

2004 Season review...

Cross country

■ ROSS BOYS SECOND:

Derek Hill finished second as Ross was runner-up in a five-team meet.

The Little Giants were nipped 49-50 by running rival Tiffin Columbian on the boys side.

On the girls side, reigning state champion Bowling Green had the top five runners and cruised to a team win. Ross was fifth.

Cross Country

High School Boys

Chris Green Invitational

Team Standings

1. Perkins	65
2. Ross	76
3. Clay	77
4. Bay	87
5. Margaretta.....	113
6. Bellevue	120

For Ross — 1. Derek Hill 16:44, 9. Nathan Bowen 17:49, 16. Josh Bowen 18:12, 21. Michael Flores 18:19, 29. Derek Flores 18:47, 31. Andre Velez 18:53, 39. Adam Brandt 19:24.

Cross country

■ **HILL FIRST, ROSS SECOND:** Derek Hill won the Chris Green Invite but Fremont Ross finished second in the team standings.

Perkins edged Ross 65-76.

"I was really happy," Ross coach Cathy Esposito said.

Hill finished in 16:44, beating runner-up Deven Siesel of Margaretta by 20 seconds.

"I just love to watch him run," Esposito said. "He is such a smooth runner. He always looks focused during his races. He's definitely a great distance runner."

Nathan Bowen (ninth), Josh Bowen (16th), Michael Flores (21th) and Derek Flores (29th) also scored for the Little Giants.

Margaretta and Bellevue were fifth and sixth, respectively.

Josh Yount (11th), Aaron Stewart (23rd), Tom Round (38th) and David Beechler also scored for Margaretta.

Brian Ackerman (12th), Brett Veach (14th), Ben Wallingford (24th), Scott Hopton (26th) and Nathan Steinmetz (48th) were Bellevue's top five runners.

Ross and Margaretta finished fifth and sixth in the girls division. Bellevue was eighth.

Perkins won the girls division.

Ashley Fischer (seventh) and Alyssa Bowerman (10th) finished in the top 10 for Ross. Allison Adams (32nd), Ashley Brunthaner (46th) and Bryleigh Linton (49th) also scored for Ross.

Emily Kuns' 13th-place finish led Margaretta. Also scoring for the Polar Bears were Mandy Gentner (22nd), Cayla Keegan (26th), Danielle Hahn (38th) and Alissa Maltott (56th).

Wendy Sumser (23rd), Abby Smith (27th), Rachel Smith (31st), Jess Cook (35th) and Natalie Hartzell (53rd) were Bellevue's top five finishers.

High School Girls

Chris Green Invitational

Team Standings

1. Perkins	50
2. Bay	68
3. St. Mary	95
4. Clay	96
5. Ross	134
6. Margaretta	145
7. Sandusky	156
8. Bellevue	159

For Ross — 7. Ashley Fischer 21:27, 10. Alyssa Bowerman 21:49, 32. Allison Adams 23:22, 46. Ashley Brunthaner 24:24, 49. Bryleigh Linton 24:32, 68. Andra Ruiz 26:48, 69. Liz Munoz 26:49.

For Margaretta — 13. Emily Kuns 22:07, 22. Mandy Gentner 22:48, 26. Cayla Keegan 22:56, 38. Danielle Hahn 23:47, 56. Alissa Malott 25:26, 76. Kim Kaman 28:20.

For Bellevue — 23. Wendy Sumser 22:51, 27. Abby Smith 22:59, 31. Rachel Smith 23:11, 35. Jess Cook 23:29, 53. Natalie Hartzell 25:20, 55. Katie Wilburn 25:25, 58. Candice Wolfe 25:38.

Derek Hill was 33rd in the Division I-A varsity race as Ross finished 29th.

Ashley Fischer was Fremont Ross's highest finisher (37th) as the Little Giants were 24th in the Division I-B varsity race.

■ **HILL CLIMBS TO 12TH:** Derek Hill finished the Division I Galion Invitational in 12th place at 16:24 as Fremont Ross was 11th with 281 points.

St. John's Jesuit was first in Division I with 112 points.

Nathan Bowen (25th, 16:51) also finished in under 17 minutes for the Giants.

Brett Veach wound up 16th in the Division II race at 17:24. Bellevue (196) finished in seventh place as Edison won with 124 points.

Alyssa Bowerman (59th, 21:23) was Ross's highest finisher in the girls Division I race as the team was 17th without a time from injured Ashley Fischer.

Bowling Green won with 24 points.

