

Wrestling Roundup

Potridge, Davis take titles

Woodmore, Oak Harbor teams win tournament honors

News-Messenger reports

ASHLAND — Zac Potridge claimed a 112-pound championship to carry the Fremont Ross wrestlers to fourth place Saturday at the 10-team Ashland Invitational.

Austintown Fitch won the tournament with 196.5 points. Ross scored 160 points and finished behind Medina (189) and Ashland (177).

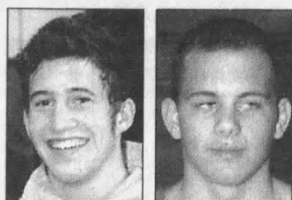
"Overall, things went really well," Ross assistant coach Don Wensinger said. "Being the first invitational, it was an eye-opener. That's why we go."

Potridge won all five of his matches and was the Little Giants' lone champion.

Tommy Wagner (152 pounds) and Mike Shanahan (160) each placed second for Ross. Austin Earle (140), Andrew Legg (171) and Chris Kayser (189) came in third.

Jake Gutschalk (130) placed fourth, and teammates Luke Swint (215) and Jarrod Pena (275) finished fifth. Jamie Resendez (135) and Kyle Wensinger (145) placed sixth.

Ross visits Fostoria on Wednesday.



POTRIDGE

DAVIS

Naufel said. "I was really happy."

Ross transfer Brock Davis led the Crimson Streaks. He won the 125-pound championship and was named the tournament's most valuable wrestler. Davis defeated Drew Lashaway of Eastwood, 14-13, in the championship match.

St. Joe's Robbie LeJeune (112), A.J. Coleman (119) and Cory Hessick (160) finished second.

Also for the Streaks, Ryan Autullo (135) finished third, while Dan Szymanowski (152) and Andy Price (275) took fifth.

The Crimson Streaks travel to Sandusky for a tri-meet with St. Mary and Willard on Saturday.

Perkins tops at Golden Bear

GIBSONBURG — Gibsonburg

es from Matt Weller (112), Andrew Ollom (130), Jeff Herr (145), Brandon Racheter (152) and David Powers (189). Jacob Powers (215) finished third, and Matt Shultz (119) and Kyle Klotz (140) came in fourth. Joe Crawford (275) was fifth.

Gibsonburg scored 82.5 points and finished eighth. Troy Wilburn (119) and Cody Amor (152) finished third for the Golden Bears, and teammate Brad Roessner (160) was fourth.

Gibsonburg is at the Hopewell-Loudon Invitational on Friday and Saturday. Lakota travels to Carey on Dec. 19.

Woodmore wins Crestview Inv.

ASHLAND — Woodmore opened the 2001-02 wrestling season in strong fashion Saturday by winning the Ashland Crestview Invitational.

Five Wildcats won championships as Woodmore scored 361 points to outdistance second-place Plymouth (297).

Woodmore junior Dustin Bedford captured the 160-pound title. Junior Chet Engle (171), senior

Woodmore plays host to Margaretta on Thursday.

Rockets win Hoover Duals

HOLLAND — Oak Harbor captured the Dick Hoover Dual Meet Tournament for the second consecutive season, posting an undefeated record in the weekend tournament.

The Rockets won their pool with relative ease, defeating Evergreen 78-6 in the opening match. Oak Harbor then posted wins over host Springfield (48-17), Anthony Wayne (49-23) and Woodward (75-6) to round out pool play.

In the semifinals, the Rockets beat North Canton Hoover, 49-17.

Oak Harbor faced its toughest competition in the championship, defeating Delta, 36-30.

Zach Levy, a senior, finished with a 6-0 mark wrestling in the two weight classes.

Junior J.D. Bergman also went undefeated at 6-0. He wrestled at 189 pounds and 215 pounds. The highlight of the day for Bergman was an 11-2 decision over state runner-up Mark Nagel of Delta at 189.

Five other Rockets posted un-

Wrestling

Giants split double-dual with S'view and Fostoria

News-Messenger reports

FOSTORIA —The Fremont Ross wrestling team split a double-dual against Fostoria and Lorain Southview on Wednesday.

The Redmen beat Ross 47-27, while the Little Giants (2-2, 1-1 GLL) downed the Saints 33-30.

Tommy Wagner (152), Zac Potridge (112) and Andrew Legg (171) won two matches to pace Ross. Wagner pinned Fostoria's Zac Schroeder in 50 seconds and outlasted the Saints' George Berlinger 9-4.

Potridge pinned Fostoria's Aaron Puckett (2:57) and posted



WAGNER

See LAKOTA, B3

Continued From B1

a 9-4 decision over Southview's Ruben Brown.

Legg gave Ross a boost with a major decision and a fall. He pinned Southview's Alex Torres (1:53) and downed Fostoria's Ben Hammond 16-7.

Winning one match for the Little Giants were Austin Earle (140), Myles Porter (145), Mike Shanahan (160), Jesse Wukie (160), Chris Kayser (189), Luke Swint (215) and Jarrod Pena (275).^N

Ross travels to Toledo this weekend for the Rogers Invitational.

Wrestling

High School

Ross 33, Lorain Southview 30

103: Danny Mitcheft (LS) p. Sam Krueger (R) 1:11.

112: Zac Potridge (R) dec. Ruben Brown (LS) 9-4.

119: Justin Torres (LS) p. Kyle Polter (R) 2:25.

125: Roy Fluker (LS) forfeit.

130: Heidelberg Wilson (LS) p. Jaime Resendez (R) 3:11.

135: James Tolerto (LS) dec. Jake Gutschalk (R) 13-10.

140: Austin Earle (R) dec. Chris Anderson (LS) 14-8.

145: Sean Wallace (LS) dec. Myles Porter (R) 13-11.

152: Tommy Wagner (R) dec. George Berlinger (LS) 9-4.

160: Jesse Wukie (R) dec. Miller Praybylski (LS) 5-1.

171: Andrew Legg (R) p. Alex Torres (LS) 1:53.

189: Chris Kayser (R) p. Jeff Hughes (LS) 1:09.

215: Luke Swint (R) p. Vinney Crawford (LS) 2:49.

Hwt: Jarrod Pena (R) dec. Gary Adkins (LS) 7-2.

Fostoria 47, Ross 27

103: Bill Reese (Fo) p. Sam Krueger (R) 2:35.

112: Zac Potridge (R) p. Aaron Puckett (Fo) 2:57.

119: Dan Jordan (Fo) p. Kyle Polter (R) 3:56.

125: Trey Garcia (Fo) forfeit.

130: Jesus Holguin (Fo) p. Jaime Resendez (R) 1:41.

135: Alex Shift (Fo) major dec. Jake Gutschald (R) 19-5.

140: Chris Miller (Fo) dec. Austin Earle (R) 5-1.

145: Myles Porter (R) p. Brad Howard (Fo) 2:59.

152: Tommy Wagner (R) p. Zac Schroeder (Fo) 0:50.

160: Mike Shanahan (R) p. Tom Crowe (Fo) 1:08.

171: Andrew Legg (R) major dec. Ben Hammond (Fo) 16-7.

189: Jeremy Bennett (Fo) major dec. Chris Kayser (R) 16-8.

215: Joe Morton (Fo) p. Luke Swint (R) 5:28.

Hwt: Alex Grine (Fo) p. Jarrod Pena (R) 1:27.

JV winners: Jacob Wukie, Kevin Henry.

Wrestling Roundup

Wagner, Legg claim first places at Rogers tourney

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO — Tommy Wagner and Andrew Legg claimed individual titles to lead the Fremont Ross wrestlers to fourth place Saturday at the 14-team Rogers Invitational.

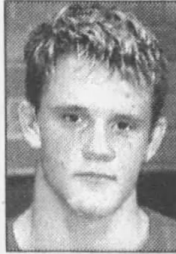
Wagner won the 152-pound weight division by pinning Dustin Fair of North Ridgeville in five minutes, 26 seconds. Legg took the 171-pound crown with a 7-1 decision over Justin Schutte of Maumee.

Ross scored 166 points, just four behind third-place Wauseon. Maumee won the team title with 226.5 points, and North Ridgeville was second with 212.5 points.

