

1939 State meet...

DOZEN PURPLE MERMEN TO VIE IN STAR MEET

Charges of Coach George
Gruse Seek 3rd Crown
In Four Years

The Little Giant swimmers of Fremont Ross high journey to Columbus Saturday to defend their title in the annual Ohio scholastic aquatic championship meet in the Ohio State University natatorium.

A dozen Purple mermen, who qualified in the district meet at Toledo last Saturday, will also be seeking their third state crown since 1935 when swimming was installed as an interscholastic sport at Ross under Coach Bim Stults, who resigned last year to study at Ohio State and become an assistant to Mike Peppe, Buckeye swimming mentor.

Strong Field

The excursion to the state capital will be the first for the Fremont tank squad under Coach George Gruse, former aide to Stults, who became head coach this season.

Chief challengers in a strong field of more than a dozen schools from various parts of the state are expected to be Canton McKinley and Sandusky, each of whom Ross defeated 34-32 in dual competition this winter.

The Ross entries include:

50-yard free style—Jack Nickloy and Bob Tolhurst.

100-yard breast stroke—Ben Hayes and Bob Mangas.

200-yard free style—Bob Huss and Pierce Bahnsen.

100-yard back stroke—Harry Stickel and Al Tuckerman.

100-yard free style—Bill Berrill.

150-yard medley relay—Stickel, Hayes and Don Greetham.

200-yard free style relay—Tolhurst, Huss, Nickloy and Greetham.

Diving—Earl Christy and Greg Schultz.

May Crack Marks

Based on their performances during the season in which Ross won the Northern Ohio Relays and eight duals as well as the district meet, while losing one dual affair, Hayes, Stickel and the medley relay team are expected to hang up new state records.

Hayes was clocked in 1:05 in the meet with Sandusky, lowering by seven-tenths of a second the present state record of 1:05.7, set by Rosenberg, of Cleveland Shaw, as he defeated Hayes in the state meet last year. Also in the meet with Sandusky, Stickel was timed in 1:04 in the back stroke, stripping a full second from the mark of 1:05 established by Ulrich of Canton Lehman last year.

Eight Seniors

The Ross medley trio of Hayes, Stickel and Greetham has negotiated the 150-yard distance in 1:23, bettering its own mark of 1:25.7, hung up last year, by 2.7 seconds. The medley team also is credited with a national record of 3:08.5 for 300 yards.

Unless Ross enters a post-season invitational meet, the state competition will wind up the prep careers of eight Little Giants, including Greetham, Huss, Mangas, Jack Nickloy, Stickel, George Stokes, Tolhurst and Tuckerman.

In the district meet, the Little Giants won the 50-yard free style, the breast stroke, the back stroke, the medley relay and the diving, with Jack Nickloy, Hayes, Stickel and Christy winning individual sectional titles.

Ohio Scholastic Records

* * *

. . .

50-Yd. Free Style—24.2"—Rosenthal (Cincinnati Hughes)—O. S. U., 1938.

100-Yd. Breast Stroke—1' 5.7"—Rosenberg (East Cleveland-Shaw)—O. S. U., 1938.

220-Yd. Free Style—2' 21.7"—Otis (Cleveland Heights)—O. S. U., 1933.

100-Yd. Back Stroke—1' 5.0"—Uhrich (Canton Lehman)—O. S. U., 1938.

100-Yd. Free Style—54.3"—Bryant (Columbus Bexley)—O. S. U., 1935.

150-Yd. Medley Relay—1' 25.7"—Fremont (Stickel, Hayes, Greetham)—O. S. U., 1938.

200-Yd. Free Style Relay—1' 41.6"—Cleveland Heights (Cloyes, Moonan, Feazel, Otis)—O. S. U., 1934.

Diving Champions—1927—Heil, Columbus South; 1928—Williams, Hamilton; 1929—Graham, Dayton-Roosevelt; 1930—Graham, Dayton-Roosevelt; 1931—Kallman, Sandusky; 1932—Kallman, Sandusky; 1933—Kallman, Sandusky; 1934—Pope, Cleveland Shaker Heights; 1935—Karst, Columbus East; 1936—Lawler, Lakewood; 1937—Serwinsky, Fremont; 1938 — McVehil, Canton McKinley.

