

1970 Buckeye Conference...

## *Swimming Meet At Sandusky*

# Ross, Findlay Picked In Buckeye

Fremont and Findlay high schools will be the teams to beat when the seventh annual Buckeye Conference swimming meet gets underway at Sandusky Saturday at 1 p.m.

Coaches throughout the conference are predicting a Ross

run away, but Little Giant mentor Jack Balsizer cautions against it.

"To win it we must out score Findlay, no doubt about it," Balsizer says. "A meet like this is different than a dual meet.

"You might remember that during the season we scored a lot of points by picking up second and thirds. Now, in a conference meet our kids will be in trouble.

"Number one swimmers from other schools will be dropping down and getting those seconds and thirds we're used to. In order for us to win our kids must score in every event. We can't finish less than fifth in an event.

"Every team has the capability of scoring a couple of firsts. You can be positive Paul Gilbert will

win two events for Sandusky and Jerry Lisawa of Findlay should win two.

"I'm not under rating our kids. We should be the highest we've been all season for this one. Early in the year they asked me to peak them for the Buckeye and that's what we've been working for. The kids really want it.

"Last year we lost out by six points. But they got lots of experience. We're a lot more mature this year than we were last."

Balsizer hasn't released his lineup but indicated there would be several minor changes but nothing drastic.

"I'd be stupid to change our whole lineup around just because this is the Buckeye," Balsizer said. "We have to go with what got us through the 8-1 season."

The veteran coach lists the 200 and 50 yard freestyles and the 100 backstroke as being key events. Top notch swimmers will probably be entered in each event.

Mansfield's Jeff Boals has the top time in the 200, 157.8, Joe Strathman leads the way in the 50 and Gilbert has the best backstroke time, 56.4.

Balsizer believes, however, that the meet won't be decided until the final event—the 400 yard freestyle relay. Among the participating teams, Ross has turned in the best time, a sparkling 3:41.4.

Dick Hooser, Mark Semer, Randy Hottinger and Al Stephenson swam that time against Findlay at the junior high pool.

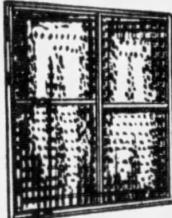
Joining Ross, Sandusky and Findlay are Mansfield Senior and Marion Harding. Each team is allowed to enter two contestants per event. No contestant may swim in more than two events.

Scoring for the individual races will be done on a six, four, three, two and one basis. In the relays, scoring will be 12, eight, six, four and two.

Preliminaries in the diving events are slated to get underway at 10:30 a.m.

The Little Giants complete their dual meet season Tuesday at home against Findlay. Ross will participate in the sectional at Bowling Green University next weekend.

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Little Giants End Four Year Drought

Monday, Feb. 16, 1970 Fremont News-Messenger 11

# Ross Swimmers Take Buckeye Championship



Felix Robles  
Second Place Finisher

By MARK CARLSON  
News-Messenger Sports Editor

SANDUSKY — Ross high school swimming mentor Jack Balsizer and his assistant Gary Shelt might go a long way in the coaching field but they'll never make it as prognosticators.

Last Thursday afternoon they were worried about the outcome of Saturday's Seventh Annual Buckeye Conference meet.

"I've got the score tied at 61 between us and Findlay," Shelt said. "But I don't see how either team can get a point to upset it."

Balsizer was predicting a Findlay victory.

"Findlay should finish with 59 points and we'll have 55," Balsizer said. "They will win it."

Both coaches were basing their prediction from times turned in previously by swimmers from the other participating schools. They weren't measuring the emotional impact of the meet.

And emotion is what brought the Little Giants their third conference swim title here Saturday afternoon.

