

2005 District Meet...

BOYS DISTRICT SWIMMING

Fahrbach leads way to Canton

Freshman state-bound in 100 fly, 200 free relay

By RYAN AUTULLO

News-Messenger correspondent

BOWLING GREEN — Phil Moran remembers a time when he dreaded the moment Lincoln Fahrbach walked into the Fremont Ross natatorium.

The Little Giant swim coach said that Fahrbach rarely showed dedication as a 7- or 8-year-old on the Ross club swimming team.

"He was like a space cadet," Moran said. "His head was all over the place. He was never really focused for about two years, and finally it just clicked."

"One day I saw him looking at the record board, and I was kind of like, 'What's he doing over there?'" Moran continued.

Fahrbach must have been searching for a place to etch his name.

The freshman automatically qualified for the state meet in the 100-yard butterfly on Friday by breaking the school record with a time of 52.68 seconds.

That was good for second place at a Division I district meet on the campus of Bowling Green State University.

Fahrbach was also the linchpin on the Little Giants' state-qualifying 200 freestyle relay, which took runner-up honors in a time of 1:29.50.



"I'm so happy. I never thought I could do that — especially as a freshman."

— Ross's Lincoln Fahrbach

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Giants follow frosh to Canton

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"I'm so happy," Fahrbach said. "I never thought I could do that — especially as a freshman."

Ross finished seventh in the team standings with 100 points.

Toledo St. Francis won the district crown for an absolutely amazing 40th consecutive year with 354.

Sylvania Northview was second with 171. Oak Harbor (54 points), Margaretta (31) and St. Joseph Central Catholic (seven) finished 21st, 22nd and 32nd, respectively.

The top two finishers in each event, in addition to 11 "at-large" bids given between all districts, qualify for the state meet, which takes place Wednesday through Saturday in Canton.

Fahrbach knew good things were imminent after finishing seventh in his first event — the 200 freestyle — with a time of 1:46.48.

The first year he has gone through the tapering process, Fahrbach was amazed that he had dropped nearly five seconds from his district-qualifying time.

"I had heard about (tapering), and I heard you go really fast times," Fahrbach said.

Quite the understatement in his case.

He swam a blazingly fast 21.48 in the final leg of the 200 freestyle relay to secure the Little Giants state meet berth.

Ross bested Napoleon, which swam in the previous heat, by less than half of a second.

The relay team also includes Jake Ickes, Matt Bachelder and Brad Nuhfer.

"What he did exceeded my expectations simply because it's a freshman doing it," Moran said. "You never know what you're going to get from a freshman."

Making Fahrbach's day of work even more impressive is the fact that only two freshman boys qualified for Canton last year, according to Moran. Fahrbach also was a member of the 400 freestyle relay, which finished sixth.

"It's always been a goal to get to the state tournament," he said. "I'm so happy. I can't even explain it."

Nor could Nuhfer.

After picking up the sport just one year ago due to Bachelder's request, Nuhfer had a difficult time believing what had happened Friday.

"It hasn't sunk in yet," the sophomore said. "I can't believe it. I would have never thought this would happen in a thousand years."

Swimming

High School Boys

District meet

at Bowling Green

Team Standings

1. Toledo St. Francis	354
2. Sylvania Northview	171
7. Fremont Ross	100
17. Oak Harbor	54
21. Margaretta	31
22. Port Clinton	29
32. SJCC	7

Diving

1. David Coluri (St. Johns) 457.50, 5. Brian Thomas (Port Clinton) 337.15, 7. Aaron Stewart (Margaretta) 272.15, 23. Nyle Gréffice (Margaretta) 94.15, 27. Clay Finken (Oak Harbor) 89.15, 28. Jim Kuli (Oak Harbor) 87.05

200 Medley Relay

1. St. Francis 1:38.34, 8. Oak Harbor (Beck, Tabbert, Perry, Diekman) 1:44.93, 18. SJCC (Swint, Setzler, Pietrykowski, Celek) 1:50.38, 18. Margaretta 1:50.38, 22. Ross (Hill, Schabel, Velez, Bowen) 1:51.64

200 Freestyle

1. Colin Murtagh (St. Francis) 1:42.68, 7. Lincoln Fahrbach (Ross) 1:46.86, 13. Matt Bachelder (Ross) 1:52.61, 23. Lucas Bechtel (Oak Harbor) 1:55.62, 26. Brett Nemitz (Margaretta) 1:56.40, 27. Chris Greggila (Oak Harbor) 1:56.78

200 Individual Medley

1. Adam Wohl (Perkins) 1:57.45, 15. Mickey Burket (Port Clinton) 2:08.22, 18. Stevyn Perry (Oak Harbor) 2:11.76, 20. Billy Pietrykowski (SJCC) 2:12.89, 31. Don Tabbert (Oak Harbor) 2:20.98

