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Little Giants cruise to win at Hendricks

BY JEFF ARENZ
Sports Writer

CLYDE -- Fremont Ross dominated the boys portion of the Art Hendricks Track and Field Invitational on Saturday.

The Little Giants won seven events and placed second in four others en route to a 140-91 victory against host Clyde. The rest of the field included Genoa (85 2/3 points), Toledo St. Francis DeSales (70), Tiffin Columbian (57), Bellevue (50), Ashland (22 1/3) and Upper Sandusky (15).

Justin Hines and Wyatt Harvey turned in a pair of championship performances for Ross.

Hines won both hurdle events, running 14.6 seconds in the 110 and 40.4 seconds in the 300. Harvey claimed an individual victory in the 800 run (2:06.4) and ran the anchor leg for the Little Giants' 3,200 relay team, which posted a win in 8:45.7.

Andy Leemaster, Reuben Saldivar and Luis Franco teamed with Harvey during the 3,200 relay.

"We performed well and got a lot of wins," Hines said. "We still have a lot to achieve. I'd give us a 7 out of 10 for the level we're at right now. It's still early in the season, and we can still realize all of our potential."

The relays were strong for Ross, which placed second in the 400, 800 and 1,600.

Jacob Berryman, James Spencer, Devante Woods and Darien Spann fell to Tiffin Columbian (45.9 to 46.2) in the 400 relay. Clyde's Logan Garcia, Travis Lauer, Ryan Scharf, Kade Kramer held off Hines, Spann, Spencer and Terence Davis (1:31.9 to 1:34.4) in the 800 relay. The Fliers (Garcia, Kramer, Scharf, and Scott Koeing) claimed a 3:34.4 to 3:43.0 win against the Little Giants (Hines, Davis, Harvey and Spencer) in the 1,600 relay.

Ross posted victories in three of five field events.

Josh Ballenger (162-feet, 2-inches) was first and Boston Beckley (156-0) was third in the discus for the Little Giants, which received wins from Spann (20-1) in the long jump and Brett Mierke (6-0) in the high jump. Jay Speer (11-0) ended up third in the pole vault.

Spencer (54.3) ran third in the 400 dash. In distance, Ross's Kristopher Esparza finished second in the 3,200 run.

CLYDE

Kramer was selected as the Male Athlete of the Meet. He won the 200 dash in 22.1 seconds, which broke the meet record of 22.2 seconds.

The 200 dash mark was shared by five athletes -- Jason Lather (Fremont Ross) in 1994, Rudy Matthews (Toledo Central Catholic) in 1997, Gary Tisdale (Toledo Central Catholic) in 1999, Durond Clark (Sandusky) in 2001 and Adam Wilhelm (Fremont Ross) in 2004.

Only four-tenths of a second separated Kramer (22.1), Toledo St. Francis DeSales' Blake Dedo (22.4) and Genoa's Blair Skilliter (22.5), who finished third, in the 200 dash.

Kramer helped the Fliers capture relay victories in the 800 and the 1,600.

"Kade is working hard and has great determination," Fliers coach Mike Martin said. "He's just going to continue to improve."

Garcia posted a win the 400 dash in 52.7 seconds.

Skilliter edged Kramer, a 2008 OHSAA state qualifier in two events (400 and 800 relays), by a tenth of a second (10.8 to 10.9) to equal a meet record in the 100 dash. Skilliter's time of 10.8 seconds in the 100 dash tied Sandusky's Durond Clark, who first established the mark in 2001.

Scharf turned in a second-place effort in the 300 hurdles, where he was one-tenth of a second off the pace of Hines (40.4 to 40.5). Juho Hietenen was second in the high jump (6-0) and the long jump (19-6 1/2).

"The thing about the boys team is that I have some great leaders who continually work hard in practice to reach their ultimate goal," Martin said.

BELLEVUE

The Redmen had a quartet of second-place performances in three individual events and one relay race.

Bill Fry was a second off the pace of Genoa's Gavan Benadum (4:42.9 to 4:43.9) in the 1,600 run. Matt Agee finished second to Hines in the 110 hurdles (14.6 to 15.8). Josh Arnett tossed the shot put 52-0 to end up behind Genoa's Marcus Vicars (54-1 1/2).

Fry ran the anchor leg of the Bellevue's 3,200 relay team, which recorded a second-place effort to Fremont Ross (8:45.7 to 8:56.0). Fry was assisted by Scott Ackerman, Kyle Braun and Nathan Ball.

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