The Little Giants placed several wrestlers. Zac Potridge (112), Chris Kayser (189) and Jarrod Pena (275) each placed third. Myles Porter (145), Mike Shanahan (160) and Chris Kayser (189) came in fifth. And Sam Krueger (103) and Jake Gutschalk (130) placed sixth.

Ross hosts Clyde and Sandusky on Wednesday.

St. Joe falls to St. Mary, Willard
SANDUSKY — Robbie LeJeune (103), Brock Davis (125) and Andy Price (275) won two matches apiece Saturday, but the Crim-



LEGG



PERKINS

son Streaks fell to St. Mary Central Catholic and Willard in a double-dual.

St. Mary defeated St. Joe 56-14, and Willard took down the Streaks 45-28. St. Mary beat Willard 44-28.

Winning one match each for the Streaks were A.J. Coleman (119), Ryan Autullo (135), Brady Smith (140) and Dan Szymanowski (145).

SJCC is at Clyde Friday night for a double-dual with the Fliers and Lakota.

Clyde fourth at Dublin

DUBLIN — Luke Seal won the heavyweight championship as Clyde finished fourth Saturday at the Dublin Coffman Invitational.

The Fliers scored 109 points. Columbus DeSales won the team title with 233 points. Mentor Lake Catholic and Franklin finished second and third, respectively.

Seal eked out a 4-3 decision over an Olentangy opponent for the title.

Nick Garcia (119) finished second for the Fliers. Adam Thurn (103), J.R. Ysaguirre (112) and T.C. Hoffman came in third.

Clyde is at Ross on Wednesday. **Perkins leads Bears at H-L**

BASCOM — Gibsonburg's Chad Perkins won the 135-pound weight division Saturday at the Hopewell-Loudon Invitational to lead his team to 10th place in the 16-team event.

Perkins defeated Jack Bugner of Fostoria St. Wendelin, 7-5, in the championship match.

The Golden Bears scored 76.5 points. Elmwood won the invitational with 249 points, and Fostoria finished second at 197.5 points.

Cody Amor (160 lbs.) and Brad Reiter (171) each finished third for Gibsonburg. Troy Wilburn (119) finished sixth.

Woodmore sent some of its younger wrestlers to the meet and finished 15th with 35.5 points. Jeremy Harpel came in third, and Ben Wilson fifth for the Wildcats.

Both Gibsonburg and Woodmore are off until Jan. 4-5, when they wrestle at the Woodmore Classic.

Wrestling

High School

Rogers Holiday Tournament

Team Standings

Maumee.....	226.5
No. Ridgeville	212.5
Wauseon	170
Fremont Ross	166
St. Francis	133.5
Rogers.....	130
Lakewood	101
Swanton.....	100.5
Bath	81
Elida.....	63
Bowsher.....	48
Bowling Green	40
Woodward	30.5
Scott	15

Ross

103: Sam Krueger (6th) lost to Sammie Mendez (Wauseon) 18-9.

112: Zac Potridge (3rd) dec. Chad Carpenter (Rogers) 8-4.

130: Jake Gutschalk (6th) lost to Jared Akin (NR) 11-7.

145: Myles Porter (5th) dec. Jake Toth (Woodward) 11-7.

152: Tommy Wagner (1st) p. Dustin Fair (Ridgeville) 5:26.

160: Mike Shanahan (5th) t.f. Alan Krems (Lakewood) 16-0.

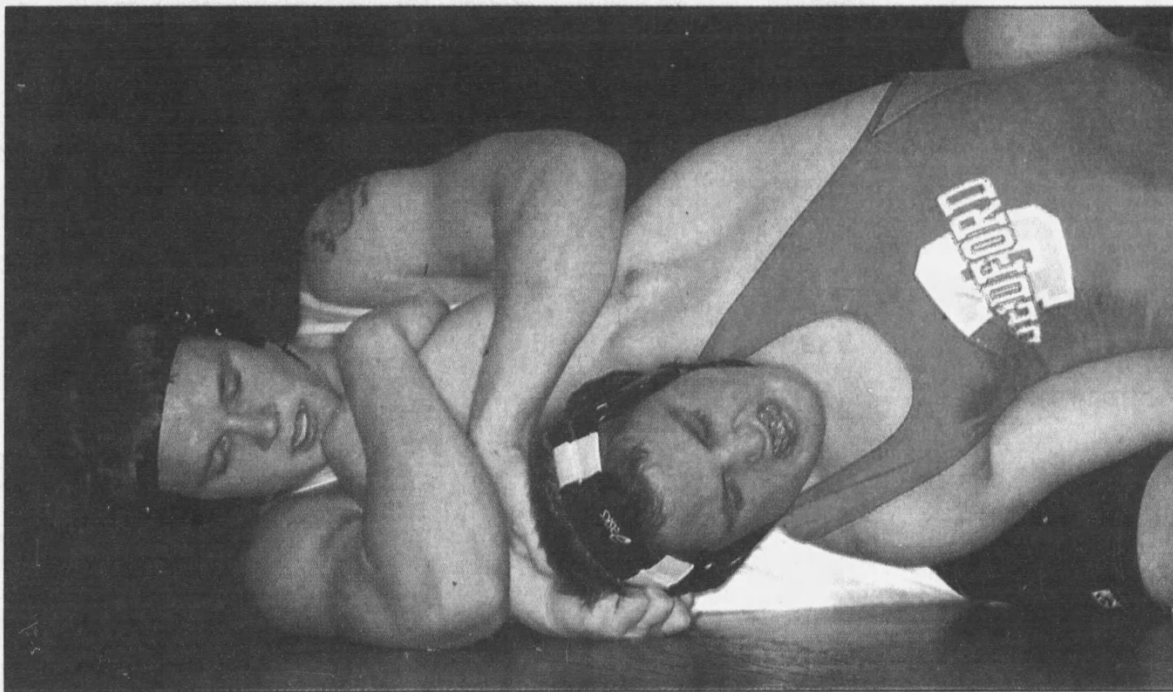
171: Andrew Legg (1st) dec. Justin Schutte (Maumee) 7-1.

189: Chris Kayser (3rd) p. Ben Remer (Swanton) 4:14.

215: Luke Swint (5th) dec. Pat Kowalka (Maumee) 8-6.

275: Jarrod Pena (3rd) p. Matt Hyer (Ridgeville) 4:08.

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING: Ross, Clyde back on the mats



News-Messenger file photo/Ben French

ROSS WRESTLER Andrew Legg, left, tries to tilt Bedford opponent Ryan Coulter during a match earlier this season. The Little Giants face Clyde and Sandusky in an anticipated tri-match Wednesday.

Two rivalries in one

Big crowd expected when Ross meets Clyde, Sandusky

By ALEXIUS TOMASZEWSKI
Staff writer

Fremont Ross will add another installment to one wrestling rivalry, while dusting off another Wednesday at the Purple Pit.

The Little Giants host Sandusky and Clyde for a double-dual at 6 p.m. Wednesday in their last dual meet of the calendar year.

Ross and the Blue Steaks are no strangers as fierce league rivals, but it has been a while since Clyde stepped on the mat with the Little Giants.

Fliers head coach Dale Carroll said the two programs haven't faced each other since the early 1990s. The closeness and the caliber of wrestling prompted Ross head coach Grover Dowell to rekindle the local rivalry.

"They have a quality program. I want my kids going against tough kids," Dowell said. "Your program can't get better unless it wrestles the better kids. Plus, I thought it would be really neat. It's going to be a really big night."

Ross, picked to win the Great Lakes League this year, opened the season with a victory over Oregon Clay, but bowed to Fostoria, 47-27, on Thursday. Bringing two rivals to the same mat certainly has emotions running high for the Little Giants.

"I think my kids are pumped. They were really disappointed after the tri with Fostoria. I think they want the league this year," Dowell said.

The Little Giants (2-2, 1-1 GLL) responded to the Fostoria loss with a solid effort at the 15-team Rogers Invitational over the weekend. Ross had five wrestlers seeded, but came away with 10 placers. And in those finals matches, Ross won eight of the 10.

Tommy Wagner (152 pounds) and Andrew Legg (171), individual champions at Rogers, continue to pace the Little Giants. Legg has the team's best record at 11-0, while Wagner's only loss came against Bedford in the season opener. He is 9-1. Zac Potridge (112) is 10-2.

