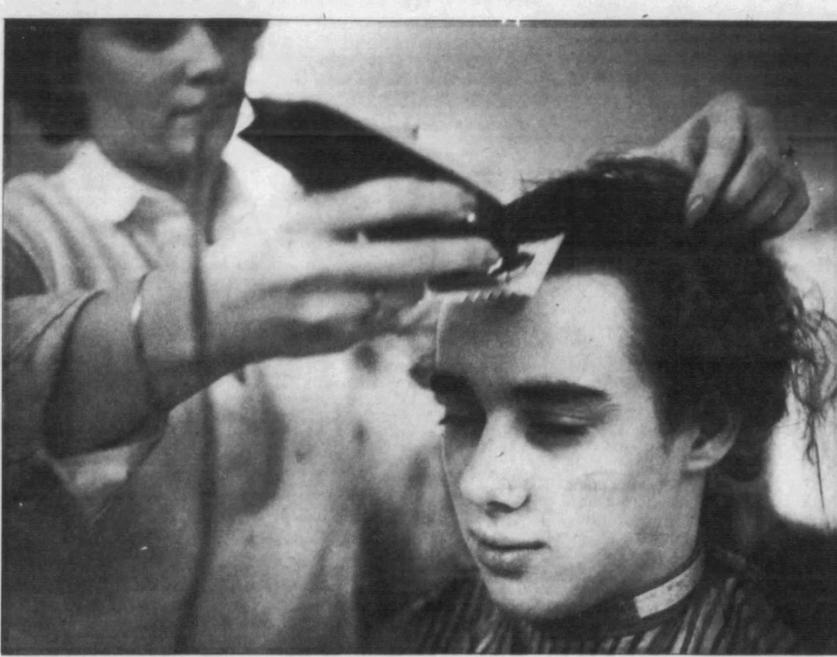


1986 District Meet...



News-Messenger/Bob Marker

TOM McDONALD of the Ross swim team sits patiently as his hair cascades to the floor

Thursday afternoon. Kim Gabel of CK Designs performs the traditional cropping.

Hoping to make the cut

By BOB MARKER
Reporting for The News-Messenger

Call it Phase I of hopefully two cuts.

Some may call it weird, but this time of year around Northwest Ohio it's known as the big cut, or better still, the close shave.

"This is traditional," Ross swim coach Art Bucci said as he watched the ceremonial pre-district meet haircut ... correction ... close shave.

Members of the swim teams in most high schools go through the process of getting short haircuts and shaving their legs and arms, all in a quest for speed in the water. The boys are usually the only one to crop the hair from the head.

Long hair is trimmed to the once common "butch" cut, but there are variations. Some boys elect to have designs trimmed into their locks. An arrow pointed forward may appear in one, a "Mohawk" on another.

Bucci was watching the hair of his swimmers tumble to the floor at CK Designs on Tiffin Street Thursday.

"It creates less drag in the water," Bucci insisted. "Shaving the body exposes nerve endings; it's like slapping after shave lotion on when you jump into the water."

And that sensation is hopefully the spark to get the swimmers into phase two of the close shave. Swimmers qualifying out of the district meet for next weekend's state meet will get an even closer haircut.

Bucci feels he has several boys and girls who have shots at making the state showcase.

Most of those possible state qualifiers will come from the boys.

"I have a personal goal of this (boys) team finishing in the top three at the districts," Bucci said. "Really, we have a shot at finishing anywhere from second to fifth."

The first place team? Bucci said defending district champ Toledo St. Francis and its depth should successfully defend its title.

"I figure Perkins, Mansfield Malabar, Sylvania Northview and Ross will be battling for second," the Ross coach said. "I think we can score points in every event."

Bucci said this is the best depth he has had on a boys team at Ross.

Bucci clicked off the best boys bets in qualifying for the state:

□ The 200 medley team of Tom McDonald, Brian

Mowry, Andy Scott and Bill Taylor. The foursome has a 1:46 clocking this season but Bucci figures the team will have to do a 1:43 to have a shot at reaching the state meet.