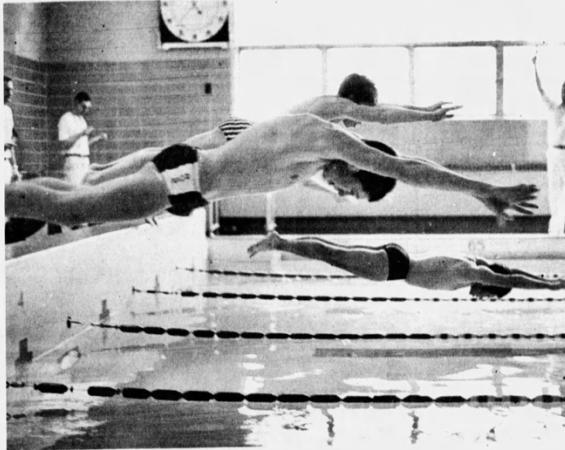
"Our kids were positive they were going to win this thing," Balsizer said after the Little Giants out-distanced the field.

"Our kids didn't think of anything else but winning."

"It was a case of confidence to swim under pressure before the meet," Balsizer said. "Our kids have matured a lot in the last year and learned how to swim under pressure. Our maturity and desire are what got us those 67 points."

"It was a team victory. There are certain times that stand out but this was a complete effort on the part of our kids."

The Little Giants, who were so high for the meet that one observer felt they could "walk on water" out-distanced the entire field. Findlay took second place but was far back with 48 points. Host Sandusky finished third. Mansfield was fourth and Marion fifth.



Eric Bristley  
Finished Third in 400 Freestyle

Difference in the meet was the Little Giants' overall depth. Ross had at least one-place winner in each of the 11 events. No other school can claim that.

Findlay didn't place in two events and Sandusky missed out in one.

Findlay took the most first places — four. Ross and Sandusky had three apiece.

Winning for the Little Giants were the team co-captains Alan Stephenson and Mike Aten and the 400 yard freestyle relay team.

"The victories by Aten and Stephenson were the keys," Balsizer said. "The rest of the team looks up to those two for the leadership they need."

Aten's victory was expected. But Stephenson's wasn't. He really inspired our kids. He turned in the best time of his career," Balsizer said.

The Little Giants trailed in the team race 31-27 when Aten started to the starting block for the 100 yard butterfly. He outdistanced a Marion swimmer by seven tenths of a second and Findlay's best time was good for only fourth.

Aten's victory gave Ross six points in the team race and Findlay received two for its fourth. That tied the team race at 33.

Stephenson then turned in a 53.2 in the 100 free and Ross needed to finish last. But, the Little Giants weren't to be denied.

Dick Hooser, Mark Semer, Stephenson and Keeler went out and erased the previous Buckeye Conference record with a 3:38.4 to win the event.

All together, six Buckeye marks were washed off the boards. The Sandusky 200 yard medley team paced by smooth Paul Gilbert shaved 1.5 seconds of the previous mark held by Findlay.

Findlay clipped nearly six seconds off the old mark in the 200 individual medley. In diving, Findlay's Jim Kennedy scored 340.25 points to better the old mark of 273 set by Ross Dan Linder in 1969.

The record of another Little Giant tanker fell in the 400 yard freestyle when Jeff Lishawa won the event with a 4:19.1. The old mark was set by Larry Sloan in 1965.

Sandusky's Bill Coyle bettered his own record in capturing



Anxious Moment  
Two Ross Cheerleaders

the 100 breaststroke. He won it with a 1:06.4 shedding five tenths of a second from the previous mark.

Ross took four second place medals. Cecil Miller, Scott Nahm, Mike Aten and Mike Frey finished second in the 200 medley relay. Pat Aten was second to Gilbert in the individual medley. Frey was second to Kennedy in diving and Pat Aten took a second in the 100 breaststroke.

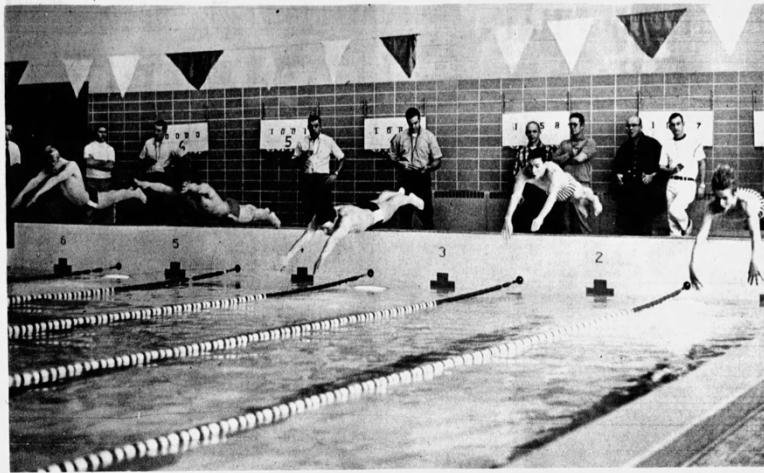
Senor (200 individual medley); Frey (50 yard freestyle); Aten (Christensen (diving); Bob Roosen (100 yard backstroke) and Erick Bristley (400 yard freestyle) earned third place medals.

