



12/03/2008

Boys' Swimming Previews



Check out team previews for the 2008 boys' swimming season. North Penn

- * Coach: Brian Daly (fourth season)
- * Last year's record: 11-2, finished second at District One Class AAA meet and eighth at PIAA Class AAA championship
- * Notable losses: Dan Dingman, freestyle, IM; Nico Gimenez, freestyle/breaststroke; Jeff Smallwood, freestyle/butterfly; Ryan Coupe, freestyle/backstroke; Brandon Ward, freestyle, Pete Schmidley, breaststroke
- * Key returnees: Seniors-Nick Ortlieb, All-American; Stephen Hoch, All-American; Zac Nees, All-State diver; Brendan Hatfield, district qualifier; Juniors-Jack Else, All-District swimmer; Michael Kohler, All-District diver; Sophomores-Peter Kolokithias, Matt Ortlieb, Eugene Feeley
- * Others to watch: Sophomore-Jacob Sisko; Freshmen-Nick Poulin, Jason Deana, Patrick Dunigan

- * Question marks: How will the Knights cope with the fact that they lost six state qualifiers and four All-Americans to graduation in June? Who will step up and make an impact?
- * Outlook: The Knights have an immensely talented junior class and some rock-solid seniors as well as improving sophomores. With that said, North Penn will have to fight for every win in a league and district that has caught up with the Knights' winning ways. Last season, Upper Dublin snapped North Penn's streak of 19 district crowns. Look for the Knights to be very hungry to bring the district trophy back to the Rick Carroll Natatorium.

Souderton

- * Coach: Swimming-Todd Bauer (third season), Diving-Bill Hence (eighth season)
- * Last year's record: 10-3 (7-0 Suburban One Continental Conference), Jake Radcliff and Tim Dorsch qualified for states
- * Key losses: Tim Dorsch, breaststroke/IM; Justin Nice, breaststroke; Will Fox, freestyle
- * Key returnees: Seniors-Jake Radcliff, freestyle; Michael Eachus, butterfly; Joe Reynolds, freestyle; Matt Fadden, freestyle, Alex Evers, butterfly/freestyle; Juniors-Sean Corcoran, breaststroke/freestyle; Lee Stiles, freestyle; Dan Yocum, freestyle; Marcus Dare, diving
- * Others to watch: Senior-Joe Kudla, diving; Junior-Michael Trout, backstroke/butterfly; Sophomores-Kody Veit, freestyle/backstroke; Greg Smith, breaststroke/freestyle; Freshmen-Michael Hay, freestyle/butterfly; Elliot Miller, backstroke/freestyle; Ozzie Moyer, diving; Tyler Wentzel, diving
- * Strengths: Bauer believes this is the strongest boys' team Souderton has had in four years. The Indians are experienced and Bauer will look to his senior class to provide leadership as well as results in the pool.
- * Question marks: "Last year, Tim Dorsch was arguably our best swimmer. We will need some folks to step up and collectively fill his shoes" said Bauer.
- * Outlook: With a state qualifier back in Radcliff and a group of talented swimmers that have improved from last season the Indians should fare well in the new Suburban One Continental Conference and even more importantly do better at this year's District One meet. "Our goal is to compete in every meet and to strive for our fastest times when it really matters," said Bauer. "We would like to take many more qualifiers to districts and for many of those athletes to qualify for states." The news from the diving board is that Souderton's divers are young and will look to contribute as much as possible this season and develop as quickly as they can.

Penridge

- * Coach: Ryan Griffiths (third season)
- * Last year's record: 6-11
- * Notable losses: David Apple, Brian Adams, Brent Heverly, Andy Piazza, Alex Servin (diver)
- * Key returnees: Seniors-Rich Johnson; Dave McVaugh; Brady Werkhesier, diver; Richie Fly, diver; Juniors-RJ Phiambolis; Kyle VanLeer;
- * Others to watch: Seniors-James Faucette; Dan Walker; Freshman-Chris Bashaar;
- * Strengths: "Our team strengths this year is becoming just that, a team," Griffiths said. "We have stepped up our training regiment this year. With a new weightlifting and dry-land programs our team looks to be stronger than ever. We have several district qualifiers returning this season as well as a core group of freshman who have been on our summer and winter aquatic club programs."
- * Question marks: The main question mark this season is how the Rams replace losing a large leadership class of seniors. The seniors of 2008 were strong leaders who controlled the team and kept the team ready to go. While the Rams cannot replace the impact of losing Dave Apple, a state caliber swimmer, they do have a couple of swimmers and divers who can performer at that level.
- "We are in the toughest of the three Suburban One leagues for swimming within the toughest district for swimming in the state," Griffiths said. "We will be presented with the best competition meet in and meet out, will our team be able to rise to the occasions?"

* Outlook: The Rams look to exceed their scores from last season, as well as increase the number of district qualifiers. Their diving core has grown from three to seven and they are looking for at least two of their divers, Werkheiser and Fly, to make some noise at the district competition.

