

2002 State...

Legg, Szymanowski, LeJeune carry Fremont banners at state

Division I

Area Wrestler: Andrew Legg (171), Fremont Ross.

Outlook: Legg (33-2), a sophomore, surprised even himself on Saturday by becoming the Little Giants' first district champion since 1995. Technique and fortitude carried Legg all season, and he will rely on those when things get physical. Winning the district helped his draw immensely. Only West Carrollton's Dan White (40-1) has a better record than Legg in the bottom half of the bracket. Also in the mix is Mayfield's J. R. Fairman (39-4). He finished fourth last year. Legg faces Willoughby South junior D.J. Delande (18-10). Delande took fourth at the Mentor District.

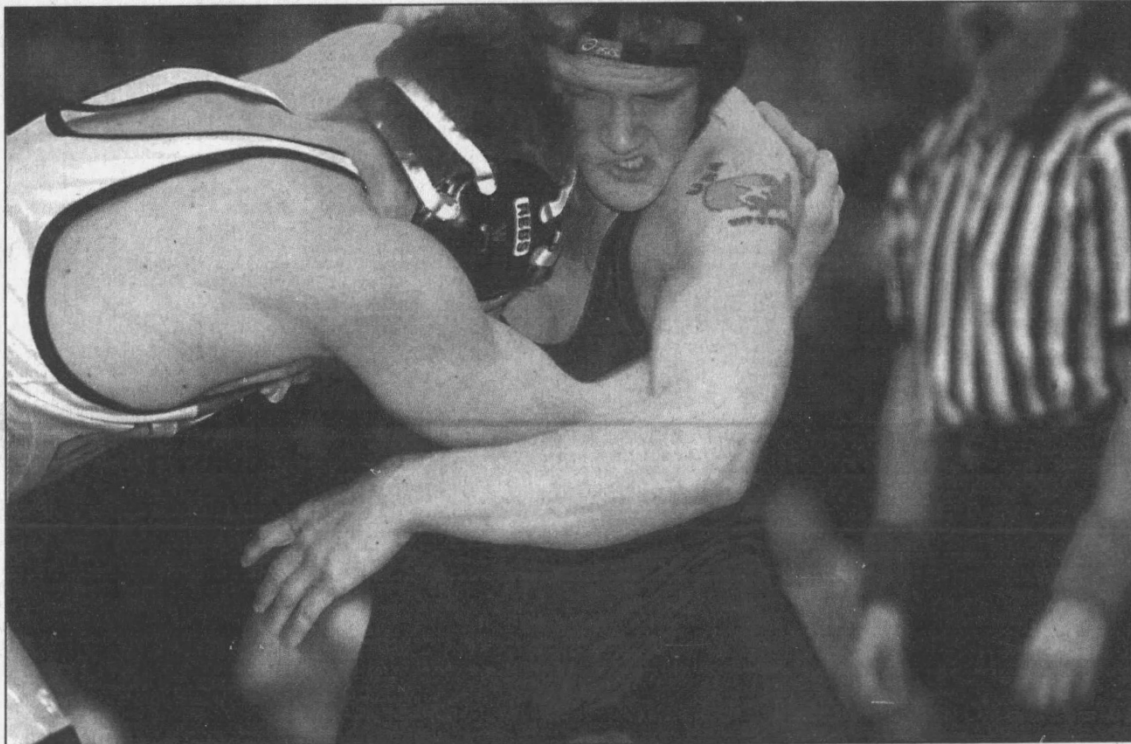
in the first round. Faist was a runner-up at the Akron District. Experience may pay off for Lochotzki, who is one of three returning state placers in his weight class. Paul Bergman (35-5) faces Rayland Buckeye Local senior David Bertolino (42-2). He finished third at the Watkins Memorial District. Bergman's weight class holds four returning state placers. Joe Bergman (29-5) battles Dino Razzano (25-7) of Columbus DeSales. Bergman also has to think about St. Paris Graham's Joey Dennis. The sophomore owns a (32-2) record and is one of three returning state placers, but the only one the top half of the bracket. J.D. Bergman (39-0) is the only undefeated wrestler in his bracket, yet it boasts four wrestlers with more than 40 victories. Bergman opens with Walsh Jesuit senior

Lakota; Dustin Malott (140), Margaretta.