Rebekah Paul (38th, 22:05) was Gibsonburg's top runner in the girls Division III race as the Golden Bears finished 12th with 280 points.

Win not in the cards for Ross

Little Giants struggle at Cardinal Stritch invite

By RYAN AUTULLO
News-Messenger correspondent

OREGON — The Cardinal Stritch Cross Country Invitational iced the cake on a forgettable week for Cathy Esposito and the Fremont Ross cross country team.

The Little Giants coach was forced to joggle the boys lineup as No. 5 runner Andre Velez was sidelined with flu-like symptoms. She was also without the No. 1 girls runner Ashley Fischer.

Saturday's meet, which was held at Maumee Bay State Park, surely couldn't make matters worse. But it didn't resurrect Ross's week either.

The boys' team finished fourth with 125 points in the Division I race after Esposito felt they had a good shot of winning, while the girls struggled to a 14th-place finish.

"I'm disappointed, but I never get discouraged because they're a phenomenal team," Esposito said. "You can't be great every week."

Derek Hill wasn't excused from Ross's bad luck as he got a cramp in the abdominal region at the 2-mile mark. Hill led the pack during the early part of the race but finished sixth.

"I haven't ate or drank a lot in the past couple days," Hill said. "I'm not happy with my time (16:40). I was hoping to be a little bit closer to the leaders."

Toledo Whitmer took the boys honors with 67 points, while Maumee was runner-up with 79. Bellevue came in seventh.

Ross's Bowerman 39th

Ross's Alyssa Bowerman finished 39th individually in 21:14, but the Little Giants didn't register a team score at the Eagle Invitational at Pearson Park.

Jennifer Spielenner of Findlay won the event in 18:42.

Cross country

■ **HILL LEADS GIANTS:** Derek Hill finished first in 16:35 as Ross topped Greater Buckeye Conference foe Napoleon 20-37 in a dual.

Nathan Bowen finished second for the Little Giants. Michael Flores (fourth), Andre Velez (fifth) and Josh Bowen (eighth) also scored for Ross.

Ashley Fischer's sixth-place effort led Ross in a 15-48 loss to Napoleon.

Alyssa Bowerman (10th), Allison Adams (12th), Bryleigh Linton (14th) and Ashley Brunthauer (15th) also scored for the Little Giants.

Cross Country

High School Boys

Clay Eagle Invitational

Division 1

Team Standings

1. St. Johns	76
2. St. Francis	117
3. Bedford	122
4. Sylvania Northview	164
5. Whitmer	167
8. Ross	225

For Ross — 8. Derek Hill 16:30, 12. Nathan Bowen 16:44, 64. Josh Bowen 17:43, 71. Derek Flores 17:48, 121. Adam Brandt 18:37.

High School Girls

Clay Eagle Invitational

Division 1

Team Standings

1. Bowling Green	23
2. Notre Dame Academy	86
3. Findlay	112
4. Ashland	127
5. Bedford	154
15. Ross	382

For Ross — 39. Alyssa Bowerman 20:59, 53. Ashley Fischer 21:34, 87. Allison Adams 22:29, 118. Ashley Brunthaver 23:21, 122. Bryleigh Linton 23:35.

Hill, Ross cruise in Marion

News-Messenger reports

For the Fremont Ross cross country team, Saturday's Marion Harding Invitational was essentially a practice test on a course that will host next weekend's Greater Buckeye Conference meet.

The Little Giants aced the test.

Derek Hill finished first in 16 minutes, 12 seconds and the Ross boys captured the crown at the 13-team event.

"I told them, 'If we left with anything but the big trophy, it would be disappointing,'" Ross coach Cathy Esposito said. "That's good motivation for them. I want them to run at their potential with the big meets coming up."

Ross finished with 59 points, cruising past GBC rivals Marion Harding (102) and Findlay (107), which finished second and third, respectively.

Hill won the race by 10 seconds.

"I think he ran amazing," Esposito said. "He looked smooth and fast. He is totally getting ready to peak. He's going to be amazing at districts."

It was the second first-place trophy of the season for the Ross boys, who also won the Chris Green Invite in Sandusky.

Nathan Bowen (fifth), Josh Bowen (14th), Andre Velez (15th) and Derek Flores (25th) also scored for the Little Giants.

The Ross girls had their best team finish in two seasons, finishing in seventh with 187 points. Findlay won with 43.

Alyssa Bowerman led Ross with a 21st-place finish.

Ashley Fischer (23rd), Allison Adams (38th), Ashley Brunthaven (52nd) and Bryleigh Clinton (59th) also scored for Ross.

