

## 2013 DIVISION I STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



Ross's Haley Fisher swims in the 200 IM at the Division I state swim meet at C.T. Branin Natatorium on Feb. 24, 2012. ASHLEY BALL/NEWS-MESSENGER CORRESPONDENT

# WINNING FORMULA

## Despite continued losses to graduation, Ross still manages to develop new talent

By Kevin Shields  
Sports writer

**H**oles? What holes? Despite losing its fair share of talent each year, the girls' relays from Ross continue to find new swimmers to plug into their lineup and find a way to make it back to the state swim meet. And this year was no exception.

The Little Giants won all three relays at this past Saturday's district meet — two in school and district record times — proving again its a program to be reck-

oned with. All three will be top-five seeds at this weekend's Division I state swim competition, which kicks off with preliminaries on Friday at Canton's C.T. Branin Natatorium.

"Those girls didn't just break the 400 record, they demolished it," Ross boys coach Phil Moran said. "They had a great meet."

Added girls coach Tina Moses: "They were impressive. I thought we had a shot to win all three coming in, but you never know."

Gone from the lineup in two of the relays was Sammi Miller. Miller, now swim-

ing at Wright State University, was a four-year state qualifier. Inserted in her place in the 200 medley relay this year was freshman Morgan Waggoner, who more than lived up to her family's name. Waggoner, Taylor's younger sister as she's known by many until she establishes her own reputation, won a district title in the 100 butterfly and was the runner-up in the 100 backstroke.

Meghan Moses and Holly Phillips were new faces on the 200 freestyle relay, which won the district title for the fifth straight year. Moses, another talented freshman, set a school record Saturday in the 100 free and just missed the mark in the 50 free, taking second in both.

The top two times in each event at the four different districts earned automatic

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# Winning

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qualifying spots with the remaining 16 at-large spots determined on the fastest remaining times. Making the Little Giants' feat all the more impressive is the fact the Northwest District grew from 21 to 45 schools after a fast district from the Cleveland area was redistricted to Bowling Green.

"The district here is always tough, but this year it was nice to do this with all these new schools" said Ross senior Laura Duncan, who, along with junior Megan Hawk, have been fixtures on the relays over the years. "It's been amazing to have a younger team of freshmen and sophomores that are so talented. It's helped us seniors have a special year. They made our relays really fast."

Duncan, will be making her fourth state appearance, as she's the elder statesman of the team.

Phillips, another senior, will be making her first trip with the 200 free relay, while Hawk is making third trip and Haley Fisher, a sophomore member of the 200 medley and 400 free relays, is making her second.

The 200 free relay is seeded fifth, the 400 free relay fourth and the 200 medley relay is second. The two later earned automatic all-American status by the National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association.

"There was a lot of adrenaline pumping throughout the day," said Hawk, the only member of all three relays. "Because we all swam really well, everyone was getting a rush from it."

Individually, Moses is the seventh- and eighth-seed in the 100 and 50 free events, respectively. Waggoner will be ninth in the 100 fly and 18th in the 100 backstroke.

Duncan will be the 15th seed in the breaststroke and 23rd in the 100 fly, while Fisher is the 23rd seed in the 100 backstroke.

"Hopefully, when we get to state we can improve on those

and be in top eight somewhere," Duncan said.

"They were all sore at the beginning of the week," coach Moses said. "But by the end of the week, we were having great practices. They were feeling good. They were hyped-up and were ready to come here and swim fast."

## Boys

Tears fueled the Ross boys swim team throughout the past off-season.

One bad day at districts last February, a whole season of hard work came to a disappointing closure too soon. For only the second time in coach Moran's tenure, no Little Giant on the boys side qualified to Canton.

But Saturday, the emotions ran much different on the pool deck at BGSU.

"There's no tears this year," said Ross senior Graham Moor. "It's definitely cool to know I'm going to state, along with three of my teammates."

Moor, making trip No. 1 to Canton, was district runner-up in the 200 freestyle. He'll be the 19th-seed in Canton.

He added the 100 fly to his list, qualifying 15th. But more important to him, he and fellow seniors Scott Kosakowski and Christopher Hoffman get to go to state together, as does freshman Trent Williams.

The four qualified in the 200 free relay, getting seeded 19th.

"State was the goal all year," Kosakowski said. "This is what we worked for."

Said Hoffman, "With us graduating so many seniors, no one expected us to go to state this year or to do as much as a team as we've done all season.

The underclassmen were huge this year. They really stepped it up."

Williams took the place of Keith Wasserman, who lost to graduation.

"It takes four guys to get there," Moran said. "Luckily, we had a great little freshman (Williams) come in and we were able to get back to where we needed to be."

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## STATE SWIMMING

# Ross relays have strong first day

News-Messenger report

CANTON — Laura Duncan, Morgan Waggoner, Haley Fisher and Megan Hawk finished the 200 medley relay preliminaries in fifth place in 1 minute, 47.48 seconds.

Duncan, Hawk, Fisher and Meghan Moses were fifth in the 200 free-

style relay (1:37.56) while Fisher, Waggoner, Hawk and Moses were fifth in the 400 freestyle relay (3:33.13).

Moses was eighth in the 50 freestyle (24.24) and ninth in the 100 freestyle (52.86), Waggoner was 10th in the 100 butterfly (57.38) and Duncan was 10th in the 100 breaststroke (1:06.01).

Graham Moor, Trent Williams, Scott Kosakowski and Chris Hoffman were 16th in the 200 freestyle relay (1:28.56) for the boys. Moor was 19th in the 100 butterfly (52.43) and 23rd in the 200 freestyle (1:46.11).

Waggoner was 16th in the 100 backstroke (58.20) and Fisher was 22nd (59.71).

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## STATE SWIMMING

# Little Giants girls make program history at state meet

News-Messenger report

Fremont Ross's girls swim team finished in the top 10 at the Division I state meet in Canton for the first time in program history with a fifth-place showing Saturday.

The Little Giants also made the podium in all three relays for the first time. Sophomore Haley Fisher, junior Megan Hawk, freshman Morgan Waggoner and freshman Meghan Moses finished the 400 free-style relay in fourth place in 3 minutes, 32.28 seconds.

"It was a team effort," Ross coach Tina Moses said. "We had such team unity and it's a credit to them working as a team to get to this point.

"I have a really special group of girls. They've swam

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# Swim

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amazingly well throughout the season. We knew going in we could do some special things and we swam fast.”

Waggoner, Fisher, Hawk and senior Laura Duncan were fifth in the 200 medley relay at 1:46.86 while Duncan, Hawk, Fisher and Moses were sixth in the 200 freestyle relay at

1:37.47.

Moses was seventh in the 50 freestyle (24.15), Duncan was ninth in the 100 breaststroke (1:05.67) and Waggoner was ninth in the 100 butterfly (56.71). Moses was 11th in the 100 freestyle (52.86) while Waggoner was 12th in the 100 backstroke (57.70).

“They’ve seen what they can do and seen what’s possible,” Moses said. “They can go out and improve from there. Duncan was a great leader.”

Graham Moor, Trent Williams, Scott Kosakowski and Chris Hoffman were 14th in the 200 freestyle relay for Ross’s boys.

The group established a school record at 1:27.59 in a swim-off for 16th place to make it back to the finals before swimming 1:28.31.

Little Giants boys assistant Todd Williams fulfilled a promise to shave his head if the record was surpassed. The relay was seeded 19th.

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