

# Teams set for Norm Bray Invitational

By **SCOTT TAPPA**  
Sports editor

Fremont Ross cross country coach Cathy Esposito says Norm Bray was the reason she entered coaching and teaching, a "majorly inspirational" force in her life.

Most prominently, Esposito thinks the deceased Bray was with her Little Giants in spirit as they competed in the state meet.

"I think about him all the time, up there watching, sitting there snickering," said Esposito, whose team competes in the annual Norm Bray Invitational Saturday morning at Walsh Park. "When we went to state, I think, he was really geeked. It was real emotional for me."

Bray was the long-time Ross

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track and cross country coach, who, according to Ross boys coach John Elder, founded the girls program in the early 1980s, and influenced athletes like Rob Lytle.

After years of hosting a meet in conjunction with St. Joseph Central Catholic, a meet in which only teams with red and purple colors were invited, the schools decided to name the meet after Bray.

For Elder, there could be no more worthy recipient of the meet's name.

"He was a pretty special guy. I ran for him, Cathy did, so it's a neat way to remember someone," Elder said. "He's the last of a dying breed. He coached for 35 years, and you don't see that too often anymore. He literally did it until the day he died."

Bray's legacy may be a glowing one, but runners in Saturday's meet won't likely be singing the old coach's praises after completing the difficult course at Walsh Park.

"The course is tough because it goes around whole park twice, with the monster hill, the butt-buster," Esposito said.

"We never have any record-breaking times."

Course difficulty was one rea-

son coach Don Windom of Lakota chose to bring his team to the 1998 Norm Bray after competing in Columbus Grove the past several years.

"We wanted a chance to run against some different teams," Windom said.

"Our (Suburban Lakes) league meet is at Walsh Park, so this is a chance to run on the course before the league meet."

Top teams from Toledo Whitmer, Bowling Green and Maumee make the meet even more competitive, especially for Ross, which has not yet opened its season.

St. Joe, which has had mixed results in its early meets, looks for consistency.

## The Norm Bray field

### Division I

Fremont Ross  
Toledo Whitmer (boys only)  
Bowling Green  
Maumee  
Toledo Start  
Toledo Woodward  
Clyde

### Division II

St. Joseph  
Hopewell-Loudon  
Huron  
Margaretta  
Toledo Christian  
Gorham Fayette  
New Riegel  
Tiffin Calvert  
Genoa  
Old Fort

# Young St. Joe streaks to Norm Bray title

## Ross girls take second in Division I, boys fifth

By **MICHAEL PIDANICK**  
Staff writer

If any Division II or III teams have aspirations of winning the Norm Bray Invitational any time soon, they had better start working.

St. Joseph Central Catholic won the meet for the second year in a row Saturday at Walsh Park — and the Crimson Streaks' top seven runners will be back next year.

"I'm extremely pleased," said St. Joe coach Gary Logsdon. "They are a good young group. We have no seniors in our top seven (runners)."

The Streaks finished with 45 points, well ahead of second-place Hopewell-Loudon's 81. Margaretta finished third with 103 and Lakota was ninth with 168.

The Raiders won the boys Division II-III with 67 points. Tiffin Calvert was second with 78, St. Joe was sixth with 158, Genoa was seventh with 171 and Old Fort was

eighth with 175.

Fremont Ross placed second in the girls Division I race with 52 points, 12 behind champion Bowling Green. Clyde was fifth with 142.

Maumee easily won the boys Division I race with 28 points. BG

was second with 83, Ross was fifth with 110 and Clyde was sixth with 116.

The Crimson Streaks had five finishers in the top 15, led by Keri Oxley, who finished in 21 minutes, 32 seconds.

Kerri Zimmerman was seventh in 22:20, Joni Wilhelm was ninth in 22:27, Tracie Snyder was 12th in 22:50 and Trisha Snyder

was 14th in 23:03.

"We are very honored to win this and extremely excited about this season," Oxley said.

Said Trisha Snyder: "We got into a good pack and that really helped us."

## Norm Bray winners

### Division I Boys

Team: Maumee  
Individual: Nolan Fahrer, Bowling Green

### Division I Girls

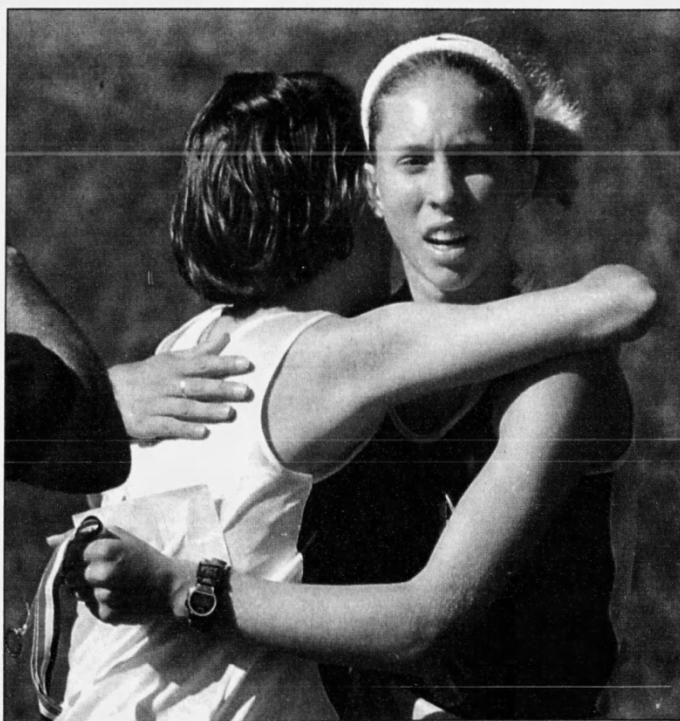
Team: Bowling Green  
Individual: Jessie Bartz, Maumee

