

2002 District ...

Journey to state begins today for area track-and-field athletes

News-Messenger reports

Fremont-area track-and-field athletes start down what they hope will be a path to the state meet today with Division I and II districts at two sites.

The postseason will culminate at the state meet at Dayton's Welcome Stadium on June 7-8.

Beginning today, the Fremont Ross boys and girls teams will compete at Fostoria Memorial Stadium against a field of 13 other boys teams and 11 other girls teams in Division I action.

Track preliminaries and finals in half of the field events begin at 4:30 p.m. Track finals and the remainder of the field events will be held Friday. The top four finishers in each event will qualify for next week's Amherst Regional.

The Ross boys — led by likely regional qualifiers in pole vaulters Richy Teeters, sprinters Tyrus Hamilton and Adam Wilhelm, long jumper Bo Hudson, discus thrower Chris Kayser and the 400-meter relay team — will shoot for a high team finish. Defi-

The path to state

Area Division I and II track-and-field teams begin postseasons today at the following sites:

■ **FOSTORIA:** In Division I, Fremont Ross battles 13 boys teams and 11 girls teams for spots in the Amherst Regional.

■ **OAK HARBOR:** In Division II, the Rockets host a total of 21 girls teams and 20 boys teams. They include local boys and girls teams from Clyde, Margaretta and Bellevue and the girls teams from Woodmore and Lakota.

ance is expected to be the top team at the district.

"I expect them to do real well," Ross head coach Cathy Esposito said of the boys team. "I think for them a second-place finish is not out of the question. I'm really excited for them."

Distance runner Stacy Hall, hurdler Rachel Ruiz and long jumper Emily Grayson lead the Ross girls.

In Division II, Clyde, Oak Harbor, Margaretta and Bellevue will

send both of their teams to Oak Harbor today. The Woodmore girls and Lakota girls will also compete at Oak Harbor.

The meet, which features 20 boys teams and 21 girls teams, gets under way at 4:30 p.m. today. The top four finishers will advance to the Lexington Regional.

Oak Harbor boys head coach Tom Osborne said the competition will be stiff at his meet.

"This is one of the biggest and strongest districts in the state," he said. "There will be 40 kids in each event battling for only four spots. Some kids are excited for it, while others know reality is right around the corner. It's sudden death, so to speak."

"We're looking forward to it, but at the same time, we know it will be one heck of a challenge."

Division III schools — including St. Joseph Central Catholic, Gibsonburg, the Woodmore and Lakota boys, Old Fort and Bettsville — will enter postseason action beginning Thursday at Bowling Green. Their finals will be Saturday.



RACHEL RUIZ of Fremont Ross competes in the 300-meter hurdles during an April 16 meet against Findlay and Whitmer at Ross High School. The Little Giants will begin Division I district action today at Fostoria.

News-Messenger file photo/Ben French

DIVISION I

Ross duo heads to regional

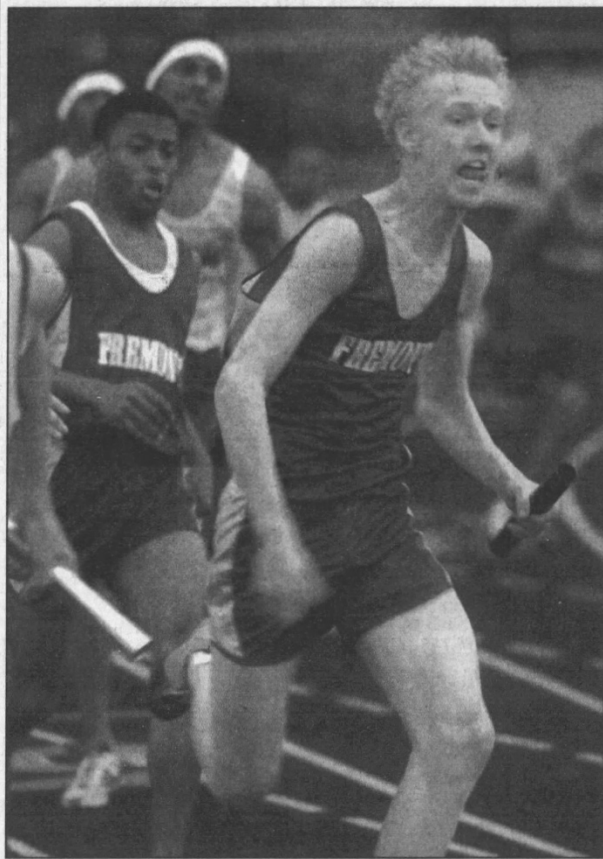
FOSTORIA — Fremont Ross's Bo Hudson and Bo Martin each jumped their way to the regional after placing in the long jump at the Division I district at Fostoria.

