

Cross Country

Ross, Lakota take two; SJCC girls, Rocket boys win

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross cross country teams claimed double-dual meet victories Tuesday over Great Lakes League foes Fostoria and Oregon Clay.

Dane Snyder was the top runner for the Ross boys, finishing 18 seconds behind winner Brad Mills of Oregon Clay.

Ross had the top five finishers in the girls meet, led by winner Jamie Toeppe with a time of 19:48.

Ross boys third in Celina invite

News-Messenger reports

The Fremont Ross boys cross country team amassed 96 points to finish third in the 14-team field in the Celina Invitational.

Bedford won the meet with 68 points and Oregon Clay had 74 to take the runner-up spot.

Two other Great Lakes League schools, Findlay and Toledo Whitmer, finished fourth and fifth.

"That shows how competitive the league meet will be," Ross coach John Elder said.

Dane Snyder and Jeremiah Wagner each finished in the top 10 for Ross. Snyder's time of 16 minutes, 46 seconds was good for seventh place and Wagner finished eighth in 16:53.

Sam Bell of Findlay won the race in 15:45.

Other Ross finishers in the top 40 included Jeremiah Smith (21st in 17:34), Doug Jibilian (25th in 17:46), Kurt Snyder (36th in 18:20) and Clint Hill (40th in 18:28).

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The Gibsonburg boys team finished third with 151 points, while Lakota's 157 points were good for fifth place and Woodmore had 160 points to finish sixth.

Bryan won the 18-team competition with 43 points.

Top runners for Lakota included Richie Rathburn, who finished 13th in 17:16; Andy Wasserman, 27th in 18:10; Jeremy Harrison, 32nd in 18:17; and Michael Brundage, 40th in 18:32.

Eric Foos, Steve Wasserman and Tony Tahy also finished in the top 50.

In the girls competition, Lakota finished seventh of 13 teams with 19 points, while Woodmore finished second with 44 points behind champion Seneca East's 30 points.

Lakota was led by Cindy Worstein's 39th-place showing. She finished in 22:52.

Beth Boyer and Kelly Baker ran 42nd and 43rd with times of 22:58 and

Ross wins tiebreak over Findlay

News-Messenger reports

Despite finishing in a 28-28 deadlock, the Fremont Ross boys (3-0) defeated Findlay in a dual meet Tuesday night at Walsh Trails.

Kurt Snyder, Ross's sixth man, helped Ross to the victory by outrunning

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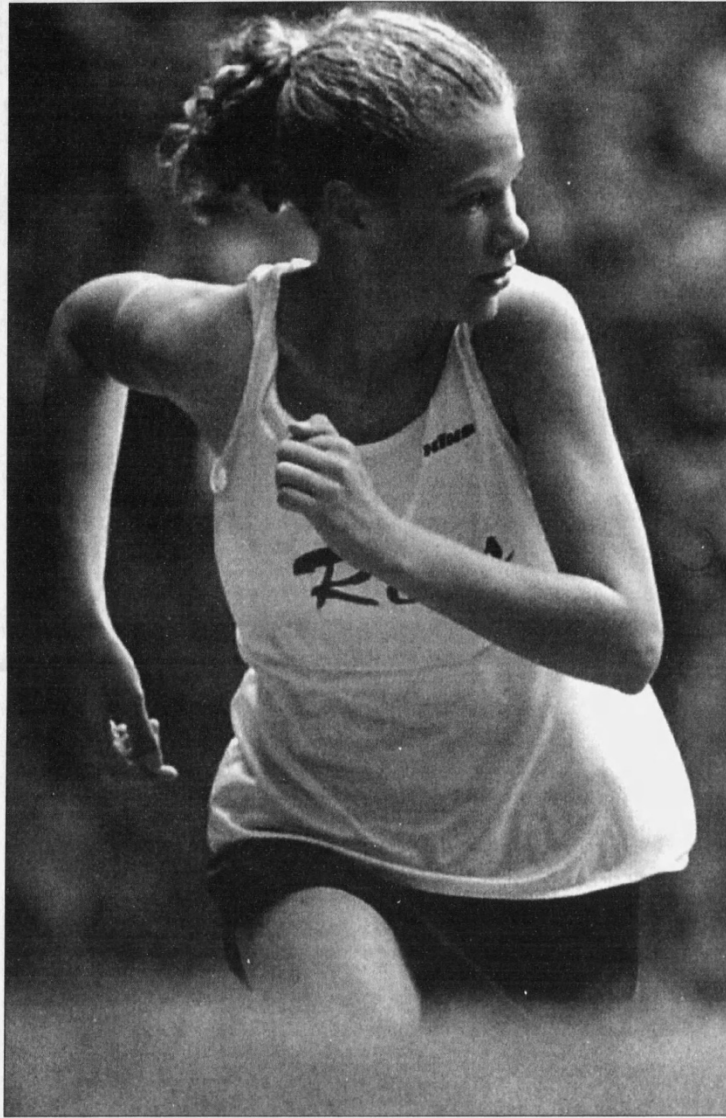
Findlay's fifth runner who finished twelfth. Snyder finished tenth in nineteen minutes and nineteen seconds.

