do."

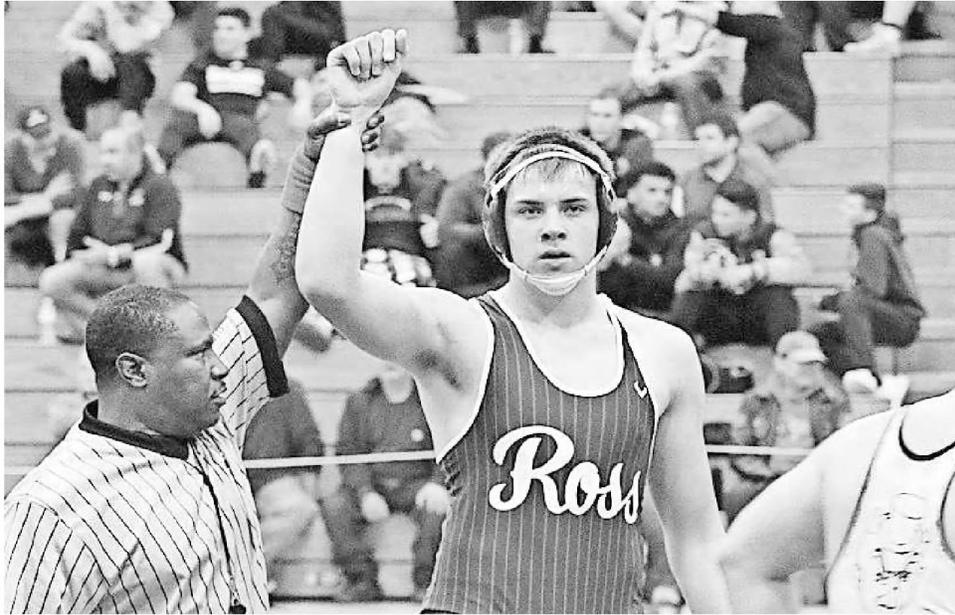
He practices live with Guhn as well.

"The boy gives me all I've got," Guhn said.

Guhn won a state championship at Clyde.

"Don't forget how you got here," Green said of Guhn's message. "At the state meet, there's no need to change style. The way I've been wrestling has been successful. He preaches to go out

See WRESTLING, Page 2B



Ethan Green celebrates a victory for Ross. KIMBERLY WEAVER

## Wrestling

Continued from Page 1B

and wrestle how you have been.

"Don't go out and try to do anything special. Being undefeated, there's no point in changing how I've wrestled to this point."

Green is unbeaten in 33 matches. He's 64-9 for his career.

"I don't think we got the best draw bracket-wise, but right now we're feeling good," he said. "I'm not saying I'm going to go and win it, but we have a game plan we'll try to execute. I have confidence in my ability, but confidence only goes so far.

"We're hoping to come away with it. We're prepared. It's not the best draw, but if you want to be the best, you have to beat the best. There are no excuses."

Green's plan always consists of vision, focus, strength and victory.

"The kid is all about all four of those," Guhn said. "He makes me want to coach harder to make sure to give Luke Fickell the best athlete he can possibly get."

Many people approached the junior this month to congratulate him on his verbal commitment to Cincinnati.

"How does it feel to be a Bearcat?" he's asked. "Right now, I'm a Little Gi-

ant. I haven't moved on yet."

He's excited with his opportunity, but the exchanges are actually a little annoying.

"I've tried to familiarize myself as I became more successful, to be more humble," he said. "I'm not saying I wasn't before, but I don't want to jinx myself or get a big head. Over time, I needed to instill that. Going through the football [recruiting], I needed to focus.

"Know how to celebrate victories and when to move on. Don't dwell on the past or settle, and keep moving forward. We celebrated for district. We had a big dinner. We came in Monday like it didn't happen, training for state as hard as we ever did.

"Be the best version of me. I know that's cliché and everybody says that. I mean it. I don't want to sell out. I don't want to be above anybody else, but I want to perform better than everybody else."

Bellevue's Justin Mayes (182) earned a district crown in Division II. Justin Smythe (138) and Max Ray (160) were second.

Collin Corapi (195) was third and Jayden Mayes (126) fourth.

*mhorn@gannett.com*

*419-307-4892*

*Twitter: @MatthewHornNH*

## **Division I**

Fremont Ross junior Ethan Green pinned Boardman's Jake Powell in 3:41 to finish third.

He pinned GlenOak's Aeden Begue in 1:35 in a consolation semifinal after falling 9-4 to Massillon Perry's Aidan Fockler in a semifinal. He pinned Edgewood's Radical Rothermel in 1:25 in the quarterfinals Saturday after beating Begue 5-2 in the first round.

---



Perry's Aidan Fockler, left, works to take down Fremont Ross' Ethan Green during their 285 pound semifinal match in the Division I OHSAA State Wrestling Tournament on Sunday at Hilliard Darby High School. JEFF LANGE/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

# Ross' Green earns three pins at state

**Matthew Horn**  
Fremont News-Messenger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Fremont Ross junior Ethan Green refers to himself as "us."