□ Scott in the 50 freestyle. He has a best of 23.1 and has to cut that to 22.5 in the district to have a shot at a state berth.

□ Ryan Nuhfer and Jon Lagrou lead a quartet of Ross divers. Ty Weikert and Mike Nighswander give Ross a shot at four in the top 12.

□ Mowry in the 100 freestyle. He has a 50-flat this season and must get into the 49s in the district.

□ McDonald in the 100 backstroke. He has a 58-second clocking this year and will have to get into the 56s to score. He had a 56.8 in the district meet a year ago.

□ The 400 freestyle relay team of Mowry, Scott, Taylor and McDonald. The foursome has turned in a 3:25 but Bucci figures it will have to go 3:20 or better.

Bucci and assistant coach Beth Caster listed the top shots for the girls to either qualify for the state meet or score district points.

□ Julie Schaaf in the 50 freestyle. She was third in the district last year with a 25.64, but the Ross coaches feel she must drop into the low 25s to have a shot at the state meet.

Schaaf will also be entered in the 100 freestyle in which she finished fourth in the district meet a year ago.

□ The medley relay team of Lori Nighswander, Dawn Vogel, Todi Heslet and Schaaf. The team has recorded a 2:06 but will probably have to drop into the 2:02 range to score.

□ Heslet in the 200 freestyle, who Caster rates at having a shot at the top six. She has done a 2:09 this season but must drop to the 2:05 range.

Heslet will also swim in the butterfly where she has a shot at a top 12 finish.

□ The freestyle relay squad of Tina Streeter, Julie Smith, Jamie Brudzinski and Brenda Audorff also has a chance of finishing in the top 12.

The district meet will be at Cooper Pool on the Bowling Green State University campus. The meet began at 11 a.m. today with girls diving. The swimming begins at 4:15 this afternoon with the 200 medley, 200 and 50 freestyles in both boys and girls competition.

Saturday, the boys diving begins at 11 a.m. with swimming starting at 4:15 p.m.

Schaaf sets school mark in districts

News-Messenger Reports

BOWLING GREEN — Julie Schaaf's school record in the 50-meter freestyle and the fifth-place finish of the boys 200-meter medley relay team highlighted Ross's first-day performance in the Northwest District Swim Meet at the Cooper Pool in the Bowling Green State University Student Recreation Center Friday.

Schaaf set a Ross record with a 25.52 clocking in the 50 free. That was good enough for a third-place finish, but it won't be known until after the weekend whether it was good enough to qualify her to the state meet.

The same holds true for the boys 200 medley relay team of Tom McDonald, Brian Mowry, Andy Scott and Bill Taylor. They finished fifth in 1:41.85, one-tenth of a second off the school mark, but they'll also have to wait until after the weekend to see if they'll be going to Canton.

Following are other Ross results:

□ Brian Schaaf swam a personal-best 2:15.49 in the 200 individual medley;

□ Scott finished eighth in the 50 free in 22.77;

□ Mike Mullholand finished 10th in the 50 free in 23.09;

□ The girls 200 medley relay team of Lori Nighswander, Dawn Vogel, Todi Heslet and Julie Schaaf finished seventh in 2:04.87;

□ Heslet finished 13th in the 200 free in 2:09.38;

□ Nighswander was clocked in 2:36.4 in the 200 IM.

□ And Jamie Brudzinski had a 2:16.7 in the 200 free.

The boys team stood in fourth place after yesterday's action while the girls were eighth.

The meet resumes today beginning with the boys diving competition at 11 a.m. Swimming events start at 4:15.



News-Messenger/Bill Kennedy

MIKE MULLHOLAND of Ross, foreground, leaps off the starting block during a 100-yard freestyle heat race.