Other point winners in individual events were Pat Collins, Miller and Nahm.

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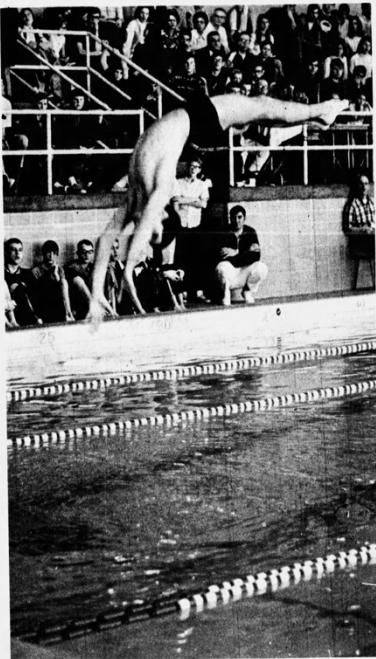
200 yard medley relay—1. Sandusky (Gilbert, Coyle, Hutchins, Swander); 2. Ross (Miller, Nahm, Aten, Frey); 3. Findlay (Seales, Wittensmyer, Kennedy, Tiller); 4. Mansfield (Finneray, Chitt, Larkins, Persinger, Bokuniewicz, Gorrell); 1:46.0.  
200 yard freestyle—1. Lakeview (Horn); 2. Ross; Mansfield; 3. Findlay; 4. Sandusky; 4. Collins, Ross; 5. Jones, Marion; 1:38.2.  
200 yard individual medley—1. Gilbert, Sandusky; 2. F. Aten, Ross; 3. Marion; 4. Findlay; 5. Collins, Ross; 6. Jones, Marion; 7. Sandusky.  
50 yard freestyle—1. Stratton, Findlay; 2. Mathes, Findlay; 3. Frey, Ross; 4. Peff, Marion; 5. Bear, Sandusky; 2.3.  
100 yard butterfly—1. Marion; 2. Findlay; 3. Christensen, Ross; 4. Majerus, Findlay; 5. Newton, Sandusky; 300.25.  
100 yard backstroke—1. Marion; 2. Findlay; 3. Green, Marion; 4. Felt, Marion.  
100 yard freestyle—1. Stephenson, Ross; 2. Bookmeyer, Mansfield; 3. Marion; 4. Peff, Marion; 5. Bear, Sandusky; 3. Findlay; 3:27.0.  
100 yard butterfly—1. Jones, Marion; 2. Finneray, Mansfield; 3. Ross; 4. Miller, Ross; 5. Peff, Sandusky; 1:51.4.  
100 yard freestyle—1. Lishawa, Findlay; 2. Roach, Sandusky; 3. Bristley, Ross; 4. Collins, Ross; 5. Peff, Sandusky; 1:51.1.  
100 yard butterfly—1. Marion; 2. Findlay; 3. Christensen, Ross; 4. Wittensmyer, Findlay; 5. Nahm, Ross; 3. Marion; 1:50.4.  
100 yard backstroke—1. Marion; 2. Findlay; 3. Ross; 4. Stephenson, Marion; 5. Peff, Marion; 6. Bear, Sandusky; 1:50.4.  
200 yard medley relay—1. Ross (Horn, Seales, Wittensmyer, Kroll); 2. Mansfield (Horn, Seales, Wittensmyer, Marion); 3. Sandusky (Swander, Miller, Frey, Harper); 4. Findlay (Stratton, Tiller, Scott, Worthington); 5. Marion (Green, Persinger, Gorrell); Edington; 3:24.4.

