

2013 DIVISION I STATE TOURNAMENT



Fremont Ross' Trey Grine attempts to pin Mansfield Senior's Jerrick Kyles during the Wendy's Wrestling Invite at Tiffin Columbian on Wednesday, Dec 28, 2011. NEWS-MESSENGER FILE PHOTO

Grine's giant goals

Ross junior is 39-0 heading into Saturday's Division I sectionals

By Kevin Shields
Sports writer

FREMONT — Ross 145-pounder Trey Grine has one goal in mind when he gets on the mat: Get off as quick as possible.

"I don't want to hurt my toe again," joked the junior, who is 39-0 going into this weekend's Division I sectionals. "I just want to beat my opponents so I can get off the mat. I don't like to play around. You stay on the mat too long, you might get caught in a move or something."

Grine missed a three weeks of wrestling in November and December after catching his toe on the corner of the mat during a scrimmage. He was forced to wear a boot and got only three days of practice in, before wrestling at the Oak Harbor Invitational. But Ross won the team title for the second year in a row, and Grine made a statement of what was to come, besting Indian Lake's Heath Lange, a state qualifier from the year before and Division II's second-ranked

grappler at 145, by getting a pin in 3:02.

However, it was on Feb. 2, during the Three Rivers Athletic Conference championships at Clay, where Grine got his biggest win yet. Taking on Toledo Central Catholic's Alex Mosing in the finals, he earned a 4-3 victory in an ultimate tiebreaker. Mosing (23-3 at the time) came in as the projected state champion in Division I at the weight class.

For his efforts, Grine was named TRAC wrestler of the year.

"His weight class wasn't the toughest one there, but everyone knew that was the marquee match of the night,

and it didn't disappoint," Little Giants coach Mike Mezinger said.

Grine had not been taken to overtime this season, until he and Mosing ended regulation tied at 3-3. Mosing had choice in the ultimate tie breaker, a 30-second period in which the wrestler that scored first has his choice up or down. Mosing chose down and Grine rode him out.

"The first 10 seconds, Mosing about got out, but they went out of bounds," Mezinger said. "Once they got back to the center, Trey ended up breaking him down and caught a wrist, which

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Grine

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made it easy to ride him out the rest of the 20 seconds.”

Grine was glad that was all he had accomplish to win.

“I was so tired, and I couldn’t do anything with,” he said. “I was trying to hit all my moves, but he was a good opponent. He was my toughest match thus far.”

Grine has been a bright spot for what’s been a generally disappointing winter for the Ross wrestling team that saw the Little Giants finish seventh in the TRAC. Injuries and other factors took away six of Mezinger’s regular starters.

“Trey is the one for me to really push to get down to the big show at state this year,” Mezinger said. “I thought this year was just going to be a great year and we were going to be really pushing for second or third in the TRAC, but it’s just been one of those years.”

Another notable win for Grine came when he beat Lucas Staten, a state qualifier from Mount Vernon, 4-0, in the semifinals of the Maumee Bay Classic.

“He’s had some tough competition this year,” Mezinger said. “He worked his butt off this past summer, which is really showing how much he’s improved from last year. His name would always come up at these different tournaments this year for MVP, but for one reason or another, he always came

up just short.”

Grine is no stranger to success. For his Ross career, he is 123-13. In 2011, he earned a Greater Buckeye Conference title at 130 pounds as a freshman, going 41-7. As a sophomore, he was 43-6, finishing second at the TRAC championships at 138 pounds.

However, he finished sixth at the district tournament as a sophomore, missing out on a trip to state by one match.

“That was my motivation this year,” Grine said. “I took up Freestyle and Greco this year, and got second at state.”

Grine, who also plays football for the Little Giants, has a workout partner in the wrestling room that many don’t have either. Yohe Rojas, second all-time at Ross with 149 wins, is one of Mezinger’s assistant coaches. The Ross record holder is Tylor Trautwein with 151 wins.

“I got no one else to drill with in the practice room, so it’s either got to be Yohe or my teammate Peyton Geary,” Grine said. “But anytime I go against Yohe, I go hard.”

Said Mezinger, “Trey and Yohe are two of the best I’ve coached. Having Yohe as an assistant has been invaluable for Trey’s development. There’s no doubt Trey will be the winningest wrestler in the program by the time he leaves.”

