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SPORTS DESK: (215) 361-8821
EMAIL: sports@thereporteronline.com
FAX: (215) 855-3432

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SECTION C

DISTRICT 1-AAAA CONSOLATION

Bucks stay alive with win over Bensalem

By CHRISTIAAN DEFRANCO
Assistant Sports Editor

DOYLESTOWN — It was no bloodbath, even if the CB West student section was clad in red to signify the slaughtering of Bensalem. But it did get a bit rowdy. After the dust settled from 36 foul calls, including three technicals against the visiting Owls, the Bucks came away with a 58-50 victory in Friday night's District 1-AAAA boys basketball playback game.

"It got a little crazy," said West coach Adam Sherman, whose club will host Neshaminy on Tuesday and is now two wins away from a state berth.

"At first the refs weren't calling anything, then they were calling everything," Sherman said. "By then they'd lost control of the game. It was some adversity, but our kids handled it well."

West's Reills Reichwein led all scoring with 22 points, while Patrick Furst added 13.

Junior scoring point guard Nick Christian and sophomore swingman Ivan Flores had 18 points apiece for Bensalem.

No. 11 Central Bucks West was in control most of the first half, only briefly losing the lead in the second quarter but going

back up, 30-24, by halftime. Bucks turnovers and a string of deadly three-pointers by Flores kept the margin close.

In the second half, there were four ties and six lead changes as the 14th-seeded Owls — to whom West lost in a wild meeting last month — scratched their way back.

A four-point play by Ryan Dyer, who was fouled hard beyond the arc, put West (19-6) up for good midway through the fourth quarter.

"We increased our intensity on defense," Sherman said. "We got some big stops at the end."

Bucks senior Shane Tyksinski had the tall task of defending

Christian most of the night, and held him to just one field goal the entire first half. Seven of Christian's points came from the foul line late in the contest. He produced just one field goal in the fourth period after emerging for eight points in the third.

Tyksinski finished with seven points, as did teammate Joe Di-lullo.

The Bucks uncharacteristically struggled from the line all evening, hitting just 18-of-29, but were a red-hot 6-of-10 from downtown.

The Owls (17-7) had a large and loud contingent of fans in



MARK C. PSORAS/THE REPORTER
Please see BUCKS on C2 CB WEST'S Shane Tyksinski (4) goes to work on Friday night.

DISTRICT 1 BOYS DIVING

Another Zac attack at NP



NORTH PENN'S Zac Nees won the boys diving district diving title on Friday night at North Penn.

Knights' Nees takes home gold at boys district diving championships

By KEV HUNTER
Staff Writer

TOWAMENCIN — Warming up a little bit earlier than everybody else, North Penn's Zac Nees was shocked to see all of the divers that were making their way into the Rick Carroll Natatorium on Friday night, and soon joining him in pre-meet warmups.

"Seeing that many people on our boards was a little overwhelming," Nees said. "But after I got my head in it and I

was into my diving, I was fine after that."

It was a bigger field this year for the District One Championships, but it only made Nees dive even better. The senior started strong and finished strong, winning his first district title by a comfortable margin.

His score of 475.25 topped a stellar performance by Souderton freshman Ozzie Moyer, who finished with a 416.10 to earn silver. The Knights took two of the top three spots, with the Knights' Mike Kohler earning bronze with a score of

383.60.

All three earned a spot in states - the top eight in Class AAA qualify. For Nees, this district championship meet was about making that one final push - last year he was beat out for the gold by just three points by Neshaminy's Brian Gemberling, now graduated.

"I was pretty confident - I was looking to break Brian's record but it didn't happen," Nees said. "I had a couple off dives."

Nees' final two dives evoked some of

the loudest cheers of the night from the packed natatorium, and he was onto states for the third year in a row.

"After a few dives, (my confidence) started to build, and then it dropped a little in the second group of dives, but after that I knew I had a strong last three," the senior said.

