

1996 District meet...

Teams run for regional spots

By BRIAN SPIESS
Sports editor

For at least one meet, Fremont Ross girls cross country coach Cathy Esposito wants her team to be "average."

The Little Giants, winners of the Great Lakes League meet last Saturday at Pearson Park in Oregon, return to the same site Saturday as No. 2 seeds for the Division I District meet. Four of 12 teams will advance to regionals Oct. 25 in Tiffin.

"Last year we ran a great race at districts and not at regionals," Esposito said. "I just want us to have an average race, enough to make it out."

For weeks Esposito has been running her team at Hedges Boyer Park in Tiffin in anticipation of a spot in the regional meet.

Ross's chances of advancing there "are pretty darn good," Esposito said. The Little Giants are seeded second behind Toledo Central Catholic.

In the Division I boys race, Ross has a chance to advance — if they improve from last week.

The Little Giants were third at the GLL meet at Pearson Park, finishing behind Bedford (Mich.) and Findlay. They are seeded fourth in one of two 12-team districts run at the same course.

Teams seeded ahead of Ross are Maumee, Sylvania Southview and Findlay, with the latter being a natural rival. While the Oilers edges Ross at GLL, Fremont's Jeremiah Smith beat out Findlay's Brett Baddorf for the individual title.

"The motivation is there," Ross coach John Elder said.

Gibsonburg's boys team is top seed for the Division III district race to be run at Terra Community College.

"We've had a very consistent season," coach Beth Kohler said, her runners unshaken by a loss to Lakota in last week's Suburban Lakes League championship.

If you go

Here are directions to Pearson Park in Oregon, site of Fremont Ross's boys and girls district cross country meets: Take Ohio 590 north to Ohio 2 and head west. Pearson Park will be on the right just before Oregon.

Fremont Ross's boys and girls cross country teams each ran well enough to qualify for Saturday's Regional meet at Tiffin.

Jeremiah Smith paced the boys team, finishing second with a 16:33. Kurt Snyder also cracked the top 10, completing the Pearson Park (Oregon) course in 16:50.

Other Ross scorers were Jon Framstad (19th, 17:19), Eric Gabel (24th, 17:34) and Ryan Werling (31st, 17:59).

The team finished third, about one spot ahead of where coach John Elder had them projected.

In the girls Division I meet, Ross's Lindsay Frontz finished third with a time of 19:45, enough to help her team place second behind Toledo Central Catholic. Two other Ross runners, Alison Kelly (5th, 19:54) and Kristyn Werner (9th, 20:16) finished in the top 10.

The other Little Giant scorers were Monica Wood (19th, 20:51) and Abby Cominsky (22nd, 21:11).