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Sandusky picked to win BC meet

By BOB MARKER
N-M Sports Editor

"Sandusky should win it."

That's the general feeling around the Buckeye Conference before anybody gets wet in the annual Buckeye Conference Swim Meet.

The five-team meet will be held at Sandusky High School's six lane pool Saturday. Diving preliminaries are slated to begin at 10 a.m. with all finals beginning at 1 p.m.

The swimming races will be held in two heats with the five fastest times being awarded points on a 6, 4, 3, 2, 1 basis. The relay races will be only one heat apiece with points being awarded on a 12, 8, 6, 4, 2 scale.

Ross' Little Giants are the defending champions but will have to produce an outstanding effort to get past Sandusky and Findlay. On paper, the actual contest will be for second between the Little Giants and Findlay. Sandusky should win it . . . at least on paper that's the way it looks.

"Last year when Ross won the title," first year Ross coach Tim Loehr said, "we were not considered as a contender but we won it."

Ross just did win it by one-half of a point over the Blue Streaks, when it appeared that Findlay and Sandusky decided to swim against each other and not worry about the other teams.

That's not likely to happen this time around.

"We have an outside chance," Loehr contends but then modified that

statement by adding, "we are going to have to have some help from Findlay and the other teams if we hope to win it. We are banking on getting help from Findlay mainly while Findlay is hoping that we can help them with Sandusky."

The relay races figure to be the big races in the meet. The reason is pure mathematics. A team that can win both will pick up 24 points, a substantial edge on the other teams.

"We won both relays last year," Loehr said.

Loehr continued to talk about the meet. "We have quality swimmers this year but we do not have the real strong depth that we need. One thing we do have going for us is that everyone is healthy with the exception of Jim House and he is out for the season with a knee injury."

Ross' Kirk Hess, Marty Mason, and Scott Heschel, have the best shots at scoring victories for the Little Giants. Heschel will be in the diving while Mason will likely be in the free-style sprints. Hess can swim any event but Loehr is not divulging his lineup.

"That's part of the guesswork in a meet like this," the Ross coach said as he talked about the mental game that swim coaches play with each other. "The guess work with the lineup plus how much the kids want to win it."

The last part of that statement could be the key to the whole shebang. It was last year and it could be again for Ross this year.

Sandusky slips by Ross for BC swim title



SCOTT HESCHEL

... Ross diver finished third in BC meet

Two losses for Ross

TOLEDO — Ross closed out the wrestling regular season with a double loss against Whitmer and Mansfield Saturday. The Little Giants are idle until the sectional tournament on Feb. 28 and March 1.

Ross lost to host Whitmer, 41-18, and to Mansfield, 31-19. Whitmer edged Mansfield, 21-19, in that portion of the meet. In triangular scoring, Whitmer finished with 62; Mansfield had 50; and Ross, 37.

"We had a better overall showing than usual," Ross coach Al Vogenthaler said. "Some of the younger wrestlers, especially Jim Smith, turned in good performances."

Smith, a heavyweight, and junior Tony Munoz along with Pete Werling, also a junior, were the only double winners for Ross.

Smith turned back Cliff Bartlett of Whitmer, 9-4, and then pounded Mansfield's Norm Cushing, 12-0. Werling, 141, won his pair by pinning Pat Barra of Whitmer in 5:40, and then coming back to shutout Rick Owens of Mansfield, 9-0.

Munoz, now 20-0, for the season, turned in two pins in the tri-meet. Against Mike Arveny of Whitmer, Munoz registered the match stopper at the three minute mark and against Mansfield's Tony Lee, the pin came 15 seconds into the second period.

Arveny possessed the second best record at 101 in Northwest Ohio at 9-1 before walking onto the mat against the Ross lightweight. The only loss was a 6-3 decision to Munoz in the Rogers Tournament.

Ross is surprising 2nd in three-team scramble

SANDUSKY — Ross nearly pulled off the impossible Saturday afternoon in the Buckeye Conference Swim Meet. The Little Giants, defending BC swimming champs, led the five-team meet up till the final race, the freestyle relay.

But Ross, needing a second place finish to win the title, placed fourth and Sandusky, a top heavy favorite before the meet started, pulled out the win with a second place finish.

The second place finish gave the Blue Streaks 61 points, three better than Ross. Findlay was third with 57 points while Marion was fourth with 28, and Mansfield Senior finished on the bottom with four.

"They (Sandusky) could win it by 10 or 12 points," Ross coach Tim Loehr had said earlier in the week but by the time the 10th event was over Saturday, Ross held a slim 54-53 margin over the Blue Streaks.

"I don't think any coach, school, or community could have or ever will be prouder of the performance that this team staged for Ross today," Loehr said as he handed out high praises for his undermanned club. Ross had only 16 swimmers at the meet and in the end, Sandusky's depth made up for the loss. The blue Streaks have a squad of 35 while Findlay has a team of 55 points.

"Our problem," Loehr said, "one in which I am proud of the way my team handled it, has been that four veteran swimmers, for various reasons, decided not to come out this season. That, along with three quitters and three suspensions for discipline, and finally the knee injury to Jim House, put this team at a disadvantage."

"Ever with those problems, Ross was highly respect in the Conference and the performance Saturday only raised that respect."

Ross took down four first places with Kirk Hess grabbing two and sophomore Hal Hawk another. The Little Giants also won the medley relay.