Lansdale Catholic

* Coach: Bob Birnbrauer
* Notable losses: Neil Gogno
* Key returnees: Andrew Urban, Al Augustine, Patrick Augustine, Stanislaw Gawel, Sam Kraynak, Tim McCann, Connor Unger, Tony Mack, Brian Matylewicz, Kevin McGuriman, Brain Wisman
* Others to watch: Nick Augustine, Steve Douglas, Tim Gillen, Harry Kulik
* Strengths: The nucleus of the Crusaders is strong. LC returns district events winners and state event finalists Andrew Urban, Al Augustine and Pat Augustine.
* Question marks: The questions come with the uncertainty that the move to the Philadelphia Catholic League brings. "LC's move to the PCL and District 12 should make this season very different and exciting," Birnbrauer said.
* Outlook: The Crusaders are ready to take the PCL by surprise. With six returning district qualifiers and a strong group of newcomers Lansdale Catholic should make a splash appearance and be able to field a solid dual meet team as well.

Upper Dublin

* Coach: Lisa Fantini
* Last Year's Record: 9-1, 8-0 league; Suburban One American Conference and District One Champs
* Key Losses: Ralph Clayton, Tim Gerrard, Kyle Rooney, Matt Smith
* Key Returnees: Jack Eichenlaub, Sam Fearnside, Dan Fitzgerald, Brit Gergen, Calvin Starosta, Chris Willcox
* Others to Watch: Dave Derr, Gerben Scherpbier, Alex Stine, Ashton Leyens, Brian Wall
* Strengths: Experienced seniors, "team cohesion" and the backstroke are all the biggest strong points for the Cardinals team this year.
* Question Marks: Distance swimming will be a real weakness and cause for concern for Upper Dublin's swim team this year.
* Outlook: Fantini simply says of her outlook for this season: "We look forward to the challenge of defending the title."

Wissahickon

* Coach: Laurie Hug
* Last Year's Record: 8-2
* Key Losses: Chris Schneck, Rich Ryan
* Key Returnees: Adam Bossert, Andrew Nagelberg, Erik Waechter, Ian Smith, Chris Pollack
* Others to Watch: Chris Chiodl Ortiz, Carl Krause
* Strengths: Hug is in her first year at Wissahickon and says her team has a good group of swimmers and a very good returning group of seniors.
* Question Marks: Hug says her team has no drivers, which will be a huge weakness during the season.
* Outlook: Since it's Hug's first year, she really does not know what to expect. With the strong returning seniors, she believes that her team will have some swimmers make it to individuals and states.

Hatboro-Horsham

* Coach: Kip Emig
* Key Losses: Matthew Holland, Steve Topper, Josh Algier, Dan Bolstein, Joe Bickel
* Key Returnees: Andy Rigotti, TJ Guminski
* Others to Watch: Rick Sutton, Mike Schaefer
* Strengths: The Hatters have some pretty good swimmers with the backstroke and with the breaststroke and Emig says that his team is getting bigger, stronger and smarter.
* Question Marks: The Hatters lost five All-American swimmers to graduation, so replacing them will be a huge task for the team this year.
* Outlook: To get as many kids qualified for the district meet is the main goal for Emig and his team. He would like to get one or two swimmers up for the state meets as well.

Archbishop Wood

* Coach: Charlie Stillwell
* Last Year's Record: 0-9
* Key Losses: Dave Keller, Robert Cohen (transfer)
* Key Returnees: Greg Oprendeck
* Others to Watch: Kevin McGuckin, Andre Delvalle, Andrew Gnias
* Strengths: Breast stroke and the fly are the two best strokes for Wood's swimmers this year.
* Question Marks: Size of the team. With a lack of experience and only six swimmers, Wood does not have too much depth on this year's team.
* Outlook: Stillwell says his team should definitely be better than last year, by numbers, from swimmers growing and improving and from the returning athletes.

Upper Moreland

* Coach: Melanie Rowland

- * Last Year's Record: 5-6
- * Key Losses: Albert Schwartz, Eric Dyke
- * Key Returnees: Stephen Rowland, Stew Conard, Pat McPeak
- * Strengths: Upper Moreland has a couple of real good returning swimmers, so experience should be a big factor this year. They placed sixth in states last year and Rowland believes they can continue to swim at a high level.
- * Question Marks: Size. Rowland says her team size and depth are the two big factors of their team this season. They might not be able to place in some races due to the amount of swimmers.
- * Outlook: "The boys know that they have to look at this season as more of a rebuilding year," Rowland said. Her first priority is for her team to reach their individual goals and continue to improve this season.

Abington

- * Coach: Joe Lennon
- * Last Year's Record: 7-8
- * Key Losses: Phil Luu, Travis Pollen, Scott Murrelstein
- * Key Returnees: Sean Staerk, Russell Clayton, Drew Saurman
- * Others to Watch: Tom Garrity, Alexi Dunbrunsaut
- * Strengths: "We are a very good free style team, from short strokes to distance," Lennon said. Depth should help the Ghosts to be successful this season.
- * Question Marks: The Ghosts lost a few swimmers that specialized in the breaststroke, so that could be a factor during the season.
- * Outlook: Abington returns its top-scoring athletes, so Lennon hopes his team should be successful. Lennon hopes to win at least 10 matches this season and improve on last year's record and performance.



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