"I'm pleased with the victory. It's always nice to get a win against Findlay." Coach John Elder said.

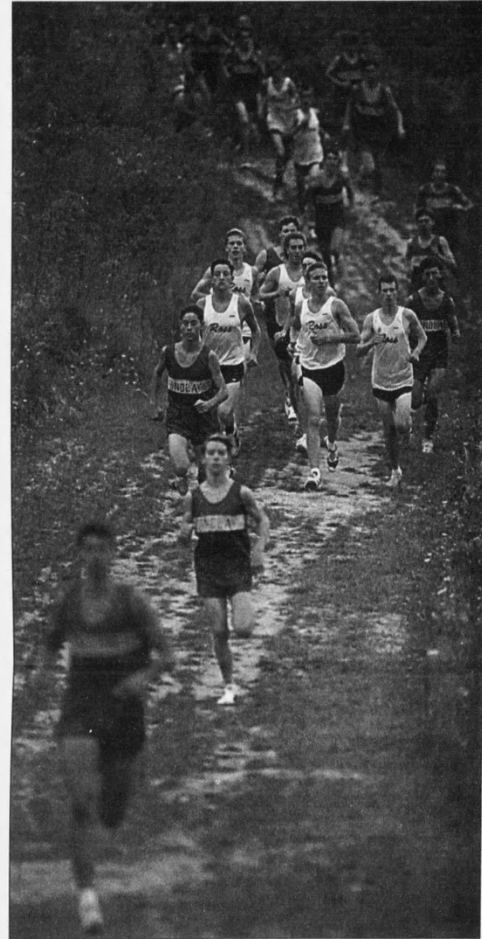
Ross' top finisher was Jeremiah Wagner who ran third in 17:10. Findlay took the top two spots led by Sam Bell's 16:38 and Dave Heine's 17:08.

In the girls meet Ross remained undefeated by winning 25-30. Jamie Toeppe finished first in 20:48 to pace the Ross victory.

"These girls are 14-0 upto this point which includes two dual meets and an invitational," coach Cathy Mallia said. They are running quite well."



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

Ross wins twice against Findlay

Jamie Toeppe of Fremont Ross glances back at the pack on her way up a hill at Walsh Trails during a high school cross country dual meet against Findlay Tuesday. Toeppe won the race, crossing the finish line in 20 minutes, 48 seconds. The Little Giants won the meet 25-30. The boys meet was even closer, with the Little Giants and Trojans finishing with 28 points apiece. Ross was credited with the victory because its sixth runner Kurt Snyder placed 10th while Findlay's fifth runner was 12th. Jeremiah Wagner was the top Ross runner, placing third in 17:10. **See story on B2.**

Snyder, Toeppe lead Ross to double victories

News-Messenger reports

Dane Snyder (17 minutes, one second) and Jeremiah Wagner (17:13) finished one, two to pace the Ross boys cross country team to a double-dual meet victory over Whitmer and Napoleon. Ross defeated Whitmer 20-35 and Napoleon 17-39.

