

GIRLS MEDLEY RELAY TEAM EARNS SPOT IN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP MEET

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Feb 23, 2018 | [Swimming & Diving](#)



CANTON – The dream of a state championship is still alive for four Fremont Ross swimmers.

The girls' 200 medley relay team of MaKennah Fitzgerald, Alexis Prenzlin, AnneMarie Moses, and Olivia DeRodes clinched a place on the podium at the Division I state swim meet Friday morning.

The three juniors and one sophomore finished eighth in the preliminary round with a time of 1:46.28, putting them in Saturday's championship final.

"MaKennah had a great swim, one of her fastest 50 yards ever, but the other three were just a little bit off," girls' coach Tina Moses said. "They were fast, but I believe they can go faster tomorrow night. I'd like to see them move up a spot or two."

The 200 medley relay was the only event in which Ross swimmers advanced to the championship heat Saturday. Still, two individuals will race in consolation heats, clinching all-Ohio status after just missing the cut for their championship heats.

Prenzlin turned in a time of 1:04.05 in the girls' 100 breaststroke, placing her ninth, finishing just .21 seconds outside the top eight and a place on the podium.

I'm pleased with her swim," Moses said. "She's only a sophomore, she swam a great time with room to drop when she comes back and swims faster. Does it stink not making the podium? Of course, I'm sure she's disappointed. But I'm glad she'll be back. She's a sophomore, she's young, and has two more years." The boys' breaststroke saw Andrew Evans swim a time of 55.94, also finishing ninth, and just .08 behind eighth place.

The event was déjà vu for Evans, who finished ninth in the preliminaries last year as well.

"I'm sure he's disappointed," boys coach Phil Moran said. "He swam faster this year, and the time he just swam would have gotten him into the top eight last year. He was off a little bit on one of his turns, and that's all it takes at this level, and he was just a couple of hundredths out of the top eight again.

"That's just how fast the breaststroke is. Two kids weren't in the picture that ended up in the picture, in terms of their times. He was in the first heat, and that's a tough heat to swim in. It's so important to win your heat and be top two, and he got out-touched for third. When you do that, and you get three guys beat you in the next heat, and three guys beat you in the third heat, you're done. That's exactly how it turned out."

Freestyle swimmer Olivia DeRodes finished 17th and 20th in the 50 and 500, respectively. She clocked a time of 24.15 seconds in the 50, just .02 seconds from qualifying for the consolation final and all-state honors.

"Olivia was kind of disappointed with her 50," Moses said. "Her suit tore before the meet. She ended up swimming in the suit, we got it mended a little bit for the medley relay, and they got her into a new suit, a different suit that she's not used to.

"I don't know if nerves played a part, but I know she was disappointed, especially with finishing 17th, just outside of coming back for the finals."

The girls' 200 freestyle relay took 19th after clocking a time of 1:38.95 while the 400 freestyle relay, consisting of Fitzgerald, Moses, Faith Zimmerman, and Mara Brown, finished 24th with a time of 3:34.76.

Dylan Weisenauer swam a time of 51.34 seconds in the 100 butterfly, finishing 17th, just .03 outside the top 16 and a place on the all-Ohio team. His time also just missed the Ross school record by only .07.

"I think he was pretty happy, especially considering how he got in, by literally tying for the last spot," Moran said. "His finish could have been a little better; that's the only thing I can complain about, as a coach. But he really swam well. You can't ask for much more."

DIVISION I STATE MEET.

PRELIMINARY HEATS

GIRLS RESULTS

200 medley relay: 8 – Fremont Ross A (MaKennah Fitzgerald, Alexis Prenzlin, AnneMarie Moses, Olivia DeRodes), 1:46.28 – advances to championship final Saturday.

50 freestyle: 17 – Olivia DeRodes, 24.15

500 freestyle: 20 – Olivia DeRodes, 5:10.51

100 breaststroke: 9 – Alexis Prenzlin, 1:04.05 – advances to consolation final Saturday.

200 freestyle relay: 19— Fremont Ross A (MaKennah Fitzgerald, Alexis Prenzlin, AnneMarie Moses, Olivia DeRodes), 1:38.95

400 freestyle relay: 24— Fremont Ross A (AnneMarie Moses, MaKennah Fitzgerald, Faith Zimmerman, Mara Brown), 3:34.76

BOYS RESULTS

100 breaststroke: 9 – Andrew Evans, 56.94 – advances to consolation final Saturday

100 butterfly: 17 – Dylan Weisenauer, 51.34

GIRLS' 200 MEDLEY RELAY PLACES 6TH AT STATE MEET

by [Rich McGowan](#) | Feb 24, 2018 | [Swimming & Diving](#)

CANTON – It's a pretty good view from the podium at the state swim meet. Ross's 200 medley relay team can attest to that.

The Lady Giants foursome of MaKennah Fitzgerald, Alexis Prenzlin, AnneMarie Moses, and Olivia DeRodes placed sixth at the Division I state swim meet with a time of 1:45.27. The time not only earned them a medal and a spot on the podium, it also broke the school record (1:45.64) they held from last year's district championship meet.

"They swam fast, broke the school record," girls' coach Tina Moses said. "Since I've been coaching, I can't remember anyone breaking a school record at the state meet. Usually, if we break a school record, it happens at the district meet because the pool is much faster.

"They all swam and did their parts. Olivia DeRodes dropped almost a full second off her freestyle leg, and the rest of them all had fast swims. It all came together." The best part about the relay is that it's comprised of three juniors and one sophomore, meaning they'll all return next year for another shot at returning to the podium. But, for now, they'll savor their first state medal.

"I think right now they're just enjoying medaling, being able to stand on the podium as a group," Moses said. "This is a really close group of girls; this is the second year in a row they've swam together as a group, and I think they're just enjoying their success for now."

Prenzlin, swimming in the consolation final in the 100 breaststroke, clocked a time of 1:04.45, placing her 12th in the state, good for all-Ohio honors.

"I think she's happy with her time," Moses said. "Her walls were a little slow and her timing a little off, but other than that she swam fast. She looked good."

The lone member of the boys team to make it to Day 2 of the state meet, Andrew Evans, swam in the consolation heat of the 100 breaststroke. Entering the event as the highest seed, he won his heat with a time of 57.00 seconds, just .01

seconds ahead of Dover's Patrick Tolloti, placing him ninth in the state and earning all-Ohio.

"I always have this thing with the kids, on the itinerary sheet I have the times down to the hundredth second because every hundredth of a second makes a difference," boys coach Phil Moran said.

"He did a great job. His best finish ever at the state meet, and he should be thrilled with that. We're thrilled for him. He's got bigger and better things ahead of him; he's so young and inexperienced in swimming. Some college coach is going to be licking his chops getting him."