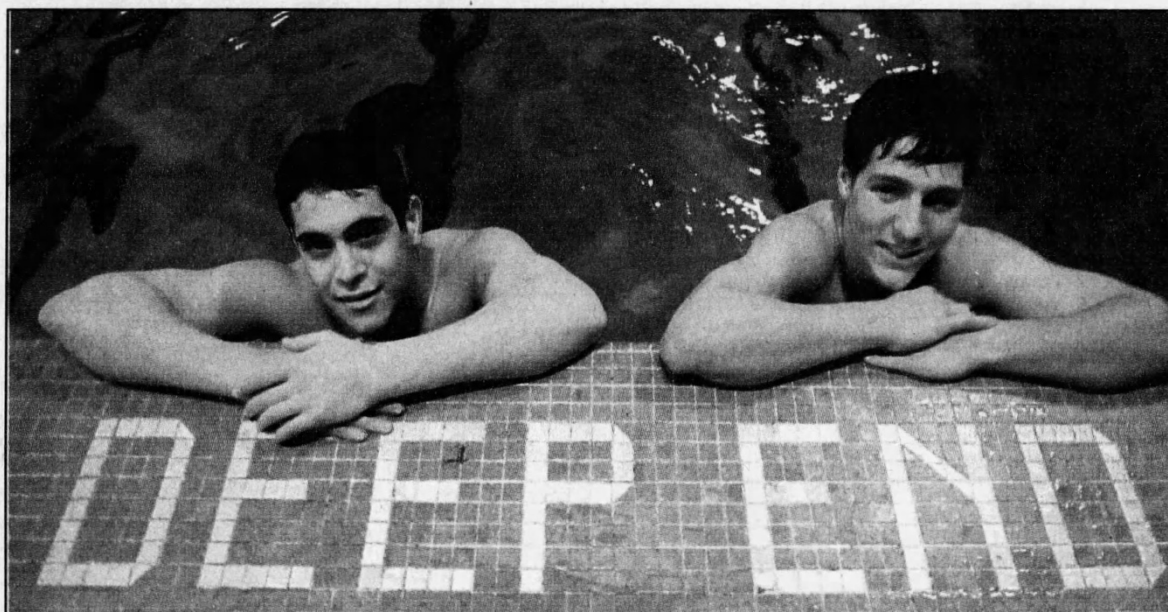


1998 State Meet...

Diving pals headed to state



News Messenger/Andrew Morrison

ROSS DIVERS Ryan Newman, left, and Kyle Fisher are headed to the state championship meet in Canton this weekend

Fisher, Newman represent Little Giants in Canton

By **MICHAEL PIDANICK**
Staff Writer

Fremont Ross divers Kyle Fisher and Ryan Newman have shared many good times over the past 12 years.

This weekend, they will share one of the best.

Both boys will compete in the state diving championships at the C.T. Branin Natatorium at Canton McKinley High School this weekend.

"They are the best of friends," said Ross diving coach Craig Tendrek. "They do a lot to help each other and they do a lot to help the whole team."

Newman placed second and Fisher third at the district meet Thursday at Bowling Green State University.

Ross swimmer Molly O'Connor will compete in the 100 freestyle and 200 freestyle in Canton.

Much of the success of Fisher and Newman is due to the help of the other.

"We try to help each other with our dives," Newman said. "We keep each other from getting frustrated when things aren't going as well."

Fisher and Newman, both seniors, have been friends since the first grade and have been diving together for four years.

"We have seen each other dive so much that we know what each dive should look like," Fisher said. "We can see right away if the other is doing something wrong."

Newman began diving in seventh grade and urged Fisher to join when the two were freshmen.

"He tried to get me to join in eighth grade but I'm not real good with deadlines," Fisher said. "In ninth grade he talked me into it again and I joined."

Both boys bring a positive attitude to practice and to meets.

"Having them around makes our practices a lot more positive," Tendrek said. Both divers have confidence and the willingness to try difficult dives.