In the girls meet, Ross remained undefeated in dual meet competition by outdistancing Whitmer 19-36 and Napoleon 18-43.

Jami Toeppe continued winning, finishing in 19:59 Sarah Williams finished third in 21:40.

Ross boys, girls win championships

News-Messenger reports

Fremont Ross won both the boys and girls championships in the four-team Maumee Invitational Saturday at Secor Park in Toledo.

The girls had 24 points as all five scoring runners finished in the top 10.

Jamie Toeppe won the 3.1-mile race in 19 minutes, 44 seconds. Sarah Williams of the Little Giants was third in 20:53 with Kristyn Warner fifth in 21:30. Carey Gill finished sixth in 21:40 and Allison Kelly ninth in 21:54 for Ross.

"The team's performance was awesome," Ross coach Cathy Mallia said. "The competition wasn't all that stiff, but it was a great team race."

Defiance was second with 50 points, followed by Whitmer with 52 and Toledo Start with 120.

The Ross boys took seven of the top 11 spots in the boys race. The Little Giants had 16 points with second-place Defiance at 44. Toledo St. John's "B" team was third with 80 and Toledo Start's "B" team was not figured in the scoring because there were only four runners.

Sophomore Jeremiah Smith won the race for Ross, finishing in 16:26. Jeremiah Wagner was second in 16:47, Dane Snyder third in 17:03 and Doug Jibilian fourth in 17:10 as the Little Giants took the top four spots. Kurt Snyder was sixth in 17:33 and Clint Hill seventh in 17:36, both for Ross.

Ross coach John Elder said the meet was one on which to build.

"Next week is the week where

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we find out where we stand for the districts," Elder said referring to Saturday's Oregon Clay Invitational at Navarre Park in Oregon. "To be a good team you have to be consistent week in a week out."

The consistency was obvious in this meet.

In other meets:

Lake Invitational

Lakota's boys team recorded 41 points, 35 less than runner-up Lake. Oak Harbor was fourth with 97.

Richie Rathburn was second overall in 17:20 to lead Lakota. Jeremy Harrison was fourth in 17:42, Tony Tahy 10th in 18:13, Steve Wasserman 11th in 18:16 and Andy Wasserman 14th in 18:28.

"They did well," Lakota coach Don Windom said of his runners. "We showed some improvement. We're looking for improvement from our three, four and five runners and that's what we got."

"We were really pleased with how they ran."

Oak Harbor's Brett Sprague was 13th in 18:23.

Otsego won the girls race with 38 points and Lakota was second with 45. Oak Harbor took third with 90.

For Lakota, Krista Miller finished fifth in 22:01 followed by teammates Regan Youngs (6th, 22:07), Erin Swaisgood (8th, 22:13), Kelly Baker (15th, 22:51) and Danielle Schulz (19th, 23:25).

Stacy Mays (22:23) led Oak Harbor with a 12th-place finish.

Cardinal Stritch Invitational

At Maumee Bay State Park, Clyde won the big-school race with 34 points. Kelly Taylor won the race in 19:11 and Jenny Staats (19:56) was third to lead the Fliers.

Clyde's Lori Lyons was seventh in 20:40, Kelly Skeels 11th in 21:04 and Rachael Salazar 12th in 21:10.

In the Division III girls race, Liberty-Benton won with 34 points while St. Joe was fourth with 115 and Bettsville was 11th with 292.

For St. Joe, Sarah Yeager was third in 20:15 followed by teammates Elizabeth Stierwalt (17th, 21:30), Nicole O'Neal (26th, 21:57), Jamie Chapman (30th, 22:01) and Natalie Wise (39th, 22:35).

Liberty-Benton won the Division III boys race with 44 points. Old Fort took third with 136, Bettsville was sixth with 186 and St. Joe 11th with 269.

Jon Burroughs took seventh in 17:06 for the Crimson Streaks, followed by Jon Link (48th, 18:28), Christian Moore (59th, 18:49), Brett Reineck (68th, 19:02) and Brian Harman (87th, 20:08).

