

Ross girls win GLL cross country title; boys third

By CRAIG SNYDER
Staff correspondent

TOLEDO — Fremont Ross won the Great Lakes League girls cross country championship Saturday, wrapping it up with a win in the league meet at Ottawa Metro Park.

It was the first title for the Little Giants girls.

Ross had 32 points as freshman Jami Toeppe won the individual GLL crown in 19 minutes, 35 seconds.

Sylvania Northview was second with 42 and Whitmer had 77 for third. Bedford took fourth with 114 followed by Fostoria 132 and Oregon Clay 133. Ross was 6-0 in league dual



TOEPE



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meets.

The Ross boys were third as Bedford captured the crown with 37 points. Clay was second at 64, five fewer than the Little Giants. Whitmer finished fourth with 93 while Napoleon had 98

and Northview 142.

Fostoria did not have a complete boys team and Napoleon did not field a full girls team.

Junior Sarah Williams was fourth for Ross and freshman Kristyn Warner took fifth. Alison Kelly, another Ross freshman finished eighth and senior Carey Gill gave Ross five runners in the top 10 with a 10th place finish. All five earned first-team all-league honors and another Ross freshman, Molly O'Connor took second team honors with a 17th place finish.

"I was a little concerned with our inexperience," Ross coach Cathy Mallia said. "This was our

first real test and I was hoping that the pressure of a championship meet would not be too much to handle.

"These ladies are mentally tough, and that is important especially when they are not feeling well physically like Jami and Sarah who have been sick all week. They were just too tough mentally to lose."

Sickness took its toll on the Ross boys.

"This was a frustrating day for us," Ross coach John Elder said. "I needed a few good men who were healthy."

Seniors Dane Snyder and Clint Hill were battling sickness while

running for the Little Giants.

Jeremiah Smith paced the Ross boys, finishing fifth in 16:47.1, just 4 of a second ahead of teammate Jeremiah Wagner. Both earned first-team league honors and Doug Jibilian won a second-team berth with a 15th place finish.

"Both Jeremiah's ran great races," Elder said, "and Doug and Kurt (Snyder) stepped in and ran well. Even is Dane and Clint had felt better, I don't think we could have beaten Bedford today."

Ross was 5-1 in GLL duals.

■ Roundups, B2, B3