

1971 District meet...

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Little Giant Performance Cure For 'Bug'

By MARK CARLSON

BOWLING GREEN — Members of the medical profession take note.

Here's the latest cure for your infamous "bug"...

(1) A first place in the 880 from determined Earl Smith.

(2) A breath-taking come-from-behind victory in the mile relay.

(3) A second place finish from sophomore upstart Rob Lytle in the 100.

(4) A second from muscular Tom Liggins in the shot put.

This medical concoction might not do much for the ordinary patient but it is a cure for Ross track coach Ron Brant.

Brant, who was a little taken aback as he walked away from Robert E. Wright's Track and Field meeting Green State university campus Saturday, had to admit the performances of our kids have made me feel a lot better."

Ross headed by Smith, who gets stronger with each race, brought eight individuals to the Northwest District Class AAA track meet in the six of earliest a trip to the state meet at Ohio Stadium, Columbus, the weekend.

Smith turned in two brilliant performances for the Little Giants. He won the 880 in record-breaking time (1:55.6) then came back to anchor the mile relay team to victory in the most thrilling race of the day.

Smith, who had to bat the baton from Claude "Country" Price for the final quarter mile. But he lost it and at one time was in fourth place before pulling even with a Toledo Scott runner on the last curve and then passing him on the backstretch.

Lytle — who accounted for one of two upsets turned in by the Little Giant delegation. The other belonged to Lytle.

The blond-headed youngster, who's running with the variety for the first time this spring, finished behind Toledo Libby Speedster Bob Lawson in the 100. Lytle had an easy

time taking second. He was clocked in 10.3 (although unofficial Ross watches had him in 10 flat) and the third place finisher had a 10.6. The first two finishers in each event qualified for the state.

"The performance of the mile relay and Lytle had to be the highlights of our performance," Brant said. "We expected Earl to qualify in the 880 and Tom to go to the state in the shot put."

"But, we knew the mile relay team was going to have a tough time. I never figured we would win it. Scott had already run a 3:24 this season which was a second faster than we had ever run."

"I thought our kids would have a tough battle to get second, but I knew if we put everything together we could cause the other team problems."

"Our kids really did a heck of a job. They had to when you consider that we ran a 3:24, which averaged out to 51.1 seconds a man."

Bill Barkett ran the opening leg for Ross in 51.2. Next to haul the aluminum batons around the all-weather oval was Tom Pitts, who clocked in 51.3. Price cracked in after 50.7 and Smith closed it off in 50.8.

"All four did a heck of a job," Brant said. "It was the best time of the year for Kurt, who had a little bit of a lead when he turned the baton over. Price kept us well and then Country and Earl turned it on."

"I would say Lytle is a better word — when Smith fell down, he told me after the race that he wanted the other kids to give their best early. He figured he could take them in the final 100 yards. It worked out just like he had planned."

"That time is really something. At the beginning of the year I would have been happy if we were around 3:30. Those kids have kept practicing and improving. Three of them are seniors and they really want to do well."

"They are a fine bunch of fellows and I can't say enough about them."

Lytle's second place came after a series of false starts — five — which included the disqualification of Sandusky's fine springer Willie Jordan after he jumped the gun twice.

Lytle was also a false start victim. He was the first to jump the gun.

"A false start is tough on any individual," Brant said. "After he's called for jumping he has to wait in the blocks. Rob handled it well and had an excellent jump when the race finally started."

"It was a strong, but I must admit I didn't expect him to qualify. Rob has a long way in the last couple of weeks. It's rare to see a sophomore perform like he has in the sectional and district."

Smith, with his 880 victory, earned his second straight state ticket in that event. Last year he placed eighth in a 16-team field.

"Earl had a tremendous day," Brant said. "It was the best he has ever performed. He ran a smart race. We told him to go out and get the lead in the first quarter and make the other fellows chase him."

"That's exactly what happened. We wanted Earl to come out and get the first lap in 55 seconds. He did it in 54 so we don't have anything to complain about."

"We still aren't sure what Earl is capable of doing. He wasn't pushed hard and still turned in his career best."