Ross boys 6th in district meet

News-Messenger Report

BOWLING GREEN — Ross will send a relay team and three individuals into the state swim meet Friday and Saturday at Canton.

The Aqua Giants boys qualified during the Northwest Ohio District Swim Meet at Cooper Pool on the Bowling Green State University Saturday. No Ross girls qualified for the state meet.

As a team, the Ross boys finished sixth with 74 points. Toledo St. Francis won the meet with 203.5 while runner-up Sylvania Northview had 134. Mansfield Malabar was third with 113, Perkins fourth with 108.5 and Sylvania Southview fifth with 108.

Ross would have placed higher in the team standings but in final event of the meet, the Aqua Giants freestyle relay team was disqualified after apparently finishing fourth. The disqualification cost Ross 26 placement points and moved relay teams of teams placing ahead of them into higher finishes.

The top two individual finishers in each event were automatic qualifiers to the state meet but swimmers could qualify for an at-large berth in the state meet. To qualify for an at-large berth, times were compared to the other district meets around the state with the 11 fastest qualifying for the state meet.

All of Ross's state qualifiers came via the at-large route.

Tom McDonald set a Ross record in the 100-backstroke with a 55.8 clocking while finishing fourth. That broke Dave Sanna's school mark of 56.68 set in 1980.

Brian Mowry earned another at-large berth for Ross, finishing

Relay, 3 individuals in state meet; girls shatter five team records



News-Messenger/Bill Kennedy

BRIAN MOWRY gets his breath after finishing third in the 100-freestyle.

third in the 100-freestyle in 49.15.

The third Aqua Giants individual was diver Ryan Nuhfer. The Ross junior was fifth with 387.75 points.

The medley team of McDonald, Mowry, Andy Scott and Bill Taylor was fifth in that event on Friday, recording a 1:41.85, quick enough for an at-large berth in the state meet.

The disqualified freestyle relay team had a school record wiped off the books when a swimmer left too early. The team of Mowry, Scott, McDonald and

Taylor had a 3:19.74 clocking which would have put them fourth in the district and an at-large berth in the state meet washed away.

"Things like that happen," Ross Coach Art Bucci said. "It's history."

Bucci, although disappointed for the swimmers in the free relay, was happy with the times his swimmers turned in.

"We had a lot of big time drops," he pointed out.

Among those was a 1 1/2 seconds drop by Rob Penrod in

the butterfly and a 14-second drop by Penrod in the 500 free. Brian Schaaf dropped nine seconds in the 500.

Mike Mullholand chopped 2.5 seconds off his 100-freestyle best and Mowry dropped nearly a second off his best time this season in the same event.

"I was hoping we would finish in the top three as a team," Bucci said, "but sixth is not bad."

The girls set five school records with Julie Schaaf getting two of them. Schaaf had a 50-freestyle time of 25.32 and a 100-freestyle clocking of 56.96, both new records. She was third in the 50 and sixth in the 100.

Todi Heslet finished 13th in the 200-freestyle but in a school record 2:09.45. Jamie Brudzinski lowered the Ross girls 500-freestyle record to 5:58.99, the first time a Ross girl has cracked the six-minute barrier in the event.

The fifth record was Friday night in the 200-medley relay. The quartet of Lori Nighswander, Dawn Vogel, Heslet and Schaaf turned in a 2:04.87 while finishing seventh.

Ross girls Coach Beth Caster pointed out the efforts of Nighswander in the 100 back with a time of 1:10.57 to finish 12th and the 400-freestyle relay team. That squad of Tina Streeter, Brenda Audorff, Brudzinski and Julie Smith finished 12th in 4:19.76.

The Ross girls finished 14th in the team standings with 45 points, 25 points ahead of 15th place Sandusky and two behind 13th-place Ontario.

Sylvania Northview won the girls meet with 195 points. Perkins was second with 138.5 and Napoleon third with 112, Findlay fourth with 105.5 and Bowling Green fifth with 100.