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Harper shines at Clyde

BY JEFF ARENZ
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Ross sprinter shares meet's top athlete award

CLYDE -- It was a tight battle between Fremont Ross's Carlea Harper and Tiffin Columbian's Marissa Davis on Saturday at the Art Hendricks Track and Field Invitational.

Harper and Davis shared the girls trophy for Female Athlete of the Meet after virtually tying among four events.

Harper won the 100 and 200 dashes (in 12.5 and 27.0 seconds, respectively) and helped the Little Giants to a second-place effort in the 800 relay (1:51.2) and a fourth-place performance in the 400 relay (53.9).

"I think I did pretty well, especially since I'm running on two pulled hamstrings," Harper said. "I don't know how I'm overcoming the soreness. I have a lot of heart and desire, I guess. I love to run."

Davis anchored the Tornadoes' victories in the 400 and 800 relays (in 52.6 seconds and 1:48.8, respectively, added a second-place showing in the 200 dash (27.2) and ended up fourth in the 100 dash (12.9).

Harper, who ran the anchor leg of the 800 relay, was assisted by Ellen Silva, Donisha Walk and Jericha Martin. Davis, along with Tori Stephens, Anna Williams and Neka Maceo, led Columbian past Ross 1:48.8 to 1:51.2.

Victoria Logan captured the discus (115-feet, 110-inches) and shot put (38-2) titles for Ross.

Ashland, which won seven events and had four second-place finishes, topped Tiffin Columbian 129-126 1/2 in the team standings. The rest of the field included Upper Sandusky (73 1/2), Fremont Ross (59), Clyde (53), Toledo St. Ursula (37), Genoa (29) and Bellevue (20).

"We're getting better because we have a lot of freshmen who are starting to get it now," Harper said of the Little Giants progress thus far this season.

CLYDE

The Fliers, who were without several key athletes Saturday, turned in a pair of second-place showings.

Taylor Ebert ran second to Ashland's Kristen Donaldson (5:36.3 to 5:40.0) in the 1,600 run. Logan bested Clyde's Heidi Bentley (38-2 to 30-9) in the shot put.

Lindsay Smetzler, Ashley Alejandro, Taylor Guggisberg, Rachel Smetzler ran third in the 1,600 relay in 4:25.4. Mindy Gill (high jump, 4-8) and Maraha Estep (discus, 94-10) added third-place performances for Clyde.

BELLEVUE

Lady Red state qualifier Julia Walters placed second behind Tiffin Columbian's Stephanie Shockey in the pole vault. Both were able to clear 9-6.

Bellevue had no first-place efforts.



Fremont Ross's Carlea Harper competes in the 100 dash during the Art Hendricks Track and Field Invitational on Saturday at Clyde High School. (Jennifer Young-Bower | News-Messenger correspondent)