

1976 Buckeye Conference...

Ross aiming for second in BC meet

By BOB MARKER
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"Beat Findlay . . . just think about Sandusky."

Art Bucci is realistic. He believes in accomplishing what he knows can be done first and if the near impossible becomes possible then go ahead and do it.

Bucci is coach of the Ross swim team, a group of paddlers and divers that he affectionately refers to as the "dirty dozen." It's with the "dirty dozen" (10 swimmers and two divers) that Bucci will go after second spot in the Buckeye Conference Swim Meet slated for this Saturday at Sandusky High School.

"We are going for second," Bucci said as he summed up his team's chances for the title. He rates Sandusky as a near perfect bet to win its second consecutive crown.

Last year the Little Giants finished second in the five-team meet, only three points behind Sandusky and one ahead of Findlay. Ross even had a shot winning the title in the final event, the 400-yard freestyle relay, but failed to pull off the coup.

"We feel we can beat Findlay," Bucci pointed out and he did not have his tongue in his cheek when he made the statement.

"Findlay has some outstanding swimmers," he admitted, "but where they are strong, Sandusky is also strong while where they are weak, we are strong."

In other words, while Findlay and Sandusky are knocking heads, Bucci hopes his team can sneak in the back door to second spot.

Anchoring Bucci's hopes for the high finish is returning Buckeye Conference champ Hal Hawk. The Ross junior swam his way to the backstroke title as a sophomore and appears to have the inside track on that same title this year.

"He's swum a 1:00.4," Bucci said but added that Hawk has not really been pushed. "I think he can get down into the 58s if someone does really push him in the race."

While in most other meets, swim coaches double as jugglers with the juggled objects being the

bodies on their teams, that juggling will probably be at a minimum this Saturday.

"We have swum against Sandusky twice and Findlay four times so all of us coaches know pretty much what each team has. I don't think it will be much of a guessing game."

One race that Bucci is broadcasting loudly that he will be shooting for is the medley relay where the foursome of Hawk, Kevin Casey, Terry Nitschke, and Bret McKittrick have recorded a 1:46.6. Sandusky has been two-tenths of a second slower than that this season but Bucci says the Blue Streaks were "loaded" in that race.

One team is missing this year, Mansfield. That makes the chase for the BC swim crown only a four-team race. Marion Harding is the fourth squad and is not figured to cause either Sandusky, Findlay, or Ross any problems.

The diving preliminaries will begin at 10 a.m. with eight of the required 11 dives. The swimming events along with the finals in the diving will begin at 1.



TOM GUYER



WILLIE ZAMORA of St. Joe, left photo, has control of Huron's Jerry Boos in the 108-pound finals. Jorge Santana, top, won his third SBC wrestling crown.

Sandusky first, Ross third in BC

SANDUSKY — It was no contest for the Sandusky Blue Streaks in Saturday's Buckeye Conference Swim Meet. The water version of the Blue Streaks walked away with its second straight title by 54 points over its nearest competitor, Findlay.

The Blue Streaks tallied 195 points and won six of the 11 events. Findlay,

with 141 points, won the other five water events to knock Fremont Ross out of its intended goal in the four-team meet.

Ross, who Coach Art Bucci had said hoped to finish second, had to settle for third with 102 points. The Little Giant's try for the runnerup spot, the finish they had in the '75 meet, never got started.

Before the meet, Bucci felt that his school record medley relay team of Hal Hawk in the backstroke, Kevin Casey in the breaststroke, Terry Nitschke at butterfly, and freestyler Brett McKittrick, had the credentials to win that event. It never happened.

A fired up Blue Streaks foursome of Jack Waldock, Chip Palazzo, Chris Bennett, and Mike Troike took the lead on the first leg of the race and posted a conference record of 1:45.5, a second and one-tenth better than Ross.

Waldock, while sharing that record, set an individual record in the very next event as Sandusky won the first four races of the meet. Waldock splashed to a 1:52.53 in the 200-yard freestyle, nearly three and one-half seconds ahead of his teammate Jim Parker. Another Blue Streaks tanker, Scott Spayd, finished fourth in the event. Waldock was named as the "most valuable swimmer" for the meet.

The medley relay and 200 free record were the first two of four set in the meet. The other two belonged to Findlay's Todd Worthington. The Trojan

sprinter captured the 100 freestyle sprint in 49.79, barely breaking his 1974 mark of 50.2. He came back later to win the breaststroke in 1:05.95, breaking the old mark of 1:06.4 set six years ago.

Waldock was the meet's only three-time winner, adding the back stroke to the medley relay and 200 free. While winning the backstroke, Waldock took the crown away from reigning conference champ Hawk. The Ross junior was second in the race with a 1:00.6 to Waldock's 58.61.