Martin (20-6) edged Hudson (20-3), which surprised Little Giants head coach Cathy Esposito.

"I was really impressed with Bo Martin's performance. It was pretty good for him to squeak in there," she said.

"The boys team is looking pretty good heading into the second day, as is the girls team."

Ross relay runs to title



News-Messenger photos/Ben French
ADAM WILHELM, right, of Fremont Ross accepts the baton from Eric Edwards, left, during the 400-meter relay Friday at Fostoria Memorial Stadium. Ross won the Division I district title.

Ruiz explodes for 2nd place

By TIMOTHY R. WOLFRUM
Sports editor

FOSTORIA — The only imperative for postseason track and field is to place in the top four and advance to the next level.

There's no penalty for doing even better.

The Fremont Ross boys 400-meter relay team made its move to next week's regional meet with abandon Friday, winning the Division I district title at Fostoria Memorial Stadium.

The team of Eric Edwards, Adam Wilhelm, Torrey Lewis and Tyrus Hamilton put together its most complete race of the season and led a group of 13 Ross athletes — seven boys and six girls — who earned berths to the Amherst Regional on Thursday and Saturday, June 1.

Two Ross individuals and the girls 400 relay squad finished second in their respective events. Distance runner Stacy Hall moved on in two events, and jumper Bo Hudson finished fourth in the high jump to go along with the fourth place he pulled in Wednesday in the long jump.

But the highlight of the day for Ross was the boys relay team. The Little Giants won in 43.97 seconds and enjoyed a comfortable 28-hundredths of a second margin over runner-up Sandusky.

"Everybody ran decent, and our handoffs were better than usual," said Edwards, the team's lead-off



RACHEL RUIZ of Fremont Ross accepts congratulations from her friends and family after a surprise second-place finish in the 300-meter hurdles Friday at Fostoria Memorial Stadium.

man. "We had a good start and kept extending the lead."

Ross head coach Cathy Esposito said the relay team's execution was flawless.

"This was definitely the best relay with the best handoffs," she said. "It was they best they've run. They ran like champions, and that's what they are."

The team excelled with the return of Lewis, whose slightly pulled hamstring kept him from running the event last week at the Great Lakes League meet. After the event, Lewis said his leg was a bit sore, but it won't keep him out of the regional.

"I'm just thankful I got to run," Lewis said. "We felt we had a chance to be champions."

The Ross boys finished fifth in the district meet with 65 points. Napoleon scored 86 points to win the

meet, and Mansfield was second with 83 points.

The Ross girls placed seventh, just 13 points out of third place. Celina won the meet with 112 points, and Ashland came in second with 104.

Among Ross's second-place finishers, junior Rachel Ruiz surprised herself and the district field by shaving two seconds off her personal-best time in the 300-meter hurdles.

Ruiz entered the event with the seventh-fastest qualifying time (52.70 seconds) but responded by running a 49.18 in the finals, finishing behind only Celina's Lyndi Springer.

"I thought these girls were going to kill me," Ruiz said. "It was really exciting for me to break 50 (seconds). It's been my goal since I was in the eighth grade."

See LITTLE GIANTS, B3

Little Giants qualify 13 for Div. I regional

Continued From B1

"I was so worried about this race. I stuttered a lot between the hurdles in the semis. Today, I did much better."

Said Esposito of Ruiz, "She didn't run a real great race in the semis, but she did a great job when it counted."

The girls 400 relay team of Tia Simms, Keia Irons, Adrienne Robertson and Delanea Johnson finished second to Sandusky in a time of 51.53.

Johnson was the anchor of the 400 relay and ran a strong third leg of an 800 relay team that finished fourth and advanced to regional. The Little Giants were in sixth when Johnson got the baton but were fourth by the time Johnson handed off to Simms for the anchor leg.

