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Knights, and now Maidens, are class of the area

By: KEV HUNTER , Staff Writer

The district championships will be held at LaSalle University this weekend, although even if it was held outside in the freezing Delaware River, you'd probably get this same result - the Knights will win another district title.

North Penn has dominated District One in a dynastic fashion not many teams ever dominate even a league or conference.

The Knights are going for their 18th straight district title, a streak that started in 1989.

To win that many titles takes great swimmers, great coaches, depth and a great feeder program, and North Penn has had all of these.

Swimmers and coaches have come and gone, but the streak has stayed.

And the Knights' success at the meet is not limited to just the streak - it goes back to 1974, when the team captured its first of four straight titles at the event.

After three second-place finishes from 1978-1980, the Knights were first in the district again from 1981-84.

After a one-year-hiatus in 1985, in which North Penn was the runner-up, the Knights went through a rare rebuilding stage, taking fourth in 1987 and sixth in 1988.

And that brings us to the streak that the Knights will look to continue on Friday and Saturday in the warmth of the LaSalle pool.

But what is interesting about this season is that the Knights could share the medal stand - okay, well the boys and girls don't take the stand at the same time - with the North Penn girls team.

The Maidens, and not the Knights for a change, were the team that went through the regular season undefeated, compiling a 13-0 record and putting themselves in great position to win districts a year after finishing fourth.

The Maidens have been an unstoppable force, their B team in some relays sometimes putting up better times than the other team's A team.

One of the girls even pursued the answer to the question of whether or not a team could race two different teams in the same relay in states.

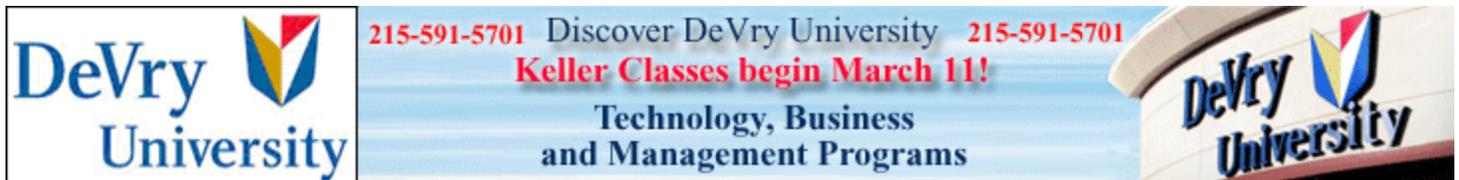
Well, no, but the Maidens surely could do it.

And speaking of states, districts sets the table for that event, and it is this weekend in which the North Penn boys and girls will try to qualify as many swimmers and divers in as many events for the big climax at Bucknell University.

But the trip to LaSalle is first.

Two North Penn teams winning a district title would be quite an accomplishment - dare we say almost as impressive as 18 straight titles?

Well, maybe not, but the school should probably start clearing room in its trophy case.



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