McKittrick took a second in the 50 free and also had a fourth in the 100 freestyle sprint. Nitschke finished second in both the butterfly (57.8) and the breaststroke (1:07.0).

Scott Heschel of Ross finished in the same spot that he occupied last year in the conference diving, third. The Ross senior tallied 338.05 points for his 11 dives. Gary Bender of Findlay was first with 389.40 and Sandusky's Bob Knoll took second with 353.75.

Hawk also had a third for Ross in the 200-yard individual medley which was won by Palazzo. Brian Koenig was fourth for the Little Giants in the same race. Koenig also finished right behind Hawk in the backstroke.

Bucci named Koenig and Lease as Ross's "swimmers of the week." Koenig's finishes in the conference meet were pointed out by the coach while Lease was seventh in the 200 free and sixth in the 500 free in the conference meet. Lease improved his time for the season in both races.

Buckeye swim results

TEAM STANDINGS: Sandusky 195, Findlay 141, Ross 102, Marion Harding 51

EVENTS

200 Medley Relay: Sandusky (Jack Waldock, Chip Palazzo, Chris Bennett, Mike Troike) 1:45.5 (New Buckeye Conference record. Old record of 1:46.0 set by Sandusky in 1970.); Ross 1:46.6; Findlay 1:48.8; Marion Harding 1:54.0

200 Freestyle: Waldock (S) 1:52.53 (New conference mark. Old record of 1:53.0 set by Carter Roess of Sandusky in 1974.); Jim Parker (S) 1:56.1; Gwil Evans (F) 1:56.2; Scott Spayd (S) 1:57.0; Chris Shrader (F) 2:03.1

200 Individual Medley: Palazzo (S) 2:08.87; Dave Arneson (F) 2:15.6; Hal Hawk (R) 2:15.8; Brian Koenig (R) 2:17.0; Kevin Troike (S) 2:18.5

50 Freestyle: M. Troike (S) 23.9; Brett McKittrick (R) 24.2; Fred Somerlot (MH) 24.4; Paul Wilke (S) 25.4; Bill Parks (F) 25.8

Diving: Gary Bender (F) 339.40; Bob Knoll (S) 353.75; Scott Heschel (R) 338.05; Doug Virden (M) 323.30; Eric Westerhausen (F) 284.20

100 Butterfly: Arneson (F) 57.5; Terry Nitschke (R) 57.8; Bennett (S) 59.5; Fred Sutter (S) 1:01.2; Paul McAllister (S) 1:03.3

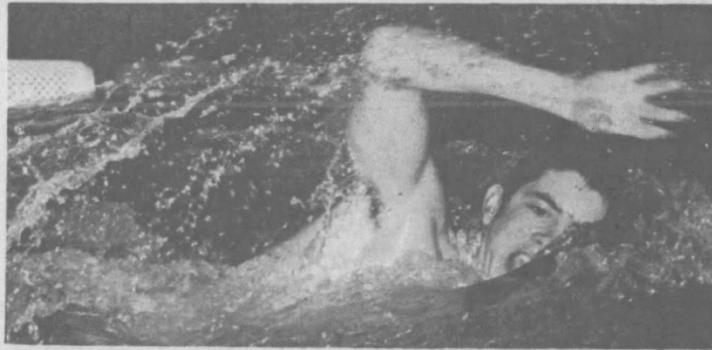
100 Freestyle: Todd Worthington (F) 49.97 (New conference record. Old record of 50.2 set in 1975 by Worthington); Palazzo (S) 51.2; Somerlot (MH) 53.7; McKittrick (R) 54.3; Wilke (S) 56.3

500 Freestyle: Chris Shrader (F) 5:14.06; Parker (S) 5:14.4; Spayd (S) 5:18.17; K. Troike (S) 5:21.02; Evans (F) 5:22.0

100 Backstroke: Waldock (S) 58.61; Hawk (R) 1:00.6; Koenig (R) 1:02.2; Greg Orwick (F) 1:05.4; Ted White (S) 1:06.1

100 Breaststroke: Worthington (F) 1:05.95 (New conference record. Old record of 1:06.4 set by Coyle of Sandusky in 1970.); Nitschke (R) 1:07.0; M. Troike (S) 1:08.4; Tom Messina (R) 1:09.5; Kevin Casey (R) 1:10.2

400 Freestyle Relay: Sandusky (Bennett, Parker, K. Troike, Spayd) 3:39.28; Findlay 3:50.0; Marion Harding 3:57.7; Ross 4:07.6
"Most valuable swimmer": Waldock, Sandusky



CHARLIE LEASE (left) of Ross pulls his way to a seventh place finish in the Buckeye Conference 200-yard freestyle Saturday at Sandusky High School. At the bottom, Ross's Brett McKittrick is off and winging in the 50-yard freestyle sprint. McKittrick was second in the event.

