

1993 Season review...

Little Giants looking to surprise in 1993

By BOB MARKER

Staff writer

A nucleus of five returning letterwinners will anchor the Fremont Ross girls cross country team.

Second-year coach Cathy Mallia is coming off a 2-4 dual record in 1992. The nucleus, though, has her thinking of a loftier goal this season.

"I feel with the experience of many runners and the strength of the leaders, there may be some great surprises," said Mallia, a former runner at Ross. "The major goal for the team is to win the league (Great Lakes League) title."

Heather Mears — a senior who spent her junior year on the injured list — along with junior Carey Gill — a second-team GLL performer in 1992 — lead the let-

terwinners.

Transfer Grace Durnell, from Merced, Calif., and Sara Williams are expected to bolster the experienced Ross runners.

Williams, a tennis player last fall, was a regional qualifier in the 800-meter run in the spring track season.

"We have girls with much of the same abilities," Mallia said. "They will be capable of packing well to score points."

"One problem we may have is between the leaders and the rest."

Mallia's girls open the season on the Little Giants' new course at Walsh Park, located just past the Camelback Bridge on Morrison St. The meet against Fostoria and Oregon Clay begins at 4:15 p.m.

Experience key for Ross boys

By BOB MARKER
Staff writer

There are few seniors, but the lettermen are in place for coach John Elder's Fremont Ross boys cross country team.

"Our team should have the experience," Elder said, "because our top five runners are back."

That quintet includes most valuable runner Dane Snyder, a junior who qualified for the regional meet last season.

Sophomore Jeremiah Wagner, the Little Giants' number two runner a season ago, leads the remaining returning lettermen. Wagner was a regional qualifier in the 3200-meter run during the spring track season.

Others include seniors Tim Leeth, Matt Henning and Nate Cox, junior Doug Jibilian and

sophomore Clint Hill.

The top newcomer is the team's only freshman, Kurt Snyder.

"We should be better," Elder said. Last season, the Little Giants were 1-6 in the Great Lakes League and 43-46 including invitationals.

"We had a good preseason," the Ross coach said, "and we are looking for a much better season. We definitely want to improve on our league record and get some kids to the state meet."

Elder said his team does lack depth and can't afford any injuries.

The Little Giants open the season at 4:15 p.m. Tuesday against Fostoria and Oregon Clay on the Lost Trails Course at Walsh Park.

Ross runners earn sweep, split at home

News-Messenger reports

A quartet of "perfect" scores highlighted the first official high school meet at the new Walsh Trails cross country course Tuesday.

The Fremont Ross girls won, twice while the boys split **Cross Country**

a ^N G r e a t Lakes League triangular meet with Oregon Clay and Fostoria in the season debut for all three schools.

The Ross girls beat Fostoria 20-41 and Clay 15-50 — a perfect score because all five Ross runners and two displacers finished in front of the opponent's first runner. Fostoria beat the Clay girls 15-50.

The Ross boys beat Fostoria 15-50 but fell to Clay 20-35. Clay beat Fostoria 15-50.

"Things came out the way I thought," Ross boys coach John Elder said, "but I did think we would give Clay a bit more of a challenge."

Brad Mills of Clay won in 16 minutes, 39 seconds; Dane Snyder of Ross was third in 17:30 and Jeremiah Wagner fifth in 18:05.

In the girls meet, Grace Durnell of Ross won in 20:55 as Ross took four of the top six spots. Sara Williams of Ross was second in 21:32 with Carey Gill fourth and Monica Wood sixth.

Durnell paces Ross girls

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross girls, behind a first-place finish by senior Grace Durnell, took third Saturday at the Celina Invitational Cross Country Meet.

Durnell won the 3.1-mile race in 20 minutes, 7 seconds and sophomore teammate Sarah Williams was second in 20:32.

"She ran an excellent race," Ross coach Cathy Mallia said of Durnell. "She and Sarah both ran stupendous races. They ran together most of the race and Grace, due to her experience, pulled away toward the finish."

Toledo Whitmer took first in the team standings, with 60 points. Findlay was second with 66 and the Little Giants had 85.

"I expected to have a tough time with Whitmer and Findlay," Mallia said. "I more than expected to place in the top five, and I thought we had a chance to win it."

The Ross boys, behind a pair of top 10 individual finishes, took fourth place.

Dane Snyder finished seventh and Jeremiah Wagner 10th for the Little Giants. Snyder finished in 17:20 and Wagner was nine seconds off that pace.

St. John's won the meet with 50 points. Whitmer was second with 51, St. Marys Memorial third with 106 and Ross had 117.

"It was a big improvement," Ross coach John Elder said. "We've been running harder (more miles) and I think it will pay off. This was a good day for Ross cross country."

