

NP's Nees, HGP's Esposito capture district diving titles

By: KAREN SANGILLO The Intelligencer

The Knights' senior topped runner-up Ozzie Moyer of Souderton by better than 59 points in Class AAA, while the Firebirds' sophomore repeated in Class AA.

TOWAMENCIN - Zac Nees of North Penn went wire-to-wire to win the District One Class AAA boys diving championship on Friday night at his home pool, North Penn's Rick Carroll Natatorium.

Nees led after the preliminaries and semifinals before capturing first place with a score of 475.25 points.

"I was pretty confident," said Nees, who finished second at this meet last year. "I knew my last three dives were strong so after the semifinals I felt good."

He finished third at the state meet last year.

"I think this could be my best year ever," he said. "I'm looking for top two, but hopefully I can come out with first place."

Nees, a senior, also earned the Roy J. Moose Award, given to the diver with the highest score for the competition.

Ozzie Moyer of Souderton finished second (416.10).

"At the beginning of the year, I didn't think I'd be here," said Moyer, a freshman. "I just wanted to get to districts and do well; I never thought I'd do this well."

"I was really jittery the first couple of dives, but after my back dive, I felt really good."

Mike Kohler of North Penn was third (383.60), TJ Schenkel of Council Rock South was fifth (371.50) and William Tennent's Greg Mulherin was seventh (367.25).

Schenkel was eighth last year, just missing a state berth.

"There were a few dives that I could have done better," said Schenkel, a sophomore. "It's kind of hard to know where you are sometimes with the judging, and the field was huge this year, but I got through and now I'm really looking forward to states."

It is the first state trip for Mulherin, a senior.

"Greg dove consistently and that's what he needed to do to finish in the top eight," Tennent coach Lisa Forlini said. "I'm very pleased that he is getting the opportunity to dive at states and I know he is, too."

All of these divers move on to the PIAA championships.

In Class AA, Joe Esposito of Holy Ghost Prep won the title for the second consecutive year.

"I'm really happy," said Esposito, a sophomore. "It's a good accomplishment."

"I know I won last year, but I was still a little bit nervous; everyone else was diving their best, so it was a good competition."

Pat McPeak of Upper Moreland was second for the second year in a row (353.70).

McPeak was leading after the preliminaries before being overtaken by Esposito in the semifinals.

"That was good for me because I had to step it up," Esposito said. "Now I'm really looking forward to going to states."

"I made it to the finals of states last year, and that gives me confidence for this year."

Esposito and McPeak advanced to the PIAA championships.

Sam Kraynak of Lansdale Catholic was third (315.15) and JP Zarolli of Upper Moreland was fifth (301.80).

The PIAA championships are slated for March 11-14 at Bucknell University.

District One Boys

Class AAA

1. Zac Nees (North Penn), 475.25 points; 2. Ozzie Moyer (Souderton), 416.10; 3. Mike Kohler (North Penn), 383.60; 4. Chris Murphy (Ridley), 373.65; 5. TJ Schenkel (Council Rock South), 371.50; 6. Alex Cohen (Abington), 370.65; 7. Greg Mulherin (William Tennent), 367.25; 8. Logan Knauss (St. Joe's Prep), 366.15.

Class AA

1. Joe Esposito (Holy Ghost Prep), 384.85 points; 2. Pat McPeak (Upper Moreland), 353.70; 3. Sam Kraynak (Lansdale Catholic), 315.15; 4. Nick Picknally (Springfield M), 308.15; 5. JP Zarolli (Upper Moreland), 301.80; 6. Vinnie Giangiulio (Upper Merion), 290.55; 7. Simon Whitelaw (Strath Haven), 273.05; 8. Evan Barr (Bishop Shanahan), 266.40.

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