Dowell was satisfied with his team's performance over the weekend and looks forward to a full lineup on Wednesday. Myles Porter (145) will fill in for Kyle Wensinger, who is out with a strained elbow. Porter, a first-year wrestler, took fifth on Saturday. Jacob Wukie will fill the 135-pound void, giving Ross a complete lineup.

The Little Giants had one of the larger crowds in Toledo for the two-day tournament. Dowell said his fan base is supportive and thinks the same is true for the Fliers and Streaks.

"I expect a real big crowd. Sandusky always has a good following and so does Clyde," he said.

In preparing for the highly-anticipated double-dual, Dowell spoke with both coaches. He expects Clyde to be the tougher opponent.

Carroll agreed the Ross-Clyde matchup will be a hit with fans.

"I think we're very strong in the lower weights and young in our upper weights. Ross is the

opposite. It should be quite a match," he said. "I definitely think this is great for our fans. This is an opportunity to come in and watch some exciting wrestling."

Clyde is coming off a respectable fourth-place finish at the Dublin Coffman Invitational on Saturday.

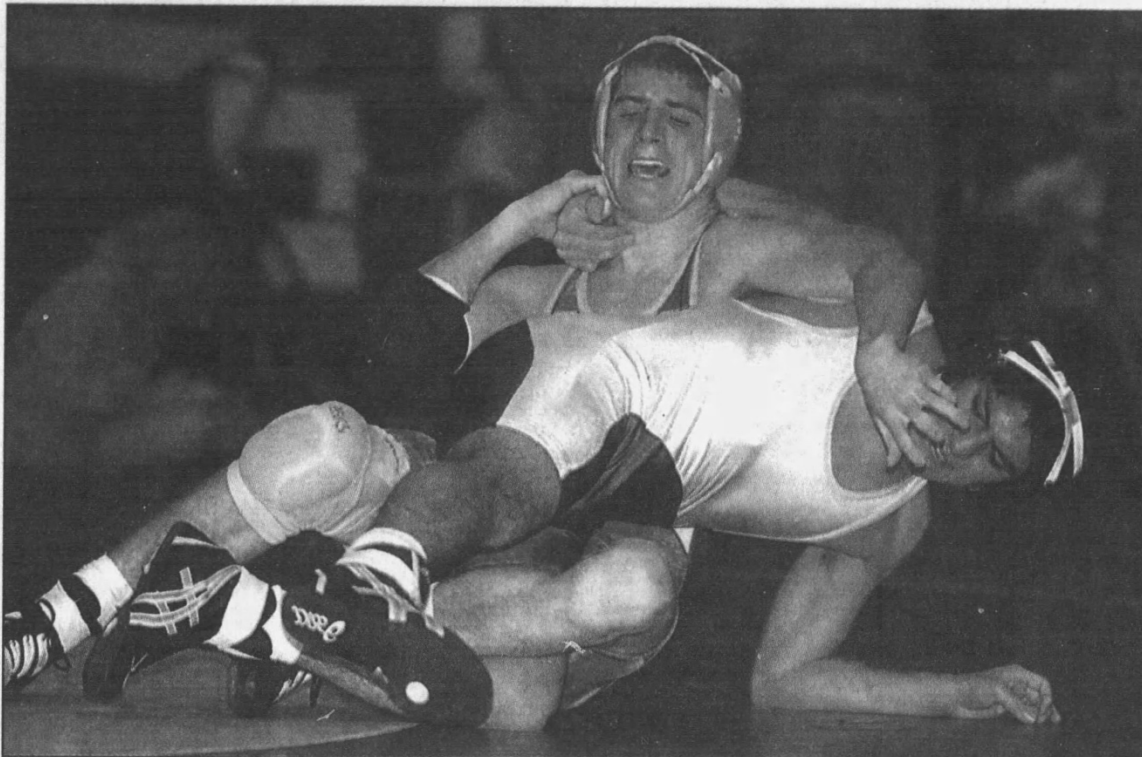
Heavyweight Luke Seal is Clyde's only undefeated wrestler, while T.C. Hoffman (125) has one loss.

With only five upperclassmen and nine freshmen, the Fliers are starting to get into the groove of the new season.

"We've basically haven't wrestled in a dual, so we don't know our kids will react with the new rule changes," Carroll said.

"The first couple of weeks we've been battling weight control. We've got that under control now. Now it's just a matter of getting better. They know what Ross and Sandusky are all about. They know it's going to be a tough match."

Double the fun



News-Messenger photos/Ben French

T.C. HOFFMAN, top, of Clyde tries to turn Fremont Ross opponent **Jaime Resendez** during Wednesday's double-dual at the Purple Pit. Hoffman pinned Resendez in 3:41.

Clyde tops rivals Ross, Sandusky in double-dual

By **ALEXIUS TOMASZEWSKI**
Staff writer

Clyde's young wrestling team displayed veteran poise by adding two victorious installments to heated rivalries Wednesday.

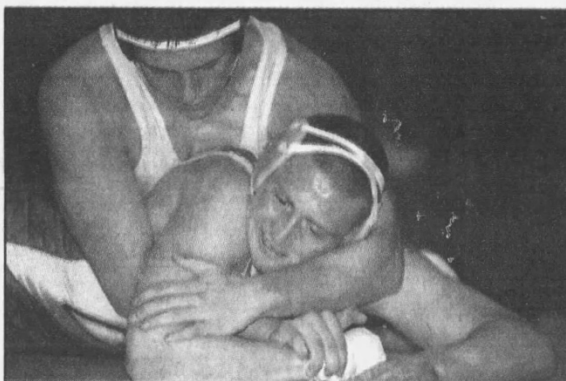
The Fliers edged Fremont Ross 38-33 and pounded Sandusky 52-24 in a double-dual at the Purple Pit.

The Little Giants downed the Blue Streaks 48-23 in a Great Lakes League match.

"It's always tough to wrestle here at Ross," Fliers head coach Dale Carroll said. "They have a good team, an aggressive team. We're happy with how we did."

Clyde gave up two pins and a forfeit against Ross, but the Fliers made up the difference with six pins of their own. The Flier triumph was sealed when heavy-weight Luke Seal pinned Fremont's Jarrod Pena in three minutes, 43 seconds. Seal was one of three Fliers who recorded two pins. T.C. Hoffman (125) and Tyson Bouyack (145) also had two falls.

The double-dual format consist-



CHRIS KAYSER of Ross cross-faces Dan Rogers of Clyde in 189-pound match. Kayser won a 5-0 decision.

ed of three rounds. The upper weights and lower weights of all three teams wrestled on two different mats, often at the same time, making team scoring hard to follow.

"You don't know the team

score," Carroll said. "We told them to go for the pin in each match. You never know which match could be the deciding match. Anytime you win, you have to be happy. We still have a long way to go with the young kids."

Said Seal, "We're a young team, but a quality team. We came in here knowing we could beat these two teams. We needed kids to step up, and they did."

Other double winners for Clyde were Adam Thurn (103), J.R. Ysaguirre (112), Nick Garcia (119) and Bob Blackburn (135). Single match winners included Bryce Aona (140), Jacob Zieber (152) and Brian Coffee (171).

Ross (3-3, 2-1 GLL) expected the tougher match to be against the Fliers. The narrow margin of defeat was tough for Little Giants head coach Grover Dowell.

"Against Clyde, we had some key losses. I had a couple kids I was really disappointed in the way they performed. Stage fright, I don't know," he said.

"But, overall, the team was aggressive and came back and looked like they wanted to win. I told them the important thing was going against Sandusky."

See **FLIERS**, B4

Wrestling

High School

Ross 48, Sandusky 23

- 103: Sam Krueger (R) forfeit
- 112: Jay Dreschel (S) dec. Zac Potridge 5-4
- 119: Jarrod Jenkins (S) tech. fall Kyle Polter
- 125: Jaime Resendez (R) p. Ron Pickins 3:52
- 130: Jake Gutschalk (R) dec. James Saylor 9-7
- 135: Adam Crawford (S) tech. fall Jacob Wukie
- 140: Austin Earle (R) p. Philip Montgomery 2:55
- 145: Myles Porter (R) p. Angelo Jones 4:59
- 152: Tommy Wagner (R) p. Bobbie Tye 1:08
- 160: Mike Shanahan (R) p. Eric Lyons 2:41
- 171: Andrew Legg (R) forfeit
- 189: Willie Walker (S) maj. dec. Chris Kayser 18-5
- 215: Danny Johnson (S) dec. Luke Swint
- 275: Jarrod Pena (R) dec. Kevin Gibson 7-1.