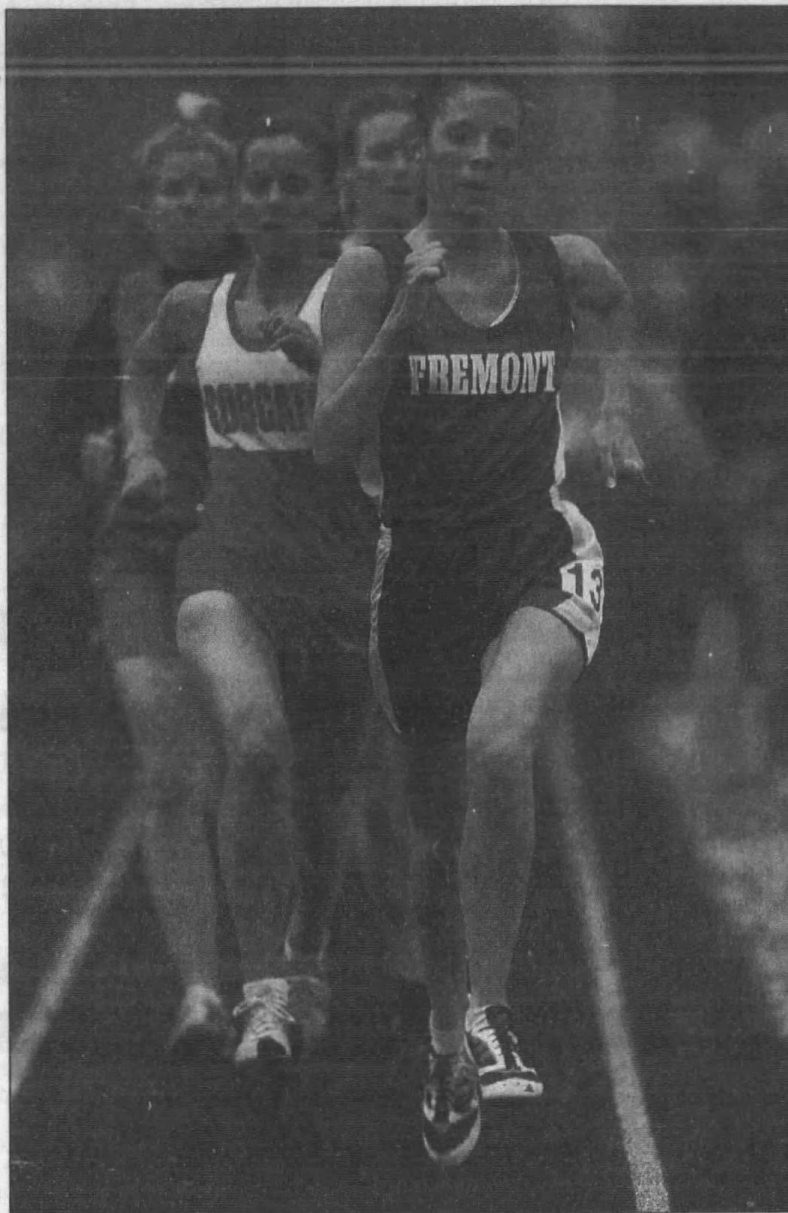
"She plays catch-up a lot," Esposito said of Johnson, a freshman. "She's got the speed it takes to come from behind. Both those freshmen (Johnson and Simms) have stepped up this year. They've really improved."

The 800 team consisted of Ruiz, Irons, Johnson and Simms and recorded a time of 1:50.49.

Wilhelm added a second place in the 400 dash to his regional dance card. He finished in 50.84 seconds.

The freshman sprinter had a busy day. He ran a 200 dash semifinal and finals in the 400 relay, the 400 dash, the 200 dash and the 1,600 relay. After running the 400 relay and 400 dash in succession, he limped over to Esposito looking exhausted.

"I asked him 'Are you hurt or are you just tired.' He said he was tired. For a freshman to step up and be



News-Messenger/Ben French

STACY HALL, front, of Fremont Ross leads the pack at the halfway point of the 1,600-meter run Friday at Fostoria Memorial Stadium.

able to perform and win at this level is impressive," Esposito said.

Ross discus thrower Chris Kayser moved to regional by placing third Friday. His top toss was 145 feet, 9 inches.

Hudson's high jump of 5-10 was good for fourth place Friday. Bo Martin also advanced Wednesday by placing third in the high jump.

Hall finished third in the 1,600

run with a personal-best time of 5:29.11. She finished fourth in the 3,200 run with a 12:07.08.

"She ran real strong," Esposito said of Hall. "When you're a distance runner, your goal is just to get out in both of your events."

