

2003 District...

Hogan gets district title, state berth

Ross girls still waiting for fate

News-Messenger reports

BOWLING GREEN — For the first time in 18 years, the Fremont Ross boys swim team has a district champion.

Senior co-captain Elliot Hogan won the 100-yard breaststroke at the Northwest Ohio District Meet on Saturday afternoon at Bowling Green State University and qualified for the state meet Saturday in Canton.

Hogan was seeded third in the event with a sectional time of one minute, 5.06 seconds. His district time of



HOGAN

1:00.62 not only shattered his sectional time, but beat his own school record of 1:02:10, which he set at the district as a sophomore.

"On Friday, I swam a 50-yard breaststroke in the 200 medley relay, and my split

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O'Connor bound for 3rd state meet

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time was 27.13 (seconds)," said Hogan. "I'd never gone that fast before in my life, so that was encouraging. Coach told me I have a tendency to panic in the last 25 yards if a race is close, and when I do, I change my stroke, going shorter and quicker rather than long and strong. He can see it right away. I know I did it last year at districts, and I cost me, and I did it again for the last 10 yards at sectionals. So all week I've been telling myself, 'Stay calm. Stay with your stroke.' I never looked where anyone else was at, but I just knew this was the best I'd ever swim it."

"When I turned around and saw my time, I knew I wasn't waiting for a phone call. I was going to states. A couple of guys I knew from the Sandusky team were right there on deck, and they were cheering and hollering for me. I let go of the wall and floated back out, so I could see where all the Fremont people were sitting up above. They were going nuts, which was cool. My mom was crying, my dad's got the video going. I'll never forget it. I can't wait for states."

Ross head coach Phil Moran was all smiles. This is the ninth straight year he has placed swimmers in the state championships.

"I knew Elliot wanted to make states really bad, but even I didn't know how bad," he said. "At the 50-yard split, when he had a 28.10 and was ahead, I started whoopin', which I don't do very often. Then he just exploded off his last turn. Second place was a 1:51.44, so Elliot won by a second, and, at this level, a second is a lifetime."

Said Hogan, "I can't ever remember a breaststroke race falling apart like this one did. A guy from Bowling Green (Jeff Nelson) swam a 1:51.67 in the second heat. His seed time was a 1:58, so he pretty much set the clock early. I saw it on the board and just turned away. Then three guys in the third heat did 1:51 and 1:58. Two guys in the final heat with me ended up like 1:53 and 1:55. I've been doing this since I was 6, and I can't ever remember that happening."

Hogan's 30 points from his first-place finish and seven from his 10th-place finish in the 50 freestyle put the Fremont boys on the scoreboard with 78 total points. The Lady Giants finished up 195 overall, compared to ninth last year when they had more qualifiers and a bigger team.

Ross's next best boys finish came from senior swimmer Jake Ickes, who was eighth in the 100 freestyle with a personal-best time of 50.17 seconds.

Ickes' three-second drop in the 200 freestyle got him 13th place with a 1:54.61 for 11 team points in all. Paul Ricard of Bowling Green broke a 13-year-old district record in the 200 freestyle with a 1:41.88.

"When a swimmer picks his or her events for sectionals, they have to pick what everyone else is picking," Moran said. "This year, all the boys went for the 200."

Seniors Brandon Spicer and co-captain Noah Grayson ended their high school careers with all personal-best times. Spicer broke a minute in the 100 butterfly for the first time with a 59.68.

"It took four years to get there, but this smile isn't coming off my face any time soon," Spicer said.

Grayson took nearly six seconds off his seed time for a personal best in the 300 individual medley at 2:12.71 and peeled 17 seconds off his seed time of 5:36.08 in the 500 freestyle for a personal best of 5:13.23.

"Now that's a taper that worked," Grayson said, "and a good way to finish out."

Other personal-best times included junior Greg Vandyne's 24.10 in the 50 freestyle and 1:00.37 in the 100 breaststroke. Hogan's 22.44 as the opening leg in the 200 freestyle relay and Alan Gamble's 55.46 as opening leg in the boys' 400 freestyle relay.

Hogan, Grayson, Ickes and Greg Vandyne swam their best 200 freestyle relay of the year, dropping five seconds for a 1:33.75 close and eighth place. Spicer, Hogan, Grayson and Ickes were 10th in the 100 medley relay following a three-second drop for a 1:47.09.