Clyde 38, Ross 33

- 103: Adam Thurn (C) p. Sam Krueger 1:10
- 112: JR Ysaguirre (C) dec. Zac Potridge 9-5
- 119: Nick Garcia (C) p. Kyle Polter 1:21
- 125: TC Hoffman (C) p. Jaime Resendez 3:43
- 130: Jake Gutschalk (R) dec. Jon Taylor 8-7
- 135: Bob Blackburn (C) p. Jacob Wukie 4:36
- 140: Austin Earle (R) dec. Bryce Aona 6-0
- 145: Tyson Bouyack (C) p. Myles Porter 3:15
- 152: Tommy Wagner (R) p. Jacob Zieber 4:52
- 160: Mike Shanahan (R) p. DuWayne Hush 3:30
- 171: Andrew Legg (R) forfeit
- 189: Chris Kayser (R) dec. Dan Rogers 5-0
- 215: Luke Swint (R) p. Chris Daniel 1:09
- 275: Luke Seal (C) p. Jarrod Pena 3:43.

Wrestling

High School

Wendy's Invitational

Team Scores

Toledo Central.....	163
Clev. St. Ignatius.....	159
Perkins.....	141
Celina	125
Toledo St. Francis	117
Groveport	116
Tiffin Columbian	97
Lancaster	94
Ross	89.5
Whitmer	89
Lexington	80.5
Upper Sandusky	80
Elida.....	72.5
Maysville.....	71
Lima Shawnee	67
Sylvania Southview.....	43
Swanton.....	34
Toledo Libbey.....	14

Ross Results

Third Place Matches

152 — Tommy Wagner (R) dec. Ben Bishop (Lex) 6-4
189 — Chris Kayser (R) dec. Colby Millen (Cel) 12-11

Fifth Place Matches

130 — Jake Gutschalk (R) dec. Cory Dunlap (Sylv) 8-10
275 — Jarrod Pena (R) def. Ray Rowe (St. Ign).

Little Giants settle for ninth at Wendy's

Four Ross wrestlers win in consolation finals to highlight weekend

By ALEXIUS TOMASZEWSKI
Staff writer

TIFFIN- Fremont Ross made the most of what it had.

The Little Giants placed four wrestlers to highlight a ninth-place finish in the 19th Wendy's Invitational Tournament on Saturday. Ross had 89.5 points.

Toledo Central Catholic was the tournament champion with 163 points, and Cleveland St. Ignatius was the runner-up with 159 points.

Ross started the second day of the tournament in good position with 11 wrestlers vying for placement. After the mats were rolled up, the Little Giants had only four placers.

"As a team, we sort of stunk. We had a good first day and



WAGNER

came back the second day with everyone still alive. I was real happy," Ross head coach Grover Dowell said. "But, they didn't pull together. There were four guys

that I would have sworn would place, and they didn't.

"It was a good, competitive tournament, but those kids that I expected to be placing. If they're going to place at the end of the year, they should be placing here. There's a lot of state quality wrestlers here, so they found out what they've got to do."

Dowell's four placers made the most of their opportunities, with each winning their finals match. Tommy Wagner (152) and Chris Kayser (189) both finished third, while Jake Gutschalk (130) and Jarrod Pena (275) took fifth.

Wagner defeated Ben Bishop of Lexington 6-4 in the finals. It was the second time he had faced Bishop. Wagner won 2-1 in the previous meeting in the quarterfinals. Defeating the same opponent twice in one day is hard, but Wagner said the second time was easier.

"I was kind of disappointed, but pretty happy with how I finished," he said. "I knew what he was going to do in the second

match. I changed some things up and came out more aggressive the second time."

Said Dowell, "I was a little leery about that, but he handled the match better the second time than he did the first."

Champion Ray Rhodes of Toledo Central Catholic downed Wagner 11-1 the semifinals. Wagner then returned the favor with a 16-4 major decision over Groveport Madison's Eric Lintz, setting up the rematch with Bishop.

Kayser shared the same fate as Wagner. In the semifinals, Kayser dropped a 6-5 decision to eventual champion Dennis Karcher of Upper Sandusky. He then pinned Lexington's Bob

See WENDY'S, B3

Wendy's field proves tough for Little Giants

Continued From B1

Hudak in 34 seconds, advancing him to the consolation finals. Shrugging off a nagging back injury, Kayser outlasted Celina's Colby Millen 12-11.

Gutschalk downed Sylvania Southview's Cory Dunlap 10-8 in overtime to finish fifth.

"I would have liked to have scored more points in the beginning of the match," the sophomore said. "I really didn't like go-

ing into overtime. It's probably the best I've wrestled in a tournament. It gives me a lot of confidence."

Gutschalk had back-to-back wins before being pinned by Perkins Tony DeMore (2:46). The loss set up his bout with Dunlap.

Pena dropped his opening match, then won four straight matches to get into placement contention.

He decked Jeremiah Fennel of Perkins (:47), and edged Toledo

Central Catholic's Matt Holzaver in overtime, 7-5.

Pena then pinned Lima Shawnee's Jim Ketterer (:56). After the long day, he was able catch his breath in the finals. Pena took fifth after Ray Rowe of St. Ignatius defaulted.

Said Dowell, "It's probably the toughest tournament that we face during the season. It's good for them. They need that."

The Little Giants host the Mal Mackey Invitational on Saturday.

Ross wrestlers defend Mackey crowns today

Little Giants have won eight straight tourneys

By ALEXIUS TOMASZEWSKI
Staff writer

Most of Fremont Ross's varsity wrestlers have recorded almost 20 matches in the season's opening month.

In that grueling span, the Little Giants have enjoyed modest success. But they are coming off a less-than-stellar performance at the 19th Wendy's Invitational last weekend in Tiffin.

Host Ross should regain its confidence when it competes in the 29th annual Mal Mackey Tournament at 10 a.m. today at the Purple Pit.

The Little Giants crowned seven individual champions a year ago en route to their eighth consecutive Mackey title.

"Looking at last year, we

Mad for Mackey

■ **What:** 29th annual Mal Mackey Wrestling Tournament.

■ **When:** 10 a.m. today.

■ **Where:** Fremont Ross High School, Purple Pit.

■ **Who:** Wrestling teams from Ross, Bowling Green, Sylvania Northview, Euclid, Otsego, Perrysburg, Northwood and Lima Senior.

placed an outstanding amount of wrestlers," Ross head coach Grover Dowell said. "They should be pretty confident. It's a morale booster, but the kids will have tough matches."

Bowling Green, Sylvania

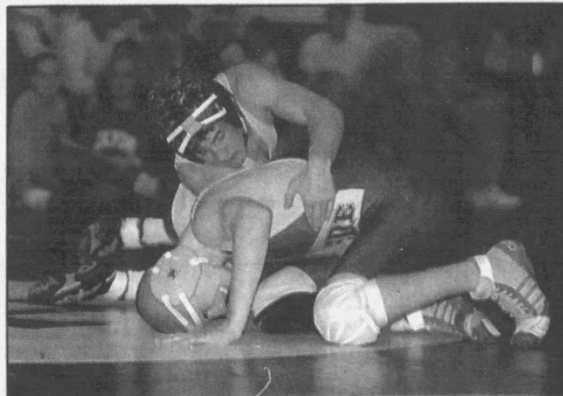
Northview, Euclid, Otsego, Perrysburg and Lima Senior return for this year's tournament. Ross won last year by nearly 70 points. The Yellow Jackets and Spartans were second and third, respectively.

Ross will pay close attention to Lima Senior, which joins the Great Lakes League in 2003-2004.

"This will be tougher than last year, but they realize they can do it," Dowell said of his team. "Four teams have already turned in full lineups. In the past, there's been a lot of holes."