■ STULTS LEADS OLD FORT TO TITLE: Lucy Stults finished first in 19:51 to lead the Old Fort girls to the team title in the Black Division at the Sky Bank Invitational in Fostoria.



HILL

Gibsonburg and Woodmore finished seventh and ninth, respectively.

In the Red Division, Oak Harbor finished third behind winner Napoleon and Port Clinton. Bellevue was fifth, and Clyde was 10th.

Gibsonburg and Old Fort finished second and third, respectively, behind Fayette in the Black Division of the boys race. Woodmore was eighth.

In the Red Division, Maumee cruised and Oak Harbor and Clyde finished seventh and 12th, respectively.

Lisa Ortiz (third) and Becky Miller (ninth) also finished in the top 10 for the Old Fort girls. Jenny Kline and Audra Cleveland were 21st and 58th, respectively.

Brittney Redd (17th), Stephanie Hiser (22nd), Rebekah Paul (26th), Libby McDermott (31st) and Kate Briner (51st) scored for Gibsonburg. For Woodmore, Kristen Jacobs (15th), Ashley Floro (41st), Dani Noe (61st), Sarah Lutz (62nd) and Kelly Camp (72nd) scored.

Kelly Gephart's fourth-place finish led the Oak Harbor girls. Stephanie Greggila (21st), Erin Zunk (23rd), Lydia Watson (29th) and Heather Marks (35th) also scored. For Bellevue, Rachel Smith (11th), Wendy Sumser (14th), Abby Smith (28th), Jess Cook (31st) and Katie Wilburn (49th) scored.

Nena Garcia (56th), Kristen Rathbun (60th), Emily Hart (62nd), Chelsea Workman (68th) and Kaleigh Harger (69th) scored for Clyde.

Trevor Williamson (fourth) and Brent Hiser (eighth) finished in the top 10 to lead the Gibsonburg boys. Jordan Kirwen (13th), Drew Williamson (18th) and Kevin Holcomb (36th) also scored for the Golden Bears.

Dustin Miller finished third to lead Old Fort. Jackson Stults (11th), Greg Joseph (21st), Marcus Hoke (32nd) and Ron Dull (53rd) also finished for the Stockaders.

Jeremy Schroeder (fifth), Mark Pittman (16th), William Wegert (28th), Chason Ault (40th) and Jon Marquis (67th) scored for Woodmore.

Jake Lemon led Oak Harbor with a 12th-place finish. Jim Kuli (28th), Lucas Bechtel (29th), Ray Hurlburt (32nd) and Chris War-

ga (64th) also scored for the Rockets.

Zak Meyer (44th), Jeff Whitt (45th), Johnny Castaneda (66th), Adrian Rich (71st) and Jake Zeiber (76th) scored for Clyde.

■ DUSSEL-LED LAKOTA SECOND: Kyle Dussel finished eighth to lead the Lakota boys to a runner-up finish at the Rocket Invitational.

The Raiders finished just six points behind Bellefontaine, which also won the girls race.

The Lakota girls finished fifth.

Lance Brockschmidt (28th), Bryce Tiell (34th), Josh Schultz (40th) and Nate Miller (43) also scored for the Lakota boys.

Ashley Brockschmidt's third-place finish led the girls. Kelsey Dussel (21st), Sarah Grand (30th), Patti Stiger (61st) and Alycia Miller (72nd) also scored.

Volleyball

■ FLIERS 1-2 AT QUAD: Clyde finished 1-2 at a quadrangular in Bowling Green to fall to 11-8 on the season.

Clyde beat Fremont Ross 25-14, 25-15 but fell to Bowling Green (25-17, 25-13) and Bowsher (25-20, 25-17).

Sara Doebel had 22 digs and 14 kills and Katie Stein had 10 kills for the Fliers. Chris Stohl had 35 assists.

■ WOODMORE SPLITS: Megan Abbey had 11 points — including three assists — and Cadie Brown had seven kills and two block kills as Woodmore beat Danbury 25-20, 25-15.

The Wildcats also fell to Western Reserve 25-21, 25-13. Megan Abbey had nine kills in the setback.

■ BETTSVILLE WINS, LOSES: Bettsville beat Monclova (25-14, 27-25) but lost to Emmanuel Baptist (26-24, 25-19) to move its record to 5-14.

Erica Kimmel had eight points — including three aces — and Madison Bender had six points, five blocks and two kills in the victory.

Bender had eight points — including two aces — and four blocks in the loss. Tiffany Kosta had nine kills and eight digs.