Little Giants coach Matt Guhn says "we," almost as though he's living vicariously through Green.

Green made no excuses for a semifinal setback Sunday in a Division I semifinal, before he finished third in the state at Marion Harding. Guhn, however, knows Green doesn't do morning.

He earned a quick pin in the last quarterfinal match of the night Saturday. He lost 9-4 to Massillon Perry's Aidan Fockler in a semifinal the next morning.

"I walked on the mat feeling good," he said. "He caught us in a bad spot. My foot slipped."

Clyde graduate Tim Anderson is Fockler's coach.

"The first day was split session," Little Giants coach Matt Guhn said. "We get him dinner and get him to bed, we're up at 8. First session kids had 24 hours rest

**"It's getting to that level of mental focus where you stick to your offense.**

**Wrestle six minutes in good position. It's not about anybody else. He needs to do that constantly. We'll focus on the mental training of the sport."**

**Matt Guhn**  
Little Giants coach

for the semifinals. We had 12 for heavy-weight. We got half the rest.

"Ethan is not a morning person. He knows he didn't perform to his top-notch ability. A coach isn't supposed to make excuses for their athlete, but we didn't see the true Ethan wrestle [that] morn-

ing. Unfortunately with COVID, the season has been difficult on so many levels.

"He was off his game, but we had a state tourney, no matter the rest period. He wasn't at his best. We didn't have the Ethan we're used to. Ethan's body didn't respond to full potential."

Green answered by pinning GlenOak's Aeden Begue in 1:35 in a consolation semifinal.

"He wrestled under control and executed," Guhn said. "That's the Ethan Green we know is capable of winning a national championship. He pinned a kid who went toe-to-toe with him and then a better kid. Ethan is hungry for a state title and we'll try to accomplish it next year.

"It's getting to that level of mental focus where you stick to your offense. Wrestle six minutes in good position. It's not about anybody else. He needs to do that constantly. We'll focus on the mental training of the sport."

He competes at junior nationals next month. He wants to be on that podium as

See **WRESTLING**, Page 6A

# Wrestling

Continued from Page 5A

well.

He pinned Boardman's Jake Powell in 3:41 to finish third.

"I was trying to prove myself," Green said. "There's no point dwelling on it, so we finished the best we could."

He beat Begue 5-2 in the first round Saturday.

"State jitters are a real thing," Guhn said. "I remember Ethan had those jitters. After he lost, the jitters went away. He was disappointed he let the community down. He didn't."

Fockler is a freshman.

"He had a throw for a five-point move and we couldn't recover," Guhn said. "He had a great game plan. He made the state final as a freshman. Tim Anderson is my

idol."

"We'll be excited to see each other again. Hopefully at the Schott and not at a high school and no split sessions."

Guhn grew up one street over from Anderson in Clyde.

"I wanted to be a two-time state [wrestling] champion like Tim Anderson," he said. "I wanted to be All-Ohio for football like Tim Anderson. I wanted his shot put record."

Guhn respects Anderson as a coach as well.

"Tim and I talked quite a bit the last two days," he said. "He asked me if we were going to lay down. I told him we were coming to take it. We laughed. Then, he asked me how my dad was. It was special."

"It went back to childhood and we joked on the big stage at the same time. A freshman versus the No. 1 kid in the state. It was validation for how he trains athletes. It's very impressive. When I say bit-

tersweet ... it's motivation to work."

Green pinned Division III Columbus Grove state champ Jeff Meyer in the first period and beat runner-up Eli Criblez of Allen East 3-1 at the Allen East Duals during the regular season.

Green endured the cancellation of last year's tourney after qualifying for the first time. He used it as fuel.

"We're grateful the OHSAA was able to put this on," Guhn said. "We're blessed to be part of the COVID state tournament. As a coach focused on state championships, I was happy there were state championships to compete for."

They'll have another season to chase the next one.

"When I get back wrestling, our plan is to fix anything that didn't look good at state and improve as much as we can until then," Green said. "I'll try to be the best version of myself. The state meet was humbling."

He's a verbal commit to Cincinnati as an offensive lineman.

"We're excited to watch him play football, but he has one more year to win a championship," Guhn said. "I know that's atop his list. Being No. 1 doesn't mean a state title. We're blessed [and] humbled so we can get back to work."

"We got back to the hotel and started talking about training for the next 365 days until the state finals. We're thinking about a discus championship. That's the kind of kid he is. He'll be hungry for wrestling, but it will be on the back burner."

"Hand fighting, no take downs, and into football, with the discus in mind. He's in good spirits. He knows he slipped. He's down, but he finished strong. We're motivated, but before he gets there, there's a discus state championship and first-team All-Ohio [lineman]."

*mhorn@gannett.com*  
419-307-4892