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Intelligencer SOL diving: Souderton's Moyer rules Continental; WT's Doherty second in national

By: **Brad Wilson**

By **Bill Keen**

Staff Writer

TOWAMENCIN — When a field of talented divers get together, the difference between places is often decided by tenths-of-a-point or less.

Wednesday, Souderton's Ozzie Moyer showed how he earned the nickname "The Wizard,". He turned a 3.4-point preliminary-round lead into a nearly 33-point victory in the Suburban One League Continental Conference boys' championships at North Penn.

The key was his first dive of the semifinals, a relatively simple reverse dive in a straight position that carries a 1.8 degree of difficulty.

Two of the five judges watched him leave the board, soar gracefully in a reverse arc, enter the water vertically with little splash — and awarded him 9.5 out of a possible 10 points.

Looking back on the dive that effectively gave him the gold, Moyer said he even stunned himself.

"That's the best I've ever done it," said the sophomore, whose 46.8 points for the dive is virtually unheard of considering the low degree of difficulty. "I guess I could go a little higher and a little closer (to the board) — but that's the best I've done it yet."

At the end of the semifinals, Moyer's lead was 21.05, and after all 11 dives, he had 478.80 to 446 for the Knights' Frankie Murray. Central Bucks East's John Brice was third (394.20), North Penn's Mike Kohler (391.20) was fourth with Souderton's Tyler Wenzel (373) rounding out the top five.

Murray could have significantly trimmed Moyer's lead on his first dive of the finals, an inward, 2½ somersault, one twist pike with a 3.1 degree of difficulty. But he over-rotated and his 48.75 points couldn't answer Moyer's nailing an inward pike with a 1.5 DOD and receiving a pair of 9s and 46.75 points.

"I was a little anxious, a little nervous, but I was ready," said Murray, who was disappointed he didn't do better on the first dive of the finals. "I messed that up a little bit, I'm usually a lot better than that. But we'll see at districts."

Brice was in fifth place after the preliminary round of five dives, but had three excellent efforts in the semifinals and moved into third to stay.

"I think I just did that good on those (semifinal) dives because those are three of my better dives," Brice said. "It's my last round that wasn't so hot, but this is my first time (at the league championships) so I'm satisfied."

Suburban One League Continental Conference

Boys' Diving Championships

1. Ozzie Moyer (Souderton), 478.80; 2. Frankie Murray (North Penn), 446.00; 3. John Brice (Central Bucks East), 394.20; 4. Mike Kohler (North Penn), 391.20; 5. Tyler Wenzel (Souderton), 373.00; 6. Marcus Dare (Souderton), 363.15; 7. Josh Hoch (North Penn), 360.05; 8. Matt Nickerson (Central Bucks South), 359.10; 9. Matt Evers (Souderton), 350.40; 10. C.J. Gimpel (Central Bucks South), 319.15.

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SOL National

William Tennent's Stephen Doherty took second in the SOL National Conference boys diving championship Wednesday at Abington.

"I thought maybe I could move up this year," said Doherty, a junior who finished in sixth place last year.

"You never know how these things are going to go. The dives I had a lot of confidence in I don't think I did that well and the ones I wasn't as sure about I ended up doing pretty well.

"I just tried to stay focused on one dive at a time."

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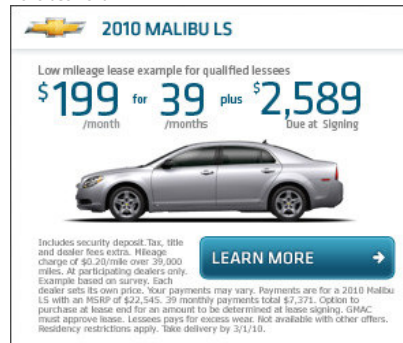
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SOL National Conference

Championships

1. T.J. Schenkel (Council Rock South) 424.45 points. 2. Stephen Doherty (William Tennent) 321.20; 3. Will Beliveau (Pennsbury) 301.20; 4. A.J. VanHart (Pennsbury) 282.30; 5. John Trea (Abington) 277.70; 6. Ryan Coyle (William Tennent) 270.30.

— Karen Sangillo

February 17, 2010 11:11 PM

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