

District swim meet begins today at BG

News-Messenger Reports

The last hurdle before the big finish began this morning for high school swim teams in Northwest Ohio.

The District I Swimming and Diving Championships got underway at Cooper Pool on the Bowling Green State University campus with girls diving. This afternoon at 5, swimming competition begins. Saturday at 10 a.m., the boys diving competition will hit the water while at 5 p.m. more swimming is on tap.

The top two in swimming events and top three divers advance to the state meet.

Ross had no entries in the girls diving but Ross Coach Art Bucci feels he has two solid competitors for the top 12 in the boys diving. Junior Jon Lagrou and sophomore Ryan Nuhfer as the Little Giants Bucci is counting.

Diving will consist of 18 dives. The field will be pared to the top 18 after 11 dives and to 12 after the 13th dive.

The swimming finals today will be in the medley relay, 200 individual medley, 200- and 50-yard freestyles. The remainder of the swimming event finals will be Saturday.

Bucci said the Ross boys medley relay with Tom McDonald, Brian Mowry, Steve Schaaf and Tracy Turner, Mowry in the 100 free, McDonald in the 100 backstroke and the freestyle relay team of Bill Taylor, Tracy Turner, Andy Scott and Mowry have best shots at qualifying for the state meet out of the district.

For the girls, Bucci rates last year's state qualifier, Heather Winning, as having a legitimate shot at repeating in the backstroke and the 50 free. Julie Schaaf has an outside shot in the 50 free. Winning was runnerup in the district backstroke last year.

"We have set team goals of the top five for the boys," Bucci said, "while for the girls, being a first year team, a finish in the top 10 would be great."

Ross boys medley 5th in District Swim Meet

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BOWLING GREEN — Now the waiting game begins...at least until Sunday for Art Bucci and a few of his Ross High School swimmers. That's the day he will find out if any of his swimmers has qualified for an "at-large" berth in the state swim meet.

Ross's boys medley relay team of Tom McDonald, Brian Mowry, Steve Schaaf and Tracy Turner finished fifth in the District I Meet with a clocking of 1:44.51. It had to be in the top three to qualify for the state meet next weekend in Canton.

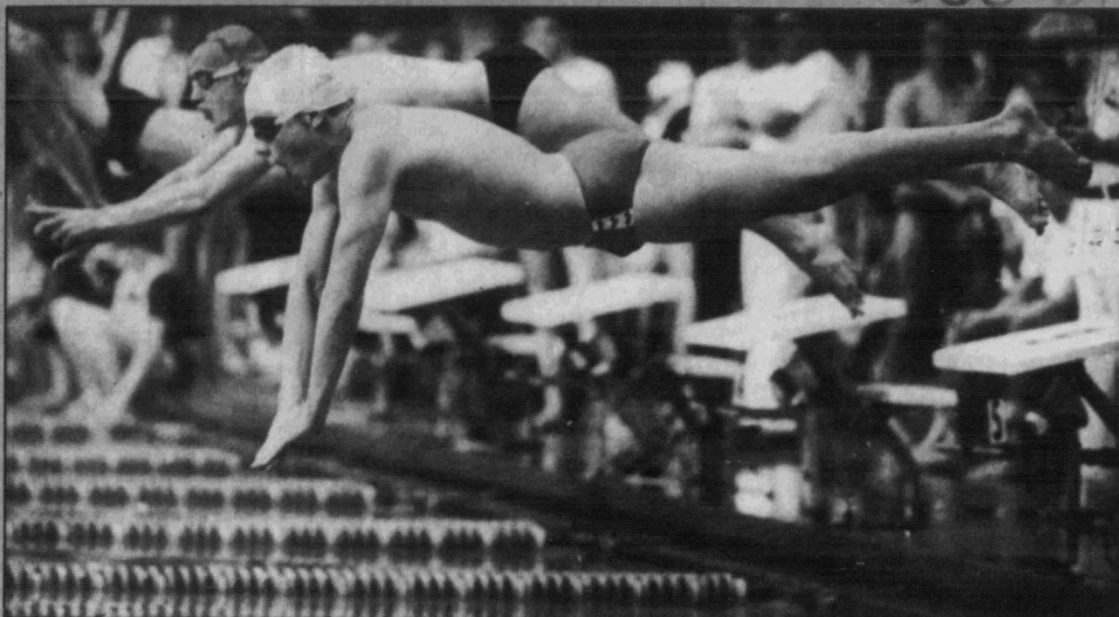
"We still have a slight chance of getting in," Bucci said, "but it depends on what the times are in the other district meets.

"We'll have to compare times," Bucci said but added, "I don't think the team will go. Had it been in the 1:43 range, that may be good enough."

In other finals events, the Ross girls medley relay team of Kelli Sabiers, Lori Nighswanter, Dawn Vogel and Beth Goins finished 12th in 2:08.91. Julie Schaaf has an outside shot at an at-large berth after a fourth place in the girls 50-yard freestyle. She was clocked in 25.64. Heather Winning of Ross was ninth in this event.

