

2002 Norm Bray Invitational...

Ross, SJCC boast firsts

By TIMOTHY R. WOLFRUM
Sports editor

For the first time in its history, the Norm Bray Invitational cross-country meet produced an individual champion each from home teams Fremont Ross and St. Joseph Central Catholic on Saturday at Walsh Park.

Cross Country:

Norm Bray
Invitational

Ross senior Stacy Hall won the Division I girls race for the second consecutive year, and St. Joe senior Jermey Velliquette earned his first victory in the Division II-III boys race.

The Lakota boys turned in the lone area team title, placing first in the Division II-III race. Sophomore Kyle Dussel led the way with a fourth-place finish.

Hall led from wire to wire Saturday, striding confidently on her way to a time of 20 minutes, 34.37 seconds. The time was just 15 seconds off her personal best, impressive considering it was the Little Giants' first meet of the season.

"I've been praying for this for a long time," Hall said. "I really wanted to start off well. I did feel a lot better than I thought I would. I was looser than I thought I'd be."

Hall defeated second-place finisher Paige Lane of Bowling Green by more than 13 seconds.

"She's unbelievable for this time of the year," Ross head coach Cathy Esposito said. "We've been working real hard on her foot speed and her kick at the end."

"She's way ahead of the game. She's serious about it. What everybody else does around her doesn't matter."

The Ross girls placed fifth in the team competition with 96 points, one point behind fourth-place Maumee. Bowling Green won the meet with 36 points. For the Little Giants, Megan Neely placed eighth in 22:09.02, Wendy Farrell was 22:33.18, Shana Frontz came in 37th at 25:05.31 and Kelly Biehler was 38th in 25:48.34.

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Lakota boys claim Bray title

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In the Division II-III boys meet, Velliquette ran out to an early lead and held off Jamie Afifi of Maumee Valley Country Day and Old Fort freshman Dustin Miller.

"It means a lot this year because I'm a senior," Velliquette said of winning the meet. "I just wanted to go out with a bang at really our only big home meet."

"I'm pretty pleased. It wasn't bad at all."

Velliquette, who said he started out too fast, ran a time of 17:21.78.

"He just wanted to go for his personal goal and see what he was made of today," St. Joe head coach Jamie Gilbert said. "We wanted to get a good start to the season and find a starting point. It was a good time for running by himself. I think he can improve a lot because I don't think that was everything he had today."

Saturday's race was run in humid, but mostly overcast, conditions at Walsh Park. It was the 10th annual Norm Bray Invitational and the first to feature champions from Ross and St. Joe.

The meet was first run in 1991 as the Fremont Invitational with Ross and St. Joe hosting teams with red and purple as their colors. In 1992, Ross's Dane Snyder and St. Joe's Sara Yeager won individual titles. The name of the meet was changed to honor Bray, a former track and cross-country coach at Ross and St. Joe, in 1993 after Bray's death in January 1993.

Saturday's Bray Invitational, which opens the cross-country season for most of the teams that attend, was the largest in the history of the event. It boasted 303 runners, almost 100 more than last season's meet, and 25 teams.

"I sent out a lot of letters to other teams," Esposito said. "The course handles that many people. That's why I've been trying to invite more people to come. I want more. I'd like to have 10 for each race."

The Lakota boys squeaked out a victory in the Division II-III race. The Raiders scored 50 points, three fewer than Old Fort. St. Joe

finished third with 69 points. The Crimson Streaks ran without senior Dan Chudzinski, who served a disciplinary suspension.

Dussel ran a time of 17:51.18 and placed fourth.

"I was hoping to go under 18. I didn't expect to get where I was place-wise. But, time-wise, I was pretty happy," Dussel said.

"We didn't expect to win. We proved something today."

Patrick Graber (18:59.48) and Mat Shultz (19:05.58) came in eighth and ninth, respectively, for the Raiders. P.J. Combs finished 13th in 19:35.01 just 14 hours after playing both ways for the Lakota football team. Lance Brockschmidt came in 17th in 19:57.05.

"It's been a year where we're really not sure what we're going to have," Lakota head coach Don Windom said. "To come into a meet and win is really gratifying. Things are early yet, but we're excited."

Old Fort got a breakout race from Miller, who made his varsity debut. Miller finished third in 17:29.62 and reached a goal of beating junior teammate Cliff Riehm, who came in sixth at 18:33.51.

"I was figuring it would be in the low 18s, not that low," Old Fort head coach Tony Miller said. "He ran a smart race, a good race. He's just letting anything get in his way. He loves cross. He's ready to go."

Also for the Stockaders, Jordan Miller finished 11th in 19:25.99, Mike Rodriguez placed 15th in 19:52.37 and Marcus Hoke finished 19th in 20:07.38.

St. Joe got a seventh-place finish from Billy Pietrykowski (18:54.26), a 12th-place finish from Chad Waleryszak (19:30.20), a 24th-place finish from Tim Kreilkick (20:21.46) and a 28th-place finish from Brian Setzler (20:47.20).