Defending Champions Score 39½ Points At Columbus

Coach Gruse Says No Challenge Will be Made of Coshocton Diver's Eligibility as Letter Ends Dispute; Hayes, Medley Team Set New Records

By JERRY LISKA
News-Messenger Sports Editor

Fremont Ross high's swimming team Monday still reigned over Ohio's schoolboy aquatic domain, but the Little Giants were forced to share supremacy with the Canton McKinley mermen as the two schools battled to a 39½-39½ tie in the annual state prep championship meet at Columbus Saturday.

Contrary to a story by a Columbus Dispatch reporter released immediately following the hectic competition in which a record number of points were scored by the co-champions and in which two new state records were set by Little Giant swimmers, Ross will not challenge the eligibility of a Coshocton diver "in an effort to capture an extra point."

Coach George Gruse of Ross revealed that he at first thought a rule requiring all participants in the meet to be accompanied by an authorized member of the faculty of the school they represent was violated in the case of Dale Strong, Coshocton diver. Strong finished in fifth place, just ahead of Greg Schultz, of Ross. Gruse said it appeared Strong was accompanied to the meet by only his father, who was unable to show credentials as a Coshocton representative.

Discovers Letter

However, Carl Worthington, of Ohio State, manager of the meet, referred to his entry data and discovered a letter from the Coshocton high school principal delegating Strong's father as the faculty representative in the meet.

"Naturally, this cleared the entire matter," Gruse commented Sunday. "There is no ground for dispute and it was regrettable that the reporter who overheard first conversation on the point did not check further before releasing the story which said I intended to file protest with Commissioner H. R. Townsend."

It was the third year since 1935 that Fremont Ross has won championship honors in the state meet. In 1936 and 1938, the Little Giants annexed sole possession of the title. The Rossmen finished second to Canton McKinley in 1937.

Sandusky placed third with 18 points and Lima Central, fourth with 13.

Overhauls Rival

Two of Fremont's three first places were won in record-shattering times. Benny Hayes, brilliant sophomore star, ill with influenza most of last week, won the 100-yard breast stroke event in 1:05.2, clipping a half second from the mark of 1:05.7 established by Rosenberg, of Cleveland Shaw, last year. The Ross medley relay team of Harry Stickle, Hayes and Don Gretham, splashed over the 150-yard route in 1:25.1, slicing six-tenths of a second from the record of 1:25.7 set by the same three in 1938.

Stickle, Little Giant back stroke ace, gave Fremont a first in the 100-yard reverse chase, swimming a valiant race to edge out Shisbey of Canton McKinley in 1:05.6. The Purple back stroker forged to the front in the first 25 yards but missed his first turn, losing almost two yards to the Canton star. Stickle then trailed to the final 25 yards in which he uncorked a foaming sprint to overhaul Shisbey and beat him by more than a stroke to the finish line. Al Tuckerman, of Ross, turned in a fine performance in the same race to finish in a dead heat with Guls of McKinley for third place.

Close Relay Race

The medley relay race went to Ross high's great team by only a yard over Canton McKinley's trio of Mammaliga, Shisbey and Smith. With every point needed to finish on top, Coach Gruse instructed his team to use caution on the starts. As a result, Fremont lost footage since McKinley, "shooting the works," flurried with disqualification on every start. Stickle was touched out by Shisbey in the back stroke leg, but Hayes picked up a yard on Mammaliga and Gretham held the margin over Smith in the free style anchor lap.

It was Hayes all the way in the breast stroke event as the handsome Fremont youth copped by 15 feet over Canton's Mammaliga, who finished second.

Fremont's two second places were won by Jack Nickley, who finished next to Keagy of McKinley in the 50-yard free style, and by Earl Christy, beaten only by Melson, of Gambier, in the diving, which was exceptionally outstanding in this year's meet. Melson's prowess brought him to Columbus despite the fact Gambier has no swimming team. The Gambier star played basketball at the high school and perfected his spring board form at the Kenyon college pool. Strong, who edged out Schultz of Ross for fifth, likewise is from a school not possessing a tank team. Bob Huss, of Ross, finished third

in the 220-yard free style, six feet behind Coolihan of Lima Central, who won in 2:22, and two feet behind Gross of Akron Garfield, who placed second.

