

DIVISION I STATE SWIM MEET

Little Giants can make waves

Fremont Ross has high expectations despite seedings

By Rich McGowan
Asst. editor/sports reporter

FREMONT — Seedings aren't always everything.

The Fremont Ross boys swim team's 200-yard medley relay looks to prove just that.

While junior Trent Williams, freshman Tate Williams, senior Nick Hoffman and junior Hawk Smith will enter their event at the Division I state swim meet Friday as the lowest seed to qualify, the foursome believe they're capable of being the surprise of the meet.

"Our expectations are higher," said Ross swim assistant coach Todd Williams. "We are

seeded 24 out of 24, but we left a lot on the table at the district, we can go a lot faster and our goal is to be in the top 16 and be able to come back the next night to swim.

"We have the talent and speed to do that, but we need to put it together. All four have to have really good swims."

The relay team is entering the state meet off the strength of its record-breaking swim at the district meet. There, the squad set a new school record in the event, breaking the 15-year-old mark with a time of 1:38.75.

"It's what we worked for all season," said Hoffman, the lone senior on the relay. "It's something you can't really anticipate, you can hope for it, but you have to work all season and try your best to make it (to the state meet). I've never been there and as a senior it was the final

shot for me."

While the relay is the lone representative for the Ross boys team, the girls are sending a handful of athletes with podium aspirations.

Haley Fisher will swim in the 200 individual medley and 100 butterfly, where she is seeded seventh and ninth, respectively. Meghan Moses is the No. 6 seed in both the 50 and 100 freestyle events. Fisher and Moses will compete in the 200 freestyle relay, seeded fifth, along with Kaity Kelly and Morgan Waggoner. Fisher, Moses and Waggoner, along with Kortni Lagrou will compete in the 400 freestyle relay, which enters as the No. 7 seed.

Ross girls swim coach Tina Moses said the experience of Fisher, Meghan Moses and Waggoner will be vital for Little Giants' success this weekend.



JONATHAN BIRD/FOR THE NEWS JOURNAL

Swimmers are recognized during a pep rally at Fremont Ross high school as they prepare to head to the Division I state swim meet this weekend.

"We're really going to rely on the more-experienced swimmers," Tina Moses said. "The three of them have been to the state meet before, they're used to Canton. They're also USA

swimmer so they've been in big meets before and are used to the pressure."

rmcgowan@gannett.com

419-334-1043

Twitter: @RMCgowan1

Little Giants' 200 freestyle relay fifth at state meet

Haley Fisher finished eighth in the 200 IM at 2 minutes, 7.44 seconds in the finals Saturday at the Division I state swim meet at Canton.

Fisher, Meghan Moses, Morgan Waggoner and Kaity Kelly were fifth in the finals of the 200 freestyle relay at 1:35.95. Moses was first in the 50 freestyle in the consolation finals, Fisher was first in the 100 butterfly, and Waggoner, Kelly, Fisher and Moses were first in the 400 freestyle relay.

Moses was fourth in the consolation finals of the 100 freestyle.

Ross's Haley Fisher qualifies to swim in state finals

Fremont Ross's Haley Fisher qualified to swim in the finals of the 200 individual medley at the Division I state championships at Canton's C.T. Branin Natatorium after finishing Friday's preliminary round in 2:06.07.

The top eight swimmers from the preliminary heats advance to the Saturday's finals, while those finishing ninth through 16, swim in consolation heats.

Meghan Moses was 11th in the 50 freestyle (24.10) and 15th in the 100 free (52.28), while Fisher took 14th in the 100 butterfly (57.17). Both girls also swam on the finals-qualifying 200 freestyle relay (1:36.73) along with Morgan Waggoner and Kaity Kelly. The 400 freestyle relay team finished 10th in a time of 3:33.27)

The Little Giants' boys team was represented in the 200 medley relay by Trent Williams, Tate Williams, Nick Hoffman and Hawk Smith. The Little Giants finished 20th in 1:33.39.

"(I'm) very proud of their efforts of moving up four spots and that they are 20th in the state," Ross boys' assistant coach Todd Williams said.