



May 11, 2009

Little Giants hang with top opponents

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Sports writer

Ross boys second with meet-best six firsts

FREMONT -- Cleveland St. Ignatius outlasted Fremont Ross to capture the 47th Fremont Track and Field Invitational 143-125 on Saturday at Alumni Fields.

The Little Giants gained a 60-50 decision over the Wildcats by claiming a 6-5 victory in championship performances. However, the meet was decided by second-place efforts, where St. Ignatius significantly outscored Ross 8-3 for a 64-24 advantage.

Toledo St. John's Jesuit (109 1/4 points) came in third, followed by Sandusky (86), Toledo Central Catholic (54), Clyde (51), St. Joseph Central Catholic (30 1/2), Toledo Scott (17), Old Fort (14 1/4) and Fostoria St. Wendelin (8).

The Little Giants' Josh Ballanger established a new record (500-feet, 10-inches) after being the initial champion in the hammer throw, an event that was added to the meet this year. Ballanger added another win during the 400 weight relay, where he teamed with Cameron Journigan, David Garza and Michael Bringenberg in 55.25 seconds.

Brett Mierke (high jump, 6-4), Darien Spann (long jump, 21-2 3/4), Justin Hines (300 hurdles, 41.49) and Kristopher Esparza (3,200 run, 10:16.61) also contributed first-place finishes for Ross.

St. Ignatius used its relay teams to capture four of seven events.

The Wildcats won the 400 relay (Kevin Johnson, Bill Zaccardelli, Anthony Mascia, Marcus Primes in 44.29), the 1,600 relay (Lamar Kemp and DeClan Murray with Zaccardelli and Johnson in 3:32.77), the 3,200 relay (Evan Baum, Drew Galang and Bill Whitmore with Murray in 8:32.63) and the 6,400 relay (Mike O'Connor, Tony Lucchesi, Seamus Kelleher, Miles Snider in 20:01.66).

Pole vaulter Kyle Kubera handed St. Ignatius its final victory after clearing 13-6 in that event.

St. John's Jesuit thrower Cody Riffle paced the Titans by breaking meet records in the discus (179-1) and the shot put (59-8). Riffle had two of St. John's Jesuit's five first-place performances, along with Kevin Yarnell (800 run in 1:58.37), Greg Turissini (1,600 run in 4:38.44) and the Titans' 800 relay team (Kevin Bruno, P.J. Wimberly, Jerrold Clark, Antoine Russell in 1:33.74).

Sprinter Demar Adock and hurdler Dailyn Moore ran to new meet records for Sandusky. Adock won the 200 dash in 21.66, while Moore took the 110 hurdles in 13.98. Moore combined with Brock Fuqua, Curtis Thorn and Quentin Montgomery to give the Blue Streaks a win in the 440 shuttle hurdle relay in 1:04.66.

Toledo Scott sprinter Armon Richardson was the champion of the 100 dash in 11.05. Clyde runner Logan Garcia handed the Fliers their only victory by capturing the 400 dash in 50.98.

FREMONT ROSS

Hines (110 hurdles, 14.32), Boston Beckley (discus, 163-11) and the Little Giants' 3,200 relay team (Andy Leemaster, Luis Franco and Wyatt Harvey with Esparza in 8:39.13) contributed second-place efforts for Ross.

Harvey (800 run, 2:04.14), Esparza (1,600 run, 4:42.91) and the Little Giants' 800 relay team (Devontae Woods with Hines, Spann, Beckley in 1:34.75) placed third for Ross.

SJCC

Despite having no championship performances, the Crimson Streaks had a second-place finish from the 400 weight relay team (Nathan Wonderly, Mike Komorowski, Isaac Bowling and Zack Moylet in 56.85).

Mike Fox and Brant Reardon tied Old Fort's Austin Frankart and St. John's Jesuit's James O'Shea for third place in the high jump after all four competitors cleared 5-8. Mike Komorowski heaved the shot put 50-5 1/2 in another third-place finish for SJCC.

CLYDE

A pair of Fliers' relay teams placed among the top three. Garcia helped Ryan Scharf, Kade Kramer and Travis Lauer as Clyde's 800 relay squad was second in 1:33.88. He teamed with Scharf, Kramer and Alex Gillett as the Fliers' 1,600 relay team ended up third in 3:36.81.

Kramer took second in the 200 dash in 22.77 and Juho Hietenen was the runner-up high jump by clearing 6-2.

OLD FORT

In addition to Frankart's third-place effort in the high jump, the Stockaders did not have a first- or second-place performance.



Fremont Ross athlete Justin Hines competes in the 110 hurdles during the Fremont Track and Field Invitational on Saturday at Alumni Fields. At right, Clyde athlete Ryan Scharf competes. (Doug Hise | News-Messenger correspondent)