Robertson also advanced by pulling out a fourth-place finish in the 100 dash in a time of 13.54 seconds.

Bettsville pitching: Tyndall 7 inn., 6 hits, 2 ER, 3 walks, 4 strikeouts.
Hopewell-Loudon hitting: Ray 2-2, run.
Bettsville hitting: Joe Kizer 2-4, run;
Robert Tarris 2-4, run, RBI; Jeremy Schumm 1-3.
Records: Bettsville 14-11, Hopewell-Loudon 14-9.

Little League

Elks 20, Bowlus 7

Elks pitching: Cory Snider, Josh Mendoza 11 strikeouts combined.
Elks hitting: Derek McDonald 4 hits, Max Celek 2 hits, Mendoza 4 hits.
Bowlus hitting: Nick Ackerman 2 hits.

Knothole League

American Legion 11, Fanatic 3
Legion 033 102 0 — 11 15
Fanatic 030 000 0 — 3 2

Legion pitching: WP — Phillip Florez;
Kyle Cook 4 inn., 12 strikeouts.
2B — Cook 2 (Legion)
Legion hitting: Florez 3-5; Cook 2-5;
Corey chestnutt 2-5; Josh Costilla 3-5;
Steven Snyder 2-4.
Record: Legion 1-0.

Basketball

NBA

Daily Playoff Glance CONFERENCE FINALS Friday's Game

Sacramento 103, L.A. Lakers 90.
Sacramento leads series 2-1

Saturday's Game

New Jersey at Boston, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday's Game

Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, 5:30 p.m.

Hockey

NHL

Daily Playoff Glance CONFERENCE FINALS Today's Games

Detroit at Colorado, 3 p.m.

Toronto at Carolina, 7 p.m.

Monday's Game

Colorado at Detroit, 7 p.m.

Track & Field

High School Boys

Division I Districts Team Scores

Napoleon.....	86
Mansfield.....	83
Defiance.....	82
Lexington.....	69.33
Ross.....	65
Lima Senior.....	60
Sandusky.....	58.33
Ashland.....	35
Tiffin Columbian.....	25
Bowling Green.....	22
Findlay.....	16
Wapakoneta.....	13.33
Mansfield Madison.....	7
Celina.....	2

Results

4x800 relay: 1. Napoleon 8:03.68; 2. Defiance 8:04.44; 3. Lexington 8:22.23; 4. Bowling Green 8:26.23.
110 hurdles: 1. Brandon Woodson (MM) 14.47; 2. Nate Matthews (Sand) 14.60; 3. Frank Perna (Tiff. Col) 15.0; 4. Jacob Burgoon (Def) 15.07.
100 dash: 1. Paul Johnson (Lima) 11.33; 2. Jeff Montgomery (MM) 11.41; 3. Jamario Oneal (MM) 11.56; 4. Eric Fisher (Lima) 11.71.
1600 run: 1. Nick Kruse (Nap) 4:20.54; 2. Patrick Mouser (Def) 4:24.88; 3. Jake Lombardo (Ash) 4:25.01; 4. Brad Wells (BG) 4:27.08.
4x100 relay: 1. Ross (Eric Edwards, Adam Wilhelm, Torrey Lewis, Tyrus Hamilton) 43.97; 2. Lima 44.25; 3. Sandusky 44.28; 4. Defiance 45.01.

400 dash: 1. Keith Wiechers (Nap) 50.61; 2. Wilhelm (Ross) 50.84; 3. Kiyan Brooks (MM) 51.11; 4. Chad Pearson (Sand) 51.61.

300 hurdles: 1. Matthews (Sand) 39.47; 2. Brett Nye (Nap) 39.60; 3. Derrick Diglaw (Lex) 39.80; 4. Burgoon (Def) 39.80.

800 run: 1. Eric Steyer (def) 1:58.31; 2. Ryan Sprout (Find) 1:59.87; 3. Lombardo (Ash) 1:59.88; 4. Nick Coressel (Def) 2:01.60.

200 dash: 1. Oneal (MM) 22.46; 2. Johnson (Lima) 2.82; 3. Eric Fisher (Lima) 2.92; 4. Jermaine Knight (Sand) 23.16.

3200 run: 1. Nick Kruse (Nap) 9:34.68; 2. Mouser (Def) 9:37.72; 3. Mac Harbaugh (MM) 9:40.69; 4. Adam Hill (Lex) 9:47.36.