## N-M Camera At Buckeye Swim Meet



MIKE ATEN

Little Giant Swimmer Swam In Lane Three In Winning 100 Butterfly



FELIX ROBLES  
Took Second In Diving Competition



COACH JACK BALSIZER  
Flanked By Assistant And Competitor



JEFF KEEFER  
Finishing 100 Yard Butterfly



ROSS HIGH CHEERLEADERS  
They Helped Make Sandusky Pool 'Giant Country'

### Mark My Words

#### An Extended Four Years

By MARK CARLSON  
News-Messenger Sports Editor

It has been a long four years for Ross high school swimming coach Jack Balsizer.

"I waited four years to get thrown in that pool over at Sandusky," Balsizer said Sunday afternoon, "it was a great day for me."

Members of the Ross swimming squad gave Balsizer and his assistant coach Gary Shelt a not-so-unexpected swim after the Little Giants won the Buckeye Conference title Saturday.

It was in that same pool in 1966 that the Little Giants had won the coveted crown only to see it taken away when a visiting team member jumped in the pool after the swimmers relay and had finished first.

Since then, Ross had come close, but never managed to take the top honors. Last year at Mansfield they placed second, six points behind Findlay.

But this was the year for Ross. The Little Giant swimmers were to be denied. Balsizer, at the request of the team, began preparing his squad for last Saturday's meet in Sandusky.

That was recalls talking with Balsizer two nights before the opening meet with Sandusky Perkins and hearing the veteran mentor say: "The kids have asked me to peak them for the Buckeye meet. They don't care what happens this year but they want to win the Buckeye."

The Little Giants reached their peak Saturday. It wasn't a meet won by individuals, it was a TEAM championship.

"Every one of those kids had something to do with it," Balsizer said. "It was a team victory. It has to be in a team effort."

It had to be a team effort when Ross captured only three first places compared four to runnerup Findlay. Winning first place medals for the Little Giants were Mike Aten (100 yard butterfly), A. Stephenson (100 yard butterfly) and the 800 yard relay team composed of Dick Hooper, Stephenson, Jeff Kiefer and Mark Semer.

Just as important as the individual victories were the second, third and fourth place finishers. Ross had a least one swimmer in every event.

Findlay didn't get points in two events and Sandusky, the third place finisher, didn't score in one.

Last Saturday Balsizer was worried about his swimmers' depth. But it was that depth which brought the vital 67 points.

What was most impressive was winning its third Buckeye championship in seven years.

"When you analyze this it is really a case of our kids maturity and the way they were able to swim under pressure," Balsizer said.

"Our swimmers had a desire to get us these 67 points. I've purposefully put the kids under all sorts of pressure this season so they would be ready for the Buckeye."

"The kids were positive that they were going to win. Their desire had to talk. I had to talk to make sure of their starts and turns. After this was completed I started to tell them one more thing, but Stephenson said if I did."

"That's all they thought about."

Really, really had the meet sewed up prior to the final event. Balsizer, however, isn't sure if the team knew it.

"I imagine they did," Balsizer said, "but they didn't know it. I mean the kids didn't go to practice the best way possible. They went out on the event and cut two-tenths of a second of the conference record. That's the kind of a desire they had."

The big win for Ross came with Stephenson in the butterfly. In the final event, the Little Giants trailed Findlay in the team race. But the senior co-captain upset Mansfield's Chuck Bookwater to take a first. He did it with the best time of his career.

Prior to the team win, the other co-captain Mike Aten had won his specialty.

"Our two co-captains gave the team the team the inspiration," Balsizer said. "If we lacked just a little more, we had the desire, but we didn't afterwards."

The rest of the team really look up to those two. Stephenson's performance was the key. He wasn't supposed to win. When the team saw him take charge they knew he was going to do it.

"It's gratifying to work with a group of kids like these," It makes me believe a lot more in our kids of today. It makes a coach feel like he has really accomplished something."

From this corner a big "Tip of the Hat" to Balsizer, Stephenson and the members of the 1970 Buckeye Conference swimming championship squad.



ASSISTANT COACH GARY SHEL  
Only Time Will Tell

**Picture Page Photos**  
**By Larry Sollazzo**

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