Toledo St. Francis with 21 qualifying swimmers in 38 events won the district meet with 465 points. Bowling Green was second with nine boys and 226 points, and Sandusky Perkins was third with 11 boys and 187 points.

If not for the snow, we'd know...

Snow in the Southwest District kept about 10 Division I girls teams from competing as scheduled. A make-up meet was set for Sunday.

The normal posting time for district results, 2 p.m. Sunday, came and went, and there was no phone call for the Ross girls awaiting word on the state fate late.

So the girls went to the mall. Six o'clock came and nothing. Nine o'clock, 11 o'clock, nothing.

The official word finally came: There is no official word until Tuesday.

However, this much is known, according to Moran: For the third time in as many years, senior captain Brittany O'Connor will be returning to state for the 100 backstroke.

And there may be more.

O'Connor dropped 1.52 seconds off her season-best time for a second-place finish at 59.57 in an event that saw Notre Dame's Susan Johnson shatter the district record of 58.13 with a final time of 57.47.

"Brit is currently seeded fifth in the state in the backstroke, with results we gathered from French in three of the districts," Moran said. "With only 11 teams left to swim, she's a sure thing. I wish I could say the same for her 100-yard freestyle and the girls' 300 medley relay."

O'Connor was third in the 100 freestyle after taking two seconds off her season-best time for a final of 54.13 seconds.

"In the 100 free, the times are milliseconds apart, so you just can't call it until all the times are there," Moran said.

Multiply the anxiety by four for the 200 medley team, which includes Wendy Farrell, Megan Wasserman, Jaymee Glaspy and O'Connor. They finished second at districts with a season-best 1:55.77, four seconds better than their seed time. It was the second best girls finish in school history. Since the Northwest District Division I girls only get one automatic bid in each event, the Lady Giants are left waiting for a call.

The same goes for the girls' 400 freestyle relay. Ross finished second to Notre Dame with a 3:47.88.

"Considering that their seed time was 3:35, I'd say they had a good day," said Moran. "How good, we'll find out tomorrow."

Said Farrell, "He gave it everything we had. Let's just hope it was enough."

Notre Dame broke the district medley record by about a second with a final 1:49.75. It was just one of five district records broken by the Notre Dame girls over the two-day meet. They finished first with 510 points from 23 swimmers. Bowling Green was second with 237 points from 13 swimmers, and Sylvia Northview was third with 180 points from 22 swimmers.

Seniors Farrell and Fate clocked nothing but personal-best times. Farrell went a 2:11 flat in the 200 freestyle for 15th place, a 70 seconds faster than her best. Her 2:35-second drop in the 100 breaststroke for 10th place and a 1:13.61 best time got a "Whoop" from coach Moran.

Fate's 4:1-second drop in the 300 individual medley (2:25.46) for 10th place brought tears to her mom's eyes. She was just more than half a second faster in the 100 butterfly at 1:56.98, and turned in her fastest 50 freestyle at 27.85 seconds as the lead leg in the girls' 200 freestyle relay.

"I call it Senior Cool," Moran said. "These girls have been down this road before, and you could tell it today. They were focused on doing their best. And they did it. Glaspy has been there before, too. She was 10th on the day in the 50 freestyle with a personal best 28.13 and took a 1:13 in the 100 freestyle on a time of 1:15.15."

Wasserman has a lot to look forward to following her 9th place finish in the 100 butterfly with a personal-best of 1:54.38. She was 12th in the individual medley.

Also joining the parade of personal bests was Emily Grayson, who knocked a second off her best in the 100 breaststroke for a 1:13.75.

"Right now, I have reservations in Canton for six swimmers. Let's just hope we need them all," Moran said.

Swimming

High School Boys

Northwest District

Team Standings

1-Toi. St. Francis De Sales.....	405
2-Bowling Green.....	226
3-Perkins.....	187
4-Napoleon.....	129
5-Lima Shawnee.....	129
10-Mansfield.....	78
Ross.....	78

24-Margaretta.....22

1MTR Diving: 1-Michael Grappner (CEL)

391.35, 2-Chris Hines (TSFD) 348.45.

200 Medley Relay: 1-TSFD 1:38.44, 2-

BG 1:40.76, 10-Ross (Brandon Spicer, Elliot

Hogan, Noah Grayson, Jake Ickes) 1:47.09.

200 Free: 1-Paul Ricard (BG) 1:41.88, 2-

Dan Wohl (SPE) 1:43.66, 11-Brett Collins

(MARG) 1:51.11, 13-Ickes (FR) 1:51.70.

