

2011 NWOAC Championships



DOUG HISENEWS- MESSENGER CORRESPONDENT

Alex Hoffman swims the 100-yard butterfly during Saturday's Northwest Ohio Aquatic Championships at Fremont Ross. Hoffman beat friendly rivals Tyler Anderson of Napoleon and Michael Kessler of Sandusky Perkins to win the race. See more photos at thenews-messenger.com.

Hoffman gets his spot back

Ross swimmer beats his friends for 100 butterfly title

BY MATTHEW HORN
Sports writer

Alex Hoffman of Fremont Ross felt he was missing something that belonged to him.

So Hoffman won the 100-yard butterfly (54.57 seconds) and swam on a first-place relay as the host Little Giants' boys swim team finished the Northwest Ohio Aquatic Championships in third place Saturday.

"The placings I got, I was extremely happy with," Hoffman said. "And reclaiming my spot in the fly. Both kids next to me had beat me earlier in the season. It was nice to beat them in the fly. They're great athletes and I have a lot of respect for them."

Napoleon's Tyler Anderson, who finished second, topped Hoffman at the Greater Buckeye Conference meet. Perkins' Michael Kessler, third on Saturday, beat Hoffman at a dual meet. The three know each other away from the pool and have a friendly rivalry.

Hoffman, Keith Wasserman, Eric Yuhas and Luke Wilhelm won the 400 freestyle relay (3:26.27) and Hoffman was second in the 200 freestyle

(1:49.60). Hoffman, Wasserman, Yuhas and Wilhelm were second in the 200 freestyle relay (1:33.89).

"We swam great as a team," Hoffman said. "Our team is really coming together and it's good to see that at the end of the year with sectionals and districts coming up. Nothing is better than seeing our team work as one."

"We had some great swims. Luke Kingsborough dropped time in the backstroke (1:08.03). Everybody all over was stepping up and swimming for the team."

Ross' practice time has been unpredictable with recent school schedules and weather cancellations.

"It's been funky," Hoffman said. "You have to make up yards. I'm happy with what I did. I didn't expect those times right now in the season so seeing those times is hopefully a great pace for what I'll have at the end of the season."

Hoffman qualified to state in the 100 butterfly, and he, Wilhelm and Wasserman were part of a 200 freestyle relay that advanced to Canton last season. Hoffman, Wilhelm and Wasserman also swam on a

13th-place 400 freestyle relay.

Taylor Waggoner, Laura Duncan, Sammi Miller and Megan Hawk won the 200 medley relay (1:53.64) as the Little Giants' girls were fifth Saturday.

Toledo St. John's won the boys portion of the meet and Perkins the girls.

Duncan was third in the 50 freestyle (25.65), and Duncan, Hawk, Miller and Waggoner were third in the 200 freestyle relay (1:41.82) Saturday. Waggoner was 12th in the 100 butterfly, and she, Duncan and Miller were part of an 11th-place 200 medley relay at state last season.

Waggoner and Miller were also part of a 200 freestyle relay that advanced to Canton while Miller did so in the 50 freestyle.

Wasserman was third in the 100 freestyle (51.40) on Saturday.

"A lot of the younger girls had PRs," Ross coach Phil Moran said. "A good number of younger boys had PRs, which is pretty much expected this time of year."

"All the coaches probably used the meet as one of the last chances to see where to plug kids in at or if a kid needed to get a swim in — coaches are

getting their sectional lineups together."

Danielle Franck was fourth in the 100 breaststroke (1:13.18) as Oak Harbor's girls were seventh. The Rockets' boys finished 12th.

Sectionals are Feb. 11 (diving) and 12 at Ross.

"Our kids swam well for this time of year," Moran said. "We're close to the taper for some of the kids. Every year is different. Some of our kids are sore and are getting to the point where we need to start tapering them. We can kind of use this meet as a judge or barometer for what we have to do over the next few weeks to get them ready."

"It was a good meet. It's kind of a wind-down to the regular season."

And while Hoffman certainly has individual postseason objectives, his focus is the team.

"One of the main goals is to get as many kids from sectionals to districts as possible," he said. "I want to push the team to score as many points as possible at districts. Nothing makes me more excited, happy and pumped for my next race than seeing my teammates drop time."

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