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NP wins showdown with Indians Record-setting day in the pool

By KEV HUNTER

Staff Writer

TOWAMENCIN — The Souderton Area girls came into Rick Carroll Natatorium Friday afternoon and did everything they had to do to win a swim meet, setting three pool records in the process.

To keep them from earning a victory, it would take quite a special opponent. It took North Penn.

The letter of the day for North Penn was 'D,' as in depth and diving. Souderton won nine events, but in seven of those events, the Maidens took second and third. And despite losing its best diver to injury, North Penn still swept the event.

The Maidens' 96-90 victory over Souderton was not locked up until the final race, and the loudest one of the day - the 400 free relay. With fans from both sides roaring in the stands, the Indians' anchor Angela Severn, the swimmer of the meet, touch

ed just before North Penn standout Lauren French, with Souderton clocking in at 3:38.58 and the Maidens just behind at 3:38.78.

And like they had done all day, North Penn countered a win by Souderton with a second place and third place in the event.

It was a day where no pool record was safe from Souderton, but it was actually the Maidens who made the first big news of the day.

North Penn's medley team of Samantha Deana, Becca Hannings, Jan Ikeda and Mary Morris set a pool record of 1:52.33, just beating out Souderton's 1:52.39.

"(After Wednesday), we took our ramp out and put up the names of our medley relay team that set the pool record on Wednesday (in a win over Pennridge), because I was thinking that was it for it - let's at least give the kids a chance to see their names up there," said North Penn coach Kristen Bartlewitz, who thought Souderton might be taking over the record. "But guess what, we get to change it again. There are two different girls on it, and they swam faster. That was the right way to start off the meet."

Hannings went on to win the 200 IM for the Maidens, just one of three events that North Penn won in the dual meet.

"She dropped a full second in her 50 breaststroke split in the medley relay, and you don't expect that from a kid," Bartlewitz said. "She's one of our captains, she was pumped, she was pumping her fists, and she's such a great leader on the team."

"The only thing that got us through was being pumped up, and we wanted to win. It was just a big adrenaline rush," Hannings said.

One of North Penn's other leaders, French, swam a personal best time in the 100 free, going 53.68 to get second.

She would have won the event had it not been for Angela Severn, who set a record almost every time she got in the pool.

Severn set a pool record of 52.13 in the 100 free, following up her time of 1:52.15 in the 200 free, which set a pool record earlier in the day.

Severn was part of another pool record when she led off the winning 200 free relay for the Indians, joining Chloe Thomas, Missy Doll and Paige Whitmire.

Severn finished up her day by anchoring that winning 400 free relay.

"Angela really got in a rut for a little while in the middle of the season," Indians coach Todd Bauer said. "She was frustrated. She was so upset every time she swam. And I just kept telling her to relax. 'You don't need to swim your fastest in the middle of the year, you need to swim your fastest at the end.' Unfortunately for the rest of the state, she looks to be peaking at the right time."

This was a meet that came down to fractions of a second. Souderton nearly pulled it off.

"I knew it was gonna be close," Bauer said. "North Penn's a first-class team. In order to be the best, you have to beat the best. North Penn's the best right now. They're defending district champions, so we wanted to give them our best run. There were so many close races in this meet, it could have gone either way. After today, I feel much better about districts."

A big part of the reason the Maidens won districts last year was their divers, and on Friday that strength showed once again.

Julia Tate, who went to states last year, is out with a knee injury. She hyper-extended it this past week and is having an MRI on Monday.

In her absence, Laurie McLaughlin, Shauna Hannings and Diana Vose took first, second and third to outscore the Indians 13-3 in the event.

"I knew we could go 1-2-3 with (Julia). Without her, I was a little nervous," Bartlewitz said. "But we still did it, and that was a huge key."

These two teams will meet two more times again this year, the next time being districts, where the Maidens will be going for the threepeat, and the Indians will be looking to dethrone them.

North Penn hosts Emmaus Tuesday, and Souderton is off until the Suburban One League Continental Conference Championships Feb. 16.

North Penn 96, Souderton 90

200 medley relay: North Penn (Deana, Hannings, Ikeda, Morris), 1:52.33 (pool record); Souderton; Souderton

200 free: Angela Severn (S) 1:52.15 (pool record); Nicole DiBonaventura (NP); Heather Fellmeth (NP)

200 IM: Becca Hannings (NP) 2:14.98; C.J. Corcoran (S); Mariel Kush (S)

50 free: Paige Whitmire (S) 24.66; Lauren French (NP); Samantha Deana (NP)

Diving: Laurie McLaughlin (NP) 238.15; Shauna Hannings (NP); Diana Vose (NP)

100 fly: Paige Whitmire (NP) 58.44; Jan Ikeda (NP); Mary Morris (NP)

100 free: Angela Severn (S) 52.13 (pool record); Lauren French (NP); Missy Doll (S)

500 free: Mariel Kush (S) 5:15.05; Nicole DiBonaventura (NP); Colleen Stiles (NP)

200 free relay: Souderton (Severn, Thomas, Doll, Whitmire) 1:39.17; North Penn; North Penn

100 back: Ashley Kichline (S) 1:02.64; Katie Patterson (NP); Samantha Deana (NP)

100 breast: C.J. Corcoran (S) 1:09.14; Becca Hannings (NP); Lauren Peachey (S)

400 free relay: Souderton (Doll, Kichline, Kush, Severn), 3:38.58; North Penn; North Penn



MARK C. PSORAS / THE REPORTER

North Penn Maidens swimmers cheer on their teammates against area rival Souderton.

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