The Ross boys placed third in the Division I race with 88 points. Toledo Central Catholic won with 28 points.

Jay Ohms paced the Little Giants by placing 11th in 18:02.85. Derek Hill (18:24.20) came in 14th, Nathan Bowen (18:54.22) 20th, Carl Sabinas (18:56.89) 21st and Josh Ohms (18:57.58) 22nd.

"I think we did really well," Jay Ohms said. "We've been working on staying in a pack. Our third, fourth and fifth runner really did that. They came in right in a row. Now we've just got to work on first, second and third runners

staying in a pack."

Said Esposito of the boys, "I was real pleased with them. I wanted them to stay in a pack for at least two miles. I don't even think they finished a mile. They're young. We just have to work together a little more."

In the girls Division II-III race, Huron boasted four of the top five runners and cruised to the team title with 23 points. Lakota finished second with 44, St. Joe third with 93 and Old Fort fifth with 118.

Huron's Amy Renner recorded the top girls time of the day, running a 19:12.77 and winning the meet by more than a minute.

Among local runners, Lakota's Rachel Munoz came in third at 21:05.84. She led an tightly packed Raider crew that also included Erica Walters (seventh, 22:44.51), Lauren Nowak (ninth, 22:56.95), Tara Swim (12th, 23:16.54) and Kristie Frankart (13th, 23:17.80).

"I'm proud of everybody. We all did good, I think," Munoz said.

Said Windom, "I was really excited about our pack, how it moved up and established itself and hung on there. Huron's a really good team, and we weren't going to beat them. But we were pretty excited about how else we did."

Erika Jay led St. Joe's girls with an eighth-place finish in 22:53.42. Jay said wanted to establish herself after the Crimson Streaks lost top runner Trischa Snyder to graduation.

"I got 22nd last year. This year, I was like, 'You've got to step up.' I figured I have to lead this year with Trischa gone," Jay said.

Also for St. Joe, Jessica Merrill came in 10th in 22:57.67, Jennifer Ogron placed 21st in 24:41.27, Jenny Knisely finished 28th in 25:42.28 and Brenda Gutschalk was 32nd in 26:41.94.

"The girls all did really excellent today," Gilbert said. "Erika ran a really nice race. She and Jessica started off with really fast times. I think they're pretty far ahead of where they were last year."

Lisa Ortiz paced Old Fort by coming in sixth at 22:38.94. Emily Ellis was 26th in 25:27.10, Jenny Kline came in 27th in 25:30.15, Danielle Miller was 35th in 27:18.38 and Cara Bass placed 36th in 28:36.02.

"I think my time could have been a little faster. But that hill really killed me, and it was slippery. I slipped a couple of times," Ortiz said.



DUSSEL



HALL



VELLIQUETTE

Cross Country

High School Boys

Norm Bray Invitational

Division I Team Scores

1. Toledo Central Catholic	28
2. Toledo Whitmer	42
3. Fremont Ross.....	88
4. Maumee	98
5. Bowling Green	113
Perrysburg	117

Results

1. Brad Wells (BG)	16:55.25
2. Jake Schultz (TCC)	17:12.25
3. Jeremy Wysocki(TCC)	17:35.25
4. David Espinoza (TW)	17:37.63
5. Jorden Schultz (TCC).....	17:39.79
6. Andrew Link (TCC).....	17:46.06
7. Skyler Schmidtt (TW)	17:51.56
8. Adam Crammond (TW)	17:53.75
9. Austin Seiple (M)	17:57.22
10. Scott Przeslawer (TW)	18:01.97

Ross Results

11. Jay Ohms	18:02.85
14. Derek Hill	18:24.20
20. Nathan Bowen.....	18:54.22
21. Carl Sabinas	18:56.89
22. Josh Ohms.....	18:57.58
40. Ben Framstad.....	20:46.85
42. Elom Simms	21:27.42

High School Girls

Norm Bray Invitational

Division I Team Scores

1. Bowling Green	36
2. Toledo Whitmer	70
3. Toledo Central Catholic	91
4. Maumee	95
5. Fremont Ross.....	96
Perrysburg	103

Results

1. Stacy Hall (FR).....	20:34.37
2. Paige Lane (BG)	20:47.71
3. Natalie Wolin (TW)	21:06.60
4. Amanda Myers (M).....	21:15.90
5. Kyle Womack (BG)	21:38.85
6. Missy Peters (BG)	21:51.48
7. Kelly May (BG)	22:05.60
8. Megan Neeley (FR).....	22:09.02
9. Mindy Yarberry (TCC).....	22:18.62
10. Sierra Sanchez (TCC).....	22:22.79

Ross Results

1. Stacy Hall	20:34.37
8. Megan Neeley	22:09.02
12. Wendy Farrell	22:33.18
37. Shana Frontz.....	25:05.31
38. Kelly Biehler	25:48.34
40. Lindsay Swope.....	26:57.79