Chris Kayser, a 189-pounder, highlights Ross's list of returning placers. The junior is seeking his third consecutive individual title.

See **MACKEY, B3**



News-Messenger file photo/Ben French
ZAC POTRIDGE, top, works for a reversal against Clyde's J.R. Ysaqure during a double-dual match earlier this season at the Purple Pit.

Mackey tournament starts at 10 a.m. today

Continued From B1

Tommy Wagner (152) and Luke Swint (215) are also returning champions. Andrew Legg (171) and Jesse Wukie (135) were runners-up last year, while Mike Shanahan (160) and Jarrod Pena (Hwt.) took third a year ago.

Dowell's squad benefitted from the tough competition a week ago, even if Ross placed only four wrestlers.

"Everybody understands what they have to do now. You can see it in practice," he said. "It's just a matter of focusing in."

Legg, Ross's only undefeated wrestler, will return to the mat after sitting out from a knee injury last week.

A string of eight titles gives the Little Giants some swagger, but it adds pressure. Ross's experience and success in its own tournament should subdue some of that pressure.

But not all of it.

"I put a little pressure on them,"

said Dowell, the tournament's outstanding coach a year ago. "We won it last year with only one senior, so they seem excited. Plus, many of the wrestlers placed last year."

The Little Giants have only one more double-dual at home. Dowell

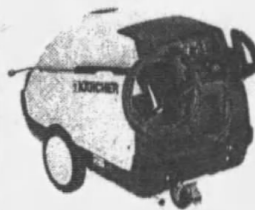
said his team should thrive in the Purple Pit.

"We don't get that much of an opportunity to wrestle at home, so they're excited about it," he said. "We've had real good fan support all year, and could have even more show up on Saturday."

IS YOUR FLEET COMPLETE?



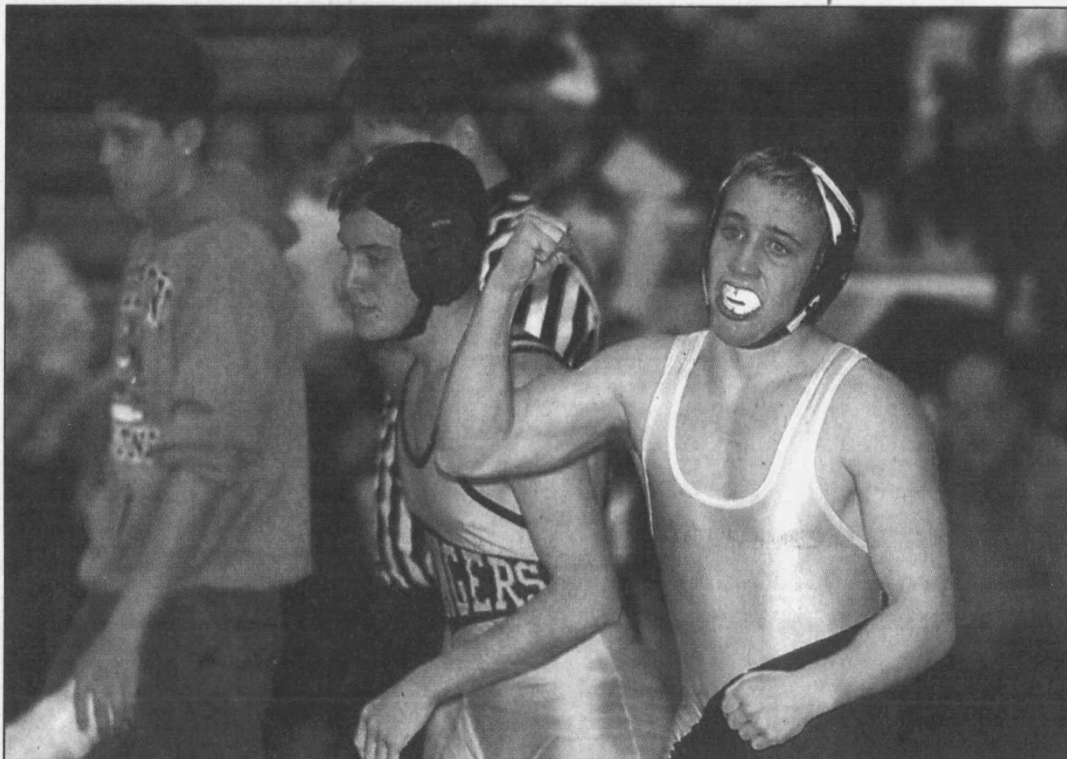
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Ross rides Cloud 9



News-Messenger photos/Ben French

AUSTIN EARLE of Fremont Ross celebrates after defeating Brandon McGaharan of Northwood in 140-pound finals Saturday at the 29th annual Mal Mackey Memorial tournament.

Little Giants continue domination of Mackey

By **ALEXIUS TOMASZEWSKI**
Staff writer

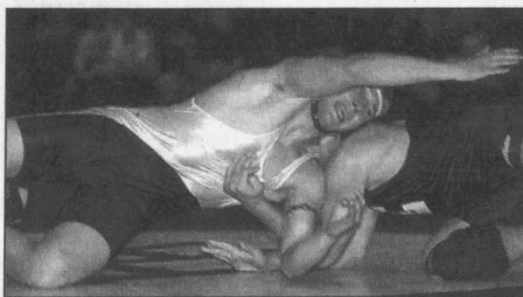
It was business as usual for the Fremont Ross wrestling team on Saturday.

The Little Giants placed 12 wrestlers and racked up 190 points to claim their ninth consecutive team title at the 29th Mal Mackey Memorial wrestling tournament at the Purple Pit.

Perrysburg was the runner-up with 146.5 points, and Otsego took third with 100 points. Euclid (96) was fourth, Sylvania Northview (85) fifth, Northwood (69.5) sixth, Lima (68) seventh and Bowling Green (50) eighth.

"I thought they performed well as a team. We placed 12 guys, and I thought the tournament was tougher this year," Little Giants head coach Grover Dowell said. "We lucked out."

The Little Giants rolled through the tournament as if they were rolling out a



CHRIS KAYSER, left, of Ross attacks Steve Dominick of Euclid in the 189-pound finals Saturday. Kayser won his third straight Mackey title.

wrestling mat. Ross recorded 17 pins on the day.

Headlining the purple victory parade was 189-pounder Chris Kayser.

He edged Euclid's Steve Dominick 4-0 en route to his third title and a piece of history. There have been only two other three-time champions: Matt McCumber of Rossford and

Ross's Brandon Willer. Willer accomplished the feat in 1996.

"I'm real proud of myself for taking it for the third time," Kayser said. "My main goal is to take it for the fourth time."

Kayser's final bout with Dominick was a battle. Both wrestlers worked for offense but found none. Kayser, shrugging off a nagging back injury,

Inside: St. Joe wrestles in Toledo; Woodmore, Oak Harbor host tournaments. **Page B3**

led 2-0 entering the final period. He earned one point from a Euclid technical foul — a Rossford coach was charged a one-point foul for questioning the official. The other point came via Dominick's second stalling call.

Two more back points in the closing minute gave Kayser the win, displeasing Dominick.

After the final whistle, he walked off the mat and stormed straight into the stands. "Because he refused to return and shake hands after the match, he was charged with flagrant misconduct and stripped of his award and team points. Additionally, he will have to sit out the next two events, and the incident will be reported to the state."

See **LITTLE GIANTS**, B3

Little Giants place 12, roll to 9th straight Mackey title

Continued From B1

Said Kayser, "He really lost his temper and basically lost it himself."

The weight of the Ross record book was heavy on Kayser. But, like his matches, he found a way to come out on top.

"I was real nervous. I almost went to the bathroom and did the whole puking thing. Once I got on the mat, it went right away," he said.