Outlook: Both LeJeune and Szymanowski hope to build on previous trips to Columbus by placing. LeJeune (36-7) squares off against North Lewisburg Triad's Levi Wyant (37-1). Wyant was the champion at the Xenia District, but LeJeune should be prepared. He came out of one of the toughest sectionals, with all four placers from Plymouth still competing at state. Szymanowski (35-12) faces freshman Kurt Schnittger (30-12) from Rocky River Lutheran West. He finished fourth at the Elyria Catholic District. Beachwood senior Mike Linsker (37-1) is in the bottom half of the bracket, but is a returning three-time state placer.

Perkins (37-5) makes his first trip to state

On pace for the pod



News-Messenger photos/Ben French

ANDREW LEGG, right, of Fremont Ross wraps up D.J. Delande of Willoughby South during a first-round match Thursday at the Division I state wrestling tournament at the Schottenstein Center in Columbus. Legg claimed a 10-3 victory in his first state appearance to advance to today's quarterfinal round.

Legg, Szymanowski lead march into quarters

Day 1 at the state tourney

Following is the standing of the 22 area wrestlers after the first day of the state tournament:

Still perfect

Div. I: Andrew Legg, Ross.

Div. II: Keith Kline, Oak Harbor; Paul Bergman, Oak Harbor; J.D. Bergman, Oak Harbor; Zach Levy, Oak Harbor; Matt Jacobs, Bellevue.

Div. III: Dan Szymanowski, St. Joe; Brian Jacobs, Lakota; Dustin Malott, Margaretta; Juan Lopez, Genoa.

Down, but not out

Div. II: T.C. Hoffman, Clyde; Bob Blackburn, Clyde; Dominic Lochotzki, Oak Harbor; Joe Bergman, Oak Harbor; Quentin Smith, Bellevue; Dan Jarrett, Bellevue.

Div. III: Robbie LeJeune, St. Joe; Matt Garber, Woodmore; Ralph Roberts, Woodmore.

Bowed out

Div. II: Dan Rogers, Clyde.
Div. III: Chad Perkins, Gibsonburg; Mike Widmer, Genoa.

By **SCOTT BLACK**
News-Messenger correspondent

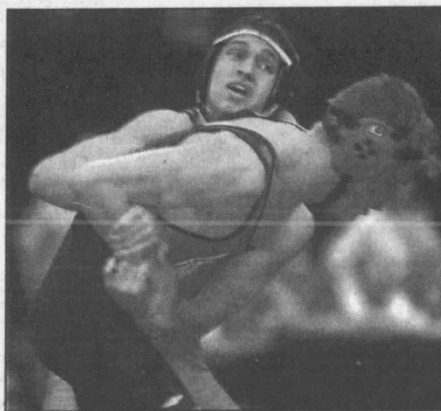
COLUMBUS — Fremont Ross wrestler Andrew Legg had to deal with a deep chest cold and a sliced finger, not to mention his nerves, during his first career match at state Thursday.

Divisions I, III

But the 171-pound sophomore emerged with a 10-3 victory over D.J. Delande of Willoughby South to advance to the Division I championship quarterfinals during opening-day action at the Schottenstein Center.

"After winning the first match, I'm a lot less nervous," Legg said. "I really felt better in the match after I loosened up and started to wrestle."

Legg (34-2) said he cut his index finger on the braces in Delande's mouth during the second period. The match was stopped twice there-



DAN SZYMANOWSKI, back, of St. Joe gets control of Kurt Schnitger of Rocky River Lutheran West during Thursday's Division III state wrestling tournament at the Schottenstein Center in Columbus.

after because Legg's finger was bleeding.

But the obstacles couldn't keep Legg from advancing. He will meet Neil Rausch (42-4) of Marysville in the

quarterfinals when Division I wrestling resumes at 11:20 a.m. today.