Doug Jibilian was the third Ross runner, taking 23rd in 18:14.

Ross bunches runners to win; SJCC girls 2nd at new Riegel

News-Messenger reports

First place, and second, wasn't good enough for Findlay against Fremont Ross Tuesday in boys high school cross country action.

Ross placed runners third through ninth and beat the Trojans 25-36 at Riverbend Reservoir in Findlay.

Two Trojans turned in blistering times, David Heine first in 16:13 and Sam Bell second in 16:19. Ross then bunched seven runners in front of Findlay's next runner.

Dane Snyder led the Little Giants, finishing third in 17:05.

Findlay defeated Ross 26-31 in the girls meet despite a first-place finish by the Little Giants Grace Durnell, who finished in 20:20 — three seconds in front of Findlay's Jenny Piper.

Cross Country

Clyde triangular

Winner Kelly Taylor broke her own course record at Community Park, knocking 42 seconds off with a clocking of 20:17.

The Fliers had five runners in the top 10 and scored 26, Huron totaled 40 and Oak Harbor 63. Oak Harbor's Lynn Garrett was the second individual in 20:35.

In the boys race, Clyde's Jeremy Dennis placed first in 17:07 but the Fliers' 61 points trailed Oak Harbor's 27 and Huron's 46. The Rockets put seven runners in the top 10, paced by Bill Walker's second-place finish in 17:56.

Eastwood triangular

Five points separated the three boys teams as Eastwood finished with 40 points to Gibsonburg's 41

Little Giants running well

News-Messenger reports

TIFFIN — The Fremont Ross boys team passed the test that is the Tiffin Cross Country Carnival.

"It was a good team effort," Ross coach John Elder said after the Little Giants placed fifth in the Division I-B race at Hedges-Boyer Park Saturday.

"We had four guys under 18 minutes, which is encouraging. This meet is always competitive, so to do well is a good goal and a confidence builder."

Jeremiah Wagner led Ross, finishing 14th in 17:06. Dane Snyder was 18th in 17:17, Doug Jibilian 35th in 17:44 and Chris Krumnow 39th in 17:50.

Ross finished with 154 points, trailing Toledo St. John's (84), Amherst (118), Toledo Start (123) and Toledo St. Francis (127). Scott Mullan led St. John's, winning the race in 16:10.

Grace Durnell broke Amy Ritzman's Ross school record in the girls Division I-A meet. Durnell finished 10th in 19:31 — 23 seconds quicker than Ritzman's best and 1:15 slower than the first-place time.

The Little Giants placed 19th with 442 points, while Toledo Central Catholic won the meet with 140.

Little Giants sweep BG

News Messenger reports

Fremont Ross ran past Bowling Green's boys and girls at Walsh Trails Thursday, winning the boys meet 23-32 and the girls 27-28.

The Little Giants placed three runners in the top four as Jere-
miah Wag-**Cross Country**
ner paced all runners at 19:28 and teammate Kurt Snyder was second at 19:44.

Grace Durnell and Sarah Williams finished second and third in 21:56 and 22:57, respectively, for the Ross girls.

News-Messenger reports

Oak Harbor took the team title in the boys Division AA race with 75 points Saturday at the Perrysburg Cross Country Invitational. Bryan was second with 78 points and Napoleon third with 86.

Gibsonburg, with 139 points, took third in the 22-team Division A race. Blissfield won with 94 points and Ayersville was second with 116. Old Fort was fifth with 154, Woodmore was seventh and Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic 13th.

Oak Harbor was led by Scott Schmidt, eighth in 17 minutes, 37 seconds. The Rockets' Bill Walker was 12th in 17:47, followed by Rick Griege (16th, 17:55), Ben Wood (18th, 17:58), Josh Montano (21st, 18:11) and Dan Clark (24th, 18:22).

Oak Harbor coach Bob Van Horn said the Rockets "ran great."

"They looked strong the whole race," he said. "They ran under control."

Gibsonburg's Steve Smith finished seventh in 17:27, followed by teammates Mike Oberhaus (25th, 18:37), Josh Egbert (31st, 18:48), Brent Fahle (34th, 18:53) and Todd Magrum (43rd, 19:10).

For St. Joe, Jon Burroughs was 36th in 18:57, followed by Jon Link (50th, 19:25), Christian Moore (59th, 19:42), Brett Reineck (83rd, 20:19) and Tad Oxley (86th, 20:26).

Woodmore's Ben Stebing took fifth in 17:21 and Sam Fitzpatrick was eighth in 17:41.

Lakota's Sam Windom was ninth in Division AA, finishing in 17:37. Richie Rathburn was 31st in 18:37, Mike Hunter 33rd in 18:41, Jeremy Harrison 43rd in 19:02 and Andy Wasserman 66th in 19:35.