50 Freestyle

1. Sean McGraw (Ashland) 21.72, 12. Jake Ickes (Ross) 22.76, 15. Chris Beier (Ross) 22.95, 18. Josh Young (Oak Harbor) 23.17, 21. Jared Diekman (Oak Harbor) 23.42, 26. Thomas McRitchie (Oak Harbor) 23.68

100 Butterfly

1. Mike Carroll (St. Francis) 52.48, 2. Lincoln Fahrbach (Ross) 52.68, 6. Mickey Burket (Port Clinton) 55.14, 17. Nick Swint (SJCC) 58.69, 18. Tim Haynes (Margaretta) 58.85, 19. Stevyn Perry (Oak Harbor) 58.94, 22. Andre Velez (Ross) 59.44, 23. Billy Pietrykowski (SJCC) 59.63, 32. Brendt Browning (Oak Harbor) 1:03.02

100 Freestyle

1. Colin Murtagh (St. Francis) 46.55, 23. Matt Bachelder (Ross) 51.20, 24. Jake Ickes (Ross) 51.22, 31. Jared Diekman (Oak Harbor) 53.35

500 Freestyle

1. Nick Saul (Napoleon) 4:36.53, 16. Brett Nemitz (Margaretta) 5:17.84, 18. Lucas Bechtel (Oak Harbor) 5:19.02

200 Freestyle Relay

1. St Francis 1:27.96, 2. Ross (Ickes, Bachelder, Nuhfer, Fahrbach) 1:29.50, 13. Margaretta 1:35.47, 18. Port Clinton (Burket, Hehr, Smith, Que) 1:38.15

100 Backstroke

1. Jacob Busch (Toledo Christian) 52.88, 10. Nick Swint (SJCC) 59.29, 11. Kyle Beck (Oak Harbor) 59.51, 15. Tim Haynes (Margaretta) 1:00.26

100 Breaststroke

1. Adam Wohl (Perkins) 59.69, 22. Don Tabbert (Oak Harbor) 1:07.49, 24. Calelo Griffith (Margaretta) 1:08.30

400 Freestyle Relay

1. St. Francis 3:14.68, 6. Ross (Fahrbach, Bachelder, Velez, Ickes) 3:23.09, 13. Margaretta 3:30.72, 15. Oak Harbor 3:33.63, 19. Port Clinton 5:39.25

SWIMMING

Giant faction to Canton

News Messenger reports

Phil Moran has never sent eight kids to state in his 10 years.

He has never had a boys and girls relay advance to Canton in the same season.

And he has never had to use two vehicles to transport the Fremont Ross faction.

Until now.

Freshman Jacque Fate is seeded fifth in the 50-yard freestyle and 22nd in the 100 freestyle and classmate Lincoln Fahrbach is seeded 22nd in the 100 butterfly after this past weekend's Division I district meets.

Jake Ickes, Matt Bachelder, Brad Nuhfer and Fahrbach comprise a boys relay that is seeded 14th, and Jessica Ickes, Megan Wasserman, Caley Miller and Fate make up a girls relay that tied for the final qualifying spot.

Fahrbach will swim the 50 free on Friday, and the remaining events will be held Saturday. The top 16 racers in each event swim in the finals each evening.

Fahrbach is one of 10 freshman boys who qualified for state in an individual event.

"He's got an uphill battle," Moran said. "But at the same time, (the times) are so close. If he can hold his time better than the other kids the top 16 is possible."

Fate, like Fahrbach in the butterfly, will race in an outside lane.

"She'll be stuck on the outside but Lane 8 made the finals for us two years ago," Moran said. "You just have to get out and go. (Fate's) fifth seed was a little unexpected, although when I saw the times on Thursday I said she'd proba-

bly be top five. That's pretty cool."

"Now, she just has to hold her time," he continued. "That's easier to do in a 50. If ever you're going to be able to hold time it should be in the 50. She'll be in the second heat with the second-fastest swimmer. If she wins her heat, it will be a good sign."

Jake Ickes is the only senior among the Little Giants' eight qualifiers.

"Everybody but Jake gets to try again next year," Moran said. "Hopefully, they'll go down and get a taste and be inclined to do a little more next year."

The girls relay would have had a swim-off if the team it tied was in the same district. Instead, an extra heat will simply be added for that race.

"I told the girls after the race they were on the bubble," Moran said. "They couldn't have been more on the bubble."

Moran said that 80 percent of the teams at state will probably swim slower than they did at districts.

"They put everything they have into getting in because it's so hard," he said. "We've been fortunate over the years to hold our times or go faster occasionally. If the boys maintain their time, we'll have a really good chance at the top 16. The girls probably have to improve their time a bit."

The fastest 16 are considered all-Ohio athletes.

Moran is thrilled eight swimmers will travel to Canton.

"It's more of a team setting," he said. "It's tougher with just one kid. The support should help Jacque and Lincoln in the individual events. That's not something you always get."