"I'm very pleased with the way Andrew wrestled," Ross head coach Grover

Dowell said. "He was very aggressive. He did a nice job of overcoming his nervousness. He did a great job coming down here as a sophomore and wrestling in the higher weights."

"I have no concerns about his cold or his cut."

Nineteen of the area's 22 state qualifiers remain alive after the first day of competition, which included one round of championship matches and a round of consolation bouts. The first-day attendance was 14,325.

In Division III, St. Joseph Central Catholic's Dan Szymanowski (152 pounds) earned a first-round victory by outlasting Kurt Schnitger of Rocky River Lutheran West, 6-5, in Division III. Szymanowski (36-12) will meet Jeff Schultz (36-8) of Brookville in the championship quarterfinals at 10 a.m. today.

See **JACOBS, B4**

Continued From B1

Legg (171 pounds) downed Neil Rausch of Marysville, 6-5, in the championship quarterfinals in Division I. He lost a 5-3 decision in overtime to J.R. Fairman of Mayfield in the semifinals when Fairman pulled off a takedown.

"The kid I wrestled basically stalled the whole match, but the refs weren't calling it," Legg said of his semifinal. "Once we got to overtime, I knew I had to keep him off my left leg. But I wasn't able to do it. Now I've got to come out strong and get third place."

Seneca (150) took care

Wrestling

High School

State Championships

DIVISION I

Team Scores

1, Lakewood St. Edward 128; 2, Mayfield Village Mayfield 73; 3, Solon 64.5; 4, Massillon Perry 56.5; 5, Pickerington 55.5; 6, W. Chester Lakota W. 52.5; 7, Wadsworth 52; 8, Liberty Twp. Lakota E. 41; 9, Day. Carroll 38.5; 10, Sidney 34; **45 (tie), Fremont Ross 7;**

CHAMPIONSHIP QUARTERFINALS

171

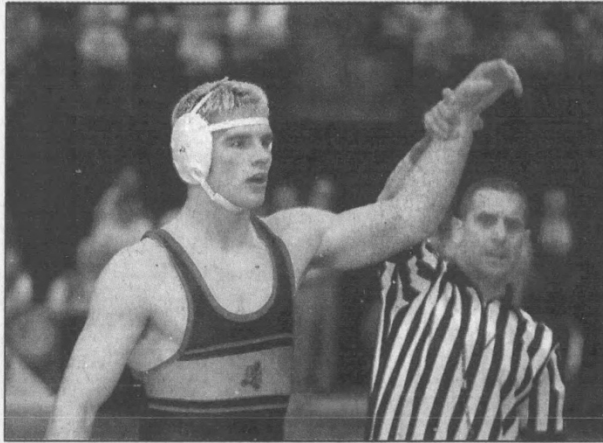
Tony Parker, Fairfield dec. Adam Vance, Berea 3-2 OT; Matt Kallai, Wadsworth dec. Brian Cesear, Amherst Steele 5-0; **Andrew Legg, Fremont Ross dec. Neil Rausch, Marysville 6-5;** J.R. Fairman, Mayfield Village Mayfield dec. Chris Green, E. Liverpool 5-2.

CHAMPIONSHIP SEMIFINALS

171

Matt Kallai, Wadsworth pin Tony Parker, Fairfield 3:25; **J.R. Fairman, Mayfield Village Mayfield dec. Andrew Legg, Fremont Ross 5-3 OT.**

Bergman chases first state championship



J.D. BERGMAN of Oak Harbor is declared the victor after his first-round match Thursday at the Division II state wrestling meet at the Schottenstein Center in Columbus. Bergman will compete for the state championship today.

News-Messenger/Ben French

Legg, Szymanowski, four others guaranteed a spot on the podium

By **SCOTT BLACK**
New-Messenger correspondent

COLUMBUS — J.D. Bergman will shoot to become the first Oak Harbor wrestler to win a state championship in seven years when he goes to the mat today in a Division II final.

Bergman, a 189-pound junior, downed defending state champion Jared Villers of Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary, 6-4, in a championship semifinal match Friday to advance to today's finals, which begin at 5 p.m.