Hess set a new record in the 500-yard freestyle with a 5:08.2 and also paddled his way to the individual medley title in 2:09.8.

Hawk was a pleasant surprise to Loehr and assistant coach Art Bucci. The sophomore had finished fourth in the butterfly and admitted that he did not "feel comfortable" in the event.

In the backstroke, it was a different story for the big soph. Hawk got off to a good start, and using a flip turn, lengthened his lead throughout the race. On the last turn at 75 yards, Hawk hit it perfectly and picked up a stroke on second place finisher, Bryan Boissonault of Sandusky. Hawk was timed in 1:04.9.

Hawk also was on the medley relay team with Hess, Kevin Casey, and Marty Mason. That quartet recorded a 1:51.3 for the win.

"I'm afraid that I will make the mistake of not praising each one of our swimmers," Loehr said. "All of them performed in championship style... it's just that; all of them turned in outstanding performances for us."

But Loehr was not all smiles, he took a swipe at some of the support shown for his team this year.

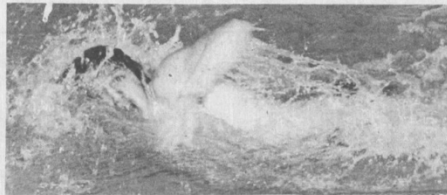
"Personally, I think it is a shame that our community has failed to come out and support us. There are many ex-swimmers, state champs, and others, that haven't even been to our meets," he said.

"The older generation likes to boast about how tough they had it, well, our fellows are still in the same pool they were in and perhaps, we may have it tougher than they did."



ROSS DIVER CAROL GOTTRON

... Miss Gottron finished eighth in the meet



BRETT MCKITTRICK, left, paddles toward a second place finish in the 200-yard freestyle. The Ross swimmer later finished third in the 100-yard freestyle sprint. At the right, Kevin Casey is not standing in the water, he is on the breaststroke leg of Ross' winning medley relay team.



—BC swim meet results—

TEAM STANDINGS — Sandusky 61, Ross 58, Findlay 57, Marion 28, Mansfield Senior 4

Events

Medley relay — Ross (Hal Hawk, Kirk Hess, Kevin Casey, Marty Mason) 1:51.3; Sandusky 1:52.6; Marion 1:54.7; Findlay 1:57.8; Mansfield Senior 2:08.9

200-yard freestyle — Jack Waldeck (S) 1:15.0; Brett McKittrick (R) 1:19.6; Fred Somerlot (M) 2:00.8; Gwll Evans (F) 2:01.1; Chuck Bennett (S) 2:01.5

Individual medley — Kirk Hess (R) 2:09.8; Dave Arenson (F) 2:13.1; Chip Palazzo (S) 2:15.7; Kevin Casey (R) 2:22.2; Jim Gooding (M) 2:29.1

50-yard freestyle — Todd Worthington (F) 21.2; Jeff Day (M) 24.2; Marty Mason (R) 24.3; Mark Kling (S) 24.4; Dan LaMarche (M) 24.6

Diving — Gary Bender (F) 272.35; Bob Knoll (S) 268.35; Scott Heschel (R) 248.50; Bob Freeman (F) 227.80; Doug Virden (M) 218.35

Butterfly — Dave Arenson (F) 58.1; Jeff Day (M) 58.7; Dave Williams (S) 1:01.8; Hal Hawk (R) 1:03.8; Gary Orwick (F) 1:05.2

100-yard freestyle — Todd Worthington (F) 50.9 (New Buckeye Conference record); Mark Kling (S) 52.5; Brett McKittrick (R) 53.8; Fred Somerlot (M) 54.1; Gwll Evans (F) 55.5

500-yard freestyle — Kirk Hess (R) 5:08.2 (New Buckeye Conference record); Jack Waldeck (S) 5:19.1; Chuck Bennett (S) 5:28.3; Don Bair (F) 5:42.6; Gary Orwick (F) 5:51.6

Backstroke — Hal Hawk (R) 1:04.9; Bryan Boissonault (S) 1:04.4; Doug Wymer (F) 1:06.7; Ted White (S) 1:07.3; Kevin Nitschke (R) 1:07.9

Breaststroke — Chip Palazzo (S) 1:09.2; Kevin Casey (R) 1:10.3; Jim Fitzhugh (S) 1:12.3; Dave Stein (R) 1:13.5; Terri Layne (F) 1:14.3

Freestyle relay — Findlay (Dave Arenson, Don Bair, Gwll Evans, Todd Worthington) 1:31.6; Sandusky 1:35.7; Marion 1:39.5; Ross 1:44.2; Mansfield Senior 1:43.5

Central Michigan takes over lead in MAC race

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The game of Russian Roulette, basketball style, continues for another week in that Mid-American Conference scramble.

For six straight weeks, the leader on Mondays has lost at least one game. The latest contender to feel the hex was Miami of Ohio, a 78-74 victim at Central Michigan Saturday.

So it's Central Michigan's turn as the new MAC pacesetter. The Chippewas, 6-3 and .631 ahead of 7-4 Bowling Green in

and James McElroy in the last 1 1/2 minutes gave Central Michigan its margin of victory, atoning for a 26-point wallowing suffered at Miami.

McElroy flipped in 23 points and Helmiink 21 before a record home crowd of 6,292. Steve Fields' 18 points paced the Redskins.

Dick Parfitt, Central Michigan's coach, was cautious afterward.

"Toledo is the only game left on our schedule now," he said. "We can't look