



January 11, 2010

## Competition fierce but no new records

BY KEVIN SHIELDS

Sports Writer

### Competition still stiff at Little Giants Invitational

FREMONT -- It wasn't the big record-breaking event it was a year ago, but the competition was still stiff Saturday at the Dan H. Lease Little Giants Swimming and Diving Invitational at the Fremont Ross High School Natatorium.

After six meet and four pool records fell in 2009, the meet only saw one pool and one diving record go down this time around. But even with slower times, the meet had its' share of good races and finishes.

"I thought we ran a really good meet," Ross coach Phil Moran said. "Over 760 swimmers competed and I'm pretty sure that made this one of the largest meets in the state this year.

"The times that the kids posted from all over were pretty good -- this is a fast pool."

Being named the meet's Top Female Swimmer was Rachael Dzierzak of Notre Dame Academy, who broke a pool record with a time of 1:06.89 in the 100 breaststroke. Dylan Szegedi of Toledo St. Francis De Sales was named the Top Male with a record-breaking 243.75 performance in the boys diving.

Szegedi helped St. Francis De Sales to a boys team championship, beating rival Toledo St. John's Jesuit 498.5-453. With 200 points, Ross was seventh, and, with 25 points, Oak Harbor was 22nd.

Dzierzak broke the pool record held by Bowling Green's Kelly Titus, who swam a 1:07.01. Her effort helped Notre Dame to a third-place team finish. Sandusky Perkins took the girls team title over Ross, 436-376. Oak Harbor finished 12th (125).

"I don't think anyone expected our girls to be second," Moran said. "They work really hard and have been training very hard and we got a whole group of them that are buying into the program."

The relay team of Taylor Waggoner, Laura Duncan, Courtney Gabel and Sammi Miller was responsible for two team titles in the 200 medley relay and 200 freestyle relay. They won the medley relay with a school-record time of 1:52.24 and took home the freestyle relay with a time of 1:41.95.

Waggoner also won the 100 backstroke (1:02.04) and took a second-place in the 100 butterfly (59.16).

Oak Harbor's top finish came in the 400 freestyle relay, where the Rockets ended up eighth, coming into the marker at 3:59.65. Senior Olivia Porter added a ninth-place effort (26.50) in the 50 freestyle and was part of the 200 freestyle relay that took a ninth-place (1:49.31) swim.

"We had a lot of good swims today," Oak Harbor coach Andrea Sorg said. "Coming off of Christmas break with a lot of hard training, it's good to see kids starting to improve upon their times and personal bests."

In the boys results, Ross senior Dexter Foos finished second in the both the 50 and 100 freestyle to Sandusky's Gus Everson. Everson won the 50 22.07-22.79 and the 100 48.39-50.39 respectively.

"He's just an animal," Foos said. "(Everson) is one the top people in the Northwest district and I tried to keep up with him.

"I had good swims and I liked my times," Foos said. "But it's the middle of the season and I still have a lot of improvement to do -- just little things in the swims."

Alex Hoffman tallied a third-place (55.79) in the 100 butterfly. He, along with Foos, Keith Wasserman and Luke Wilhelm placed second in the 200 free relay (1:33.12) and took third in the 400 free relay (3:28.69).

"My boys team is a lot younger," Moran said. "The underclassmen are swimming really good times, but they aren't competitive with some of these big boys yet, but they're improving and they just get better."

Oak Harbor senior Andrew Walsh finished third (1:02.48) in the B-final for the 100 backstroke and Ian Rhoades was 10th in the B-final for the 500 freestyle.

"Ian (Rhoades) had a great day in his 200 and 500 frees," Sorg said. "It was good to him in the guys improve after the winter training."

---



Ross' Taylor Waggoner swims in the 100 yard backstroke Saturday at the Fourth Daniel H. Lease Little Giant Invite. (Doug Hise | News-Messenger correspondent)