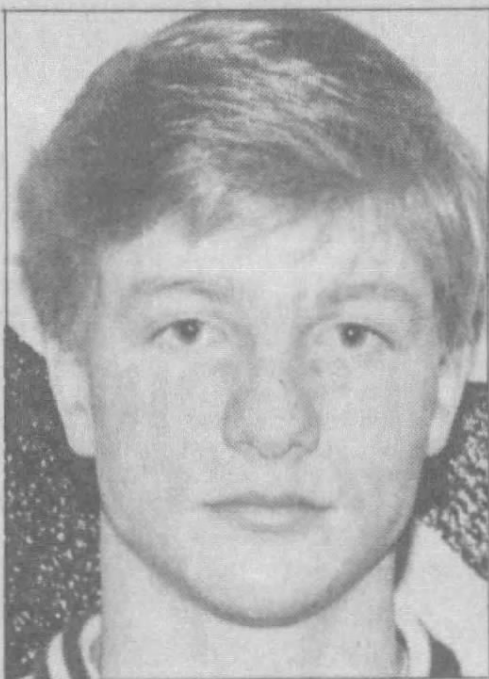
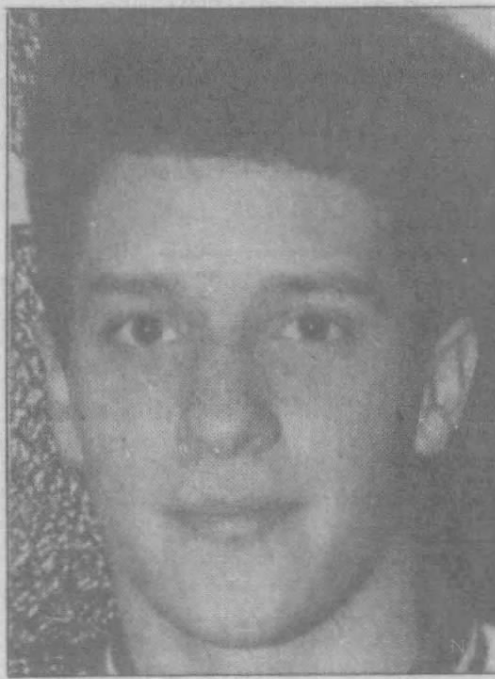


1988 State Meet...



BLAIR



ROOT

Ross pair dive into state meet

News-Messenger reports

B.J. Blair and Chad Root will represent Fremont Ross in the State Swimming and Diving Championships Friday and Saturday at Branin Natatorium in Canton.

Blair and Root, both divers, finished 1-2 in the Northwest Ohio District meet two weeks ago.

Blair, a sophomore, is making his second appearance in the state meet after finishing first in the district at Bowling Green State University.

Root, a junior, is making his first trip to the Canton show.

"B.J. ranks in the top five in the state," Ross Coach Tom Thomson said, "and I expect both of them will finish in the top 12."

Bob Lozano, Thomson's assistant, is the diving coach.

The diving preliminaries follow the 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. warm-ups Friday afternoon. The finals begin at 3:15 p.m., Saturday.

Divers are class of state swimming, diving meet

Associated Press

CANTON — The 1-meter diving, featuring nine athletes whose district marks were better than the state record, is likely to be a highlight of the two-day Ohio High School Swimming and Diving Championships at Canton McKinley High School beginning Friday.

"It should be the best high school diving Ohio has ever had," said Scott Barber, diving coach at North Canton High School.

Six girls and three boys scored higher than the state record in district diving meets last week. They'll have to duplicate those performances this weekend, however, to be recognized in the record books, because only scores in the state meet count as

state records.

The girls' record of 476.40 points was set by Nancy Hauck of Sylvania Northview in 1979, and Randy Chambers of North Canton set the boys' standard of 528.35 in 1978.

Leading the assault on the state records will be Cincinnati St. Xavier's Andy Kendrick, who scored 558.35 in the district meet, and two-time state champion Lori Rizzuto of Cincinnati Notre Dame, with a district score of 544.10.