### Division II-III Boys

Team: Lakota  
Individual: Jeremy Riehm, Old Fort

### Division II-III Girls

Team: St. Joe  
Individual: Kara Simpson, Toledo Christian



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

**KERI OXLEY** of St. Joseph Central Catholic, right, gets a hug from a teammate after finishing third in Saturday's Norm Bray Invitational. The Crimson Streaks girls won Division II-III.

See **ESPOSITO**, B3



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

RYAN WERLING of Ross runs along the flood wall at Walsh Park.

## Esposito happy with Little Giants' performance

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Keri Peiffer was 24th in 23:45.9 and Jill Wilhelm was 53rd in 27:48 for St. Joe.

Kara Simpson of Toledo Christian won the race in 20:57.

Jessie Bartz of Maumee won the Div. I race in 20:31.

"I had a good start and that helped," she said. "I wanted to get in under 20 (minutes)."

The Little Giants' girls team was led by Molly Gocke, who placed third and Abby Cominsky, who was fourth.

"I felt I did pretty well for the first meet," said Gocke, who finished in 21:30. "It's a tough course. I wanted to finish somewhere in the top 10."

Said Cominsky, who finished in 21:42: "I felt it went great, I wanted to finish in the top five. I had a good first mile and I kept a good pace."

Jenny Gabel was 14th in 22:53, Lani DeLeon was 15th in 22:59, Lindsay Frontz was 16th in 23:01, Monica McElfresh was 19th in 23:11 and Jeanette Frontz was 20th in 23:13.

"I'm happy with the overall

performance," said Ross coach Cathy Esposito. "But we still have a lot of work to do."

Old Fort's Jeremy Riehm edged St. Joe's Mike Chapman to win the boys Div. II and III race. Riehm crossed the finish line in 16:49, four seconds ahead of Chapman.

Lakota's Jeremy Miller was fifth in 17:53, teammate Eric Swaisgood was sixth in 17:33 and Will Windom was ninth in 18:20.

"Our guys had a real good run," said Stockaders coach Don Windom. "We had no idea how we would finish here. I knew

there were a lot of good teams."

Bowling Green's Nolan Fahrer won the boys race with a time of 16:43. Maumee's Brian McNutt was second in 16:52.4, one-tenth of a second ahead of teammate Nick Wineland.

Clyde's Josh Cook was fourth in 17:43. Ross's highest placer was Ryan Werling. He finished in 18:10, eight seconds ahead of teammate Jeremy Framstad.

"We're young but we're getting better," said Ross boys coach John Elder. "We'll use this as a learning experience."

# Cross Country

## High School Boys

### Norm Bray Invitational

#### Division I

##### Team Results

Maumee 28, Bowling Green 83, Toledo Whitmer 87, Toledo Start 93, Ross 110, Clyde 116, Lake 172

##### Individual results

1— Nolan Fahrer, Bowling Green, 16:43; 2— Brian McNutt, Maumee, 16:52; 3 — Nick Wingland, Maumee, 16:52; 4 — Josh Cook, Clyde, 17:23; 5 — Greg Point, Maumee, 17:28; 6— Jake Armentrout, Toledo Whitmer, 17:32; 7 — Jesse Aslunct, Bowling Green, 17:34; 8 — Tony Szczechowski, Maumee, 17:39; 9 — David Moore, Start, 17:43; 10— Andy Ritter, Maumee, 17:54; 14 — Ryan Werling, Ross, 18:10; 15 — Jeremy Framstad, Ross, 18:18; 18 — Josh Burris, Ross, 18:34; 22 — Ryan Mendoza, Clyde, 18:39; 25 — Kyle Gettys, Clyde, 18:49; 4 Jon Framstad, Ross, 18:54; 31 — Skip Turner, Clyde, 19:11; 34 — Nick Rogers, Clyde, 19:20; 36 — Adam Swope, Ross, 19:31; 39 — Rickie Greiner, Clyde, 19:40; 43 — Clay Huffman, Ross, 20:39; 45 — Mark Thomson, Ross, 21:02; 46 — Ko Yong Chan, Clyde, 21:05

#### Division II, III

##### Team results

Lakota 67, Tiffin Calvert 78, Huron 99, Toledo Christian 129, Hopewell-Loudon 154, St. Joe 158, Genoa 171, Old Fort 175, Margaretta 200, Maumee Valley 260

