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Saturday, February 2, 2008

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Knights swim past Souderton

DIFFERENT NAMES STEP UP FOR NP

By KEV HUNTER, Staff Writer



MARK C. PSORAS / THE REPORTER North Penn swimmers celebrate their victory.

TOWAMENCIN — Usually the spring time is when things bloom.

When it comes to high school swimming, it's the other way around. Take for instance North Penn's Stephen Hoch, whose work in the pool last April and May is showing up big time in the dog days of winter.

"He showed up the first day of spring practice and said 'I want to go to states next year,'" Knights coach Brian Daly said. "Stephen's a guy that was barely on our radar last year. He narrowly made one district cut. And now he's a critical part of at least two relays, and he's one of the top three guys in the 50 and the 100 for us."

As Hoch said, the Knights "never take a day off," and Hoch was clocked in from beginning to end on Friday, helping the Knights earn a 107-73 win over Souderton Area in a Suburban One League non-conference meet at Rick Carro Natatorium.

All year long, Dan Dingman and Nico Gimenez have gotten it done for the Knights, and again they won their individual events and relays on Friday. But what made North Penn so tough on this day was swimmers like Hoch, who won the 50 free and the 100 free to help the Knights win the first 10 events before swimming the last two as exhibitions.

North Penn also added to its district roster, with C.J. Millonig making the cut in the 200 IM, along with Craig Hennessey, and Sean McDonald dropped a whopping three and a half seconds off his time in the 500 free to punch his ticket

to districts.

“These are the guys that have been working really hard at practice, working in the weight room, and believing that if they keep that work ethic up, it’s gonna pay off,” Daly said. “So tonight, there’s definitely some happy guys walking out of here with a monkey off their back.”

The Knights got yet another district qualifier late in the meet, when Matt Ortlieb qualified in the 100 breast.

The Knights have persevered.

“A lot of the guys have worked hard, and then they go the same time again. They just gotta believe that if you keep working, you stay committed to the team, that those drops are gonna happen,” Daly said. Advertisement

Tim Dorsch had a nice day for Souderton, taking second in both the 200 IM and 100 breast.

North Penn has a showdown with rival Emmaus on Tuesday, at home, and Souderton is off until the Suburban One League Continental Conference Championships Feb. 15.

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