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# Knights get revenge in rematch against Upper Dublin

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By KEV HUNTER

Staff Writer

TOWAMENCIN — Just before Friday's final event, there were chants of "Upper Dublin" blaring through the natatorium, and the Upper Dublin mascot — a youngster dressed in a Cardinal costume — was running through the stands.

It sounded, and looked, like an Upper Dublin home meet.

But then North Penn's 400 free relay took over.

"We wanted to win," the Knights' Stephen Hoch said. "We wanted to show them who was boss."

'Meet the new boss, same as the old boss.' The Knights regained their identity as the early favorite in the district, earning a 95.5-90.5 victory over the Cardinals at the Rick Carroll Natatorium. The Maidens also earned a victory over Upper Dublin, by the count of 117-69.

While most high school sporting events were canceled due to the weather on Friday, the Knights were busy earning revenge against the team that defeated them at the District One Championships last March.

That stopped the Knights' epic streak of 19 straight district titles. But by pulling out a win over the Cardinals in the final event on Friday, North Penn served notice that it might be starting a new streak come districts.

"This is really big," North Penn's Nick Ortlieb said. "I think a lot of people didn't know that we had this in us. But it shows everybody that we really do now."

"A lot of people weren't expecting to be as good as we were last year because we lost a lot of key people, but I think we definitely showed that we have what it takes, and that we're gonna be strong this year," Hoch said.

The Knights trailed the Cardinals by one point going into the 400 free, so North Penn knew it had to win the relay. Hoch led off by swimming a 49-second split, the fastest of his career, and Jack Else, Ortlieb and Craig Hennessey all followed with their fastest-ever splits to pull out the win.

North Penn finished in 3:14.76, just edging out Upper Dublin's 3:15.19.

"It's always exciting when Upper Dublin comes to town," Knights coach Brian Daly said. "This is one of those meets where it's gotta be a full team effort, not just your top couple guys. We had lifetime bests from a good percentage of our roster. The guys knew that this was a challenge, and they rose to the challenge. They wanted this one."

Hoch and Ortlieb both had monster meets. Ortlieb won the

200 IM and the 100 breast, and Hoch took the 50 free and the 100 fly.

"Nick had a heck of a night - lifetime-best splits, lifetime-best individual times. Hoch breaking 22 in the 50 free was huge, and I think that got some momentum and some confidence in him," Daly said. "When your seniors step up, everybody gets the impression that it's go time, and they gotta step up and get it done."

The Knights finished the meet in commanding fashion, and also started it that way. Zac Nees set a pool record in the diving for the Knights, with a whopping score of 307.05.

"It's his first time over 300, which is a huge accomplishment," Daly said. "I think I'm gonna have to order some more threes for the record board, because we've never had anybody over 300 in this facility, and districts are held here every year, so that tells you something."

The Knights (2-1) were supposed to head to the Parkland Invitational today, but that was canceled due to the weather. Maybe they can enjoy this win for a few days.

"We were fighting for it the whole meet," Ortlieb said. "It was close the whole time. We all fed off of each other the whole way."

Maidens stay perfect

Okay, so don't blame the North Penn girls for not creating as much drama as the boys meet did. The Maidens simply dominated.

North Penn earned a 117-69 win over the Cardinals to improve to 3-0.

Sam Deana (back), Casey O'Neill (breast), Jan Ikeda (fly) and Heather Fellmeth (free) combined to tie a pool record in the 200 medley relay, cranking out a time of 1:52.27 in the first swim event of the meet.

"We were excited," Deana said. "We wanted to start the meet off well and get everybody going."

Deana went on to also win the 100 backstroke, and the Maidens also took first in the 200 free relay. A team of Mary Morris, Casey O'Neill, Heather Fellmeth and Nicole DiBonaventura touched first in 1:39.94.

Morris (200 IM), Ikeda (100 fly) and DiBonaventura (100 free) went on to win individual events for the Maidens.

"The girls swam great today, especially on a day where we weren't sure we were gonna get the meet in," Maidens coach Matt Weiser said. "The 200 medley tied the record we set against Methacton in the first meet of the year, and that's a strong relay for us. A lot of our girls swam very fast today."

The Maidens were also supposed to go to Parkland today, but that was postponed due to the weather.

"We don't have another meet until January, and we're gonna be starting our winter training next week," Weiser said. "Winter training is always the fun time of the year (laugh). The girls will love it then."

## Boys Swimming

North Penn 95.5,

Upper Dublin 90.5

Diving: 1. Zac Nees (NP) 307.05 (pool record); 2. Mike Kohler (NP) 234.25; 3. Caleb Hill (NP) 184.75  
200 medley relay: 1. Upper Dublin (Starosta, Stone, Willcox, Gergen), 1:40.81; 2. North Penn, 1:41.29; 3. Upper Dublin, 1:45.26

200 free: 1. Dan Fitzgerald (UD) 1:46.27; 2. Jack Else (NP) 1:47.50; 3. Brendan Hatfield (NP) 1:51.88

200 IM: 1. Nick Ortlieb (NP) 2:03.91; 2. Chris Willcox (UD) 2:04.38; 3. Peter Kolokithias (NP) 2:08.61

50 free: 1. Stephen Hoch (NP) 21.99; 2. Brit Gergen (UD) 22.84; 3. Dave Derr (UD) 22.98

100 fly: 1. Stephen Hoch (NP) 53.60; 2. Brian Wall (UD) 56.50; 3. Dave Derr (UD) 56.62

100 free: 1. Galvin Starosta (UD) 49.89; 2. Craig Hennessey (NP) 50.28; 3. Brit Gergen (UD) 50.91

500 free: 1. Dan Fitzgerald (UD) 4:51.14; 2. Jack Else (NP) 4:53.88; 3. Brendan Hatfield (NP) 5:04.25

200 free relay: 1. Upper Dublin, 1:28.94; 2. North Penn (Hoch, Chesmar, Else, Hennessey), 1:29.48; 3. Upper Dublin, 1:34.37

100 back: 1. Calvin Starosta (UD) 54.39; 2. Kolokithias (NP) 58.70; 3. Ashton Levens (UD) 59.60

100 breast: 1. Ortlieb (NP) 1:01.32; 2. Chris Willcox (UD) 1:04.29; 3. Sam Fearnside (UD) 1:04.38

400 free relay: 1. North Penn (Hoch, Else, Ortlieb, Hennessey), 3:14.76; 2. Upper Dublin, 3:15.19; 3. North Penn, 3:23.84.

\* By coach's request, full girls results were not published.

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