Oak Harbor's reserve team won the boys' Open race with 36 points, while Napoleon was second with 38. Matt Esh was second for the Rockets, finishing in 19:18.

St. Joe's junior high boys team took 23rd place. The Crimson Streaks' top finisher was Larry LaSalvia, who placed 85th in 12:19.

Galion Invitational

Ashland won the Galion Invitational at Amann Park, registering 44 points. Tiffin was second with 70 and Fremont Ross was

Boys Cross Country

sixth in the 10-team event with 136.

Jeremiah Wagner had the top finish for the Little Giants, placing 13th in 16:51. Other times were turned in by Chris Krumnow (21st, 17:06), Kurt Snyder (31st, 17:39), Dane Snyder (32nd, 17:41) and Clint Hill (39th, 17:58).

"Our top five was under 18:00 and this is one of our goals," Ross coach John Elder said. "Doug Jibilian, our No. 3 man, is out with an injury and Dane (Snyder) was sick, so this was a good meet."

Ross' Andy Hague competed in the Open race and finished 29th in 19:26. In the junior high race, the Little Giants' Eli Semer was 21st in 12:52.

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Galion Invitational

Fremont Ross, with 107 points, took third in the 10-team Division I race at Amann Park.

Tiffin Columbian won the meet with 58 points and Ashland was second with 89.

Grace Durnell and Sarah Williams took first and second, respectively, for the Little Giants.

Durnell won the race in 19:20 while Williams clocked in at 19:34. Teammate Carey Gill was 31st in 22:08, followed by Heather Mears (35th, 22:28) and Jessica Potter (38th, 22:37).

In the junior high race, Ross had 51 points to win the team championship.

Jami Toeppe took first in 12:43, followed by Lindsay Frontz (8th, 14:13), Kristyn Warner (13th, 14:29), Alison Kelly (14th, 12:29) and Michelle Salas (15th, 14:32).

Ross boys split

News-Messenger reports

The depth of the Fremont Ross boys cross country team surfaced again Tuesday as the Little Giants split dual meets with Toledo Whitmer and Napoleon.

Ross ran by Napoleon 27-28, but Whitmer beat the Little Giants 18-41 at Pine Glen Park in Toledo.

"Our boys ran on an extremely tough course," Ross coach John Elder **Cross Country** said.

"Realistically, I knew that we couldn't beat Whitmer, but I felt we could beat Napoleon."

Dane Snyder finished fifth and Jeremiah Wagner eighth for the Little Giants, running 17:53 and 17:59, respectively.

"Our number three, four, and five runners gave us the win," Elder said.

Chris Kumnow, Clint Hill, and Kurt Snyder each finished in front of the third Napoleon runner.

The Ross girls, meanwhile, lost twice. Napoleon edged the Little Giants 28-27, and Whitmer prevailed 25-30.

Sarah Williams was third in 20:24, and Grace Durnell fourth in 21:03.

Maumee Invitational

Fremont Ross finished third in the boys competition as Dane Snyder placed 10th in 16:59.

The Little Giants finished with 77 points, trailing Toledo St. John's with 30 and Bedford (Mich.) with 38.

Other finishers for Ross included Jeremiah Wagner (11th in 17:03), Chris Krumnow (17th in 17:47), Kurt Snyder (19th) in 18:02), Doug Jibilian (20th in 18:07), Tim Leeth (22nd in 18:09) and Clint Hill (23rd in 18:10).

The Ross girls placed second with 49 points, which was five points behind Whitmer.

Grace Durnell of Ross won the race in 19:32, finishing 13 seconds in front of teammate Sarah Williams.

Other finishers for Ross were Carey Gill (12th in 21:39), Jessica Potter (16th in 22:06), Monica Wood (18th in 22:12) and Annie Mears (22nd in 22:53).

In the girls Division I race, Fremont Ross was ninth with 268 points. Toledo Central Catholic won with 57. Grace Durnell of Ross was seventh in 19:20.

In the Eagle Invitational boys meet, Ross was eighth as Jeremiah Wagner finished 35th in 17:08, three seconds ahead of teammate DAné Snyder.

Ross splits

Dane Snyder finished third in 16:14 as Ross split a Great Lakes League double-dual cross country meet Tuesday in Bedford, Mich.

Ross defeated Sylvania Northview 19-36, but Bedford topped the Little Giants 20-36.

Jeremiah Wagner placed fifth in 16:50 for Ross, and Chris Krumnow was 10th in 17:51.

Grace Durnell finished first in 19:22 and Sarah Williams second in 20:47 as the Ross girls also split.

The Little Giants downed Bedford 19-41, but Northview won 26-33.