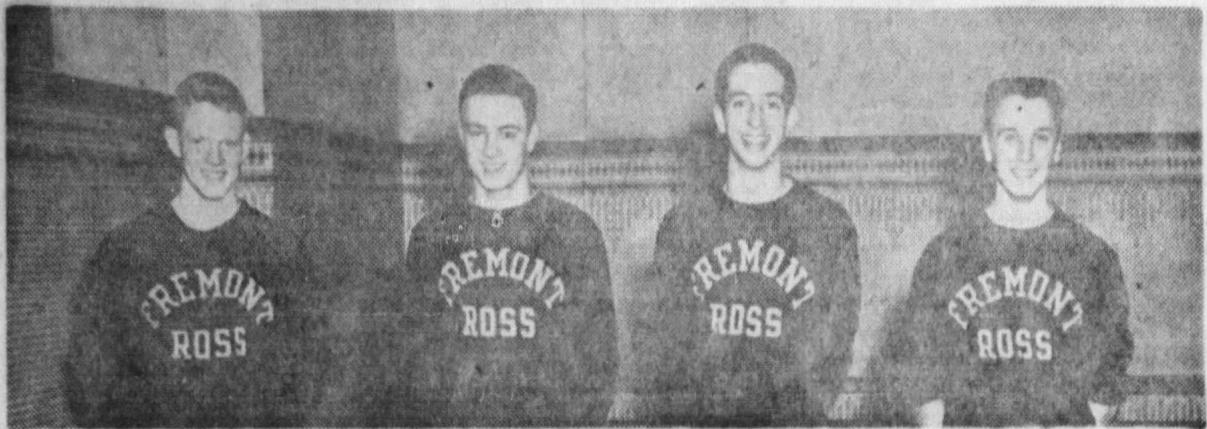


1953 State meet...

## *Relay Team Boosts Swim Title Hopes*



\* Photo by Thomaswick

THE ROSS 200-YARD free-style relay team (pictured above) is the main reason why the Fremonters hope to win the state swimming championship in Columbus Saturday. The quartet, composed (left to right) of Jack Rose, Ned Frantz, Bob Lucas and George Hirschberger, set a district record at Bowling Green State University with the time of 1:42.7. They have done even better in the local pool. Hirschberger will be trying for his third straight state title in the 50-yard free-style, while Rose will be gunning for first place in the 100-yard race.

## Ross Swimmers Head For State Meet Today

Ross high school's varsity swimming squad and coaches George Gruse and John Titsworth departed for Columbus today to await their biggest meet of the year, the state finals.

The squad is made up of 18 boys, including Manager Irv Mitten.

Preliminaries will be held in the Ohio State University pool at 4 p.m. Friday. Six survivors in each event return on Saturday for a shot at individual and team glory.

Fremont is favored to take the title, won a year ago by Canton McKinley, but it will take a top performance by all regulars to turn the trick. Ross high's main strength lies in the 200-yard free-style relay, which is worth 14 points to the winner. Jack Rose, Ned Frantz, Bob Lucas and George Hirschberger make up that quartet. Gruse also has hopes that Ross will upset Sandusky in the medley relay. The Ross team in that event is formed by Gary Schwartz, Bill Faunce and Lucas.

Fremont's Larry Hunt is accorded the best chance to win the diving. George Hirschberger, state champ for two years, will have to hustle to repeat in the 50-yard free-style which is loaded with top competition this year.

Gruse announced the following lineup:

50-Yd. free-style—George Hirschberger, Walter Deickert, Jack Bovard.

Breast-stroke—Bill Faunce, Bruce Sherer, Tom Wolf.

200-Yd. free-style—Ned Frantz, Charles Bull, Bovard.

Back-stroke—Gary Schwartz, Merlin Eversole, Bob Corthell.

100-Yd. free-style—Jack Rose, Hull, Louis Lorenzen.

Diving—Larry Hunt, Gene Smith.

Individual medley—Sherer, Lorenzen, Wolf, Dave Hunt.

Medley relay—Schwartz, Faunce, Bob Lucas.

200-Yd. free-style relay—Rose, Frantz, Lucas, Hirschberger.

## Free-Style Relay Team Sets Record; Gruse Confident

Ross high school's victory in the state swimming meet was almost a foregone conclusion today after an impressive performance in Friday's preliminaries at the Ohio State University pool in Columbus.

The Giants qualified four boys and both relay teams, giving them more representation than any other school in today's finals at 2 p.m.

Both relay teams were victorious in the prelims and the 200-yard-free-style quartet — Jack Rose, Ned Frantz, Bob Lucas and George Hirschberger — set a new state record in the time of one minute and 40 seconds. The old record was 1:40.2, set a year ago by Canton McKinley.

### Predicts Better Times

Coach George Gruse predicted that his relay teams will do even better in the finals. The medley relay team, Gary Schwartz, Bill Faunce and Lucas, pulled a mild surprise in edging out Sandusky's team, which was favored on the strength of season showings.

Of course, Friday's prelims don't mean a thing, because points won't be scored until today, but the weeding out process left Fremont in the driver's seat. Canton McKinley, considered the main threat before yesterday, will have to go to keep from finishing third or lower. Lakewood looms as the Giants' top threat.

Boys who finished in the first six in the prelims will be eligible for today's finals. In addition to the relay teams, Ross qualified boys as follows:

50-Yd. free-style — Hirschberger third with time of 25.2 seconds.  
100-Yd. Breast-stroke — Faunce 4th, 1:10.  
100-Yd. Back-stroke — Schwartz 6th, 1:09.8.  
100-Yd. free-style — Rose 4th, 56.4.

