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MEMORIES

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Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Posted on Tue, Mar 11, 2008

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Swimmers ready for states

By Kev Hunter



North Penn swimmers cheer their teammates during a meet in February. Photo by Mark C. Psoras

The state swimming and diving championships get under way Wednesday at Bucknell University.

Class AAA events will be held Wednesday and Thursday this year, followed by AA action on Friday and Saturday.

As the swimmers toned down their training since districts, probably the toughest thing was the waiting.

"The biggest thing for the girls and the guys is to stay focused," Souderton Area coach

Todd Bauer said. "It's a continuation of districts, so you need to stay focused for another week and a half. It's like any sport, where if you make it to the finals and if you fail once you get there, it's for not, so you want to prepare as best you can."

Paige Whitmire is one of the swimmers making it back to states.

"I know how I prepared for it last year," the Souderton junior said. "I just got psyched up, and that's all I can do. There's nothing else I can do but wait and get ready."

Whitmire will have a busy two days, competing in the 50 free, and the 100 back, where she is seeded second. She will also swim on a couple relays.

Souderton has a good number of girls going this year, including Angela Severn (200 free and 100 free), Mariel Kush (200 and 500 free), Missy Doll (50 free), and all three relays are going to Bucknell.

The Souderton boys have Jake Radcliff in the 500 free and Tim Dorsch in the 100 breast.

North Penn will also be well-represented, especially in the diving, as Julia Tate makes a return trip to Bucknell, joined by fellow diver Laurie McLaughlin. The Knights have three divers going - Zac Nees, Frankie Murray and Mike Kohler.

North Penn swimmers making the trip include Dan Dingman (200 and 500 free), Nico Gimenez (200 IM and 100 breast), Jeff Smallwood (100 fly), Jack Else (500 free), and two relays on the boys side. The Maidens have Sam Deana in the 50 free, Jan Ikeda in the 100 fly, Lauren French in the 100 free, Becca Hannings in the 500 free, and all three relays.

Methacton's Blair Kinsey (200 IM and 100 breast) and Kristen Rodman (50 and 100 free), and the Warriors' 400 free relay will be competing.

Other area boys competing include Penridge's Dave Apple (100 fly), Wissahickon's medley and 200 free relay teams, Methacton's Andrew Gerland (100 fly and 100 free), CB West's Pierre LeCorre (500 free) and Sean Cook (100 back), and Wissahickon's Adam Bossert (100 free and 100 breast).

Lansdale Catholic has a big couple days in Class AA, as the Augustine brothers go for state titles. The Crusader boys have the 200 free relay, Al Augustine (50 and 100 free), Andrew Urban (200 free), and Pat Augustine

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(100 fly and 100 breast) competing.

The LC girls have Jess Gidzinski representing them in the 200 IM and the 500 free.

Directions

Take the Northeast Extension to Route 80. Take Route 80 West to (exit 210A) Route 15 South. At 9th traffic light, turn left (look for the Bucknell Athletic Stadium on the left.)

Alternate Route: Take the Turnpike West to Harrisburg Route 283. Take Route 283 North to Route 83. Take Route 83 North to Route 81. Take Route 81 South to Route 322. Take Route 322 West to Routes 11&15 North. When Routes 11 & 15 split, stay on Route 15 (Tedd's Landing is on your right; KMart on your left) for about seven miles after Selinsgrove/Shamokin Dam, and then you'll come to a traffic light (Moore Avenue). Bucknell is on your right. Look for Bucknell Athletic Stadium on right.

PIAA

SWIMMING AND DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Kinney Natatorium

Bucknell University

Event schedule

WEDNESDAY

2-4:30 p.m. - AAA Girls' Diving Championship

5:30-7 p.m. - AAA Girls' Consolations and Finals (events 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 9)

8-9:30 p.m. - AAA Boys' Consolations and Finals (events 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 9)

THURSDAY

2-4:30 p.m. - AAA Boys' Diving Championship

5:30-7 p.m. - AAA Girls' Consolations and Finals (events 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12)

8-9:30 p.m. - AAA Boys' Consolations and Finals (events 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12)

FRIDAY

2- 4:30 p.m. - AA Girls' Diving Championship

5:30-7 p.m. - AA Girls' Consolations and Finals (events 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 9)

8-9:30 p.m. - AA Boys' Consolations and Finals (events 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 9)

SATURDAY

2-4:30 p.m. - AA Boys' Diving Championship

5:30-7 p.m. - AA Girls' Consolations and Finals (events 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12)

8-9:30 p.m. - AA Boys' Consolations and Finals (events 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12)

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