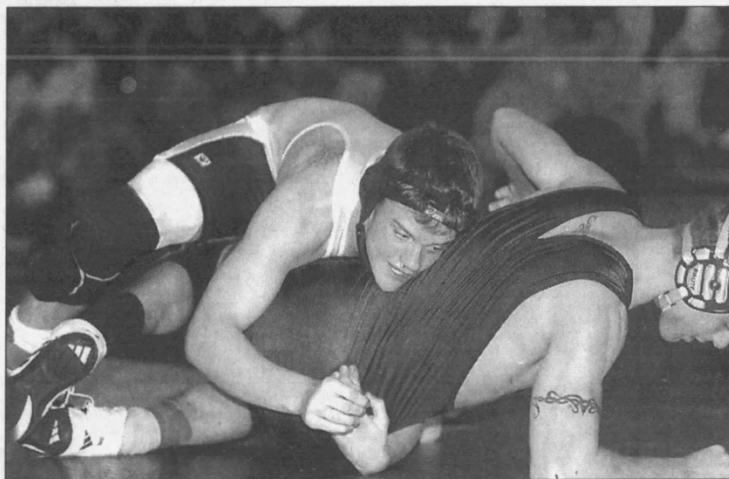
Ross senior Tommy Wagner (152) made quite an impression with his two matches. He was named the tournament's MVP en route to winning his second consecutive title.

After a first-round bye, he pinned Northview's Kyle Masney (2:51). In the finals, Wagner eked out a 3-1 victory over Garrett Bays of Otsego. Wagner had a tough time with Bays last year during an 8-7 win in the finals.

"He's a tough kid. I got that bulldog in the second period, but I was disappointed I didn't get any back points because time ran out," Wagner said. "Once I got that take-down going into the third period and I was up, I knew then that I had it locked up."

After Wagner, the Little Giants won the next three weight classes. Jesse Wukie (160) followed Wagner's lead. He edged Lima Senior's Cordell Turner 6-5 for his first title, but it was worth it.

"It's my last year in the Mackey. It was a good year for me to go out," Wukie said. "It's my first year winning it, and it couldn't be any better."



News-Messenger/Ben French

ANDREW LEGG, right, of Fremont Ross takes down Joe D'Amico of Euclid during Saturday's Mal Mackey Memorial tournament at the Purple Pit. Legg won the 171-pound division championship.

To get to the finals, Wukie posted a 16-2 major decision over Northview's Rusty Reinbolt, then pinned Perrysburg's Drew Peat (2:50).

Both Wukie and Andrew Legg (171) improved on runner-up placements a year ago. Legg controlled Euclid's Joe D'Amico for a 15-1 victory in the title match. Legg made it to the finals by pinning Perrysburg's Josh Woods (1:34) and Northwood's John Podany (3:00).

Austin Earle (140), the Little Giants' first champion, made his way to the finals with back-to-back pins. He decked Gary Osmond of Otsego (1:33), and then pinned Euclid's Scott Sattler (5:00) in the semifinals. In the finals, Earle edged Northwood's Brandon McGaharan, 7-6.

"The kids were ready for it. They really wanted it. I'm pretty much happy with all the kids. They were excited and ready to go," said Dowell, the tournament's

most outstanding coach for the second straight year.

Zac Potridge (112) was Ross's lone runner-up. He was pinned by Otsego's Dan Vaillant (3:27) in the finals. The Knights had three individual champions, second only to the Little Giants.

In the semifinals, Potridge posted a 15-9 major decision over DeMar Terrace of Euclid.

A quintet of Little Giants came off the victory podium with third-place medals.

Sam Krueger (103) downed Sylvania Northview's Tom Current 8-4 to secure placement. Krueger beat him 8-0 in the opening round.

Jake Gutschalk (130) pinned Perrysburg's Luke Sundermeier (4:26). Gutschalk also earned a 7-4 victory over Northview's Andy Darr, and pinned Euclid's James Jukiewicz (1:10).

After dropping his semifinal bout to eventual champion Joe Gerwin of Otsego, Myles Porter (145) had two straight pins for third place. He took care of Northwood's Cody Miller (3:59) and Kyle Weekley of Lima (4:32).

Brandon Wolf (215), who filled in for the injured Luke Swint, came away with third place by pinning Bowling Green's Jake Rischel (2:50). Wolf was pinned by Euclid's Myron McConnell (1:56), dropping him into the consolation bracket.

Heavyweight Jarrod Pena also came away with third place after pinning Otsego's Colin Perry (2:10). Pena also pinned Northview's Nick Mucci (52 seconds) to get into the consolation finals.

One Ross wrestler fought hard for fourth place. Jaime Resendez (125) was pinned by Perrysburg's Tony Castillo (2:44) in the consolation finals. He opened the tournament with a 14-12 decision of Northwood's Ian Black, but then lost 15-7 to Sylvania Northview's Ryan Wood. Resendez battled back in the consolation round by pinning Otsego's Josh Bradford (31 seconds).

On Wednesday, the Little Giants travel to Toledo Whitmer for a key Great Lakes League dual.

Wrestling

High School

Mal Mackey Tournament

Team Scores

Ross	190
Perrysburg	146.5
Otsego	100
Euclid	96
Sylvania Northview	85
Northwood	69.5
Lima	68
Bowling Green	50

Ross Results

Championship Matches

- 112 — Dan Vaillant (Ot) p. Zac Potridge (R) 3:27
140 — Austin Earle (R) dec. Brandon McGaharan (NW) 1-6
152 — Tommy Wagner (R) dec. Garrett Bays (Ot) 3-1
160 — Jesse Wukie (R) dec. Cordell Turner (Lima) 6-5
171 — Andrew Legg (R) maj. dec. Joe D'Amico (Eu) 15-1
189 — Chris Kayser (R) dec. Steve Dominick (Eu) 4-0

Third Place Matches

- 103 — Sam Krueger (R) dec. Tom Current (BG) 8-4
125 — Tony Castillo (NW) p. Jamie Resendez (R) 2:44
130 — Jake Gutschalk (R) p. Luke Sundermeier (BG) 4:26
145 — Myles Porter (R) p. Kyle Weekley (Lima) 4:32
215 — Brandon Wolf (R) p. Jake Rischel (BG) 2:50
HWT — Jarrod Pena (R) p. Colin Perry (Ot) 2:10

Giant wrestlers tackle Whitmer in league battle

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO — Consecutive first-period pins by Jesse Wukie, Andrew Legg and Chris Kayser carried the Fremont Ross wrestling team to an important Great Lakes League victory over Toledo Whitmer on Wednesday.

Wukie, Legg and Kayser pinned their Panthers opponents

in the 160-, 171- and 189-pound matches as the Little Giants earned a 38-34

Inside: St. Joe sweeps Margaretta, Seneca East. **Page B3**

victory. Ross improved to 4-3 in dual matches and 3-1 in the GLL.

Wukie pinned Todd Ridgeway in one minute, 42 seconds; Legg took down Steve Herman in 1:46; and Kayser stopped Chase Eichorn in 1:57.

Also winning for Ross were Zac Potridge (119 pounds) and Jake Gutschalk (130).

Potridge recorded a technical fall on Desmond Henry, and Gutschalk claimed a 10-5 decision over Kirk Bowman. Ross wrestlers Sam Krueger (103) and Jarrod Pena (275) won by forfeit.