B.J. Blar and Chad Root will represent Fremont Ross in the state meet.

In the swimming events, Cleveland Hawken's boys team is powerful and could beat out Upper Arlington, the state champion each of the past four years.

The Hawken girls, meanwhile, are looking for their third straight title, although they, in turn, could be pressed by Upper Arlington.

One of the more interesting individual battles will be in the 100 butterfly, where Hawken's Byron

Davis, one of the nation's top swimmers, is seeded first on the basis of a 49.22-second performance last weekend in the districts.

Seeded second is North Canton's Brian Simpson, followed by teammate Gordy Woolbert.

**EUREKA SUPER VALUE
5 — DAYS ONLY SALE**



**EUREKA UPRIGHT
4.0 Amp Motor**

Mfg.
Sugg. \$129.95

Davis leads Hawken swimmers

Associated Press

CANTON — Byron Davis, the nation's fastest high school sprint swimmer, broke his own state record in the 50-yard free-style and brought his team from behind to win the 200 medley relay Friday as Gates Mills Hawken began its bid to unseat three-time state champion Upper Arlington.

Ross diver B.J. Blair is fifth heading into today's 3:15 p.m. finals. Blair has 289.10 points after eight dives, trailing leader Dean Tanaro of Cincinnati Sycamore. Tanaro has 352.10 points. Andy Kendrick of Cincinnati St. Xavier was second at 322.40.

Chad Root, the other Ross diver in the state meet, was 12th going into the semifinals but slipped to 16th and did not qualify for the finals. He had 246.55 points on eight dives.

See STATE, Page B-2

State

Continued From B-1

Hawken's boys' team, which finished second to Upper Arlington in the state swimming meet a year ago, had 76 points after four events were completed Friday, to Upper Arlington's 41. The final seven events, including 1-meter diving, will conclude Saturday.

Davis, a senior who swam the nation's fastest 50 freestyle of the year in the district tournament a week ago, matched that performance with a time of 20.31 seconds in the preliminary round Friday, beating the state record of 20.48 he set last year.

He won the event with a final time of 20.77, edging Solon's Cliff Arslanian at 21.13.

In the 200 medley relay, Davis swam the butterfly in the third leg and brought Hawken even with North Canton Hoover, which had led after the first two legs. Hawken's Greg Harper then outraced Hoover's Todd Tolson in the freestyle leg to give

Hawken a state record time of 1:34.85, beating Hoover's 1987 mark of 1:35.35. Hoover was second this time at 1:34.93.

"We knew they were strong in the first part of the race, and we knew we had to keep our composure," Davis said. "With our strong freestyler, we knew we still had a chance."

Hawken's boys got a third victory in the 200 freestyle, won by John Fagan in 1:41.31. Dave Lamon of Upper Arlington finished second at 1:42.15.

In the girls' competition, Solon surprisingly took the first-day lead over Hawken, whose girls have won four straight state titles. Solon's Catherine Byrne led off her team's winning 200 medley relay and then won the 50 freestyle to help Solon rack up 58 points, to Hawken's 54.

In girls' 1-meter diving, defending champion Lori Rizzuto of Cincinnati Notre Dame held a narrow lead over Ann Kelley of host Canton McKinley after Friday's semifinal round. Rizzuto had 330.60 points, to Kelley's 329.75, going into Saturday's finals.

Blair fifth in state diving

News-Messenger reports

Ross High School sophomore B.J. Blair captured fifth place in the diving competition at the Ohio Swimming and Diving Championships in Canton last weekend.

Blair finished with 423.35 points. Dean Tanaro of Cincinnati Sycamore won the competition with 497.

"I figured (Blair) would finish in the top five, and he finished fifth," said Ross Coach Tom Thomson. "He was up against some really good competition."

Chad Root, the Little Giants' other state participant, finished 16th. Root, a freshman, did not qualify for the finals. He was 12th entering the semifinals.

"(Root's) scores dropped on his last two dives (in the semifinals), but he did a good job," said Thomson.