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

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SECTION C

Dawkins could be bound for Denver

Giants also interested in Eagles safety

By **BOB GROTZ**
For The Reporter

For die-hard Eagles fans, the second day of free agency cannot be much more trying than the first.

Eagles icon Brian Dawkins, coming off his fifth Pro Bowl season, seemed less a signing priority Friday than free agent offensive tackle Stacy Andrews, coming off season-ending knee surgery for torn anterior cruciate and medial collateral ligaments.

While Dawkins, 35, jetted to

Denver in search of a contract proposal, Andrews, the older brother of Eagles guard Shawn Andrews, dropped in for a visit that many have concluded will result in a job.

Amid a report Dawkins had agreed to terms with the Broncos came another that the Eagles still were negotiating with the veteran.

There also were reports the New York Giants could get into the hunt for Dawkins.

Dawkins wouldn't be alone in Denver. Former teammate Correll Buckhalter, the 30-year-old

running back, made the most of his second foray into free agency, signing a four-year contract with the Broncos. The Broncos also signed third-down back J.J. Arrington, formerly of the Arizona Cardinals, to a four-year pact.

Andrews (6-7, 342), who turns 28 in June, is almost a year older than Shawn. He started 15 games at right tackle last season with the Cincinnati Bengals before blowing out his knee. The Bengals took Andrews of the board in the fourth round of the 2004 draft.

The Eagles insisted Andrews

hadn't signed or agreed to terms, and that he was only in for a visit with a physical. But it's hard to imagine the Eagles declining to sign Andrews assuming he passes the physical. How do you think Shawn would take that?

"It would be a great feeling," Stacy Andrews told reporters of joining the Eagles Friday. "It would be a boost to me, Shawn and the organization."

The Eagles scheduled a news conference for 11:30 a.m. today.

Signing Andrews could mean the end of the road for iron man Jon Runyan, who has impacted the offensive line more than any Eagle. The cruel twist of fate for the 35-year-old Runyan, who has

played in 192 straight games, second-most among active NFL players, is that he's out of work due to a knee injury.

Free agent Tra Thomas, 34, the longtime left offensive tackle for the Eagles, is healthy but apparently not a signing priority.

Among other Eagles hitting free agency, backup safety Sean Considine agreed to terms on a contract with the Jacksonville Jaguars, and tight end L.J. Smith



DAWKINS

reportedly was close to a deal with the Atlanta Falcons.

Meanwhile the Washington Redskins rocked the league and the NFC East in negotiating a seven-year \$100 million contract with defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth. About \$41 million of it is guaranteed. The Eagles really don't want to block the 6-6, 320-pound Haynesworth twice a year.

Also, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers traded second and fifth-round picks to the Cleveland Browns for tight end Kellen Winslow, who would have been the answer to the Eagles' red zone problems.

That said, it only was the first day of free agency.

District delight



MARK C. PSORAS / THE REPORTER

THE NORTH Penn Knights boys swim team rallies together during the District 1 Championships at La Salle University in North Philadelphia.

Souderton girls, NP boys in lead

Area swimmers start strong in districts

By **KEV HUNTER**
Staff Writer

PHILADELPHIA — The Souderton Area girls swim team began the district championships in record-breaking fashion.

The 200 medley relay team of Mariel Kush, Angela Severn, Paige Whitmire and Chloe Thomas broke a record that had stood since before any of them were born, swimming to a first-place time of 1 minute, 47.38 sec-

onds in the opening event of the District One Class AAA Championships at LaSalle University's Kirk Pool on Friday morning.

The mark of 1:47.38 replaced the previous record of 1:47.69, set in 1990 by North Penn. It was the perfect start for a near-perfect day for the Indians.

The Big Red did better than most people expected last year at districts, finishing second. This year, they are the favorite to

Please see **SWIM** on C3



MARK C. PSORAS / THE REPORTER

SOUDERTON'S PAIGE Whitmire (right) and Missy Doll embrace after the 50 freestyle.

Phillies cut ties with bust pitcher Eaton

By **RYAN LAWRENCE**
For The Reporter

SARASOTA, Fla. — The Phillies swallowed their pride — and a truckload of cash — when they shrank their roster size by one Friday morning.

The team put an end to the failed Adam Eaton Experiment, releasing the right-hander prior to leaving Clearwater, Fla., for an exhibition game against the Reds in Sarasota. Eaton, who received hugs and handshakes from teammates throughout the morning, is entering the third

and final season of a three-year, \$24.5 million contract he signed with the Phillies in November of 2006.

The Phillies are still on the hook for the \$9.15 million Eaton is owed in salary this season — \$8.65 in salary and additional \$500,000 on the buy-out of a 2010 club option. The Phils can get a small piece back if another club signs Eaton after the 48-hour waiver wire window expires.

His new team would be responsible for paying Eaton the major league minimum — \$400,000.

"You make the right decisions on

guys, and sometimes you don't," in admitting the organization's near-\$25 million mistake. "This is a situation where it just didn't pan out for us."

Eaton was originally drafted by the Phillies in the first-round of the 1996 draft — one round before they chose Jimmy Rollins. In his second go-round with the team, Eaton never lived up to that potential or his lucrative contract.

"This organization obviously thought highly enough to draft me No.1 ... and (then) make a big splash

in the off-season going into the '07 season, and thought well enough of me to make a bigger splash signing me to a three-year deal," Eaton said. "When I left last time they got Andy Ashby (in a trade). When I leave now they just get Andy Ashby's contract, I guess."

Eaton will likely go down with the likes of Lance Parrish and Danny Tartabull among the biggest free agent busts in team history. In his first two seasons, Eaton earned \$14.5

Please see **PHILS** on C2

West falls in 2 OTs

State dream again ends a game short

By **MIKE CABREY**
Staff Writer

PLYMOUTH MEETING — The heartbreak the Central Bucks West boys basketball team suffered Friday night will stay with the members of the squad for a long, long time.

Twice this postseason, the Bucks were a win away from securing a spot in the PIAA tournament. Twice West has come up just short in extra time.

Glen Mills' Lavander Johns connected on a three-pointer with one second remaining in double overtime, handing the No. 12 Battling Bulls a 60-57 victory over No. 11 West in the District One Class AAAA Ninth Place Game at Colonial Elementary School in Plymouth Meeting.

The win gives Glen Mills the district's final bid into the PIAA tournament, while ending the Bucks' season at 20-7 overall.

"To tell you the truth, it's actually starting to get a little bit comical," West senior Chris Dilullo said. "It's so hard, because you put so much in. Three years of hard work and your main goal is to go to states. And since I've been a sophomore, we've been so close the past three years."

"I'm speechless. It sucks."

It has seem to become the Bucks' unfortunately lot to be on the wrong end

Please see **WEST** on C2

Dock denied state bid

Church Farm just too hot to handle

By **THOMAS D. MCGLINCHY**
For The Reporter

LOWER GWYNEDD — Friday night's District One Class A Playback contest at Wissahickon High between No. 3-seed Christopher Dock and No. 4-seed Church Farm is sure to leave some scars on the players that participated, some more than others.

What was at stake? A chance to be the third seed out of District One and to play against District Two's second seed in a PIAA Class A Play-in Round on Tuesday night.

Essentially, it was a chance to have a chance to make the state tournament. Winner moves on, loser goes home.

The Griffins (16-8) held on to a narrow four point lead at the start of the fourth quarter to defeat the Pioneers 49-41 in what was a physical battle from start to finish.

"We had some miscues at inappropriate times," said Pioneers' coach

Please see **DOCK** on C3