

2009 Greater Buckeye Conference...



Jennifer Young-Bower | News-Messenger correspondent

Fremont Ross 125-pound wrestler Yohe Rojas locks up with Findlay grappler David Castret during the Greater Buckeye Conference Tournament on Saturday at the Purple Pit.

Little Giants stun GBC

Nine Ross wrestlers recognized at league tourney

BY JEFF ARENZ
Sports Writer

FREMONT — Coming into the 2009 Greater Buckeye Conference Wrestling Tournament, Fremont Ross had been seeded fourth in the league.

But the Little Giants, who received all-conference contributions from nine different grapplers, upset second-seeded Sandusky in Round 1 en route to a third-place GBC finish Saturday at the Purple Pit.

"They had us ranked fourth and we placed third," Ross coach Mike Mezinger said. "After giving away three weight classes, 18 points really hurts when you're competing against Findlay and Napoleon with full lineups."

Still, Ross was in championship contention after the first three rounds. The Little Giants topped Sandusky 40-24, routed Lima Senior 52-18 and held off Marion Harding 51-24 to go 3-0. But a 43-26 loss to GBC team champion Findlay and a 45-30 defeat by runner-up Napoleon sealed the fate of Ross.

The Little Giants did not have wrestlers in three weight classes — 103, 130 and 152.

With only six teams in the conference, the GBC uses a dual team, round-robin format during its tournament.

Yohe Rojas (135 pounds) and Tylor Trautwein (189) became unbeaten league champions for the Little Giants.

Rojas went 5-0 with a pair of pins in 3:52 of combined time against Corey Bamron (Marion Harding) and Skylar Anderson (Napoleon). Rojas added a 23-6 technical fall against David Castret (Findlay).

"I'm pretty happy, but I am kind of upset

because it was my last home match," said Rojas, a two-time GBC champion who is 33-2 this season and is ranked seventh in the state. "I feel pretty good about my wrestling. I just need to fix a little stuff that I noticed today. I need to focus on staying calm and to continue drilling."

Trautwein, who began the season sidelined by a knee injury, bounced back to earn an undefeated 5-0 league title. He had four pins in 4:11 of combined time against David Seng (Findlay), Thon Elliott (Marion Harding), Cole Arps (Napoleon) and Tony Cook (Sandusky).

"It's pretty good (to rebound from an injury) because it's going to seed me pretty high at the sectionals," Trautwein said. "I can't try to outmuscle everyone and I need to use my technique (in the postseason)."

Miguel Marquez (112), Cody Evans (171) and Cameron Journigan (285) all went 4-1 to finish as conference runners-up for Ross. For their efforts, they earned second team All-GBC honors.

Steven Johnson (125), Derek McDonald (145), Wyatt Wukie (160) and Aaron Gonzalez (215) each were 3-2 for the Little Giants.

"We're peaking at the right time," Mezinger said. "Cameron took second at heavyweight after being a first-year wrestler. Miguel was second in the league. He has a losing record this season, but he really picked it up. Derek McDonald is senior who picked a nice way to finish his season."

Gonzalez, who had been the Little Giants' heavyweight for most of this season, slid down to 215 after experiencing an injury in recent weeks. Journigan has

stepped into the heavyweight role and has produced a pair of second place finishes — at the Celina Invitational and the GBC Tournament.

Findlay claimed the team title by completing a 5-0 sweep of its conference rivals. It was the first league championship for the Trojans, who ended a three-year reign by Napoleon as the league's top team. The Wildcats (4-1) came in second, followed by Ross (3-2), Sandusky (2-3), Marion Harding (1-4) and Lima Senior (0-5).

The Trojans toppled Marion Harding 66-12, Napoleon 42-33, Lima Senior 72-7, Ross 43-26 and Sandusky 54-13.

Findlay and Napoleon tied with four weight-class champions apiece. The Trojans' title-winners were Sid Jones (112, 5-0), Gage Mathias (152, 5-0), Michael Alexander (171, 5-0) and Max Gladstone (285, 5-0). The Wildcats' champions included Zach Walker (103, 5-0), Josh Lynch (130, 5-0), Jason Brown (160, 5-0) and Cody Bloom (215, 4-1).

Callen Vanderhoff (125), a four-year GBC champion who went 5-0 on Saturday, was picked as the league's Wrestler of the Year. Nick Webb (Sandusky, 2004-2007) is the only other grappler to win four straight conference titles.

Other GBC champions included Ramon Mendoza (119, Marion Harding, 5-0), Justin Palma (140, Sandusky, 5-0) and Jerrel Valliani (145, Sandusky, 5-0).

Findlay coach Ben Kirian was selected as the GBC Coach of the Year in a vote taken by conference coaches.

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Wrestling

High School

Saturday's Results

Greater Buckeye Conference

Tournament

At Fremont Ross

Team standings (Dual team format)

1. Findlay 5-0; 2. Napoleon 4-1; 3. Fremont Ross 3-2; 4. Sandusky 2-3; 5. Marion Harding 1-4; Lima Senior 0-5.

Champions (First Team All-GBC)

103 — Zach Walker (5-0), Napoleon. 112 — Sid Jones (5-0), Findlay.

119 — Ramon Mendoza (5-0), Marion Harding. 125 — Callen Vanderhoff (5-0), Marion Harding.

130 — Josh Lynch (5-0), Napoleon. 135 — Yohe Rojas (5-0), Fremont

Ross.

140 — Justin Palma (5-0), Sandusky. 145 — Jerrel Valliant (5-0),

Sandusky. 152 — Gage Mathias (5-0), Findlay.

160 — Jason Brown (5-0), Napoleon.

171 — Michael Alexander (5-0), Findlay.

189 — Tylor Trautwein (5-0), Fremont Ross.

215 — Cody Bloom (4-1), Napoleon. 285 — Max Gladstone (5-0), Findlay.

Second Place (Second Team All-GBC)

103 — Hunter Twining-Chalfin (4-1), Findlay.

112 — Miguel Marquez (4-1), Fremont Ross.

119 — Davion Caston (4-1), Sandusky.

125 — Dale Hancock (3-2), Napoleon.

130 — Jordan Jackson (4-1),

Findlay. 135 — David Castret (4-1), Findlay.

140 — Michael Stinchcomb (4-1),

Findlay. 145 — Jordan Fenton (4-1), Findlay.

152 — Sam Terrell (4-1), Sandusky.

160 — Wade Arredondo (4-1),

Findlay.

171 — Cody Evans (4-1), Fremont

Ross.

189 — David Seng (4-1), Findlay.

215 — D.J. Quitana (4-1), Lima

Senior.

285 — Cameron Journigan (4-1),

Fremont Ross.

Third Place

(Honorable Mention All-GBC)

112 — Jalen Paxton (3-2), Napoleon.

119 — Nate Walker (3-2), Napoleon.

125 — Steven Johnson (3-2),

Fremont Ross.

130 — Gavin Blanchard (3-2), Sandusky.

135 — Corey Bamron (3-2), Marion

Harding.

140 — Jeb Brink (3-2), Napoleon.

145 — Derek McDonald (3-2),

Fremont Ross.

152 — Nathan Norden (3-2),

Napoleon.

160 — Wyatt Wukie (3-2), Fremont

Ross.

171 — Kendric Aaron (3-2),

Sandusky.

189 — Thon Elliott (3-2), Marion

Harding.

215 — Aaron Gonzalez (3-2),

Fremont Ross.

285 — Tyson Agler (3-2), Napoleon.

GBC Wrestler of the Year — Callen

Vanderhoff, Marion Harding.

GBC Coach of the Year — Ben

Kirian.