"A lot of divers are afraid to try certain dives," Tendrek said. "But they will do every dive, even the hardest ones. They won't shy away."

The entire boys diving team benefits from the leadership of the two.

"They both are very helpful to the other divers on this team," said Tendrek, who is in his first year as coach. "That makes my job a lot easier."

The two boys are also very different on the diving board. Assistant coach Joe Groskost said Newman's main strength is Fisher's top weakness.

"Ryan's strength is his consistency. He gets sixes and sevens (on a scale of 1-10) almost every time," he said. "Kyle is more up and down. He does some real nice dives, but he also does some bad ones."

But Fisher put together his most con-

sistent meet of the year at the districts.

"I had myself mentally finishing sixth or seventh," he said. "But it was my most consistent meet of the year, by far."

Newman, on the other hand, was expected to make it this far.

"I wasn't overconfident," he said. "But I felt if I dove well I had a good shot at making it (to the states)."

With the top divers from all over the state as competition, and unfamiliar judges determining the scores, the state tournament will be far from easy.

The boys have set different goals for the state tournament.

"My goal at the start of the season was to reach the finals at the state meet," Newman said. "There is certainly no guarantee that I will make it, but that is my goal."

At the start of the season, Fisher's aim was to make it to the state meet. With that goal already achieved, he has set a new one for this weekend.

"I hope to get past the first round," he said. "If I consistently hit my dives, I can make it past the preliminaries."

While the two boys are close, they are not inseparable and will go in separate directions next year. Newman plans on attending Miami of Ohio, while Fisher plans on going to Cincinnati.

O'Connor 3rd in 200; will swim 100 today

CANTON — Molly O'Connor finished third in the state Friday in the 200 freestyle, an event coach Phil Moran said is not her best.

O'Connor's top event is the 100 freestyle, which she swims in today at the C.T. Branin Natatorium.

"She's pretty pumped because that's her better event," Moran said of the 100. O'Connor placed fifth at state in the 100 a year ago.

O'Connor swam Friday's 200 in 1:52.91.

Ross diver Ryan Newman is 17th after five dives with a score of 174. He has three dives this morning to crack the top 16, which would put him in this afternoon's finals. Team-mate Kyle Fisher was 23rd after five dives with 157 points and did not advance to today's competition.

Swimming

High School

State Championships

CANTON (AP) — Results Friday from the 71st boys and 22nd girls state swimming and diving championships at Branin Natatorium:

Girls 200 Medley Relay

1, Cincinnati Ursuline, 1:45.76. 2, Kettering Alter, 1:47.29. 3, Oak Harbor, 1:47.54. 4, Cincinnati Oak Hills, 1:47.75. 5, Gates Mills Hawken, 1:49.42. 6, Cincinnati Mother Mercy, 1:49.96. 7, Cincinnati Anderson, 1:50.27. 8, Hudson, 1:52.82.

Boys 200 Medley Relay

1, Toledo St. Francis, 1:34.22. 2, Cincinnati St. Xavier, 1:34.63. 3, Shaker Heights, 1:34.72. 4, Gates Mills Hawken, 1:36.04. 5, Akron Firestone, 1:36.49. 6, Sandusky Perkins, 1:36.51. 7, Cincinnati Anderson, 1:36.58. 8, Cleve. St. Ignatius, 1:37.41.

Girls 200 Individual Medley

1, Jennifer Koch, Cincinnati Mother Mercy, 2:04.99. 2, Lesley Meade, Cincinnati Ursuline, 2:05.15. 3, Tricia Rye, Cincinnati Oak Hills, 2:05.29. 4, Josie Jedick, Rocky River, 2:05.30. 5, Barb Mulshine, Cincinnati Ursuline, 2:06.31. 6, Erica Rose, Gates Mills Hawken, 2:06.41. 7, Casey Mangano, Kings Mills Kings, 2:09.41. 8, Megan Geers, Pickerington, 2:09.93.