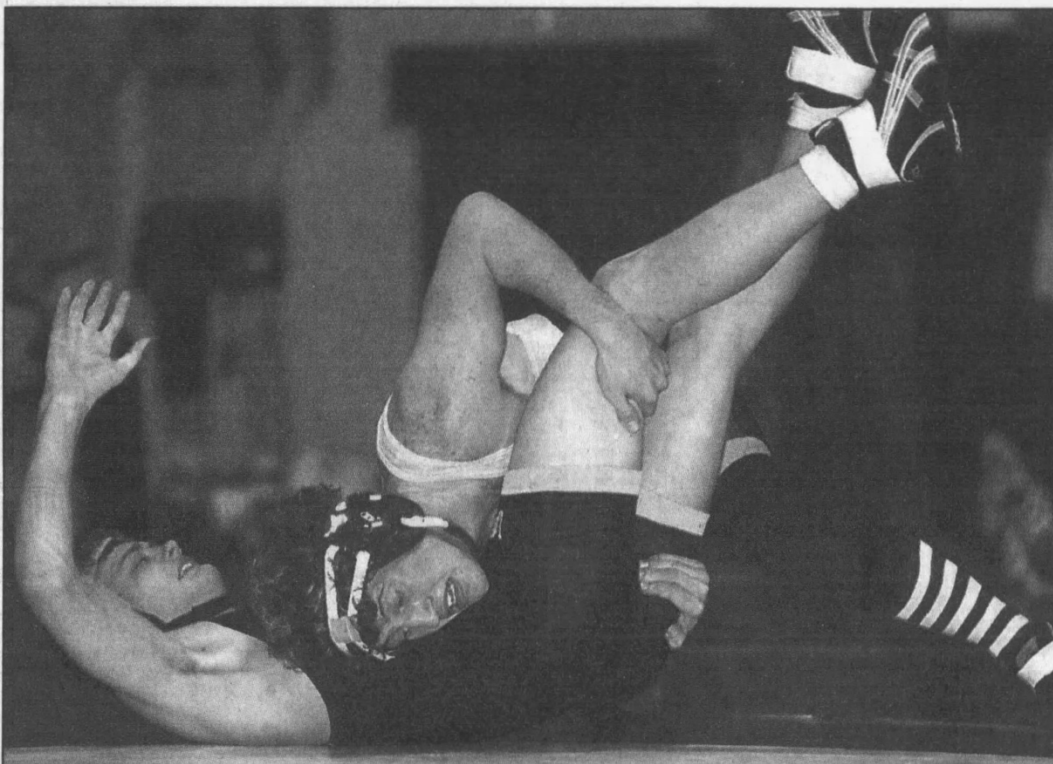
Ross hosts Findlay on Jan. 23.

Ross 38, Whitmer 34

- 103 — Sam Krueger (R) forfeit
- 112 — Ryan Macut (W) dec. Kyle Polter
13-11
- 119 — Zac Potridge (R) tech. fall
Desmond Henry
- 125 — Derek Stender (W) forfeit
- 130 — Jake Gutschalk (R) dec. Kirk
Bowman 10-5
- 135 — Jason Dalton (W) forfeit
- 140 — Chad Sharp (W) maj. dec.
Austin Earle 15-2
- 145 — Tim Root (W) p. Myles Porter
4:59
- 152 — Dan Gurney (W) dec. Tommy
Wagner 9-8
- 160 — Jesse Wukie (R) p. Todd Ridge-
way 1:42
- 171 — Andrew Legg (R) p. Steve Her-
man 1:46
- 189 — Chris Kayser (R) p. Chase Ei-
chorn 1:57
- 215 — Chris Brown (W) p. Brandon
Wolfe :35
- 275 — Jarrod Pena (R) forfeit

High School Wrestling

Ross trumps Trojans



News-Messenger photos/Ben French

ZAC POTRIDGE, right, of Ross battles Findlay's Chris Johnson during Wednesday's Great Lakes League match at the Purple Pit.

Giants sweep double-dual, keep GLL hopes alive

By **ALEXIUS TOMASZEWSKI**
Staff writer

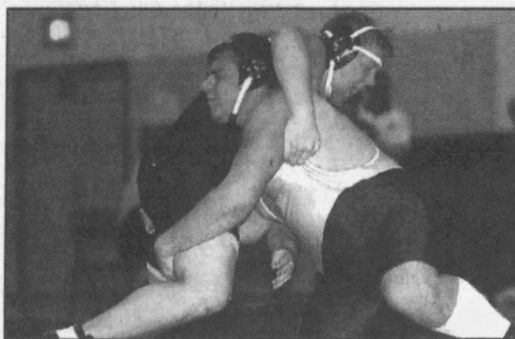
One of Fremont Ross's smallest wrestlers came up big Wednesday.

Senior Zac Potridge (112) posted a convincing 16-1 technical fall over Findlay's Troy Gwinn to clinch the Little Giants' 39-27 Great Lakes League victory during a double-dual at the Purple Pit.

Ross (4-1 GLL) also defeated former GLL member Lorain Admiral King 61-22. The Trojans downed Admirals 66-15.

With Ross and Findlay dueling on two mats, the team score went back and forth. The Little Giants led by only four points heading into the 112-pound bout with two matches remaining.

"I knew it was pretty close, but I just went out and did what I had to do. I knew I had



JARROD PENA, right, of Ross attacks Tom Bennett of Lorain Admiral King in the heavyweight match Wednesday.

to get the most points for my team," Potridge said.

Potridge dominated Gwinn in the first period, taking him down left and right for a 15-1 score. At the start of the sec-

ond period, he hit a quick switch on the opening whistle for the technical fall.

"I told him we'd have to have a pin," Ross head coach Grover Dowell said. "That's

probably the best I've seen him wrestle all year. He was quick and aggressive, but he was still in control."

Ross trails Fostoria by one match in the GLL standings. The Little Giants can make a push for the crown with a strong showing at the league tournament on Feb. 9 at the Purple Pit.

Said Dowell, "That (win over Findlay) really helps. They had to have that to even think of the GLL tournament to make a run. They should feel confident now."

Potridge, who also had a 21-6 technical fall over Admiral King's Chris Johnson, was one of Ross's eight double winners. Sam Krueger (103), Jake Gutschalk (130), Kyle Wensing (145), Tommy

See **ROSS**, B2

Ross wrestlers down Findlay, Admiral King in double-dual

Continued From B1

Wagner (152), Jesse Wukie (160), Andrew Legg (171) and Jarrod Pena (275) were the others.

"I thought they were really aggressive. Findlay is a really improved team. And I never expected us to come out as well as we did against King," Dowell said. "I was real happy."

Krueger defeated Findlay's Preston Wray 11-8 and picked up a forfeit. Gutschalk came away with a 4-3 decision over Findlay's Rick Aleski and downed Admiral King's Donny Lipscomb 10-6. Wensinger earned a 11-8 decision over Findlay's Taylor Runyon and pocketed a forfeit.

After Wensinger's victory at 145, Ross would go on to claim the next three weight classes in both matches. Wagner, who had one of eight Little Giant pins, decked Admiral King's Scott Griffith in one minute, 15 seconds. He then defeated Findlay's Noah Williams 13-5. Wukie followed with a pin of Jonathan Lu-

go of Admiral King (44 seconds), and downed Trojan Bill Seng 8-3.

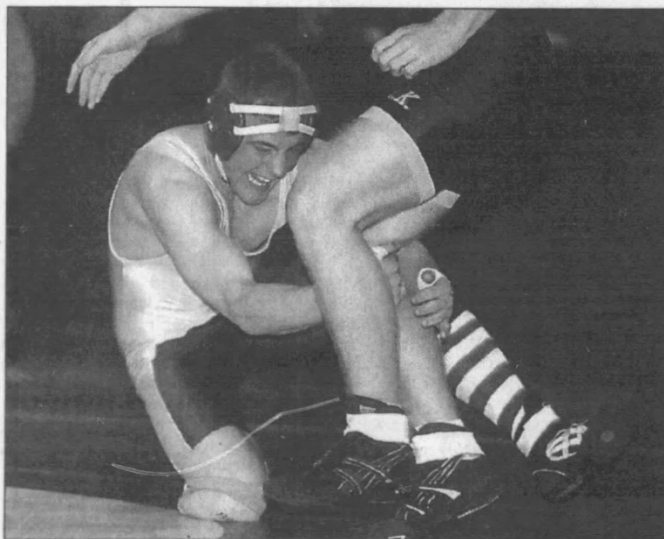
Legg showed strength with a 21-4 technical fall over Admiral King's Mike Meinhold; he also pinned Findlay's Jeff Thomas (5:58). Pena had the two quickest falls on the night. He pinned Admiral King's Tom Bennett (31 seconds) and Findlay's Brian Polutnik (32 seconds).

The Little Giants also got victories from Austin Earle (140) and Chris Kayser (189) against Admiral King, and a triumph from Kyle Polter (119) against the Trojans.

It had been 14 days since Ross wrestled, and it showed in some wrestlers.

"I was really surprised. It looked like a couple of our kids began to suck wind towards the end of some of the matches. I can't believe that, seeing how hard they work. Maybe we've got to work a little harder," Dowell said.

The Little Giants face Port Clinton and Norwalk in a double-dual on Jan. 30 in Port Clinton.



News-Messenger/Ben French

TOMMY WAGNER of Fremont Ross shoots in on Lorain Admiral King opponent Scott Griffith during Wednesday's match at the Purple Pit. Wanger won a pair of matches as the Little Giants swept Findlay and Admiral King in a double-dual.

