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## Swimming: Ross boys finish second

*BY KEVIN SHIELDS*

*Sports writer*

FREMONT -- Success was no stranger to Fremont Ross swimmer Alex Hoffman on Saturday.

The junior started two championship relay teams and was crowned conference champion in the 100-yard butterfly as the Little Giant boys took second in the Greater Buckeye Conference championships at the Ross High School natatorium.

Napoleon took home the boys title, scoring 462 total points to 309 for the Little Giants, while Findlay took third with 249. On the girls side, the Trojans took the title with 380 points, as the Wildcats were second with 348, edging out the Little Giants with 337.

The Little Giants claimed four GBC championships, placed eight teams or swimmers on the GBC second team and totaled five honorable mentions.

Junior Taylor Waggoner took home the girls' lone league title, winning the 100 backstroke.

"We got our share of firsts, which was nice," Ross coach Phil Moran said. "Big thing is, it was just another competitive meet that we needed to prep ourselves. Our goal is to get as many kids to state as possible and this is just another stepping stone."

With a time of 55.69, Hoffman beat Napoleon's Tyler Anderson (56.70) to claim the 100 butterfly, before going on to lead-off Ross's championship winning 200 and 400 freestyle relay teams.

"I've been working on my fly all year and I recently just improved my turns," Hoffman said, who also took second in the 200 medley. "I'm looking forward to the end of the season and the chance to hopefully go to districts for that event."

Hoffman was paired with Dexter Foos, Luke Wilhelm and Keith Wasserman on the 200 relay team that swam a time of 1:33.11 and the 400 team that swam a victory time of 3:25.81

"Our relays have really improved this year," Hoffman said. "We have two underclassmen that have really stepped up and helped out."

Foos, a senior for the Little Giants, was part of the two championship relay teams and was named to the second team in his runner-up efforts to Top Male Swimmer Gus Everson of Sandusky, champion of the boys 50 and 100 free. Everson's 100 time of 48.05 was one of seven total GBC meet records set in the competition. Three pool records also fell.

Setting two meet records and a pool record was Napoleon senior Samantha Zuch, who was named the meet's Top Female Swimmer. Zuch, swam a new meet time of 2:06.79 in the 200 medley and broke both the pool and meet record with a mark of 1:04.43 in the 100 breaststroke.

"It was the most competitive girls meet that we've ever had," Moran said. "Each girls team from the different schools has their own area that they're really good at it was entertaining to see how that all played out."

Besides her championship effort in the backstroke, Waggoner, was second in the girls 100 butterfly (1:00.56) and was the lead-off swimmer for the second-place 200 medley relay team (1:55.09). Waggoner swam the last leg of Ross's second-place 200 freestyle relay (1:44.13) as well.

"For how much we practiced, I thought we all did really well," Waggoner said. "The top two teams just had an awesome meet."

Other honors handed out at the meet, included Coach of the Year for both girls and boys. The girls honor went to Findlay coach Jeff Wobser, while Larry Vocke of Napoleon took the boys honor.

The boys title gave the Wildcats their 12th GBC title in the 13 swim championships since the league's inception.

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