##### Individual results

1— Jeremy Riehm, Old Fort, 16:49; 2— Mike Chapman, St. Joe, 16:53; 5 — Jeremy Miller, Lakota, 17:53; 6 — Eric Swaisgood, Lakota, 17:55; 9 — Will Windom, Lakota, 18:20; 18 — Kyle Leber, Margaretta, 15:05; 19 — Jason Kegres, Margaretta, 15:07; 21 — Bill Stafford, Lakota, 15:10; 26 — Josh Graben, Lakota, 15:17; 28 — Tyler Sterwalt, St. Joe, 15:23; 31 — Courtney Hessick, Old Fort, 15:39; 32 — Josh Lopez, Genoa, 15:43; 35 — Matt Wasserman, Lakota, 15:50; 36 — Nick McGraff, Old Fort, 15:55; 37— Justin Rodewich, Genoa, 15:56; 39— Andrew Shack, St. Joe, 20:20; 40 — Tony Halthill, Lakota, 20:24; 41 — Ben Moyer, St. Joe, 20:26; 43 — Mike Shinaver, Genoa, 20:42; 45 — Zack Burks, Old Fort, 20:52; 47 — Kevin Clapp, Margaretta, 21:04; 48 — Jamie LeJune, St. Joe, 21:07; 52 — Jon Harmon, Genoa, 21:41; 55 — Tom Sterwalt, St. Joe, 21:46; 57 — Nick Despones, Genoa, 22:02; 58 — Brandon Schnieder, Margaretta, 22:03; 59 — Ben Picket, St. Joe, 22:04; 61 — Greg Hill, Genoa, 22:37; 62 — Aaron Riehm, Old Fort, 22:44; 65 — David Myers, Old Fort, 23:42; 69 — Brian Riehm, Old Fort, 24:59

## High School Girls

### Norm Bray Invitational

#### Division I

##### Team results

Bowling Green 40, Ross 52, Maumee 63, Toledo Start 92, Clyde 142, Lake 148

##### Individual results

1 — Jessie Barte, Maumee, 20:31; 2 — Emily Gorn, Start, 20:45; 3 — Molly Gocke, Ross, 21:35; 4 — Abby Cominsky, Ross, 21:42; 5 — Carly Nutton, Bowling Green, 22:02; 6\* — Allison Sprout, Bowling Green, 22:11; 7 — Jamie Dierken, Bowling Green, 22:17; 8 — Denell Sherman, Clyde, 22:20; 9 — Laura Dunn, Bowling Green, 22:22; 10 — Arin DeClerce, Start, 22:24; 14 — Jenny Gabel, Ross, 22:51; 15 — Lani DeLeon, Ross, 22:58; 16 — Lindsay Frontz, Ross, 23:01; 19 — Monica McElfresh, Ross, 23:11; 20 — Jeanette Frontz, Ross, 23:13; 32 — Laura Dearsman, Clyde, 26:11; 33 — Jenn Miller, Clyde, 27:07; 34 — Cassie Kelley, Clyde, 28:18; 35 — Brandi Wyant, Clyde, 28:21; 37 — Kristy Taylor, Clyde, 29:36

#### Division II, III

##### Team results

St. Joe 45, Hopewell-Loudon 81, Margaretta 103, Huron 105, Genoa 113, Toledo Christian 136, Lakota 168, Tiffin Calvert 197

##### Individual results

1 — Kara Simpson, Toledo Christian, 20:57; 2 — Ashley Skees, Genoa, 21:04; 3 — Keri Oxley, St. Joe, 21:32; 4 — Ashley Futrell, Toledo Christian, 21:54; 5 — Rachel Hoover, Hopewell-Loudon, 22:00; 6 — Krisi Reinhart, Hopewell-Loudon, 22:07; 7 — Keri Zimmerman, St. Joe, 22:20; 8 — Edna Kollaris, Maumee, 22:24; 9 — Joni Wilhelm, St. Joe, 22:27; 10 — Kara Klein, Huron, 22:30; 11 — Schanel Kuns, Margaretta, 22:34; 12 — Tracie Snyder, St. Joe, 22:50; 13 — Katrina Day, Margaretta, 22:52; 14 — Trish Snyder, St. Joe, 23:03; 19 — Rita White, Margaretta, 23:31; 22 — Heather Bolander, Genoa, 23:45; 1; 24 — Keri Peiffer, St. Joe, 23:45; 9; 25 — Jenny Widman, Lakota, 23:46; 8; 27 — Amy Malott, Margaretta, 24:02; 31 — Jessica Rupright, Lakota, 24:36; 33 — Becky Yetten, Margaretta, 24:53; 34 — Kathy Vykopal, Lakota, 25:07; 35 — Tia Tucker, Lakota, 25:08; 43 — Heather Hill, Lakota, 25:55; 44 — Samantha Ming, Genoa, 26:00; 49 — Lindsey Crawford, Margaretta, 26:44; 51 — Jessica Etwood, Margaretta, 27:14; 53 — Jill Wilhelm, St. Joe, 27:48; 54 — Jessica Allen, Lakota, 28:21; 58 — Laura Schneider, Lakota, 29:20