Wrestling

High School

Ross 61, Lorain Admiral King 22

103 — Sam Krueger (R) forfeit
112 — Zac Potridge (R) tech fall Chris Johnson 21-6
119 — Miguel DeJesus (L) p. Kyle Polter 1:08
125 — Jayson Cook (L) tech fall Jamie Resendez 22-7
130 — Jake Gutschalk (R) dec. Donny Lipscomb 10-6
135 — Forfeit
140 — Austin Earle (R) Craig Wood 5:11
145 — Kyle Wensinger (R) forfeit
152 — Tommy Wagner (R) p. Scott Griffith 1:15
160 — Jesse Wukie (R) p. Johnathan Lugo :44
171 — Andrew Legg (R) tech fall Mike Meinhold 21-4
189 — Chris Kayser (R) p. Keith Wood 1:15
215 — Leon Lewis (L) tech fall Brandon Wolf 20-4
HWT — Jarrod Pena (R) p. Tom Bennett :31.

Ross 39, Findlay 27

103 — Sam Krueger (R) dec. Preston Wray 11-8
112 — Zac Potridge (R) tech fall Troy Czwin 17-1
119 — Kyle Polter (R) p. Josh Schumaker 3:05
125 — Paul Hugar (F) p. Jamie Resendez 1:02
130 — Jake Gutschalk (R) dec. Rick Alessi 4-3
135 — Ryan Duenke (F) forfeit
140 — Drew Rimelspach (F) p. Austin Earle 5:16
145 — Kyle Wensinger (R) dec. Taylor Roynon 11-8
152 — Tommy Wagner (R) maj dec. Noah Williams 13-5
160 — Jesse Wukie (R) dec. Bill Seng 8-3
171 — Andrew Legg (R) p. Jeff Thomas 5:58
189 — Eric Duenke (F) dec. Chris Kayser 7-6
215 — Eric Bremm (F) p. Brandon Wolf 3:13
HWT — Jarrod PE na (R) p. Brian Polutnik :32

Ross gets coach his 100th win

Giants split double-dual with Norwalk, Port Clinton

By ALEXIUS TOMASZEWSKI
Staff writer

PORT CLINTON — Fremont Ross wrestling coach Grover Dowell was nervous about Wednesday night's double-dual because his team would forfeit three matches.

He was half right.

The Little Giants edged Port Clinton 39-33 and bowed to Norwalk 37-35 in a non-league double-dual.

The Redskins downed Norwalk 41-32.

Battling an 18-point deficit in each match was challenging enough, but the reward was special for Dowell. The six-point win over the Redskins clinched his 100th career victory.

Dowell, an 11-year veteran, was presented with a plaque by assistant coach Don Wensinger and the Little Giants after match.

"That was one of my personal goals since way back when," Dowell said. "I actually wanted to keep it quiet. It's something I've wanted to do, and the kids helped me out."

Six Ross wrestlers each recorded a pair of wins to help Dowell reach the milestone. Luke Swint (215 pounds) led the way with two pins. Zac Potridge (112), Tommy Wagner (152), Mike Shanahan (160), Andrew Legg (171) and Chris Kayser (189) also notched double victories.

Wrestling



DOWELL

See WRESTLERS, B2

Wrestlers help coach to career milestone

Continued From B1

Wagner, a senior, said the team was unaware its coach was on the brink of 100 victories. Wagner said the wrestlers took pride in helping Dowell.

"Once I heard the news that coach got his 100th win, it meant a lot to me personally since I've been here since I was a freshman. He's taught me a lot about the sport and brought me along really well," Wagner said.

Splitting the double-dual had a silver lining for Dowell, who said his team was sluggish.

"I didn't think our kids wrestled up to par," he said. "But when you're sitting there giving up 18 points right off the bat, it really hurts. It think they were drained a little, mentally, from giving up that many points."

Ross forfeited the 125- and 135-pound and heavyweight weight divisions because of various suspensions and injuries.

The Little Giants (7-4-1) tried to make up for the forfeits by getting pins. They had seven on the night. Swint pinned Port Clinton's Justin Kochensparger in one minute, 49 sec-

onds and later pinned Norwalk's Adam Finch (1:37). Wagner pinned Redskin Kyle Bodi in 36 seconds, while Zac Potridge decked Port Clinton's Josh Cornell in 2:39.

Ross's Sam Krueger (103) downed Redskin Ty Nemecek 9-7. Shanahan edged Jason Adkins 16-11, and Kayser followed later with an 8-4 win over Jamie Arthur. Kyle Polter (119) and Legg each had forfeits against the Redskins.

Against the Truckers, Shanahan pinned Rick Gormeck (1:35), and Legg followed by pinning Paul Gardner (1:39). Kayser then pinned Jor-

dan Tkach (1:41). Potridge picked up his second triumph with a 10-4 win over Trucker Tyler Sabatino, and Jake Gutschalk (130) posted a 17-2 technical fall over Robert Osborne.

Ross hosts the Great Lakes League Tournament on Feb. 9. The Little Giants, who are second in the standings behind Fostoria, will need to regroup.

"They're going to have to wrestle a lot better than what they did tonight to be able to take that. Hopefully, at that point, we'll be able to fill those three weight classes," Dowell said.

Wrestling

High School

Ross 39, Port Clinton 33

103 — Sam Krueger (R) dec. Ty Ne-
meck 9-7

112 — Zac Potridge (R) p. Josh Cornell
2:39

119 — Kyle Polter (R) forfeit

125 — Brian Bergman (PC) forfeit

130 — Bill Newman (PC) p. Jake
Gutschalk 1:40

135 — Dan Reyna (PC) forfeit

140 — Dustin Cornell (PC) dec. Austin
Earle 7-6

145 — Matt Buchman (PC) p. Myles
Porter 3:45

152 — Tommy Wagner (R) p. Kyle Bo-
di :36

160 — Mike Shanahan (R) dec. Jason
Adkins 16-11

171 — Andrew Legg (R) forfeit

189 — Chris Kayser (R) dec. Jamie
Arthur 8-4

215 — Luke Swint (R) p. Justin Kuch-
ersparger 1:49

HWT — Dale Dukeshire (PC) forfeit

Norwalk 37, Ross 35

103 — Shawn Ritzenthaler (N) p. Sam
Krueger :23

112 — Zac Potridge (R) dec. Tyler
Sabatino 10-4

119 — Zach Loughridge (N) p. Kyle
Polter 3:52

125 — Jason Ewell (N) forfeit

130 — Jake Gutschalk (R) tech. Robert
Osborne 17-2

135 — Chester Collins (N) forfeit

140 — Mikal Resor (N) dec. Austin Ear-
le 7-0

145 — Matt Goostree (N) maj. Myles
Porter 16-6

152 — Tommy Wagner (R) dec. Matt
Ott 6-4

160 — Mike Shanahan (R) p. Rick
Gormeck 1:35

171 — Andrew Legg (R) p. Paul Gard-
ner 1:39

189 — Chris Kayser (R) p. Jordan
Tkach 1:41

215 — Luke Swint (R) p. Adam Finch 1:37

HWT — Art Metcalf (N) forfeit

Lyle, Clark lead Ross in GLL voting

FOSTORIA — Fremont Ross juniors Luke Lyle and Chad Clark were named to the first team in All-Great Lakes League voting released Wednesday.

Lyle and Clark led the Little Giants to a co-championship with Findlay. Ross head coach Mark Gedeon shared coach of the year honors with Findlay's Jim Rucki. The Trojans' Rob Young was voted player of the year.

In girls basketball balloting, Ross senior Laura Wilson earned first-team mention. Clay's Kate Achter is the top player, and her father and coach, Roger Achter, is the top coach.

Two members of Ross's league title wrestling team made the first team. Zac Potridge and Jake Gutschalk were named to the first team, while Sam Krueger, Mike Shanahan, Andrew Legg, Chris Kayser and Jarrod Pena were second-team picks. Little Giants head coach Grover Dowell shared coach of the year honors with Fostoria's Chuck Mason.

Mike Zeiler of Oregon Clay was chosen the GLL Wrestler of the Year.