4x400 relay: 1. Lexington 3:27.22; 2. Defiance 3:27.69; 3. Findlay 3:27.70; 4. Napoleon 3:27.85.

Discus: 1. Joshua Archer (Lima) 149-11.0; 2. Ryan Coholich (Nap) 148-03; 3. Chris Kayser (Ross) 145-09; 4. JB Shields (BG) 142-09.

High Jump: 1. Woodson (MM) 6-06; 2. Matthews (Sand) 6-05; 3. Bogner (Lex) 6-0; 4. Jonathan Hudson (Ross) 5-10.

Long Jump: 1. Woodson (MM) 21-10; 2. Eric Fisher (Lima) 20-10.25; 3. James Martin (Ross) 20-06; 4. Hudson (Ross) 20-03.75.

Shot Put: 1. Bobby Alford (Tiff Col) 52-05; 2. Landon Huvler (Lex) 51-08.50; 3. Tim Foor (Def) 50-07; 4. Elton Austin (Lima) 50-07.

Pole Vault: 1. Jeremy Lynch (Ash) 13-00; 2. Brent Burnfield (Wap) 12-06; 3. Robert Stein (Sand) 12-06; 4. Caleb Miller (Lex) 12-06.

Division II Districts Team Scores

Perkins.....	82
Shelby.....	82
Willard.....	78
Edison.....	64
Eastwood.....	52
Clyde.....	39
Bellevue.....	35
Ontario.....	33
Galion.....	33
Oak Harbor.....	28
Norwalk.....	21.5
Huron.....	21
Crestview.....	16
Vermilion.....	13
Margaretta.....	9
Port Clinton.....	7.5
Clear Fork.....	5
Rossford.....	4

Results

100 dash: 1. Eric Barrison (Will) 10.50; 2. Jerod Batt (Edis) 10.50; 3. Justin Conway (perk) 10.60; 4. Bob Kandell (Edis) 10.80.

200 dash: 1. Barrison (Will) 21.6; 2. Kandell (Edis) 21.60; 3. Conway (Perk) 21.70; 4. Batt (Edis) 21.90.

400 dash: 1. Batt (Edis) 49.50; 2. Justin Martin (Cly) 50.10; 3. Paul Gardner (nor) 51.10; 4. Andrew Wechter (Shel) 51.10.

800 run: 1. Ryan Schroeder (East) 1:58.60; 2. Brad Dendinger (Bell) 1:58.70; 3. Aaron Maglott (Gal) 1:59.10; 4. Lahman (East) 1:59.20.

1600 run: 1. Schroeder (East) 4:27.20; 2. Kyle Gettys (Cly) 4:27.40; 3. Brian Lucas (Ont) 4:28.20; 4. Zac Twine (Verm) 4:28.30.

3200 run: 1. Ian Michalik (Perk) 9:49.30; 2. Mike Randolph (Gal) 9:55.10; 3. Schroeder (Shel) 9:56.40; 4. Twine (Verm) 10:01.70.

110 hurdles: 1. Austin Wechter (Shel) 14.70; 2. Nathan Ditz (Will) 14.80; 3. Tyson Gentry (Perk) 14.80; 4. Dustin Bauer (Hur) 14.80.

300 hurdles: 1. Wechter (Shel) 38.70; 2. Ditz (Will) 39.40; 3. Bauer (Hur) 39.50; 4. John Stuart (Cres) 39.90.

4x100 relay: 1. Perkins 42.70; 2. Galion 43.70; 3. Willard 43.70; 4. Eastwood 43.80.

4x400 relay: 1. Edison 3:23.10; 2. Galion 3:24.10; 3. Eastwood 3:26.40; 4. Shelby 3:26.50.

4x800 relay: 1. Eastwood 8:0.10; 2. Shelby 8:07.60; 3. Clyde (Max Gressman, Robert Whitaker, Jeremy Cook, Gettys) 8:15.80; 4. Norwalk 8:15.90.

High Jump: 1. Tyler Buss (Will) 6-08; 2. Jared Gulau (OH) 6-04; 3. Ryan Keller (Perk) 6-00; 4. John Heydinger (Shel) 6-0.

Pole Vault: 1. Chad Beamer (Bell) 15-0; 2. Stuart (Cres) 13-03; 3. Thomas Fusco (Will) 13-03; 4. Cosy Staon (Shel) 13-0.