200 IM: 1-Dan Wohl (SPE) 1:56.67, 2-

Kevin O'Hara (NAP) 2:00.40, 19-Grayson

(FR) 2:12.71.

50 Free: 1-Ryan McHugh (TSFD) 22.02,

2-D.J. Mosiniak (TSFD) 22.07, 10-Hogan

(FR) 22.94, 26-Greg Vandyne (FR) 24.10.

100 Fly: 1-Andy Rennels (TSFD) 51.48,

2-Daniel Goldberg (SYSO) 52.75, 17-

Brandon Spicer (FR) 59.65.

100 Free: 1-Andy Rennel (TSFD) 47.54, 2-

Casey Dekker (LEX) 48.39, 8-Ickes (FR) 50.17.

500 Free: 1-Paul Ricard (BG) 4:39.75,

2-Craig Knierem (WAL) 4:46.57, 9-Brett

Collins (MARG) 5:00.53, 20-Grayson

(FR) 5:19.15, 21-Brett Nemitz (MARG)

5:21.55, 30-Alan Gamble (FR) 5:35.40.

200 Free Relay: 1-TSFD 1:28.44, 2-

LSH 1:30.59, 8-Ross (Hogan, Noah

Grayson, Vandyne, Ickes) 1:33.75, 19-

MARG (Brett Collins, Tim Hayes, Brett

Nemitz, Kevin Weichel) 1:37.86.

100 Back: 1-Daniel Goldberg (SYSO)

52.61, 2-Jacob Busch (TCH) 54.60.

100 Breast: 1-Elliot Hogan (FR) 1:00.62, 2-

David Barone (TSJ) 1:01.44, 14-Kevin Weichel

(MARG) 1:06.01, 25-Vandyne (FR) 1:09.37.

400 Free Relay: 1-TSFD 3:15.22, 2-BG

3:17.94, 15-MARG (Brett Collins, Tim

Hayes, Brett Nemitz, Kevin Weichel) 3:34.99,

21-ROSS (Alan Gamble, Brandon Spicer,

Nate Bowen, Greg Vandyne) 3:42.09.

High School Girls

Northwest Div. I District

Team Standings

1-Notre Dame.....	510
2-Bowling Green.....	217
3-Sylvania Northview.....	189
4-Findlay.....	182
5-Ross.....	150

200 Medley Relay: 1-Notre Dame, 2-Ross

(Brittany O'Connor, Wendy Farrell, Megan

Wasserman, Jaymee Glaspy) 1:55.77.

200 Freestyle: 1-Ellen Johnson (ND)

1:52.16, 2-Krist Friderichs 1:58.60, 15-

Farrell (FR) 2:11.00.

200 IM: 1-Michelle Silva (ND) 2:13.51,

2-Stephanie Futscher (ND) 2:14.77, 10-

Jenny Fate (FR) 2:23.48, 12-Megan

Wasserman (FR) 2:24.35.

50 Freestyle: 1-Katie Carroll (ND) 23.85,

2-Jennifer Knight (ASH) 24.40, 10 Glaspy

(FR) 26.13, 25-Emily Grayson (FR) 27.80.

100 Butterfly: 1-Susan Johnson (ND) 56.59,

2-Courtney Jablonski (P) 1:00.20, 9-Wasser-

man (FR) 1:04.36, 17-Fate (FR) 1:06.98.

100 Freestyle: 1-Carroll (ND) 52.06, 2-

Ellen Johnson (ND) 52.83, 3-O'Connor

(FR) 54.13, 13-Glaspy (FR) 58.15, 31-

Heather Williams (FR) 1:05.39.

500 Freestyle: 1-Silva (ND) 5:14.64, 2-

Katie Wilke (SAN), 29-Stephanie Mullins

(FR) 6:21.11.

200 Freestyle Relay: 1-Notre Dame

1:40.94, 2-Ashland 1:42.64, 13-Ross (Fate,

Farrell, Grayson, Emily Zamora) 1:52.01.

100 Backstroke: 1-Susan Johnson (ND)

57.69, 2-O'Connor (FR) 59.57.

100 Breaststroke: 1-Sarah Nicklas (SU)

1:08.88, 2-Lauren Barone (ND) 1:11.42, 10-

Farrell (FR) 1:13.63, 29-Grayson 1:18.75.

400 Freestyle Relay: 1-Notre Dame

3:35.96, 2-Ross (O'Connor, Wasserman,

Glaspy, Fate) 3:47.88.