

Area teams prepare for regional meets

Top four placers advance to state meet June 5-6

By MICHAEL PIDANICK
Staff writer

The final chapter in the high school track and field season is near and Fremont Ross coach John Elder is eager to see how it turns out.

"I can't wait," said Elder as his team prepares for the Division I regional meet at Margaretta. "It's kind of like reading a novel. You want to read from the back

to the front."

The Little Giants will compete in 12 events in the competition Thursday and Saturday, with the top four finishers advancing to the state meet June 5-6 at Ohio State University.

Clyde, Lakota, Oak Harbor, Margaretta and Bellevue will travel to Lexington for the Division II meet and St. Joseph Central Catholic, Gibsonburg, Woodmore, Old Fort and Bettsville will compete in the Division III meet in Fostoria.

Athletes qualified for the regional competitions by finishing in the top four in their respective district meets Wednesday through Saturday.

TRACK AND FIELD

Ross seniors Michelle Salas and Judy Steinberger will compete in the shot put. Salas will also participate in the discus. She is the school's all-time record holder in both events.

"Michelle can advance in both events," Elder said. "Her plan for the season was to go to state in both."

The girls 4x800 team of Alison Kelly, Jami Toepp, Molly Gocke and Lindsay Frontz also earned a spot in this week's competition with a first-place finish in the sectional meet at Fostoria Memorial Stadium.

"The times run so far by the distance sprint team doesn't put them in good shape," Elder said. "But we (he and distance coach Cathy Espisito) don't think they've hit their best (time) yet."

The Ross girls 4x100 team of Christy Linder, Tanisha McKinstry, Fallon Bailey and Gayl McFadden and the 4x200 relay group of Linder, McKinstry, Bailey and Tiffany Sweeney will also compete in Castalia.

"The sprint relays will be tough to win," Elder said. "We hope to get to the finals on Saturday. If we can do that we'll have a pret-

Track regional meets

Where area schools will be participating for the regional track and field meets.

Division I at Castalia
Fremont Ross

Division II at Lexington
Clyde, Lakota, Oak Harbor, Margaretta, Bellevue

Division III at Fostoria
St. Joe, Gibsonburg, Woodmore, Old Fort, Bettsville

The top four finishers in each event qualify for the state meet June 12-13 at Ohio State.

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Track and field athletes hoping to make state

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ty good chance at top four. But a lot depends on how handoffs go and things like that."

Bailey will also run the 100 and Frontz will participate in the 800.

The boys' 4x100 team of Kenny Morissette, Demetrius Simms, Robert Atkins and Kelly Lytle qualified with a first place finish in the district and has been strong all year.

Morissette will also compete in the 200 and Atkins will run the 100.

Rashad Brown and Reggie Jones will participate in the long jump and Alan Lutes will run the 110 hurdles.

Clyde's boys 4x800 relay team of Jason Hill, Al Preston, Ryan Arnstead and Josh Cook will take fourth in the Division II district at Oak Harbor to qualify for the regional. Cook will also run the 800.

The Fliers' 4x400 also qualified with Hill, Cook, Ben Caudill and Corey Coe setting a school record with a 3:27.1 in the district. The Clyde girls 4x400 of Brooke Schrickel, Sarah Borer, Andrea Cheek and Rachel Crooks will also compete in the regional.

Lakota's Charlie Garcia won the 100 and 200 at Oak Harbor and should be strong in the regional as well.

"If Charlie does what he did in the district then he has a great opportunity to make it to state," said Lakota coach Steve Livoti.

Trent Tucker will compete in the 800 and Matt Rickard will participate in the long jump.

"Trent Tucker is a young man that has done nothing but get better every time he runs," Livoti said.

"If Matt Rickard can equal his best, he has an opportunity."

Janel Bickley will compete in the discus, Jessica Plouk will run the 100 hurdles and Wendy Frawley will compete in the long jump for the Raiders.

Janel has been throwing consistently in the high 110's and she has the potential to get to 120," Livoti said. "Jessica was fifth at the regional last year and she is going back hungry. Wendy has been jumping 5-foot-2, 5-3 for us but she's on the verge of reaching 5-4."