The previous Ross 880 standard of 1:56.9 was established by Smith in the Marion Harding Invitational earlier this season.

Liggins had a 3:20.10, which wasn't his best throw of the year.

"Tom didn't have a good throw but he was just trying to make sure he got that second place and a trip to the state," Brant said. "Tom has worked hard and knows he'll have to improve to place in the state."

"All of our kids know they must improve for next weekend. They are the type of fellows who will go out and work extra hard. The coaching staff won't need to worry about forcing them to work out, they'll do it on their own."

"These fellows are just a tremendous group to work with. They were on cloud nine, but they had every right to be."

"We had two firsts and two seconds and I don't think we could have asked for much more. This has to be one of the highlights of our season. It ranks right up there with the win over Sandusky and our performance in the Buckeye."

"We have accomplished every one of the goals we set out to do as a team earlier in the year. We wanted a winning season, to win our relay teams and also to get five or six boys to the state meet."

There was one bit of disappointment in the Little Giant camp, however. Tom Nighthander and Chuck Miller failed to advance in the discus and shot put, respectively.

Nighthander, a senior, came the closest. He placed third behind Sandusky's powerful duo of Mark Deming and Bob Rogers. Deming won the event with a toss of 171-4. Rogers spun the platter 162-9 and Nighthander checked in at 155-1.

"Rogers had beaten Nighthander earlier this season but I still think Tom had a chance," Brant said. "His throws were his best."

In the team race, Ross finished third with 44 points. Sandusky and Toledo Libby finished first and second with 66 and 65 points, respectively.

"It was a good team but I was pleased with that finish," Brant said. "For a number of fellows we had entered I think third place is quite respectable."

"In the number of qualifiers for the state we were almost even with Sandusky. They qualified one relay team and five individuals. We qualified one relay team and three individuals."

In Class AAA

Blue Streaks Capture District Championship

BOWLING GREEN — Toledo Scott's Ron Taylor (440), Joe Quatman of Lima Shawnee (120-low hurdles), and Wapakoneta's Tom Veren in the 100 Saturday.

The Blue Streaks gained four points for their fourth place finish, while the Blue Streaks, which placed sixth in the final race, received one point. Those three points were the difference between Libby taking home the first and second place trophy.

Sandusky finished the 15-event program with 66 points. Libby totaled 65, Fremont Ross (440), Toledo Scott (31) and Toledo DeVibes (30) completed the top five.

Libby picked up four first places compared to two for the Blue Streaks. Bob Lawson, a junior speedster, scored half of the Libby first place points by running away from the field in the 100 and 200.

Other Libby first places were noted by Jerry O'Neal, 160-yard high hurdles, and the 200-yard relay team composed of Rick Leisure, Tony Chapman, O'Neal and Lawson.

Two seniors — Mark Deming and Bob Crabb — accounted for the St. Francis first place finish. Deming won the discus with a toss of 171-4 and Crabb took the pole vault with a leap of 13-6.

Fremont Ross and Toledo DeVibes were the only other schools which could claim more than one first.

Winners for Ross were 880 competitor Earl Smith and the mile relay team. DeVibes winners were Ron Scott in the mile run and Walt Churchill in the two miles.

Other individual winners were Ron Soviar of Toledo St. Francis, the shot put, Toledo Macomb's Cliff Adams (long jump).

FIELD EVENTS

SHOT PUT — 1. Ron Soviar, St. Francis, 36-3. 2. Tom Liggins, Fremont Ross, 36-10. 3. Mike Murry, Bowling Green, 36-9. 4. Stan Johnson, Sandusky, 46-1. 5. Chuck Miller, Toledo Libby, 36-8. 6. Tom Nighthander, Toledo, 36-7.

LONG JUMP — 1. Cliff Adams, Macomb, 23-5 1/2. 2. Velma Evans, Sandusky, 22-10 1/2. 3. Mike Murry, Bowling Green, 22-10 1/2. 4. Stan Johnson, Marion, 21-4 1/2. 5. Kurt Kampf, Defiance, seven footers, no score.

HIGH JUMP — 1. Kurt Kampf, Defiance, seven footers, no score.