Long Jump: 1. Kandell (Edis) 23-04.75; 2. Aaron Richardson (Perk) 22-07.75; 3. Conway (Perk) 22-03.25; 4. Gulau (OH) 22-03.

Shot Put: 1. Seth Painter (Perk) 56-08.25; 2. Randall Hafner (Will) 56-05.50; 3. Kevin McFerren (Ont) 52-0; 4. Chris Baker (ont) 51-07.50.

Discus: 1. Baker (ont) 160-0; 2. Hafner (Will) 159-04; 3. Craig Harvey (Shel) 157-0; 4. Kevin McFerren (Ont) 154-09.

High School Girls

Division I Districts

Team Scores

Celina.....	112
Ashland.....	104
Tiffin Columbian.....	86
Sandusky.....	66
Lexington.....	61
Findlay.....	60
Ross.....	54
Bowling Green.....	46
Mansfield.....	41
Wapakoneta.....	36
Mansfield Madison.....	9
Lima Senior.....	6

Results

4x800: 1. Celina 9:46.27; 2. Bowling Green 9:56.11; 3. Tiffin Columbian 10:08.02; 4. Findlay 10:27.01.

100 hurdles: 1. Lyndi Springer (Cel) 15.95; 2. Velynda Whitelock (Lex) 16.56; 3. Andrea Cornell (Ash) 17.26; 4. Sarah Lange (Cel) 17.32.

100 dash: 1. Tamala Perryman (Sand) 12.77; 2. Alisha Davis (MM) 13.31; 3. Amber Tyree (Tiff Col) 13.44; 4. Adrienne Robertson (Ross) 13.54.

4x200 relay: 1. Celina 1:46.43; 2. Sandusky 1:46.92; 3. Lexington 1:48.68; 4. Ross 1:50.49.

160 run: 1. Lisa Nell (Ash) 5:22.84; 2. Brittny Vollmar (BG) 5:27.55; 3. Stacy Hall (Ross) 5:29.11; 4. Brittany Wenning (Cel) 5:32.98.

4x100 relay: 1. sandusky 50.77; 2. Ross 51.53; 3. Lexington 52.07; 4. Wapakoneta 52.57.

400 dash: 1. Amy Kessler (Lex) 59.74; 2. Melanie Klosterman (Cel) 60.21; 3. Charletta Core (Lima) 60.85; 4. Wittenmyer (Find) 61.04.

300 hurdles: 1. Springer (Cel) 45.14; 2. Rachel Ruiz (Ross) 49.18; 3. Janna Brown (Wap) 49.21; 4. Whitelock (Lex) 49.34.

800 run: 1. Kathy Scott (Tiff Col) 2:24.44; 2. Christina Nell (Ash) 2:24.45; 3. Lisa Nell (Ash) 2:25.17; 4. Kyle Wornack (BG) 2:26.11.

200 dash: 1. Perryman (Sand) 26.48; 2. Rita Muether (Cel) 27.33; 3. Hallie Gorman (Ash) 27.87; 4. Brittany Walker (Sand) 28.10.

3200 run: 1. Erin Stauffer (Ash) 11:27.34; 2. Brittaney Zellner (Tiff Col) 11:39.58; 3. Jennifer Spieldenner (Find) 11:55.41; 4. Hall (Ross) 12:07.08.

4x400 relay: 1. Celina 4:04.86; 2. Lexington 4:05.19; 3. Tiffin Columbian 4:10.69; 4. Findlay 4:10.83.

Discus: 1. Beth Mallory (Ash) 144-11; 2. Annie Kerg (Mans) 123-02; 3. Megan Finkhousen (BG) 117-02; 4. Alex Miller (Tiff Col) 114-10.

High Jump: 1. Michelle Kyle (Ash) 5-01; 2. Jacqueline Myers (Find) 5-01; 3. Sarah Lange (Cel) 5-0; 4. Tiana Lindsay (MM) 5-0.

Long Jump: 1. Kessler (Lex) 17-; 2. Erin Conti (Tiff Col) 15-11.50; 3. Megan Szekeley (Wap) 15-07; 4. Krystal Wegesin (Wap) 15-04.75.

Shot Put: 1. Mallory (Ash) 45-06; 2. Annie Kerg (MM) 37-08.50; 3. Miller (Tiff Col) 36-08; 4. Nicole Link (Cel) 35-10.