

1977 State meet...

Little Giants medley finishes 5th

CANTON — Fremont Ross's medley relay team finished fifth in the Ohio High School State Swim Meet here Saturday.

The team of Hal Hawk (backstroke), Tom Messina (breaststroke), Brian Koenig (butterfly), and Jim Albright (freestyle) finished with a 1:41.83, a tenth of a second slower than its preliminary time posted on Friday but the second day time was good enough for a one position improvement.

The Ross preliminary time was sixth fastest on the first day.

"It's kind of tough to come back on the second day and improve in time," Ross Coach Art Bucci said, "after dropping two seconds off your best time the day before."

The 1:41.73 broke the Ross school record for the event by nearly two full seconds.

In the Friday race, Hawk recorded a split time of 26.7, Messina had a 28.5, Koenig finished with a 24.3, and Albright was over a second faster than any other split time he had posted this season with a 22.2. Hawk backed to a 26.6 in Saturday's race with Messina coming home again in 28.5. Koenig dropped three-tenths to 24.1 and Albright recorded a 22.5.

"All the kids did a heck of a job," Bucci laughed. "I'm really proud of them."

"There were a lot of people there (coaches) who could not believe that Fremont came back so well. Most of them told me that they had heard Fremont swimming was dead!"

"At the first of the season we just wanted to get to the state meet," Bucci recalled, "but our dream was finishing in the top six."

"It was something else — we almost did not believe it," Bucci added.

"In the prelims on Friday we knew that we had to go below 1:42 . . . and when we touched at 1:41.7, the kids went wild."

The fifth place finish gave Ross enough points to finish 15th in the state.

Canton Glen Oak won the medley race with a 1:38.27.

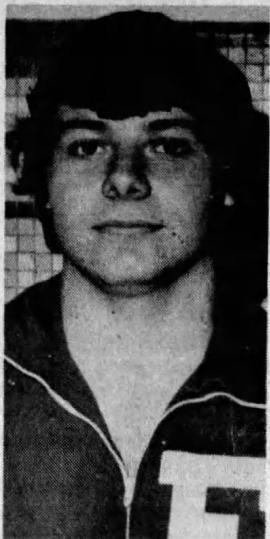
St. Xavier wound up as the state champion for the eighth consecutive time. The Cincinnati team rolled up 194 points to second place Hawken High School's 160. Glen Oak was third with 94 followed by Upper Arlington in fourth with 81. Toledo St. Francis finished fifth with 65.

A record crowd of 2,144 watched the finals on Saturday.

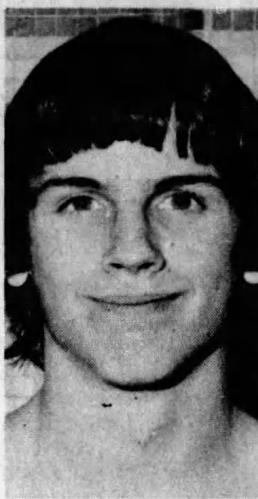


HAWK

**Finish 15th
in the state**

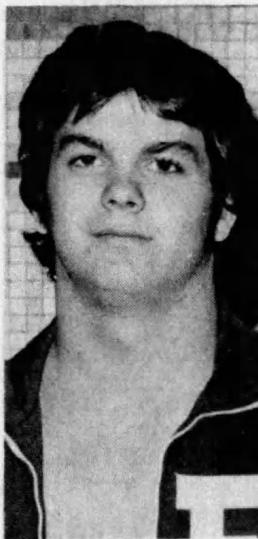


MESSINA



KOENIG

**New Ross
record**



ALBRIGHT