Oak Harbor's Mark Kremer will participate in the pole vault and the 400 and Pat Kania will compete in the discus. The Rockets' 4x100 group of Mark Baker,

Jason Osborne, James Wagner, Ryan Pearson will also compete in Lexington.

The Rockets will also run the 4x200 (Jodi Harbal, Melissa Jenkins, Sarah Schimmoeller and Jennifer Sutkus), 4x400 (Harbal, Jenkins, Holly Lorenzen and Sutkus) and 4x800 (Jessica Baumgartner, Tracie Sutkus, Jackie Baumgartner, Ashley Orshoski) relay races.

St. Joe will compete in five boys and five girls events. Andy Szakovits will compete in the shot put and the discus, Dan Celek will participate in the pole vault, Nick Haynes will run the 400 and Mike Chapman will run the 3200.

"All of the kids have a chance, but the regionals are very hard," said St. Joe coach Eddie Colon. "Nick will have to break 50 (his best is a 50.4) to have any chance. Dan needs around a 13 (he had a 12-6 in the district)."

The St. Joe girls' 4x100, 4x200 and 4x800 relay teams will also compete along with Joni Wilhelm in the 800 and Brenda Wasserman in the shot put.

Gibsonburg's Greg Woodruff will compete in the pole vault and Corey English will run the 3200. Old Fort's Jeremy Riehm

will also run the 3200.

Woodmore's girls will run all four relay races. Laura Wright, Sara Miller, Keri Harman, Renie Lavigne will run the 4x100 and the 4x200, Miller, Amanda Roadarmel, Lavigne and Travis will run the 4x400 and Meredith Magsig, Roadarmel, Kathy Camp and Travis will run the 4x800.

Magsig and Camp will also run the 3200, Travis will run the 800 and Keri Harman will participate in the 200.

The boys 4x100 team of Chad Shope, Chris Workman, Brian Bartell and Jeff Michael and the 4x400 team of Chad Shope, Ben Kuhlman, Workman and Michael will also compete.

Shope and Michael will run the 300 hurdles.

Bettsville's Doug Wolf will run the 400, 100 and 200 and Terry Steinhauer will run the 300 hurdles.



Brown finally makes state

News-Messenger reports

CASTALIA — Fremont Ross high jumper Rashad Brown will not be denied this time.

After disappointments in the past two seasons, Brown came through with a 6-foot-6 inch jump Saturday in the Division I regional meet at Margaretta High School.

"He worked so hard and he really deserves it," said Little Giants' coach John Elder. "After his past disappointments he really wanted this and it was a nice reward for him for his senior year. He had some injury problems at the beginning of the year and he really came through."

The top four athletes in each event qualified for the state meet Friday and Saturday at Ohio Stadium in Columbus.

In 1996 as a sophomore, Brown won the district meet but then did not place in the top four at the regional. Last season, he did not make it out of the district meet.

Senior Michelle Salas qualified in her second event as she placed third in the discus with a toss of 121 feet.

"She didn't have her best throw but no one really did," said Elder, who thought the wind may have had a negative effect.

Salas qualified in the shot put on Thursday.

The boys' 4x100 team placed third as senior Demetrius Simms, junior Robert Atkins, freshman Kelly Lytle and senior Kenny Morrisette finished in 42.75.

Simms took first place in the long jump during Thursday's competition.

"They didn't run a great race but that kind of gives me confidence," Elder said. "It's nice when you can run less than your best and still make it out. If we can run our best this weekend, who knows what will happen?"

"Some of the best athletes in the state were in Castalia this weekend."

"I am happy with all of those that performed," Elder said. "Everyone went out and did their best and that's all we can ask."

Track

High School Boys

Division I Regional at Castalia

Ross Results

Qualified for State

Long Jump—1-Demetrius Simms 23-6 1/2 (new school record) old record set by Tony Gant 23-1/2 in 1982.

Qualified for Regional Finals

4x100 (Kelley Lytle, Robert Atkins, Demetrius Simms, Kenny Morrisette) 42.89 (second fastest team going into finals).

Other Results

Robert Atkins, 100, 11.27; 110 Hurdles, Alan Lutes, 15.2; 200, Morrisette, and Lytle, times unavailable.

