

Sports

SWIMMING: North Penn boys, girls swim and dive past Souderton

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By KEV HUNTER

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TOWAMENCIN - Four undefeated swim teams entered the Rick Carroll Natatorium on Wednesday afternoon, but it was the Knights and Maidens who left having proven their conference supremacy.

In front of a boisterous, spirited crowd, almost all of which was dressed in either blue or red, the North Penn boys earned a 108-75 win over Big Red while the Maidens prevailed 108-78, as both NP squads improved to 6-0 in the Suburban One League's Continental Conference.

"It's always fun to swim Souderton," said Maidens coach Matt Weiser, whose team is now 9-0 overall. "They've got a great team, a great coaching staff, and from a rivalry standpoint, it's always a fun meet. When you come out on top, I don't know how you can't be pleased."

The North Penn girls started the meet by squeezing out a win in the 200 medley relay by 14 hundredths of a second.

"That got the momentum going for us," anchor Brooke Else said.

Else would also anchor the winning 200 free relay and lead off the winning 400 free relay. Her win in the 100 fly was also key for the Maidens. So too were Tara Rogers' pair of victories in the 200 free and 100 free.

The divers, as well, came up big for North Penn. The meet was tied 31-31 after four events, but the Maidens went 1-2-3 up on the board to provide a 44-34 advantage. North Penn led the rest of the way.

"You couldn't set a better stage," Indians boys and girls coach Todd Bauer said of the meet. "Both teams were undefeated, crosstown rivals. They play each other a couple times in water polo as well, and we see them several times a year in swimming. We know each other, we know their coaches really well. It's just a good rivalry. They've gotten the better of us the last couple years, and we have to try to turn that around at districts and states."

Alyssa Santangelo (200 IM, 100 back) was a double winner for the Big Red, and on the boys side, Ozzie Moyer set a pool record in the diving (352.30).

The Knights (9-0) were cutting through the water with purpose, and won all 11 events in the pool. Brandon Anders swam his lifetime best (49.65) to earn first place in the 100 free.

"I saw some glimpses, which is what I want to see at this point in the year," Knights coach Brian Daly said of his team's progression. "I don't want to see the whole package put together quite yet."

As the postseason approaches, North Penn's Jason Deana continued to impress, winning the 50 free and 100 fly and also anchoring the medley and 200 free relays to victories.

Time improvement went deep into the roster, including Kevin Killion, who dropped two and a half seconds in the 100 back.

"Every time he gets wet, he seems to drop about two and a half seconds," Daly said.

Jon Krail was also on his game for the Knights, grabbing a pair of second-places in the 200 free and the 500 free. He also swam the second leg of the winning 400 free relay.

"It's always exciting," Daly said. "I think the proximity of the schools and because a lot of the kids grew up together in summer clubs, and water polo lends itself to a great rivalry between the two, so it's always fun. Both sides seemed to get pretty geared up for it. Definitely bragging rights (are on the line), at least for a period of time."

North Penn can finish 7-0 in the Continental on Senior Night against CB East Tuesday. Souderton (5-1 in the conference, boys and girls) travels to Central Bucks West Monday.

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