Boys 200 Individual Medley

1, Tony Kurth, Toledo St. Francis, 1:48.96. 2, Matt Keay, Shaker Heights, 1:49.44. 3, John Carroll, Toledo St. Francis, 1:51.36. 4, Mark Gangloff, Akron Firestone, 1:52.27. 5, Brad Bartel, Avon Lake, 1:52.30. 6, Brink Ciferri, Toledo St. Francis, 1:52.44. 7, David Krahe, Gates Mills Hawken, 1:52.88. 8, Kevin Euans, Westerville North, 1:54.32.

Girls 200 Freestyle

1, Diana Munz, Chagrin Falls, 1:49.76. 2, Abby Wakeham, Cincinnati Anderson, 1:52.35. 3, Molly O'Connor, Fremont Ross, 1:52.93. 4, Katie Jelus, Beavercreek, 1:53.67. 5, Jen Peters, Cincinnati St. Ursula, 1:53.74. 6, Julie Waizenhofer, Mason, 1:54.12. 7, Abby Parker, Akron Firestone, 1:54.45. 8, Jessie Humes, Bowling Green, 1:55.08.

Boys 200 Freestyle

1, Dan Ketchum, Cincinnati Sycamore, 1:37.84. 2, James Pullin, Gates Mills Hawken, 1:38.93. 3, Jeff Klug, Shaker Heights, 1:41.20. 4, Eric Disalle, Toledo St. Francis, 1:42.10. 5, Marc Courtney-Brooks, Columbus St. Charles, 1:42.78. 6, Eric Foster, Cincinnati Anderson, 1:43.00. 7, Greg Kuehnle, Upper Arlington, 1:43.12. 8, David Hausladen, Cincinnati St. Xavier, 1:44.27.

O'Connor finishes second in state

Ross swimmer lowers time in 100 freestyle

News Messenger Reports

CANTON — As a freshman, Fremont Ross swimmer Molly O'Connor finished 23rd at the state meet in the 100 freestyle. Saturday, as a senior, she placed second.

O'Connor swam the race in 52.18 seconds, second to only Erin Phenix of Cincinnati Ursuline, who won in 51.78.

"It's pretty amazing when you think that 700 to 1,000 swimmers in the state compete in this event and Molly finished second,"

Ross coach Phil Moran said. "She is a tremendous swimmer."

O'Connor placed third in the 200 freestyle on Friday with a time of 1:52.93. Diana Munz of Chagrin Falls was the winner in 1:49.76.

"Molly did a great job," Moran said. "We're excited for her and



O'CONNOR

very proud of her."

O'Connor's performances gave Ross an 18th-place finish in the girls team competition. The Little Giants finished with 33 points.

In 1997, O'Connor finished fifth in the 100 and ninth in the 50 freestyle. She did not compete in the 50 this season.

"Each year she has done a little better," Moran said. "She has worked very hard and has earned it."

Ursuline won with 237. Gates Mills Hawken was second 183 and Kettering Alter was third with 163. Oak Harbor was 12th

with 53.5 and Margaretta was 59th with three points.

Ross senior Ryan Newman finished 17th in the diving competition, while teammate Kyle Fisher placed 23rd.

"They just didn't hit their dives as well as they could have and other people did," Moran said. "They did a tremendous job just getting there. That's the real accomplishment."

"A lot of the times it's the luck of the draw," he added. "There were some excellent divers there."

■ Oak Harbor finishes 12th, B4

Van Horn is top coach

Oak Harbor's Bob Van Horn was named Ohio High School Girls Swim Coach of the Year this weekend.

Van Horn led the Rockets to a 12th-place finish at the state meet in Canton.

"It's a tribute to the kids and all the hard work they've done," Van Horn said. "I've been working with this group for 10 years, since they were eight and unders. The award is a direct result of all the hard work they have done for the past 10 years."

— News-Messenger reports