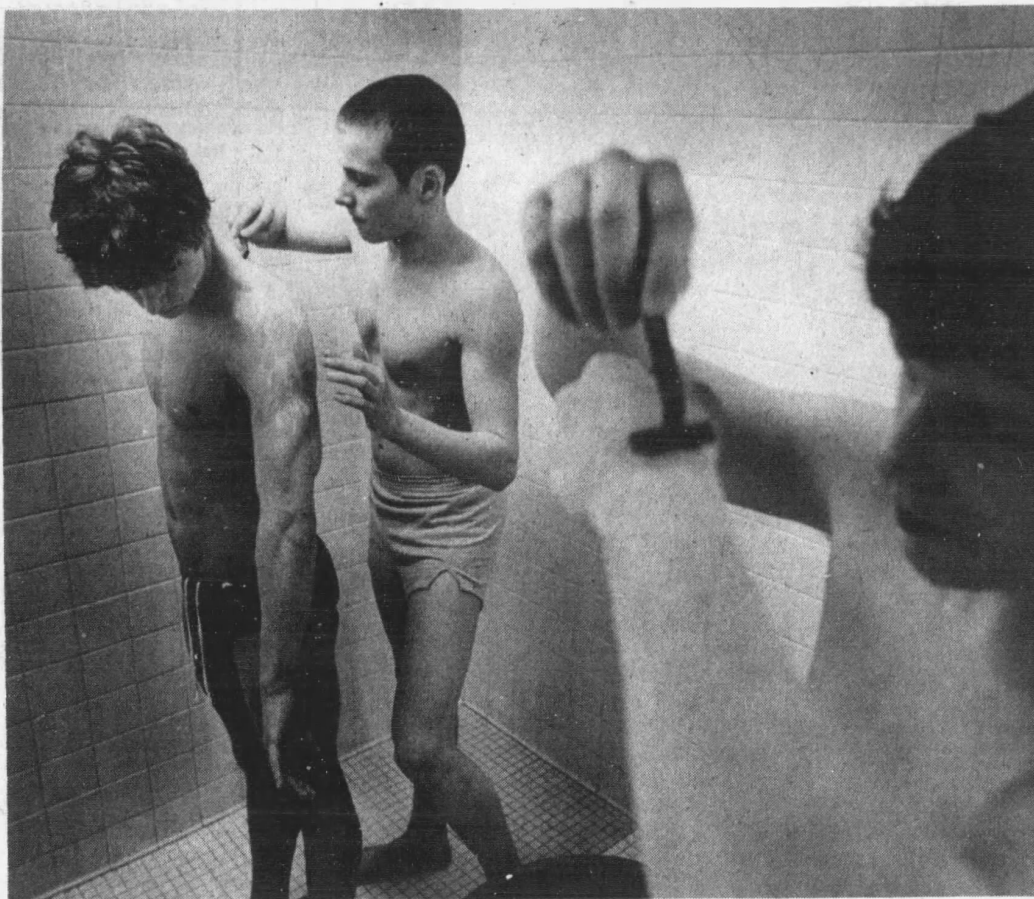


1982 DISTRICT MEET...



(N-M photo by Bill Kennedy)

SHAVE JOB. Members of the Ross High School boys swim team "shave" while preparing for the district swim championships. Left to right are Mark Lowther, Burke Mitchell and Chris Black.

District meet at BGSU today

The Northwest District Swimming and Diving Championships begin today at 5 in Cooper Pool at Bowling Green State University.

Four events will be swam in both boys and girls divisions today with the remainder of the meet beginning at 5 p.m. Saturday.

Ross's boys will be represented in 10 of the 11 events in the meet that matches all high school swim teams in Northwest Ohio.

"Toledo St. Francis is the defending champ and is favored to win again," Ross Coach Art Bucci said. "For runnerup, though, it is between three or four teams.

"I figure Sandusky, us, and Sylvania Southview and Northview will be in the running for that spot," Bucci explained.

"Those are the teams," the

Ross coach continued, "and if our kids swim well, we may be in the money."

The top two finishers in boys and the top three in girls events qualify for the state swim meet March 5-6 at Branin Natatorium in Canton. There will also be at-large qualifiers, based on comparative times, from each district.

The Ross swimmers spent Thursday afternoon and evening "shaving" in preparation for this weekend's swimming. "Shaving" for swimmers means removing body hair to cut down any resistance to water.

In today's events, Ross will be competing in the boys 200 medley relay, 200 freestyle, 200 individual medley and the 50 freestyle.

