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Hines advances to state

News-Messenger reports

PICKERINGTON -- Fremont Ross hurdler Justin Hines was the only Little Giants athlete who advanced on Day 1 of the Division I Regional Track and Field Championships on Wednesday.

Hines, who ran 15.17 seconds to qualify seventh overall in the 110 hurdles, grabbed the fourth and final spot in his heat.

The top four athletes in each preliminary heat moved on to run in the semifinal round Friday.

"He ran a nice race against some tough, competitive athletes," Ross coach Cathy Esposito said. "Now that Justin only has the 110 hurdles left, he needs to visualize himself getting back in front by taking control of it from the start."

Hines was narrowly left out of the semifinals of the 300 hurdles. Despite having a better time than the eighth overall qualifier, Hines ended up ninth in 40.36 seconds because he finished fifth in Heat 1. Olentangy Liberty's Luke Buffington, who was fourth in Heat 2, grabbed the last qualifying spot after running a 40.68.

Josh Ballenger (discus) and Darien Spann (long jump) failed to qualify for the Division I state meet, which will be held June 5-6 at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium in Columbus.

Ballenger finished eighth after a throw of 145-feet, 7-inches while Spann was seventh after leaping 21-4.

In field events, the top four athletes automatically advanced to the state level.

Ross, which had regional qualifying relay teams in all four events, did not advance in any race.

Devontay Woods, Jacob Berryman, Brett Mierke and James Aaron Spencer were 15th in 45.16 seconds during the 400; Woods, Hines, Spann and Spencer ended up 11th in 1:32.32 during the 800; Wyatt Harvey, Hines, Spann and Spencer) finished 16th in 3:34.83 during the 1,600 and Andy Leemaster, Luis Franco, Kristopher Esparza and Harvey) captured 15th in 8:27.03 during the 3,200.

On Friday, Harvey is scheduled to compete in the 800 run while Mierke will participate in the high jump in Pckerington.

DIVISION I GIRLS

AMHERST -- Fremont Ross thrower Victoria Logan advanced to the Division I State Track and Field Championships after ending up third in the shot put during the regional meet Wednesday.

Logan's toss covered 40-feet, 9-inches.

In field events, the top four athletes automatically advanced to the state level.

Carlea Harper qualified for the semifinals after finishing seventh overall in 58.23 during the preliminaries of the 400 dash.

The top four athletes in each preliminary heat compete in the semifinal round Friday.

Harper did not advance during the prelims of the 100 dash.