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Division I

Trey Grine and Peyton Geary are mat partners in the Ross wrestling room, and now, they are state partners.

Grine took third at 145 pounds, and Geary was fourth at 152 at this past Saturday's Division I district tournament at Cleveland State University, earning the two juniors their first trip to Columbus.

Grine, 45-2 on the year, will wrestle Upper Arlington's Vito DiBenedetto in today's Division I championship prelims, starting at 5:45 p.m. DiBenedetto, 37-9, was the district runner-up at Hillard Davidson.

As for Geary, he'll tangle with Centerville's Alexander Blair (33-7), the district champion from the Fairfield District.

Geary's record is 35-9.

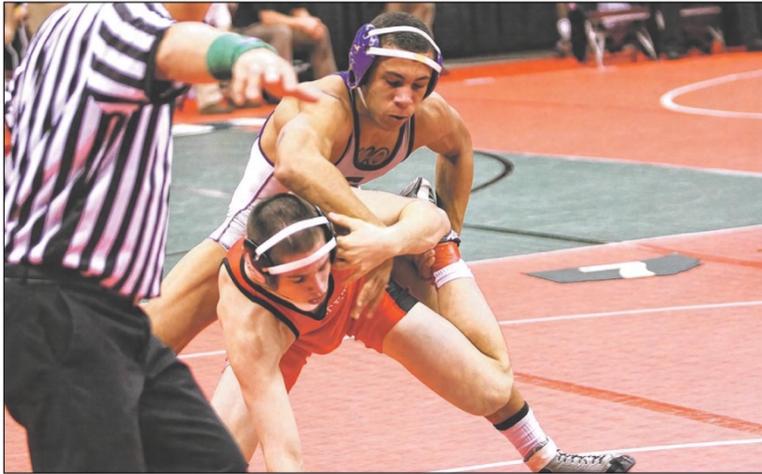
Both of Fremont Ross' wrestlers were victorious in the first round in Division I. Junior Trey Grine (46-2) picked up a 17-2 technical fall over Upper Arlington's Vito DiBenedetto, while junior Peyton Geary (36-9) scored a 4-2 upset over Centerville's Alexander Bair (33-8).

Geary came in as a No. 4-seed, having finished fourth at the Cleveland State District Tournament last weekend. Bair was the champion of the Fairfield District.

Geary will wrestle Pickerington Central's Aaron Yarger this morning in the quarterfinals, while Grine will meet Cincinnati Princeton's A.J. Kowal (45-6), the Fairfield District champion.

STATE WRESTLING

Ross' Grine snaps school's state placement skid



Ross' Trey Grine wrestles AJ Kowal of Cincinnati Princeton during the second day of the OHSAA state wrestling tournament in Columbus on Friday, March 1, 2013. LEE WELCH/NEWS-MESSENGER CORRESPONDENT

By Dan Gilles

News-Messenger correspondent

SANDUSKY — Woodmore junior 106-pounder Evan Ulinski and Oak Harbor senior 170-pounder Luke Cramer will wrestle for a state championship tonight at the 76th Annual State Wrestling Tournament at Ohio State's Value City Arena.

Fremont Ross junior 145-pounder Trey Grine came one match from joining that duo on the big stage tonight. He'll have to settle for becoming the Little Giants' first state placer since 2005.

Grine, who placed third at the Division I Cleveland State District Tournament last weekend, punched his ticket to the podium and snapped that eight-year skid with a 3-1 victory over Cincinnati Princeton junior A.J. Kowal in the quarterfinals Friday morning.

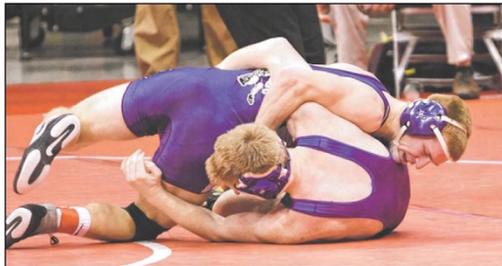
Grine lost to Ashland's Wyatt Music, 9-2, in the semifinals, bumping him down to the consolation semifinals. He can finish as high as third place with two victories this morning or as low as sixth place.

"It's my first state qualifying tournament, so I decided to go as hard as I could," said Grine, who is now 47-3. "I was trying to place, so to get the chance to do so is fantastic. It's pretty cool walking through that tunnel and seeing everybody in the crowd. That's probably the best feeling ever."