Mark Lowther, Randy Randolph, Tad Winning and Ty Heslet are on the medley relay with Chris Black and Steve Rodd

swimming in the 200 free. Randy Penrod and Winning will be the IM while Heslet and Brian Overmyer will be competing in the 50 freestyle sprint.

In the lone girls event, Jill Isaac will be in the 200 free for Ross.

Saturday, Winning, Penrod and Lowther are in the butterfly with Overmyer, Rodd and Heslet in the 100 free. Black swims in the 500 freestyle and Lowther and Randolph will be in the backstroke and breaststroke, respectively.

The boys freestyle relay of Penrod, Rodd, Overmyer and Black will cap the day for the Little Giants.

The Saturday girls events will have Ross's Amy Koenig in the 100 free and the team of Isaac, Buffy McMurtrie, Sandy Process and Koenig in the freestyle relay.

Ross 7th at BGSU in district meet

BOWLING GREEN — Ross is seventh after the first four events of the boys Northwest Ohio Swimming and Diving Championships at Cooper Pool on the Bowling Green State University campus.

The Little Giants have 25 points but did not qualify a swimmer to next weekend's state meet in Canton. The Little Giants still have a shot at the state meet with Ross tankers in each of the six events slated for today beginning at 5 p.m.

"The times are phenomenal," Ross Coach Art Bucci said. "They are fast; I mean fast fast."

"It's hard to believe that our kids get faster and everybody else gets faster."

Ross's best finish Friday was a sixth by sophomore Chris Black in the 200 freestyle. He clocked out at 1:47.9, well below his season best of 1:50-plus. Steve Rodd was 12th, dropping six seconds off his best time of two minutes.

Randy Penrod was seventh in the 200 individual medley with a 2:05.1. That was quicker than his old Ross school mark of 2:06.7. Tad Winning bettered his season low time in the event with a 2:16.7 but did not place.

The medley relay team of Mark Lowther, Randy Randolph, Winning and Ty Heslet finished ninth in 1:48.4. The team's previous best was 1:55.0.

In the 50 free, Brian Overmyer and Heslet had season lows of 23.78 and 23.90, respectively, but did not place.

In the girls district, Ross's Jill Isaac bettered her season best with a 2:20.7 but did not place.

St. Francis leads the district with 106 points. Sandusky is next with 54, Sandusky is third at 48 followed by Malabar at 40, Bowling Green with 31, Ayersville with 28 and Ross and Sylvania Northview with 25.



(N-M photo by Bill Kennedy)

A LITTLE GIANTS swimmer grabs a breath of air while competing in the butterfly Saturday in

the Northwest Ohio Swimming and Diving Championships at Bowling Green State University.

Ross free relay's record gets it state meet berth

BOWLING GREEN — Ross's string of being represented in the Ohio High School State Swimming and Diving Meet remained intact after the Little Giants freestyle relay set a school record in the final event of the two-day District Meet.

Randy Penrod started the Little Giants 400-yard relay on the way to a sixth place finish with a 49.36 seconds lead-off leg. Steve Rodd, Brian Overmyer and Chris Black followed to record a 3:21.4.

Ross's time shattered the school mark of 3:27.96 that the same foursome set earlier this season.

"It was the fastest district (in Northwest Ohio)," Ross Coach Art Bucci said. "We (Ross) had some great swims here with kids dropping three or four seconds off their previous best times."

It will be the seventh straight year that the Little Giants will have had an individual or a relay in the state meet.

The top two teams in each event qualified for the state meet at Branin Natatorium in Canton with other state qualifiers determined on comparative times with other districts in the state.

The Little Giants finished seventh in the meet at Cooper Pool on the Bowling Green State University campus. Ross had 69 points, well behind winner Toledo St. Francis, 267. It was the 17th district win for the Knights.

Second went to Findlay with 123, Sandusky was third at 115 while Sylvania Southview was fourth with 110. Mansfield Malabar had 90 to round out the top five.

Sylvania Northview was sixth with 81, then Ross followed by Bowling Green, Port Clinton with Ontario and Ayersville tying for 10th.

In other Ross finishes Saturday, Mark Lowther was 10th in the backstroke in 1:00.56 and Penrod broke his own school mark in the butterfly with a 54.05 clocking in finishing sixth. His previous record set this season was 55.8.

Black was sixth in the 500 free, breaking another Ross school record. His 4:52.22 time wiped out Kirk Hess's mark of 5:01.7 set in the 1975-76 season.

Rodd was 11th in the 100 free with a 51.01 time and Dan Ackerman finished 12th in diving.