Andy Scott picked up points for the Ross team with an 11th place in the boys 50 free.

The boys diving, with Jon Lagrou and Ryan Nuhfer representing Ross, will begin at 10 a.m. today.

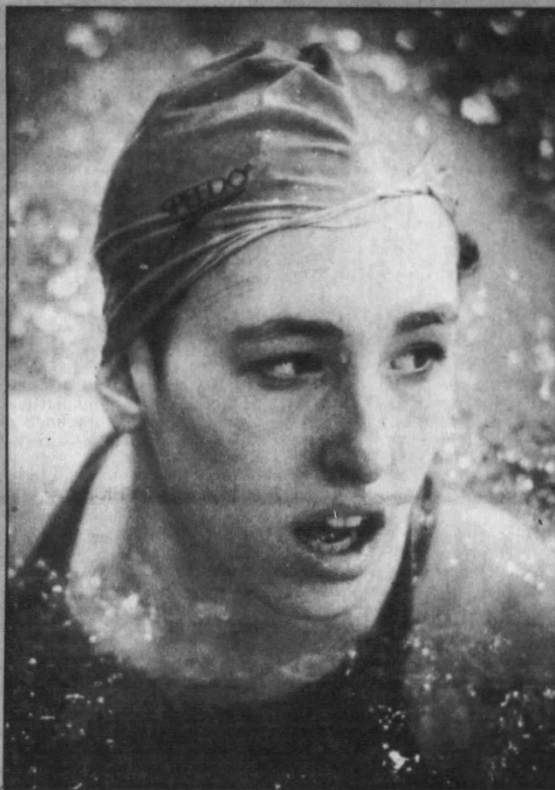


News-Messenger/Bill Kennedy

THEY'RE OFF! Mike Mulholland, foreground, of Fremont Ross, levels out as he prepares to hit the water during a heat race of the 100-yard freestyle Saturday at Bowling Green State

University's Cooper Pool. Mulholland did not place in the top 12 at the meet which was won by Toledo St. Francis for the 20th consecutive year.

Ross's Winning qualifies for state



News-Messenger/Bill Kennedy

HEATHER WINNING of Ross gets her breath back after finishing second in the 100-yard backstroke Saturday in the District I Swimming and Diving Meet at Bowling Green State University.

By **BOB MARKER**

News-Messenger Sports Editor

BOWLING GREEN - Heather Winning will carry Ross High School's colors into the Ohio High School State Swimming and Diving Championships this weekend.

Winning, a senior, will be making her second appearance in the state showcase of swimmers at Canton after taking the runnerup spot in the 100-yard backstroke in the District I Swimming and Diving Meet at Cooper Pool on the Bowling Green State University campus Saturday.

Winning's effort helped offset the sting of a shutout of the Ross boys swim team. It was the first time in the 10-year coaching reign of Art Buccì that Ross will not be represented in the boys portion of the state meet.

As teams, the Ross girls finished 11th with 44 points while the boys were eighth with 61 points.

"We had set goals of finishing in the top 10 for the girls and the top five for the boys," Buccì said. "The girls' finish is very good for a first year team."

Buccì took consolation in the fact that two teams, Sandusky and Perkins, which had beaten the Ross teams during the regular season, finished behind the Aqua Giants in the district meet.

Winning, while qualifying for the state girls meet, broke her own Ross school record of 1:03.4 in the backstroke with a 1:02.9.

In other girls top 12 finishes for Ross, Julie Schaaf was eighth in the 100 freestyle with a 57.4 clocking. That broke her own school record of 59.3 set this past season.

Schaaf and Wining teamed up with Julie Randolph and Kelli Sabiers to finish ninth with a school record of 4:02.4 in the 400 freestyle relay. The same quartet had set the previous school mark of 4:10.4.

Tom McDonald was a near miss in qualifying for for the boys state meet in the backstroke, finishing third by two-hundredths of a second with a 56.89 clocking.

Brian Mowry was 12th with a 50.03 in the 100 freestyle. Mowry, Bill Taylor, Tracy Turner and Andy Scott were eighth in the 400 freestyle relay in 3:25.2.

In diving, Jon Lagrou and Ryan Nuhfer finished sixth and seventh, respectively.

"The boys medley missed making an 'at-large' berth in the state meet," Buccì pointed out, "by seven-tenths of a second."

"The district is getting faster," the Ross coach continued, "McDonald's time would have been 13th in the state last year while Mowry's time in the 100 free would have been fourth in the district last year."

"What we have to do now, is just get faster and we can do that."

6 Ross swimmers all-district

The Ross High School swim team earned several honors on the All-Northwest Ohio District Swim Team announced today by Coach Art Bucci.

Aqua Giants earning individual all-district honors were Tom McDonald in the boys 100-meter backstroke, Heather Winning in the girls 100 backstroke and Julie Schaaf in the girls 50 freestyle.

The Ross medley relay team of McDonald, Brian Mowry, Steve Schaaf and Tracy Turner also earned all-district laurels.