"No other district in this state was as good as ours. If I could hang with those guys at our district, I can hang with anybody here."

Music was the runner-up at the CSU District. He'll have a rematch of the district final on the big stage tonight when he takes on Lakewood St. Edward's Edgar Bright. In fact, all four district qualifiers at 145 will place in Columbus.

Grine will wrestle Massillon Jackson's Lucas Marcelli in the consolation



Fremont Ross' Peyton Geary wrestles against Aaron Yarger of Pickerington Central during the second day of the state wrestling meet in Columbus on Friday, March 1, 2013. LEE WELCH/NEWS-MESSENGER CORRESPONDENT

semifinals this morning.

"In 2005, we had two wrestlers place eighth, and I was hoping to get two placers this year," Fremont Ross coach Mike Mezinger said. "We came close to that, but (junior 152-pounder Peyton Geary) fell one point short of placing after he was up by two late. It was a tough loss."

"But Trey is wrestling hard and he wants it. He wants it bad. And now, it's up to him. This means everything to our program. Both of them our juniors and we took seven to districts that were juniors or below. We're getting there, and this is a big step."

Geary lost to Pickerington Central junior Aaron Yarger, 7-6, in the quarterfinals, and then was eliminated by Scott DeLuse of Lancaster by major decision, 15-5.

Fremont will have two state placers this year. SJCC junior 225-pounder Corey Durbin pinned Gallon's Deaken McCoy in 1:55 in the second round of consolations, then defeated Coldwater's Justin Post in overtime, 8-6, to reach the consolation semifinals.

Cramer, Ulinski and Clyde junior

152-pounder Blake Miller were the only other area wrestlers to reach Friday night's semifinals. Both Cramer and Ulinski delivered.

Cramer began his day by pinning Uhrichsville Claymont's Matt Dennis in 3:36. He ended his evening with a 6-1 victory over St. Paris Graham's Lane Thomas to clinch his first appearance in the state finals.

"It feels great," said Cramer, who improved to 41-5 and will meet Clarksville Clinton-Massie's Wyatt Running in tonight's championship match. "This is everything I wanted and that I've been training for since last season. To come here and be one step closer to your goal is fantastic."

"Whenever you go against any (Graham coach Jeff) Jordan kid, you know they're all built. That's one thing that was concerning, especially being not the biggest 70-pounder. But I can always move and adjust very well, and that's what I did. That Graham kid beat (Running) last week, so if I wrestle how I've been, I don't think I should

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out of 47 teams and having two guys in the finals.

"To bring four down here, I was ecstatic. And to get down here, everybody won a match and it was first time in school history that we had a sophomore heavyweight down here. To have Jared place, who was 0-2 here last year, and Luke to do what he did ... there's so many things that can happen down here."

In the early morning session, eight area wrestlers put the finishing touches on their podium placements, with a pair of Fremont high school wrestlers leading the way.

Ross junior 145-pounder Trey Grine and St. Joseph Central Catholic junior Corey Durbin each won their consolation semifinal bouts, en route to a pair of fourth-place finishes.

Grine (48-4) knocked off Massillon Jackson's Lucas Marcelli in overtime, 5-3, to reach the third-place match. However, he was defeated by Lakewood St. Edward senior Edgar Bright, 6-5.

"I was a little nervous because that's Edgar Bright from St. Ed's, one of the best wrestlers in the state," Grine said. "After I wrestled him the first time, I felt more comfortable. I felt like I could take it to him. I took him down early to be up 2-0, but he came back.

"He's a tough dude, but it was close. I gave him a great fight, and that's all you can ask for."

Grine lost to Bright at last weekend's Cleveland State District in the semifinals. Bright wound up winning the district

championship, while Grine finished in third.

"It's pretty cool," said Grine, who became the Little Giants' first state placer since 2005. "I never thought I would be fourth, especially in Division I at my weight class. This is my first time here and this was a great experience.

"I'll be back here next year, for sure."

Giants coach Mike Mezinger was proud of what Grine accomplished.

"He wrestled awesome down here," he said. "He wrestled great all year. He worked his tail off through the season, and now he knows what it takes to go to the next step. He's already talking about what he wants to do this summer, starting tomorrow. There is no off-season."