Clyde's boys took sixth in Division I-II with 147 points. Ben Ingersoll was sixth in 16:47 to lead the Fliers.

Malone Invitational

Lindsey Hamilton took first overall and teammates Rachel Harder, Mandy Opfer and Kim Damschroder all finished in the top 10 Saturday, leading the Woodmore girls cross country team to the championship at the

17-team Malone Invitational.

The Wildcats, who had 45 points, won the team title for the third straight year. Seneca East took second with 73 points and Caldwell (122) took third.

Hamilton crossed the finish line in 19 minutes, 36 seconds, while Harder was sixth in 21:19, Opfer eighth in 21:39 and Damschroder ninth in 21:40.

The Wildcats' fifth runner, Cari Robenstine, was 21st in 22:39.

"This was the closest it's been, with Seneca East being there," Woodmore coach Mark Yoder said. "We didn't know they were going to be there. There were a couple of other ranked teams in this race, Caldwell and Wayne Trace."

"We like running on that course because it's one hill after another and they're pretty big hills. It was a good workout. We were happy to come away with a win, especially a convincing win like that."

Woodmore's boys finished seventh with 142 points. Rootstown won the team title with 86.

Tony Elder (18:04) led the Wildcats with a 10th-place finish. Mike Sorg placed 22nd in 18:45, followed by David Marlowe (33rd, 19:13), Mario Lopez (34th, 19:14) and Nick Dangler (43rd, 19:49).

"We didn't expect any season bests on this course," Yoder said. "We had a pretty hard practice on Friday. We're trying to get ready for league and districts coming up."

"We just wanted to run competitively."

Toeppe, Yeager, Hamilton win races

News-Messenger reports

Three area girls won individual titles in cross country races Saturday.

Two of them, Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic's Sarah Yeager and Lindsey Hamilton of Woodmore, led their teams to championships.

The Gibsonburg boys, meanwhile, took first place for the third straight year at the Bettsville Boosters Invitational.

Yeager and the Crimson Streaks won the Western Reserve Invitational, while Hamilton and the Wildcats took first in the Division II-III meet at the Oregon Clay Golden Eagle Invitational.

Jami Toeppe of Fremont Ross won the girls Division I race in 18 minutes, 33 seconds — lowering her own school record — as the Little Giants placed fourth in the eight-team field with 165 points.

"Our finish today shows that we have the potential to qualify for regionals as a team," Ross coach Cathy Mallia said.

Sarah Williams ran a 20:12 for Ross and finished 20th.

Toledo Notre Dame Academy won the girls team title with 53 points, and Toledo St. John's compiled 76 points and won the boys title.

The Fremont Ross boys were fourth with 125 points. Jeremiah

Wagner ran eighth in 16:15, Dane Snyder was 11th in 16:18 and Jeremiah Smith 13th in 16:25.

"We have never had three runners under 17 minutes all at the same time," Ross coach John Elder said. "They have set a new standard for themselves."

"Now they know they can run these kinds of times and there is no reason why they cannot get better."

Findlay's Sam Bell won the race in 15:28.

Hamilton won her race in 19:16, finishing 26 seconds in front of runner-up Amy Vernace of Napoleon.

"I really liked the conditions today and the course," Hamilton said. "But I still want to run faster...under 19 minutes."

Woodmore's 48 points were better than runner-up Eastwood's 90. Rachel Harder backed Hamilton with a fifth-place finish in 20:17.

Rounding out the scoring for the Wildcats were Mandy Opfer (12th in 20:58), Kim Damschroder (13th in 21:04) and Lindsay Kuhlman (17th in 21:14).

Lakota's girls tied for sixth place with 183 points, and Regan Youngs led the way by finishing 19th in 21:16.

Oak Harbor's girls were ninth with 260 points.

In the boys Division II-III

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meet, Liberty Center's Steve Chapa won the race in 16:15. Liberty Center, though, finished second in the team standings to Liberty-Benton, which had 50 points.