POLE VAULT — 1. Kurt Kampf, Defiance, 13-0. 2. Tom Liggins, Fremont Ross, 12-0. 3. Mike Irwin, Lima Shawnee, 11-6. 4. George Johnson, Toledo, 11-4.

HIGH JUMP — 1. Tom Liggins, Fremont Ross, 6-2 (fewer misses); 2. Paris Jones, Mansfield Malabar, 6-2 (fewer misses); 3. Dennis Tyson, Lima Senior, 6-2; 4. Tom Liggins, Fremont Ross, 6-2 (fewer misses); 5. Ron Woodward, 6-0. 6. Rich Gidens, Maumee, 5-10.

TRACK EVENTS

100-YARD DASH — 1. Bob Lawson, Libby, 9.8. 2. Rob Lytle, Fremont Ross, 10.3. 3. Ralph Rawls, Mansfield Senior, 10.4. 4. Greg Struve, Maumee, 5. Rick Lewis, Toledo, 10.5.

120-YARD HIGH HURDLES — 1. Jerry O'Neal, Libby, 15.1. 2. Greg Norton, Lima Shawnee, 15.1. 3. Mike Irwin, Lima, 15.3. 4. Ray Schlueter, 15.5. 5. Bob Lee, Macomb, 15.6.

100-YARD HURDLES — 1. Jeff Schmidt, Toledo, 14.0. 2. Jim Pitts, Fremont Ross, 14.2. 3. Mike Irwin, Lima, 14.4. 4. Dennis Barnes, Piqua, 14.5.

100-YARD HURDLES — 1. Kurt Kampf, Defiance, 14.0. 2. Dennis Barnes, Piqua, 14.2. 3. Mike Irwin, Lima, 14.4. 4. Jeff Morrison, Sylvania, 14.5.

120-YARD HURDLES — 1. Tom Liggins, Fremont Ross, 14.2. 2. Dennis Barnes, Piqua, 14.4. 3. Mike Irwin, Lima, 14.6. 4. Kurt Kampf, Defiance, 14.8.

400-YARD DASH — 1. Tom Liggins, Fremont Ross, 49.3. 2. Ray Webb, Mansfield Senior, 49.3. 3. Greg Struve, Maumee, 49.3. 4. Al Tucker, Port Clinton, 50.3. 5. Tom Liggins, Fremont Ross, 50.3. 6. Kurt Kampf, Defiance, 50.3.

100-YARD LOW HURDLES — 1. Joe Quatman, Lima Shawnee, 19.7. 2. Jerry O'Neal, St. Francis, 19.8. 3. Greg Norton, Lima Senior, 19.8. 4. Len Stanish, St. Francis, 20.3. 5. Jacob Jones, Libby.

200-YARD DASH — 1. Earl Smith, Fremont Ross, 1:56.6. 2. Dennis Barnes, Piqua, 1:57.0. 3. Mike Irwin, Lima, 1:57.1. 4. Kurt Kampf, Defiance, 1:57.2.

200-YARD HURDLES — 1. Kurt Kampf, Defiance, 22.2. 2. Tom Liggins, Fremont Ross, 22.3. 3. Mike Linder, Belview, 22.6. 5. Ralph Rawls, Toledo, 22.3. 6. Ray Webb, Mansfield Senior, 22.5.

400-METER RELAY — 1. Fremont Ross, Bill Barkett, Tom Liggins, Claude Price and Earl Smith, 37.4. 2. Toledo Scott, 32.6. 3. Toledo Libby, 32.4. 4. Toledo DeVibes, 32.5.

400-METER RELAY — 1. Fremont Ross, Bill Barkett, Tom Liggins, Claude Price and Earl Smith, 37.4. 2. Toledo Scott, 32.6. 3. Toledo Libby, 32.4. 4. Toledo DeVibes, 32.5.

55-YARD HURDLES — 1. Tom Liggins, Fremont Ross, 9.6. 2. Kurt Kampf, Defiance, 9.6. 3. Tom Liggins, Fremont Ross, 9.6. 4. Kurt Kampf, Defiance, 9.6.

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