

2001 Great Lakes League...

GREAT LAKES LEAGUE

When: Saturday. Girls run at 11:20 a.m., boys at noon.

Where: Pearson Park, Oregon.

Boys

Defending team champion: Findlay.

Team favorites: Fremont Ross, Toledo Whitmer.

Individual favorites: Jeremy Framstad, Ross; Dave Espinoza, Whitmer; Steve Zitkovic, Findlay.

Outlook: The Little Giants are chasing their first GLL team title and would appear to have a good shot after sweeping their dual meets against league competition. But Whitmer's runners have recovered from early-season injuries and present formidable opposition. Framstad, a senior who finished third at the GLL last season, has recovered from a knee injury, and Ross is counting on him to win the race. Jay Ohms, Carl Sabinas, Nathan Bowen and Josh Ohms round out the Ross team.

Quote: "Whitmer's strong. They really beat us at the Clay Invitational. Whitmer's definitely the rival and Findlay, potentially. How our bottom three do Saturday will determine where we finish." — John Elder, Ross coach.

Girls

Defending team champion: Findlay.

Team favorites: Fremont Ross, Whitmer, Findlay.

Individual favorites: Stacy Hall, Ross; Libby Huffman, Findlay.

Outlook: It's a three-team race as the Little Giants run for their first team championship since 1996. Hall, a junior who finished seventh last season, expects to contend with Huffman, who came in third, for the individual crown. Ross can use every place it can get in a close race, which means the performances of Wendy Farrell, Megan Neely, Kaylie Crispen, Brittney Dohanos and Kelly Biehler take on extra importance. The junior-dominated Ross team is ready to make its mark on the league.

Quote: "The thing with Whitmer and Findlay is, they have a good pack. They have a girl like Stacy and several girls like ours. It's all about placing." —
Cathy Esposito, Ross coach.

GLL

Ross boys 2nd, girls 3rd

OREGON — Toledo Whitmer's David Espinoza passed Jeremy Framstad of Fremont Ross late in the race and took the Great Lakes League boys championship Saturday at Pearson Park.

Framstad finished second in 16:57, five seconds behind Espinoza. The Little Giants also came in second to the Panthers. Whitmer scored 40 points to Ross's 62.

"Jeremy led the whole way, and Espinoza hung in behind him and passed him at the last possible place," Ross boys coach John Elder said. "He's disappointed, but we still really are focused on the district and regional meets.

"I thought the rest of the team ran great. Jay (Ohms), Josh (Ohms) and Nathan (Bowen) ran great races. Whitmer just had a little more."

Jay Ohms claimed the top second-team All-GLL spot by placing eighth in 17:40. Josh Ohms was 15th in 18:32, and Nathan Bowen came in 16th in 18:39. Carl Sabinas rounded out the Ross effort with a 21st-place finish in 19:20.

Stacy Hall led the Ross girls by finishing fifth in 20:33. The Little Giants scored 82 points and finished third behind Findlay (39) and Whitmer (53).

Wendy Farrell picked up the final second-team All-GLL spot by placing 14th in 21:38. Megan Neeley was 18th in 22:09; Kaylie Crispen finished 22nd in 22:58; and Kelly Biehler was 23rd in 23:06.