Fremont's free style relay team of Bob Tolhurst, Nickley, Huss and Gretham disappointingly finished fourth in the 200-yard race won by Canton McKinley in 1:42.7. Fremont experting had the Little Giants winning at least second in this event, but Sandusky took that spot, while Cleveland East Tech splashed in third. McKinley won as it pleased, but Sandusky, East Tech and Fremont churned home in a blanket finish, the judges catching the runners-up as listed. Huss, wearied from his 220 performance, swam below par in his lap.

Four Fremont entries, Tolhurst in the 50-yard free style, Bob Mangas in the breast stroke, Pierce Bahnsen in the 220-yard free style, and Bill Ierrell in the 100-yard free style, failed to break into the scoring column.

Hit By Ruling

Coach Gruse announced that Ross would not compete in the national interscholastic meet at Philadelphia because preparatory and high school teams will be pitted in competition this year for the first time. An Ohio Athletic Association ruling forbids high school teams of this state to participate in such a meet. In previous years, the two divisions swam separately at Philadelphia.

However, there are three other post season meets in which Ross may compete, Gruse said. These include the Carnegie Tech Relays at Pittsburgh, March 18; the University of Pittsburgh Interscholastic championships, March 25; and a special high school relays meet to be held in connection with the National A. A. U. meet in Columbus, March 30, 31 and April 1.

Gruse intimated that the Columbus affair most likely would be the only one to attract the Little Giants. It is being arranged by Mike Peppe, Ohio State University swim coach.

However, the Purple mentor said there would be no post-season activity for his team unless interest of the squad members warranted it. He said attendance at the practice called for Monday afternoon would determine his attitude toward continuing the campaign.

The summaries:

50-yard dash—Won by Keagy (Canton McKinley); Nickley, (Fremont Ross) second; Glovea, (Cleveland Heights) third; Wendall (Toledo Scott) fourth; Gross, (Akron Garfield) fifth. Time 25.2.

100-yard breast stroke—Won by Hayes (Fremont Ross); Mammaliga (Canton McKinley) second; Foulds (Cincinnati Withrow) third; Olmstead (Canton McKinley) fourth; Elminger (Sandusky) fifth. Time: 1:05.2—new state record. Old record, 1:05.7, set by Rosenberg of Cleveland Shaw in 1938.

220-yard free style—Won by Coolihan (Lima Central); Gross (Akron Garfield) second; Huss (Fremont Ross) third; Folger (Cleveland E. Tech) fourth; Smith (Canton McKinley) fifth. Time: 2:22.

100-yard back stroke—Won by Stickle (Fremont Ross); Shisbey (Canton McKinley) second; Guls (Canton McKinley) and Tuckerman (Fremont Ross) tied for third and fourth; Christy (Toledo DeWitt) fifth. Time: 1:05.6.

100-yard free style — Won by Coolihan (Lima Central); Huss (Cleveland East Tech) second; Anders (Sandusky) third; Moore (Canton McKinley) fourth; Wendall (Toledo Scott) fifth. Time 1:4.

150-yard medley relay—Won by Fremont (Stickle, Hayes, Gretham); Sandusky (Sandusky); Gretham (Fremont Ross) third; Cleveland Heights (Cleveland Heights) fourth; Toledo Scott (Toledo Scott) fifth. Time: 1:25.1. New state record—lowers Fremont's own record of 1:25.7 set in 1938.

500-yard free style relay—Won by Canton McKinley (Keagy, Domer, Moore and Born); Sandusky, second; Cleveland East Tech, third; Fremont Ross, fourth; Cincinnati (Huss, etc.). Time: 1:42.7.

One-meter diving—Won by Melson (Gambier) 257 points; Christy (Fremont Ross) 223 points; second; Patterson (Lakewood) 223 points; third; Tate (Toledo DeWitt) 207 points; fourth; Strong (Coshocton) 187 points, fifth.

MEKECHNIE TO KEEP FIVE OUTFIELDERS

TAMPA, Fla., March 6.—(AP)—Manager Bill McKechnie of the Cincinnati Reds says he will carry just five outfielders this year, so Strong, who edged out Schultz of Stanley Bordagray and Tony Bongy are battling for the one available spot. They're pals off the field.