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Day of strong emotions at state championships

BY JEFF ARENZ
Sports writer

Logan finishes ninth in shot put; Scharf suffers injury

COLUMBUS -- Fremont Ross and Clyde athletes had an emotional day at the OHSAA Track and Field State Championships on Saturday at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium.

The Little Giants' Victoria Logan missed making the podium in the Division I shot put after a heave of 38-feet, 11 3/4-inches. She ended up ninth.

"It's an honor to be here, but I didn't win," Logan said. "I wanted to do better because I know that I can do better. What else can I say?"

Logan qualified for the state meet with a throw of 40-9, which was the eighth seed entering Columbus.

Harrison's Brittany Wilson-Farley became the Division I shot put state champion with a throw of 45-5. Toledo Scott's Shatora Lewis (43-0 1/2) was second and Cincinnati Withrow's D'Monami Gardner (41-3) ended up third.

After a hamstring injury to No. 3-runner Ryan Scharf during the Division II 800 relay, the Clyde Fliers could not defend their Division II 1,600 relay title Saturday.

Clyde (Logan Garcia, Scott Koenig, Travis Lauer, Kade Kramer) was seventh in 3:26.17 in the 1,600 relay after posting a preliminary time of 3:25.11 on Friday. The Fliers entered the meet seeded second in the state.

"We will start in January and do it all over again," Clyde coach Mike Martin said. "Things like this happen. It's sad for Travis and Logan, who are graduating. Kade, Scott and Ryan will be back next year, and they know what it takes."

Scharf said he felt his hamstring pop while competing in the Division II 800 relay. He was replaced with Travis Lauer in the 1,600 relay.

"This just builds a bigger fire inside of me to work harder for next year," Scharf said.

Kramer said it was day of emotions.

"What a day ... it was an emotional rollercoaster," Kramer said. "First, Ryan pulls a hamstring and, then, Travis gave it his all in trying to fill in for him. Look at him (Lauer). He's over there puking on the sidelines."

Martin said it was Lauer's first time competing in the 1,600 relay.

"I felt kind of sore after the meet Friday night," Scharf said. "When I got to the stadium (Saturday), my left hamstring felt a little tighter than my right, which I thought was odd. At the start of the 800 relay, I felt fine heading into the turn and, when I began to kick it in, I felt it (the left hamstring) pop and down I went."

The Fliers (Logan Garcia, Travis Lauer, Ryan Scharf, Kade Kramer), who were seeded sixth coming into the state meet, were unable to finish the 800 relay.

Lakota athletes Jacob Smith and Roger Guerra completed their seasons on the podium of the OHSAA Division III Track and Field State Championships on Saturday.

Smith was third during the Division III 110 hurdles in 14.89 behind Gates Mills Hawken's Tyler Nichols (14.64) and Delphos Jefferson's Tim Sanders (14.85).

"I knew that I had a chance to win it, but I'm happy to finish in the top three," Smith said. "I hit the third hurdle and that seemed to be the difference. It was hard to overcome that."

Smith, a senior, did not make the final round in two previous attempts. He came into this year's state meet with the fifth fastest qualifying time.

After Guerra moved up two places Friday to make the finals of the Division III 100 dash, the Lakota junior narrowly passed Troy Christian's Wes Brown for seventh place Saturday.

Both Guerra and Brown clocked a time of 11.39 seconds, but Guerra received the nod to finish seventh.

"There are some fast boys in this competition," Guerra said. "It feels good to finish on the podium."

Guerra, a junior, wants to end up at state next year.

"I know what it takes to practice for this," Guerra said. "I wish I had taken it more seriously from the start of the season, instead of kicking it into gear at mid-season."

Clyde athlete Juho Hietenen moved up during the finals of the Division II high jump.

Hietenen, who came into the state meet seeded ninth with an effort of 6-feet, 3-inches, ended up fifth after clearing a judges decision 6-4. Hietenen, a foreign exchange student from Finland, became a track and field athlete just three months ago.

"It's outstanding that he picked up on this so fast," Martin said. "He has proven that he has great ability. In fact, some schools have inquired about him."

Martin gave credit to Clyde assistant coach Steve Baker for working with Hietenen this season.

Bellevue athlete Julia Walters was 11th in the Division II pole vault after clearing 10-0 on Saturday.

Walters was hoping for a better performance after qualifying fifth for state competition with an effort of 10-8.

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