Nees placed third at states last year, and one of the divers that finished ahead of him graduated last season. He's hoping

Please see NEES on C2

Rustin ends Indians' season

By MIKE CABREY
Staff Writer

WESTTOWN — The Souderton boys basketball team tried everything it could in the second half to fight off elimination Friday night. But the hole the Indians has gotten themselves into earlier was just too deep.

No. 9 seed West Chester Rustin outscored No. 17 Souderton 20-8 in the second quarter to go from five points ahead to holding a 39-22 advantage at intermission. The Indians could never get back within striking distance, as they fell to the Golden Knights in the District One Class AAAA Playback 66-52.

"I thought we played a pretty solid second half," Souderton coach Perry Engard said. "To beat an undefeated league champ — they're undefeated in the Ches-Mont — and an eight seed. To defeat a team like that you got to play four quarters."

"I was proud of their effort in the second half in that they got after it. We won the second half, we just didn't win it by enough to make a game of it."

Souderton did have more points than the Golden Knights in the second half — 30 to 27 — but Big Red was never able to string together a serious run to threaten Rustin's lead. The closest the Indians were in the second half was 11 when A.J. Picard knocked down a trey to make it 47-36.

The loss ends the Indians' season at 15-10 and stops Souderton's state appearance streak at two.

"It is certainly our goal coming into every season, making it to states" said senior Jimmy Connolly, who finished with 13 points. "We're done it the last two years, but you can't look back and say this season's a failure just cause we didn't make it. We had some great wins this year and everyone's played well."

Picard paced the Indians with

Please see INDIANS on C2

Pitching staff pacing themselves

By RYAN LAWRENCE
Journal Register News Service

CLEARWATER, Fla. — As a standing-room only crowd peered onto the field through a chain-linked fence, Ryan Howard dug into the batter's box and waited for Clay Condrey to deliver.

No home run. No swing and miss. No action whatsoever.

The first day of live batting practice at Camp Clearwater — when Condrey took on Howard, Joe Blanton pitched to Eric Bruntlett and Matt Stairs, Jamie Moyer faced off against Greg

Dobbs — didn't exactly produce highlights for the Phils faithful to feast their eyes upon.

The spring training drill, however, surely served a purpose in the big picture. When fully developed, that picture will likely reveal a collection of Phillies pitchers that will be locked, loaded and prepared for the lengthy



regular season ahead.

"There wasn't too many swings, but that's part of it," Phillies hitter-happy manager Charlie Manuel said, with a nod of approval.

Major league relievers have to be ready to work nearly every day of the regular season. In spring training, it's about pacing, building and finding a comfort level to prep for the physical and mental rigors of the summer.

It sounds simple. But the chal-

Please see STAFF on C5

Calvary bounced by Church

Season ends with district quarterfinal defeat

By NEIL GEOGHEGAN
Journal Register News Service

PLYMOUTH MEETING — Playing in its first outing of the postseason, the Church Farm basketball squad exhibited some noticeable jitters on Friday, including sub-.500 free throw shooting and a strange but brief meltdown in the fourth quarter.

As imperfect as the Griffins 62-46 Class A District 1 quarterfinal victory over Calvary Bap-

tist was, it was also quite convincing. Church Farm (16-7 overall) advances to the semifinals on Tuesday to face top-seeded Faith Christian, and now needs just one win in their next two outings to advance to the PIAA Tournament.

INSIDE
■ Dock motors to semis
See C2

CHURCH	62
CALVARY	46

"I felt like we had control of the game and we just had to finish it off," said CFS head coach Marc Turner. "We got a little careless. I think it might have been first game nerves."

Clinging to a five-point half-time lead, the fourth-seeded Griffins took command by scoring 12 of the first 13 points of the second half. Six-foot-three, 215-pound forward Cordell Long poured in seven of his game-high 16 points during the rally.

"In the second half we picked

Please see CALVARY on C2