



April 29, 2009

Little Giants keep rolling

BY JEFF ARENZ
Sports writer

FREMONT -- Fresh off a motivational effort at the Ned Weingart Relays, the Fremont Ross boys track and field team dominated a quadrangular meet Tuesday at Alumni Fields.

The Little Giants won nine of 17 events en route to scoring a 95-82 decision over Sandusky Perkins. With 43 points, Clyde finished third and Marion Harding (24) was fourth.

On Saturday, Ross captured its first trophy at Cleveland Heights, where it was the runner-up to powerful Glenville by a 110-88 1/2 count. On Tuesday, the Little Giants parlayed their momentum into a first-place performance.

"It all comes down to discipline," Ross coach Cathy Esposito said. "They have a desire to be good, they get along with each other very well and they have talent. I introduce each meet to them differently. This meet was a must-win situation for them because there were two credible teams here and they needed to run really well against them."

Justin Hines (110 hurdles, 300 hurdles), Kristopher Esparza (1,600 run, 3,200 run), Darien Spann (400 relay, long jump) and James Spencer (400 relay, 400 run) captured double victories for the Little Giants.

Hines needed 14.65 seconds to win the 110 hurdles and 41.52 seconds in the 300 hurdles. Esparza came through with victorious times of 4:39.82 in the 1,600 run and 10:16.93 in the 3,200 run.

Spann and Spencer teamed with Devantae Woods and Boston Beckley in the 400 relay, which they claimed in 44.93 seconds. Spann leapt 18-feet, 6-inches to take the long jump, while Spencer defeated Clyde's Kade Kramer 53.52-54.90 in the 400 dash.

Ross's Terence Davis edged Marion Harding's Jesse Elsasser 11.36-11.39 to become the champion of the 100 dash. The Little Giants' 3,200 relay team -- Luis Franco, Jacob Berryman, Jasper Tegtmeyer and Wyatt Harvey -- narrowly defeated Sandusky Perkins (Mike Mulvin, Chris Baxter, Billy Fial and Nate Huntley) 8:41.79-8:42.00.

"They're buying into our program and trusting the coaches," Esposito said. "I'm very impressed, and they're still young too."

Second-place efforts for Ross came from Harvey (800 run in 2:06), Beckley (discus, 154-6), Brett Mierke (high jump, 6-2) and the Little Giants' 1,600 relay team (Hines, Woods, Spencer and Harvey in 3:40).

CLYDE

Kade Kramer lifted the Fliers to wins in the 200 dash (in 22.87 seconds, two-hundredths of a second faster than Ross's Davis) and ran the anchor leg of Clyde's winning 800 relay team. He combined

with Logan Garcia, Ryan Sharf and Travis Lauer to knock off Little Giants' Woods, Spann, Spencer and Davis 1:31.84-1:31.85.

"We've got some guys who have been battling through some sickness, and we're a little dinged-up right now," said Clyde coach Mike Martin. "We just wanted make sure we competed hard, but came out of here without anymore injuries. It was a good competition today and we stayed healthy."

Hines defeated Scharf 41.52-41.94 in the 300 hurdles, while the Fliers' other second-place performances came from Juho Hietenen (long jump, 17-6), Craig Gerber (3,200 run in 10:40.83) and Kalob Andrews (pole vault, 10-0).



Fremont Ross High School distance runner Kristopher Esparza runs during a track meet Tuesday at Ross. Esparza won the 1,600 and 3,200 at the meet. (Brenda Soule | Submitted photo)