"It was my toughest match this weekend," Bergman said of his victory over Villers. "The kid was good at controlling and tying up. But I wrestled a good, solid match. I get in a

zone and let my instincts and drilling take over."

Tait Miller won the most recent state title for the Rockets in 1995. Bergman will square off against Jesse Sydebotham of Hamilton Township in the final. The wrestlers met twice as freshmen and split the two matches.

Bergman and teammates Keith Kline and Zach Levy led the Rockets to sixth place in the team standings after two days of competition. Oak Harbor has 40 points, 17 behind fifth-place Columbus DeSales. St. Paris Graham leads with 120 points.

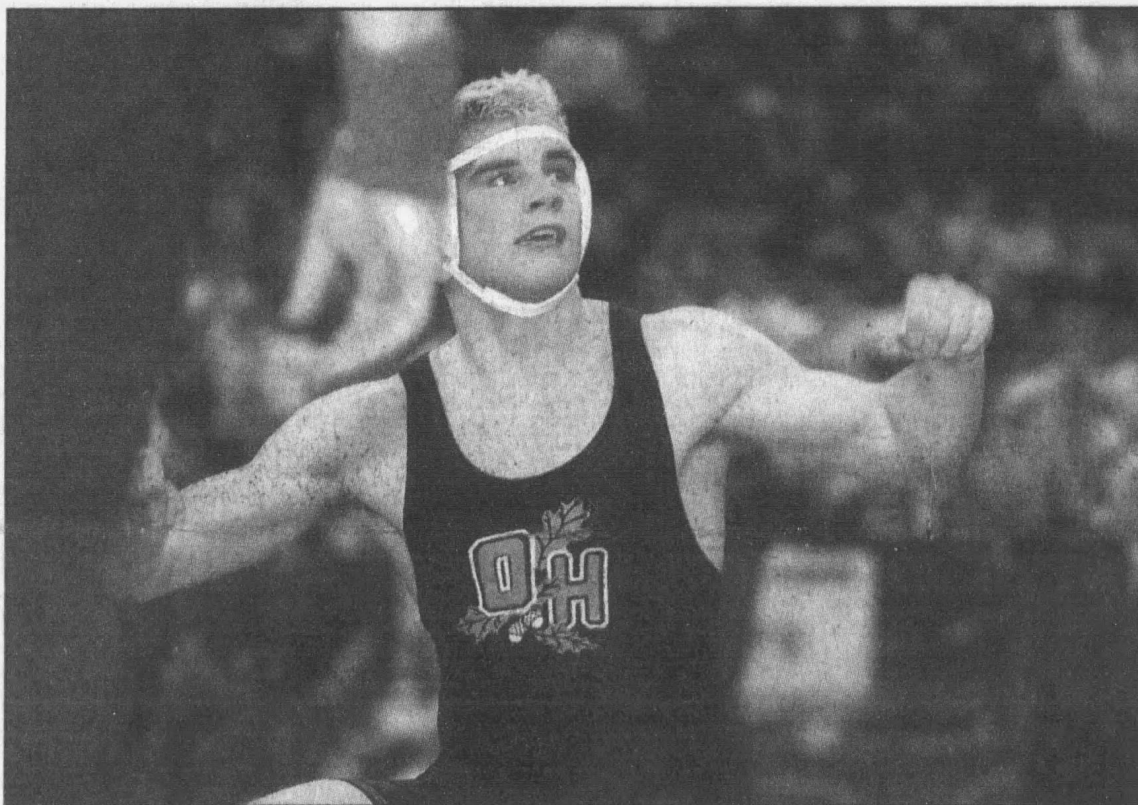
Kline and Levy were among six area wrestlers — including Andrew Legg of

Fremont Ross and Dan Szymanowski of St. Joseph Central Catholic — who won quarterfinal matches Friday and advanced to the semifinals before falling.

Kline, Levy, Legg, Szymanowski, Lakota's Brian Jacobs and Margaretta's Dustin Malott will battle for third place today in the consolation semifinals and have clinched a place on the six-man podium.

