2013 DIVISION I SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ross's Laura Duncan swims in the 100 Yard Butterfly, at the 2013 Sectional III, NW District Swim Meet at Fremont Ross. DOUG HISE/NEWS-MESSENGER PHOTO

Swimmer strength

Ross, SJCC show well at Saturday sectionals

By Kevin Shields
Sports writer

FREMONT—Swimmers never know what they're going to get when it comes time to taper.

For some the time drops are hardly noticeable, maybe a second or two, give or take. But for others, like Ross' Josh Eakin, the new found quickness from the extra rest can validate a whole season's worth of work. Eakin, a senior, dropped over six seconds of his seed time of 1:11.06 to finish second in the boys 100-yard breaststroke during the Division I and Division II sectionals held Saturday at the Hawk-Bucci Natatorium.

Eakin's performance likely punched him a ticket to next Saturday's Division I district meet, which will be run at Bowling Green State University's Cooper Pool.

Only winners of each event automatically qualify to the district meet. The remaining 32 individual spots advance at-large based on times, as is the case with 24 relay spots.

"It was amazing," said Eakin, who swam a time of 1:04.97. "I wasn't expecting that much of a drop. This is a big moment for me. And being that this is a Division I event, it made it that much more of a challenge."

Eakin wasn't alone when it came to big time drops out of the Little Giants.

"All the kids we tapered for this meet had great drops," Ross boys coach Phil Moran said. "Some, like Josh, had exceptional drops. But all of them swam well. The older kids who are suppose to move on, swam pretty much what we thought they'd swim."

Graham Moor, one of those older kids, broke a sectional record with a winning time of 53.52 to qualify in the 100 butterfly. He was the only automatic qualifier for the Ross guys' team. The girls, on the other hand, had eight total events earn automatic spots, highlighted the by two individual wins by freshmen Meghan Moses (50 freestyle and 100 free) and Morgan Waggoner (100 fly and 100 backstroke). Moses, Waggoner, Haley Fisher and Megan Hawk won the 400 free relay, while Waggoner, Fisher, Hawk and Laura Duncan won the 200 medley relay.

Moses, Duncan, Hawk and Holly Phillips won the 200 free relay for the Little Giants. Duncan earned the final automatic spot, winning the 100 breaststroke.

"I always swim that against Kristin (Filby) and Taylor (Vargo), so I know it's going to be a hard race," said Duncan, who won in sectional record time of 1:07.07 "I just kept my head down and didn't look at anybody. And it worked out."

Ross freshman Jessica Holland saw her season come to a close, but not without a fight. Competing in the third of four heats for the 200 individual medley, she dropped nearly nine seconds off her seed time to finish seventh. Holland followed that swim up by dropping nearly five seconds from the fourth of the six breaststroke heats, finishing eighth.

Those earning runner-up finishes for the Little Giants were Haley Fisher, who was second in the 200 IM and 100 backstroke, Duncan in the 100 fly, Hawk in the 100 free and Alaina Klingman in the 500 free. Ross finished one, two, three respectively in the 100 backstroke and 100 free, with Emily Moyer (50 free and 100 free) and Holly Phillips (100 backstroke) earning thirds. Kortni Lagrou was third in the 500 free.

"Both our 500 swimmers, Kortni and Alaina, dropped a lot of time," Duncan said. "It was exciting to watch."

Ross senior Scott Kosakowski came .66 of a second away from breaking five minutes for the first time in the 500 free, taking second in the boys race with a swim of 5:00.66. He added a second in the 200 IM. Moor was runner-up in the 200 free, Christopher Hoffman earned a second in the 100 free, while Trent Williams swam to a second in the 100 backstroke. Williams, Kosakowski, Moor and Hoffman took second in the 200 and 400 free relays.

Christopher Hoffman earned a third in the 50 free with his brother Nickolas Hoffman taking third in the 100 fly.

"The big challenge for us this year is figuring out where we're going to be seeded," Moran said. "We have no clue what to expect this year with us adding teams from the Northeast District. We as coaches haven't had to guess like this in a long time and taper our kids for the sectional meet. I might have tapered six kids for this meet last year."

The complete list of district qualifiers can be found on swimmeet.com.

Division II sectional (St. Joseph Central Catholic)

Leah Binsack established a school record in the 50 (25.88 seconds) and 100 freestyles (59.97) and became the first SJCC girls swimmer to advance to districts in two individual events.

Binsack topped her own mark in the 50 and Emily Ronski's 1:01.24 in the 100. She also qualified to districts in the 200 and 400 freestyle relays with Caroline Darr, Brigette Fulwider and Kristin Sessler.

Fulwider also topper her own school record in the 100 breaststroke (1:20.90).

KShields@gannett.com
419-334-1043

ROSS SWIMMERS CONTINUE TRADITION

Jennifer Brooks, owner of Jenesis Salon, dyes Fremont Ross High School swimmer Ryan Farier's hair purple Sunday as part of an annual swim team tradition. Brooks dyed 19 swim team members' hair purple ahead of sectionals. The swimmers will then shave their heads in the coming days and weeks. DANIEL CARSON/NEWS-MESSENGER PHOTOS

The following Fremont Ross High School swimming and diving team members got their hair dyed purple Sunday at Jenesis Salon, continuing a 30-year tradition: Joshuah Eakin, Ryan Farier, Ra'Kquan Heidleburg, Dylan Henry, Chris Hoffman, Nick Hoffman, Jarrett Karr, Braydn Klein, Scott Kosakowski, Connor Martin, Joe Meyer, Graham Moor, Michael Muffler, Ryan Schaffer, Garret Smith, Hawk Smith, Ty Wilson, Trent Williams and Lorenzo Zamora. Jenesis owner Jennifer Brooks dyed the team members' hair. It was her fourth year taking part in the team tradition.