**Diving Prelims This Morning**  
Preliminaries in diving will be held at 10 a.m. today. Ross failed to qualify boys in the 200-yard free-style and the individual medley. Sandusky's Tom McBane finished first in the breast-stroke, while Ben Lauber of Sandusky was fourth in the individual medley.

Canton qualified only two individuals and two relay teams, while Lakewood qualified four boys and one team.

Points are scored as follows: Free-style relay — 14-10-8-6-4-2; medley relay — 12-9-7-5-3-1; all other events — 7-5-4-3-2-1. Fremont, due to its team strength, could win the state title without taking a first, since no other team is strong enough to dominate more than one or two events. With the relay teams in fine fettle, the finals should result in a sweeping triumph.

Others qualifying were: Grandview, two boys; Cincinnati Walnut Hills, two individuals and two teams; Sandusky two teams; Shaker Heights, three individuals and one team; Cleveland Heights, two individuals and one team; Cincinnati St. Xavier, one individual, and Upper Arlington, one individual.

## Free-Style Relay Team Brings City 7th State Championship

Squad picture on Page One

Fremont Ross high school is celebrating its seventh state swimming championship today after a thrilling victory Saturday in the Ohio State pool at Columbus.

The favored Giants did not win by as wide a margin as expected, but their balanced strength was still too much for the remainder of the field. Sandusky, thanks to a near-record performance by Tom McBane, finished second and was in position to pull an upset going into the final event, the 200-yard free-style relay.

However, the 200-yard relay was the event in which Ross was the strongest and most consistent, and the quartet of Jack Rose, Ned Frantz, Bob Lucas and George Hirschberger brought victory in the "big one" for Fremont.

### Close Finish

The last race was a thriller and just as close as it was thrilling. About one yard separated the six boys in the last lap, but in the first was Hirschberger. That touched off a celebration by the large number of Fremonters among a crowd of 1,000.

As a part of the victory ritual, Coaches George Gruse and John Tilsworth and Student Manager Irv Mitten were tossed into the pool, a dunking which they didn't mind a bit.

In team points, Ross had 34. Sandusky had 29, Lakewood 28, Cincinnati Walnut Hills 27, Cleveland Heights 21, Canton McKinley 21, Akron Buchtel 18, Shaker Heights 15, Grandview 11, Toledo Waite 6, Cleveland East Tech 5, Upper Arlington 5, Columbus North 3, Cincinnati St. Xavier 2.

Ross scored points in seven of the nine events, but got only one first place. The highest individual finish by Ross was in the diving, where Larry Hunt placed third. Hirschberger finished fourth in the 50-yard free-style, being dethroned as state champion after ruling two straight years; Ross was fourth in the 100-yard free-style, Bill Faunce got a first in the breast-stroke and Gary Schwartz was sixth in the backstroke.

Of all the boys who participated in Saturday's finals, just one, Frantz, is slated to return, meaning that Gruse faces a big rebuilding job.

**Sandusky Cops Medley Relay**  
Gruse had hoped to score over 40 points after Friday's preliminaries. Ross finished first in both relays, but the crack Sandusky squad came back in the chip-downs finals and won, thanks to Tom Wilke, McBane and Lanker.

McBane also won the 100-yard breast-stroke and his time of 1:05.8 was only six-tenths of a second away from the state record of 1:05.2 set by Fremont's Ben Hayes in 1939. Two years ago, Canton's Bill Van Horn missed the record by one-tenth of a second.

The free-style relay team's victory marked the first time that Ross ever won that event in the state meet. Ross got his team off to a flying start, being the leadoff man in the payoff race. Rose came in a good yard ahead, and Frantz and Lucas maintained the margin.

That left it up to Hirschberger to stay ahead of Canton's great Jack Kimmel, who earlier had won the 100-yard free-style. Hirschberger "touched" a fraction of a second ahead of the Canton star, while Walnut Hills was third and Sandusky fourth. Gruse estimated that there were no more than six inches separating first and fourth place.

Sandusky, Lakewood, Walnut Hills and Cleveland Heights could have won the state title in the free-style relay. Canton was already counted out as far as the championship was concerned.

**Vanderveer Sets Record**  
Two records were set at the state meet. The Ross free-style relayers made it with the time of 1:40 in the prelims of Friday's preliminaries, times counting as far as records are concerned. Lakewood's stellar Graham Vanderveer, who won two events in the finale, became a record holder when he swam the 150-yard individual medley in 1:38. The old record was 1:40.8.

Vanderveer also won the backstroke. He personally accounted for 14 of Lakewood's 28 points.

events of the state meet following the free-style relay quartet's swift time of one minute and 40 seconds Friday. Other Ross record-holders are Ben Hayes in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:05.2 in 1939 and the 1941 medley relay team, composed of Clarence Kuntz, Ben Hayes and Dick Spady. Their time was 1:22.8. Hayes was a sophomore when he set the breast-stroke mark.

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### MANY TELEGRAMS, FANS SPUR TEAM

The Ross squad was spurred on by numerous telegrams and a big local following, for which Coach George Gruse wants to pass along his "thanks!"

"They helped a lot," he said. "It always makes you want to do a little better when you know the folks at home are rooting for you," he stated. Gruse estimated that more than 40 telegrams were received Saturday morning. He didn't count the number of calls on hand, but he said it seemed that about half of Saturday's crowd of 1,000 were from or for Fremont. There were also many local fans present for Friday's prelims.

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Among those on hand for the thrilling win was W. J. McConnell, former assistant Ross principal who now is the assistant commissioner of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Attending in an official capacity, the old redhead was reduced to a status of strictly neutral but Mrs. Gruse will testify that he was wearing a grin a mile wide when

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