Top finishers from area teams included Woodmore's Tony Elder (18th in 17:28) and Mike Sorg (21st in 17:32); Oak Harbor's Tony Whitman (19th in 17:29); and Lakota's Richie Rathburn (33rd in 17:40) and Jeremy Harrison (42nd in 18:00).

Lakota's boys were eight with 242, Woodmore was 12th with 254 and Oak Harbor was 13th with 307.

Yeager, meanwhile, lowered her personal best to 19:10 and edged Abby Phillips of Seneca East by three seconds at Western Reserve.

"Sarah held her off with a

strong kick," St. Joe coach Gary Logsdon said.

"We knew Sarah would be up there, but we needed Jamie Chapman and Elizabeth Stierwalt running side-by-side, and we needed Natalie Wise and Nicole O'Neal running together."

Chapman (20:54) and Stierwalt (20:59) placed 11th and 12th, respectively. O'Neal (21:19) and Wise (21:24) were 16th and 19th, respectively.

The Streaks had 57 points to lead the 11-team field, Seneca East had 64 and New London 67.

New London runners placed seventh, ninth, 10th, 21st and 22nd. Seneca East runners took places 13, 23, 25, 26 and 28.

Old Fort's Heidi Burks finished 24th in the girls open race, clocking in at 21:44.

In the boys race, Old Fort's Brock Cleveland placed third in 16:10 and St. Joe's Jon Burroughs was fourth in 16:14.

"Burroughs closed the gap on him this time," Logsdon said. "He stayed shoulder-to-shoulder with him."

Seneca East won the boys title at Western Reserve with 53 points, New London was second with 59, Old Fort third with 88 and St. Joe was seventh in the 12-team field with 201.

At Bettsville, Gibsonburg's boys totalled 48 points to Fostoria St. Wendelin's 65. Bettsville was fifth in the 10-team field with 133.

Steve Smith led the Golden Bears, placing third with a time of 16:35. Brent Fahle was seventh for Gibsonburg in 17:24 followed by Corey English 13th in 17:34, Chris Damschroder 14th in 17:37

and Todd Magrum 25th in 18:09.

"They packed together well and pulled each other along," Gibsonburg coach Beth Kohler said. "They were confident going in."

Bettsville was led by Doug Wolf (10th in 17:32) and Chris Wescott (15th in 17:41).

St. Wendelin won the eight-team girls meet with 61 points, edging Elmwood by two. Bettsville placed sixth with 123 and Gibsonburg was seventh with 125.

Gibsonburg's Brooke Bowe trailed the individual champ Julie Walerivs of Van Burn by one second. Bowe's time of 20:09 broke the Gibsonburg school record held previously by Stacy Hart, who ran a 20:30 in 1988.

Heather Leidy placed 18th for Bettsville in 22:24, and Kendra Schiewe was 21st in 22:38.



Ross girls undefeated in GLL

New Messenger Reports

The Fremont Ross girls cross country team is the team to beat^N Saturday in the Great Lakes League Meet at Ottawa Park in Toledo.

"We feel confident about Saturday," Ross coach Cathy Mallia said after the Little Giants defeated Northview 23-47 and Bedford 15-50 in a double-dual meet at Walsh Trails Tuesday.

"We are not overconfident.. anything can happen. We are still a very young team, but these girls have grown up a lot as the season has progressed," Mallia said. "They have learned how to come ready to run and win."

Jami Toeppe continues to lead Ross. Tuesday, Toeppe won the

race in 19 minutes, nine seconds.

The Ross boys, meanwhile, finished with a GLL dual-meet record of 5-1 after a 16-45 victory over Northview and a 26-29 loss to Bedford.

Bedford's Jesse Elzinga_N won the race in a course-record time of 16:29.

Jeremiah Smith led the Little Giants, finishing second in 16:51.

"Hopefully we can get them Saturday," Ross coach John Elder said. "They were the better team today."

"We must get healthy by the end of the week. Dane (Snyder) will be feeling better by then."

"If he does, and our top five have a good day, we could be very competitive."