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2007-2008 Boys Swimming Preview

By KEV HUNTER

Staff Writer

There have been two constants over the past two decades - the North Penn boys swim team winning the conference title, and the North Penn boys swim team winning the district title.

It appears that trend will continue.

The Knights go into the 2007-08 season with balance and experience, and could even challenge for a state crown if things really develop.

Following is a team-by-team look at the area:

CB West

Coach: Rich Reshetar (first year)

League: Suburban One League Continental Conference

Last year's record: 7-6-1

Key Returners: Evan Denard, sr., sprint free/fly; Sean Cook, jr., sprint free/back; Joe Donovan, sr., sprint free/breast

Outlook: The Bucks should be in the running for conference title hopes, and Denard, Donovan and Cook could be three of the guys looking to make districts.

Lansdale Catholic

Coach: Bob Birbrauer (12th season)

League: Pioneer Athletic Conference

Key Losses: Brendan Larkin, Matt McGuriman, Joe Taylor

Key Returners: Patrick Augustine; Stanislaw Gawell; Neil Gogno; Tim McCann; Connor Unger; Andrew Urban

Key Newcomers: Al Augustine; Samuel Kraynak; Tony Mack; Brian Matylewicz; Kevin McGuriman; Brian Wissman

Outlook: Four of the returners were district finalists last season, and led by Augustine, an all-stater, the Pioneers should have a strong season.

Coach Birbrauer says: "The incoming swimmers will not only add depth, but quality with the transfer of district champ and state finalist Al Augustine."

Methacton

Coach: Chris Nesensohn (third season)

League: SOL Continental

Last year's record: 3-9

Key Losses: Brian Starson, diver; Chris O'Sullivan, diver; Tim Carroll, back/fly; Dan Connolly, distance

Key Returners: Trevor Fitzgerald, sr., diver; Kevin Drummey, so., distance; Andrew Gerland, sr., free/fly; Ben Locey, so., sprints

Key Newcomers: Kyle Magee, fr., IM/fly/back; Ike McBride, so., sprint/back; Alex Pfluger, sr., utility; Jason Przyusky, so., IM/breast; Dave Turner, jr., IM/back; Lou Zhang, sr., sprints/free

Outlook: The Warriors have one of their best rosters in recent history, loaded with returners.

Coach Nesensohn says: "We want to send two relays to states - that's our goal. We should be one of the top teams in the league, along with Souderton and Hatboro-Horsham."

North Penn

Coach: Brian Daly (3rd season)

League: SOL National

Last year's record: 12-3 overall and 7-0 in the SOL National; won District One Class AAA title; third in state

Key Losses: Mike Keisling, back/free; Jon DiLuigi, IM/fly; Joe Watts, breast/IM; Chris Ianni, fly

Key Returners: Ryan Coupe, sr., back; Dan Dingman, sr., IM/free; Mike Doblmaier, sr., free; Nico Gimenez, sr., breast/free; Pete Schmidley, sr., breast; Jeff Smallwood, sr., fly; Brandon Ward, sr., free; Stephen Hoch, jr., fly/free; Nick Ortleib, jr., breast; Jack Else, so., free

Key Newcomers: Chris Anton, fr., free; Eugene Feeley, fr., free; Peter Koloaichias, fr.; Matt Ortleib

Outlook: The Knights have a lot of returning district qualifiers and should be favored to repeat as conference champs. North Penn will be looking for its 19th straight district title this year.

Coach Daly says: "We graduated a class of really talented seniors, but we have some newcomers coming in, and we'll see where the chips fall, who fills in the holes. We have good leadership, and a lot of enthusiasm from the underclassmen. We want to get as many guys to districts as we can and then get them to score as high as they can."

Penridge

Coach: Ryan Griffiths (second season)

League: SOL National

Last year's record: 2-7-1

Key Losses: Allan Craven, distance freestyler

Key Returners: Dave Apple, sr., fly/sprint free; Brian Adams, sr., sprint/middle distance; R.J. Phambolis, so., distance free; Rich Johnson, jr., breast/IM

Outlook: The Rams had a lot of success with the aquatic club team over the summer, making for a good feeder program, and have increased their schedule from 10 meets to 19.

Coach says: "This is one of the biggest boys teams we have fielded in quite a while. We're looking to not only win some meets but send a stronger contingent of relays to districts. We're hoping to get Dave Apple to the state meet again."

Souderton

Coach: Todd Bauer (second season)

League: SOL Continental

Last year's record: 12-2 overall and 7-0 in Continental

Key Losses: Matt Gruszecki, sprint/free; Scott Bronsdon, back/sprint free; Corey Letz, free/fly; Bobby Tomlinson, fly/IM; Dave Reynolds, diver

Key Returners: Tim Dorsch, sr., breast/IM; Matt Fadden, jr., free; Jake Radcliffe, jr., free; Joe Reynolds, jr., sprints; Lee Stiles, so., free/fly; Sean Corcoran, so., breast; Mike Eachus, jr., fly; Justin Nice, sr., breast

Key Newcomers: Alex Evers, jr., fly; Dan Yocum, so, free

Outlook: The Indians are young, but still have plenty of promise on the roster and some high goals.

Coach Bauer says: "We're looking to send a couple guys to states, and we've won 10 conference titles in a row, so we're looking to win it again."

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