

Ross 4 in state meet

Fremont Ross will send four swimmers to the Ohio High School State Swimming and Diving Championships in Canton.

The four — Chris Black, Steve Rodd, Randy Penrod and Brian Overmyer — comprise the Little Giants' 400-yard freestyle relay.

The state meet at Branin Natatorium begins with preliminaries at 10 a.m. Friday. Diving will follow the prelims with the finals in the medley relay, 200-yard freestyle, 200-yard individual medley and 50-yard freestyle slated for 7 p.m. Friday.

On Saturday, prelims in the remainder of the events begin at 10 a.m. with the finals at 7 p.m.

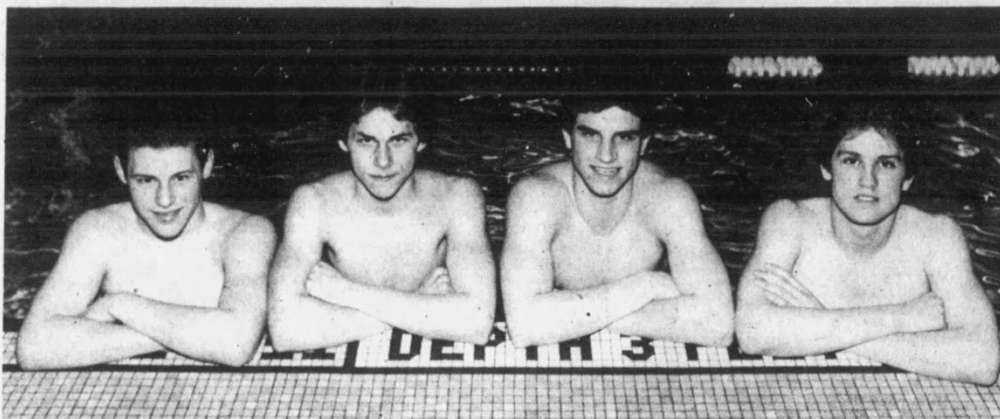
The Little Giants crew posted a school record 3:21.4 to finish sixth in the district meet at Bowling Green.

"We are ready to roll," Ross Coach Art Bucci said Wednesday morning.

As for a possible state meet champ, Bucci grudgingly had to go with Cincinnati St. Xavier, winner of 13 straight meets.

"You have to go with them," he said, "they have a lot of swimmers in it but they are young and are not experienced in the state meet."

"I would not sell out on Upper Arlington, Akron Firestone or Worthington with Hawken and Toledo St. Francis having outside shots," Bucci said.



MEMBERS of the Ross Little Giants freestyle relay team who will be competing in the Ohio High School State Swimming and Diving Championships in

Canton Friday and Saturday are, left to right, Chris Black, Steve Rodd, Randy Penrod and Brian Overmyer. The

foursome recorded a school record 3:21.4 in the district meet at Bowling Green Saturday.

(N-M photo by Bill Kennedy)

Old Fort, Bellevue advance; Bears fall

Old Fort suffered a fourth-quarter letdown, but the Stockaders exploded in the overtime to blow past Crestline 70-64 in the opening-round game of the Class A sectional tournament at Bucyrus High School Tuesday night.

The Stockaders, now 6-15, will meet Tiffin Calvert, 10-11, Friday night at 6:30 for the sectional title. Calvert was a 57-53 winner over Seneca East last night.

In other area boys tournament action Tuesday night, Gibsonburg was eliminated by Fostoria St. Wendelin 72-53 and Bellevue advanced with a 62-54 victory over Perkins.

Old Fort came out cold against Crestline, falling behind 14-10 after one quarter. The Stockaders were down by seven points early in the second quarter before they started their comeback.

The Stockaders' charge gave them a 35-29 halftime lead. They increased it to as many as 12 points during the third quarter before Crestline began a rally of its own.

The Bulldogs brought it to within eight, 49-41, at the end of the third period and then tied it up 58-58 at the end of regulation.

But in the overtime it was all Old Fort from the start. The Stockaders hit the first eight points to help seal the win.

The Stockaders continued their recent

trend of a balanced scoring attack, as five players hit double figures. Dan Miller led the way with 18 points, followed by Ray Dayringer with 12, Steve Welker with 11 and Doug Stacy and Dan Phillimore with 10 each.

Phillimore also grabbed a game-high 14 rebounds.

Crestline's Chris Spiraff led all scorers with 27 points. The Bulldogs bow out with an 8-13 record.

ST. WENDELIN 72, GIBSONBURG 53

The Golden Bears hung with a more talented St. Wendelin team for three quarters before the Mohawks rolled to a 23-10 fourth-quarter advantage to clinch the victory at Fostoria High School.

The game was tied 14-14 at the end of one quarter, and Gibsonburg trailed by only two, 34-32, at halftime.

Despite foul trouble to three of their starters — Eric Jones, Mark Rusher and Brian Nagy, the Golden Bears still managed to stay within striking distance after three quarters, 49-43.

But Nagy fouled out with one second remaining in the third quarter and Jones left with 5:00 remaining in the game, and the St. Wendelin talent took over to spell doom for the Bears, who finished the season at 6-15.

Leading St. Wendelin's well-balanced array of talent was 5-11 senior John

Hammer. From both the inside and the outside, Hammer racked up 30 points.

The taller Mohawks also hurt Gibsonburg on the boards, outrebounding the Bears 47-30.

St. Wendelin was 31 of 59 from the field for 52 percent to Gibsonburg's 20 of 59 for 34 percent.

Senior Jeff Cantrell closed out a fine season with 17 points for the Bears.

St. Wendelin, now 15-6, will meet Woodmore, 14-7, at 6:30 p.m. Friday for the sectional title at Fostoria High School.

BELLEVUE 62, PERKINS 54

Bellevue outscored Perkins 23-8 in the final period to gain the win at the Class AA sectional tourney at Sandusky High School.

In the pivotal fourth period, Perkins made only two of 15 field goals to Bellevue's six of 12. The Redmen, now 15-6, also were 11 of 14 from the free throw line in the last eight minutes.

Ron Hay led the Redmen attack with 24 points. Joe Green scored 14 and Bryan Kegerreis added 12.

For Perkins, which bows out with a 12-9 mark, Benji Garcia and Mark Speer had 16 points apiece.

Bellevue will now face Sandusky St. Mary's (14-7) Friday night at 6:30 for the Sandusky High sectional title.

Ross relay team finishes 22nd

CANTON — Ross's freestyle relay finished 22nd in the Ohio High School Swimming and Diving Championships at Branin Natatorium Saturday.

The Little Giants foursome of Randy Penrod, Steve Rodd, Brian Overmyer and Chris Black swam the 400-yard distance in three minutes and 23 seconds.

"We had two kids who swam well and two that didn't," Ross Coach Art Bucci said. "We have two of those kids returning so they get some exposure."

"The times down there," Bucci offered about the state meet, "were unbelievable. If they are going to get any faster, they are going to have to get wings."