They will be joined by Clyde's Bob Blackburn and T.C. Hoffman and Bellevue's Dan Jarrett, each of whom clawed his way back from the consolation rounds to have a shot for third place.

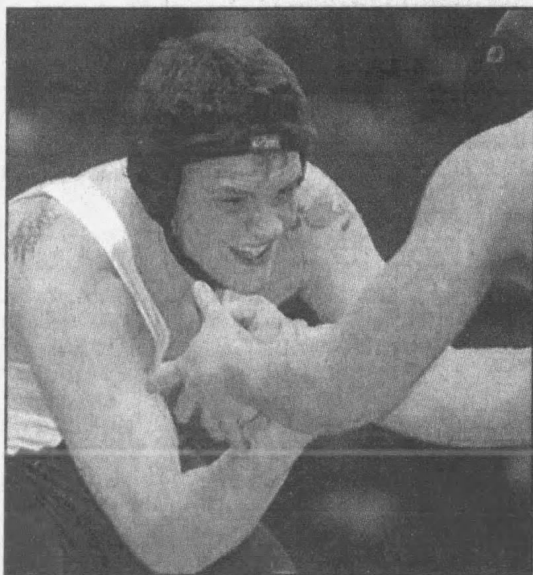
See **CLYDE, B4**



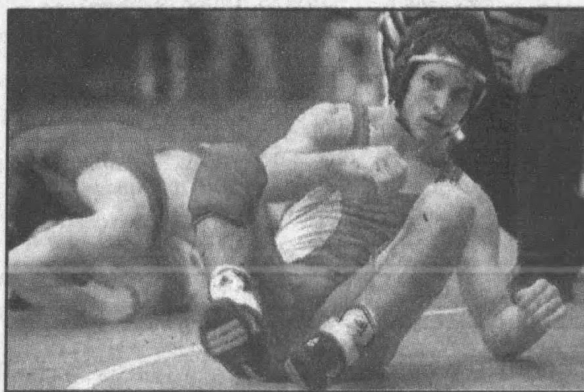
News-Messenger photos/Ben French

Bergman wins state

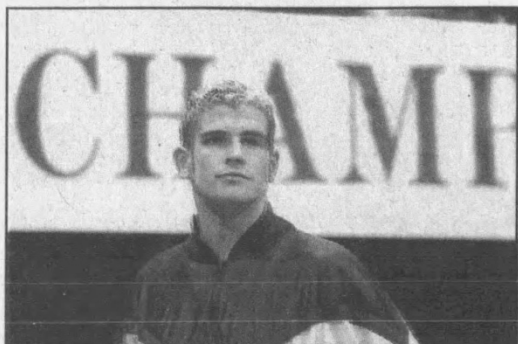
Fremont wrestlers Legg, Szymanowski finish fifth



Oak Harbor wrestler JD Bergman, above, celebrates after pinning Jesse Sydebotham of Columbus Hamilton Township to win the Division II 189-pound state wrestling championship Saturday night at the Jerome Schottenstein Center in Columbus. Fremont wrestlers Andrew Legg, left, of Ross and Dan Szymanowski, below, of St. Joseph Central Catholic each finished fifth. **See complete area results in Sports, B1-2.**



On a pedestal: Fremont-area placers



JD Bergman of Oak Harbor prepares to accept his medal after winning the Division II state championship in the 189-pound division Saturday at the Schottenstein Center.



Andrew Legg
Ross
5th place
171 lbs.
Div. I



Bob Blackburn
Clyde
6th place
135 lbs.
Div. II



Keith Kline
O. Harbor
6th place
103 lbs.
Div. II



Dan Szyman.
St. Joe
5th place
152 lbs.
Div. III



Brian Jacobs
Lakota
4th place
160 lbs.
Div. III



Dustin Malott
Margaretta
5th place
140 lbs.
Div. III



T.C. Hoffman
Clyde
5th place
125 lbs.
Div. II



Zach Levy
O. Harbor
5th place
215 lbs.
Div. II



Dan Jarrett
Bellevue
4th place
140 lbs.
Div. II