Division III Regional

At Lexington

Team Results

1-Seneca East 16; 2-Ayersville 11 1/2; 3-(tie) Liberty Center, St. Wendelin 10; 5-Hardin Northern 9; 6-(tie) Bluffton, Colonel Crawford, Columbus Grove, Patrick Henry 8; 9-(tie) Elmwood, McComb 6; 11-Crestview 5.

Individual Results

Long Jump—1-Jesse Smith (LC) 22-6 1/4; 2-Tony Hiser (PH) 21-7; 3-Steve Radcliff (E) 21-2 1/2; 4-Jarod Kempf (CR) 20-8 1/4; Discus—1-Greg Corbitt (A) 156-8; 2-Rick Orr (B) 147-2; 3-Dave Crosser (M) 144-10; 4-Kent Kriskell (HN) 144-6; Pole Vault—1-Josh Depinet (SE) 13-0; 2-Mike Armstrong (CG) 12-8; 3-(tie) Nathan King (HN), Heath Stuart (C) 12-8; 4x800—1-St. Wendelin 8:11; 2-Colonel Crawford 8:12; 3-Seneca East 8:12; 4-Allen East 8:13.

High School Girls

Division I Regional

At Castalia

Ross Results

Qualified for State

Shot Put—3-Michelle Salas 39-10 3/4.

Qualified for Regional Finals

100—Fallon Bailey 12.96; 4x200—(Bailey, Christy Linder, Tiffany Sweeney, Tanesha McKinstry) 1:47.3; 4x100—(Bailey, Linder, McKinstry, Gayl McFadden) 50.8; 4x800—(Jami Toeppen, Alison Kelly, Molly Gocke, Lindsay Frontz) 9:58

Running Saturday

Jami Toeppen, 1600; Lindsay Frontz, 800.

Simms sets Ross record, gets to state

Giants' Salas, Streaks' relay also qualify

News-Messenger reports

CASTALIA — Fremont Ross senior Demetrius Simms could not have picked a better time for his career-best long jump.

Simms' first-place jump of 23 feet, six inches Thursday in the Division I regional meet at Margaretta High School shattered a 16-year-old school record and earned him a berth in the state championship meet.

Tony Gant set the old record of 23-1½ in 1982.

The top four placers in each event advance to next week's state meet at Ohio Stadium in Columbus.

Little Giants' senior Michelle Salas also earned a trip to Columbus, placing third in the discus with a 39-10¼.

The Ross boys 4x100 relay team of Kelly Lytle, Robert Atkins, Demetrius Simms and Kenny Morissette posted the second-fastest time of 42.89 in the preliminaries and advanced to the finals.

The Division I field events' finals begin at 11:30 a.m. and the track events start at 12:30 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD

Saturday in Castalia.

St. Joseph Central Catholic's girls 4x800 team of Keri Oxley, Joni Wilhelm, Kerri Zimmerman and Elizabeth Stierwalt placed fourth in 9:50.3 in the Division III regional meet at Fostoria and qualified for the state meet.

Several Crimson Streaks also advanced to the finals in other events.

"We did a great job," said St. Joe coach Eddie Colon. "We're sitting good in most events. We just have to go out and do a good job."

St. Joe did receive some bad

news as senior pole vaulter Dan Celek chipped a bone in his ankle during practice, ending his chances for state.

Woodmore's girls 4x800-meter relay, a reliable state meet participant throughout the 1990s, fell four-tenths of a second short of advancing Thursday during the Division III regional track and field meet.

The Wildcats' foursome of Meredith Magsig, Amanda Roadarmel, Kathy Camp and Lindsay Travis took fifth place in 9 minutes, 50.7 seconds.

"The first couple legs did not run what we needed them to run and what they can run," Woodmore girls coach Whitney Flick.

Headed to state

A look at the area athletes who have qualified for the state meet so far, with the finals in most events today and Saturday.

Division I

Michelle Salas, Fremont Ross, shot put.
Demetrius Simms, Fremont Ross, long jump.

Division II

Pat Kania, Oak Harbor, discus.
Matt Rickard, Lakota, long jump.

Division III

St. Joe girls 4x800 relay team (Keri Oxley, Tracy Snyder, Joni Wilhelm, Elizabeth Stierwalt).