

## 2016 DIVISION I STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

SWIMMING

# ROSS LOOKS TO END YEAR ON HIGH NOTE



Ross' Olivia Derodes pulls away and wins the girls 200 individual medley in a meet earlier this season.

FILE PHOTO

## Girls hoping to bring home state meet hardware after winning district title

RICH MCGOWAN  
REPORTER

FREMONT - The Fremont Ross girls swim team has done a lot of winning this season.

The Lady Giants went undefeated in dual meets, won the Three Rivers Athletic Conference title and, with just eight swimmers competing, won the first district championship in the program's history.

This weekend, Ross looks to close out the season on a similar high note.

With top 10 seeds in five events at the Division I state meet, the Lady Giants head to C.T. Branin Natatorium, in Canton with the realistic hopes of bringing home more hardware.

"It's just been an incredible ride," girls swim coach Tina Moses said. "We took eight girls to district and were able to win a title, I don't know if that is something that has ever been done before. They just came together as a team and did what they had to do to get the job done. I didn't expect we could. Going into it, it was not an expectation of mine for us to win the district title."

Ross' biggest hopes lie in two of its relay teams. The 400 freestyle team of Morgan Waggoner, Meghan Moses, Olivia DeRodes and Mekennah Fitzgerald enter the state meet as the No. 3 seed. Moses, DeRodes, Anne Marie Moses and Kaity Kelly are seeded ninth in the 200 freestyle relay.

"We're really looking forward to our relays, especially our free relays,"



Fremont Ross athletic director Chad Berndt speaks during a sendoff for the state swim meet-bound athletes Wednesday afternoon.

RICH MCGOWAN/NEWS-MESSENGER

said Meghan Moses, who will continue swimming next year at Rutgers University. "We've been placed really high in the state this year and we're looking for a top three, or top one, this year. We've really been looking forward to this meet and these relays."

Meghan Moses and Waggoner also will be competing together in the 50 and 100 freestyle events. Waggoner, an Akron University commit, is seeded second in the 50 and fourth in the 100 while Moses is seventh in the 50 and 11th in the 100. This weekend will mark the final time the duo will swim for Fremont Ross.

"It's going to be bittersweet," Waggoner said. "I think we're definitely focused on swimming well but also having fun while we're swimming. We're more excited than nervous."

DeRodes will also be competing in the 200 freestyle.

Ross senior Trent Williams, who will be competing in the 50 and 100

freestyle in the boys competition, said the key to swimming successfully at the state meet is handling the pressure and controlling the adrenaline when the race begins.

"There are a lot of people who get faster at state but there are also people who fall off, they get in the pool and go slower," said Williams, seeded 10th in the 50 and 12th in the 100. "I think if I improve, which I know will, I can make the top 8."

Sophomore Andrew Evans is seeded 10th in 100 breaststroke and will compete, along with Trent Williams, Tate Williams and Hawk Smith in the 200 freestyle. The relay team will be shooting for setting a new school record, looking to top the current mark of 1:27.5, but will need to drop a full second off its best time to do so.

"It is a lot, but I feel like between us four, we can dig down deep, see the light at the end of the tunnel and get it done," Smith said.

## **SWIMMING**

### **Division I State Championships**

Morgan Waggoner and Meghan Moses of Fremont Ross each qualified for two individual event finals in prelims Friday at the Division I state meet at C.T. Branin Natatorium in Canton. Waggoner was fourth in the 50 freestyle (22.79) and fifth in the 100 freestyle (51.27). Moses was fifth in the 50 freestyle (23.59) and eighth in the 100 freestyle (51.76). Sixteen swimmers qualified for today's finals in each preliminary event.

Fremont's girls 200 freestyle relay team of Olivia DeRodes, Waggoner, AnneMarie Moses and Meghan Moses qualified for the finals with a fourth place (1:31.6). DeRodes placed 21st in the 200 freestyle (1:55.56) and failed to qualify. The girls 200 medley relay team was 23rd (1:150.89).

Senior Trent Williams will swim in the consolation heats in a pair of events in the boys competition. He finished 14th in the 50 yards freestyle in 21.57 and also took 15th in the 100 freestyle in 47.2 seconds.

# ROSS CLAIMS FOUR INDIVIDUAL MEDALS

Lady Giants finish sixth at state meet

RICH MCGOWAN  
REPORTER

CANTON - Fremont Ross had never before had an individual win four medals at the state swim.

Until, that is, Saturday when a pair of Lady Giants turned the trick.

Seniors Morgan Waggoner and Meghan a Moses each won a pair of individual freestyle medals as well as a pair of relay medals, along with Olivia DeRodes and Anne Marie Moses.

As a whole, the Ross girls totaled 113.5 points, good enough to finish sixth in the state.

"They've been best friends their whole lives and they swam their whole lives and for it to end like this was definitely amazing," Ross coach Tina Moses said of her senior swimmers.

In the fourth state meet of their prolific careers, Waggoner and Meghan Mo-

ses earned fourth- and eighth-place finishes, respectively, in both the 50 and 100 yard freestyles.

Waggoner, who will swim next year at the University of Akron, placed fourth in the 50 in a time of 23.49 and swam the 100 in 50.89, sharing fourth-place with St. Ursula's Hannah Foster.

Moses, a Rutgers University commit, took an eighth-place finish in the 50 came in a time of 23.7 while she clocked in at 52.19 in the 100.

But the duo wasn't done. Joined by DeRodes and AnneMarie Moses, Waggoner and Meghan Moses picked up a fourth-place finish in the 400 freestyle relay in 3:30.36.

The Lady Giants' best place came in the 200 freestyle relay where the foursome finished third in a time of 1:34.69.

With Waggoner and Moses' gradu-

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JOE MAIORANA/IMPACTACTIONPHOTOS.COM  
Ross senior Meghan Moses swims in the OH5AA Division I State Swim Finals at the CT Branin Natatorium in Canton on Saturday.

## Swimming

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tions, DeRodes and AnneMarie Moses will have to follow in their footsteps.

"They did well. I think they learned from the senior leadership, which was amazing," Tina Moses said.

"They stepped up and handled the pressure very well."

In the boys' competition, Trent Williams was the only Little Giant to compete Saturday.

Competing in the consolation heat, Williams took identical 13th place finishes in the 50 and 100 freestyles with times of 21.44 and 47.04 seconds.

Andrew Evans missed the consolation round Friday night and he finished 24th in the state in the 100 breaststroke.

Williams, Evans and Hawk Smith and Tate Williams finished 21st in the 200 freestyle relay.

The girls' relay team of MaKennah Fitzgerald, AnneMarie Moses, DeRodes and Kaity Kelly took 23rd in the 200 medley relay on Friday while DeRodes finished 21st in the 200 freestyle.

"It was an amazing end," Tina Moses said.

"It was an amazing season for the team. It was a great group of girls that got along like family. It was an amazing way for them to end their high school careers."