



February 27, 2009

## Eight off to state swimming tourney

BY KRISTINA SMITH HORN

Watchdog/enterprise reporter

FREMONT -- Eight Fremont Ross swimmers were surrounded by a sea of purple and white Thursday while their classmates and families sent them off to the state swim meet.

Ross High School cheerleaders saluted them while their parents -- dressed in swim team T-shirts and bearing purple and white balloons -- classmates, coaches and teammates cheered them on them during a poolside pep rally at the high school.

"It's cool to see that we have support from our fellow students," said Kyle Wasserman, a senior and member of the 200 and 400 freestyle relay teams competing at the meet.

Preliminary events begin at 5 p.m. today, and finals start at 5 p.m. Saturday. The swim team left for the meet shortly after the pep rally.

The other state-bound swimmers are: 200 freestyle relay team members Courtney Gabel, Christy Meggitt, Sammi Miller and Taylor Waggoner and Wasserman's fellow relay team members Jordan Beck, Dexter Foos and Alex Hoffman. Waggoner also will swim individually in the 100 butterfly.

A ninth state-qualifying teammate, senior Brittany Stout, competed Wednesday in the state diving competition.

This is Wasserman's second trip to state. He said his relay teams' goal is to break school records at the meet.

Gabel, a junior, also is returning to the state meet for the second time.

"I'm excited and a little nervous," she said. "I'd like to make it back in finals. Just getting there is good."

Art Bucci, Fremont City Schools athletic director, said the group is continuing Ross' tradition of strong swimming and diving. The school regularly has athletes qualify for the state meet, he said.

"It's a great honor for the kids," he said. "Times are very fast this year. It's unbelievable."

---



Fremont Ross High School swimmers are ready for the state swim meet after a pep rally Thursday. (Kristina Smith Horn | News-Messenger)