

## Houtz pair, Blair lead district contingent

News-Messenger reports

Lakota's Fathom Houtz and Matt Houtz and Fremont Ross diver B.J. Blair lead a strong area contingent to the Northwest District Swimming and Diving Championships today and Saturday at Bowling Green State University.

The girls diving competition will take place today at 11 a.m., the boys diving is scheduled for

Saturday at 11 a.m., the medley relay, 200 freestyle, 50 freestyle and individual medley swim events will be held today at 4 p.m. and the rest of the events are slated for Saturday at 4 p.m.

All the swimmers and divers qualified last weekend in the sectional meet at Oak Harbor High School.

Ross's John Popoca will join Blair in the boys diving.

Other Ross qualifiers are Tracie Baker, Chase Baker, Chris Schaaf, Kevin Wagner, Ronelle Mahr, Dave Tallman, Shannon Vaffis, Angie Sprenger and Kent Huffman.

Several swimmers from Oak Harbor and Port Clinton will also be represented.

Fathom Houtz and Matt Houtz participated in the sectional as independent swimmers.

# Ross's B.J. Blair wins diving title

## Lakota's Houtz captures two events

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**BOWLING GREEN** — B.J. Blair of Fremont Ross won his third Northwest Ohio District diving title Saturday afternoon.

Diving in the Cooper Natatorium on the Bowling Green State University campus, Blair totaled 489.56 points in 11 dives.

"He was not up to par," Ross diving coach Bob Lozano said. "He has been suffering from a cold this week and he missed four dives. He did not put them in the water for 7s and 8s like he normally does but he still beat the second guy by 50 points."

Blair is the first Ross diver to win three district titles and the first athlete to qualify for four state tournaments.

He will compete Friday and Saturday in the state meet at the C.T. Branin Natatorium in Canton.

Ross's other diver, sophomore John Popoca, did not reach the semifinals.

Another area individual, Lakota's Fathom Houtz, was first in the girls' 100-, and 50-yard freestyle events. Houtz finished in 54.23 seconds in the 100 after winning the 50 in 24.83 Friday.

The victories automatically qualify Houtz, a sophomore, for the state meet. The Raiders finished in 12th place with 32 points.

Matt Houtz of Lakota was ninth in the boys' 100 breaststroke.

The Ross girls tied for 25th with Ayersville with four points each. The Ross medley relay team of Angie Sprenger, Sheila Poust, Ronelle Mahr and Tracie

Baker was (14th) while Baker was 11th in both the 200 and 500 free for the best Ross finishes.

For the Ross boys, who took 15th along with Wauseon with 16 points each, the medley relay team of Kent Huffman, Chris Shaaf, Dave Tallman and Joe Pemberton was had the top finish, 15th.

Oak Harbor's boys team finished 17th with 15 points and the Rockets were 17th in the girls' events with 17.

For the Oak Harbor boys, the medley relay team of David Heintz, Shawn Pointer, Kevin Witt and Dan Wendt finished 10th and the freestyle relay team of Mark Weber, Wendt, Bob Verb and Joe Tack took 11th place.

The Rockets other finishes included Fred Deneau 10th in diving and Weber (12th) in the 50 free.

For the Oak Harbor girls, the freestyle relay team of Heather Kohli, Krista Freimark, Betsy Verb and Sarah Henn was 11th and the medley relay squad of Gretchen Ulery, Becky Adams, Cally Mims and Anne Schulz was 15th.

Also placing for the Rocket girls were Verb (ninth) in the both the 200 and 500 free and Kohli in the 100 fly (ninth) and 100 breaststroke (12th); Port Clinton senior Brian Quayle was the only individual to advance to the state meet for the Redskins. Quayle, who finished ninth in the 100 breaststroke, qualified as an at-large selection and his time of 1:01.80 is a new school record.