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Boys swimming: UM, Dock boys plus NP medley relay clinch state swimming spots

By Bill Keen
Staff Writer

PHILADELPHIA - Upper Moreland does not have a reputation for being a boys' swimming power - but at least it has a team, which is certainly more than Christopher Dock can say.

However, a little thing like that wasn't about to stop the Pioneers' Michael Kramer or the Golden Bears' Stephen Rowland, a pair of Class AA athletes who collected the only two gold medals area teams captured at the Friday session of the PIAA District One boys' swimming championships at La Salle University. Kramer and Rowland clinched automatic berths in the PIAA state championship meet at Bucknell University.

In fact, were it not for North Penn's fourth-place 200-yard medley relay team, area schools would have been shut out in the quest for Class AAA automatic bids to states.

Without question, Kramer was easily the night's proudest champion.

Dock's one-man program, seeded second in the 100 butterfly behind Devon Prep's Patrick Mannion, was in lane four with Mannion in three and Upper Moreland's Stew Conard on the far outside in lane one.

"When I got up on that block, I just thought I (had) to go, this is it," said Kramer, a junior whose smile was as wide as his face. "When I finished on the wall, I saw my own splash and I thought (Mannion) had beaten me ... I looked over and he hadn't even finished and I thought, 'I've won, I've won districts.' I didn't even see (Conard)."

Kramer's winning time was 54.28 seconds with Conard at 54.43, a personal best by more than three seconds. It was the Upper Moreland's senior's second silver medal of the night, matching the one he collected in the 200 individual medley (2:00.43); while he will have to wait to see if his times are fast enough to earn him one of 16 at-large bids to states, both broke school records that were on the books since 1988.

In his own way, Rowland's gold was just as amazing as Kramer's.

"At the beginning of this week I was really sick and I wasn't even sure I was going to be able to swim," said the Bears' senior, who will be making his fourth consecutive trip to Lewisburg. "I was sick for about four or five days and it really set me back, (but) when I came in (tonight) I knew I had it in me, I knew I could get the gold."

Also in Class AA, Holy Ghost Prep sophomore Chris Doherty should have a good chance of an at-large bid to states in the IM where he was fifth (2:09.71). He'll be a longer shot in the fly because of a 10th place finish.

Friday was a dismal day for area AAA teams. North Penn's overall depth enabled it to overtake Boyertown and Upper Dublin to finish in first place in the day one team standings with 132 points to 123 for the Flying Cardinals and 121 for the Bears.

Knights' senior Stephan Hoch swam the butterfly on the state-bound medley relay. Individually he missed automatic trips to states by hundredths-of-a-second. He was sixth in the 50 free in 21.76 with 21.72 the fourth place time; in the fly-Boyertown's Wes Trumbauer was fourth in 52.11, Hoch was fifth in 52.14.

Central Bucks East is fifth in the team standings and should advance its 200 free relay team to states (5th place) along with Colson Ferrari (7th in the IM), Mark Dilemno and Kevin Magee (8th and 9th in the fly) likely candidates.

For Central Bucks West, Sean Cook has the best shot after a sixth in the 200 free. Council Rock North junior James Sturner (9th, IM) and Dave Brown (11th 200 free) are the Indians' top hopes, while Pennsbury's best shot belongs to junior Matt Chrzanowski, a distant but still swift 14th in the 50 free (22.31).

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PIAA District One

Boys Swimming Championships

Class AAA

200-yard medley relay: 1. Upper Dublin (Dan Fitzgerald, Chris Wilcox, Dave Derr, Calvin Starosta), 1:34.99 (meet record); 2. Boyertown, 1:37.81; 3. Downingtown East, 1:38.32; **200 freestyle:** 1. Shane Austin (Unionville), 1:39.62 (meet record); 2. Jordan Hartman (Boyertown), 1:42.56; 3. Fitzgerald (Upper Dublin), 1:43.58; **200 individual medley:** 1. Dave McCormick (West Chester Henderson), 1:54.25; 2. Matt Salig (Downingtown East), 1:55.29; 3. Connor Yoo (Bayard Rustin), 1:57.93; **50 freestyle:** 1. Tom Rhoads (Academy Park), 21.41; 2. Shane Ryan (Haverford), 21.51; 3. David Baldino (West Chester Henderson), 21.64; **100 butterfly:** 1. Andrew Kusic (West Chester Henderson), 48.87 (meet record); 2. James Wilson (Oxford), 51.68; 3. Robbie Norton (Radnor), 52.03; **200 freestyle relay:** 1. West Chester Henderson (Kusic, Mark Bayer, McCormick, Baldino), 1:25.00 (meet record); Upper Dublin, 1:27.03; 3. Boyertown, 1:27.26.

Class AA

200-yard medley relay: 1. Harriton (Will Schlosser, Jon Maltz, Alex Flake, Hunter Harrison), 1:42.98; 2. Springfield-Delco, 1:45.40; 3. Bishop Shanahan, 1:45.53; **200 freestyle:** 1. Stephen Rowland (Upper Moreland), 1:45.93; 2. Schlosser (Harriton), 1:46.65; 3. John Quagliariello (Springfield-Delco), 1:49.24; **200 individual medley:** 1. John Hauser (St. Pius X), 1:55.29; 2. Stew Conard (Upper Moreland), 2:00.43; 3. Rob Wagner (Harriton), 2:02.42; **50 freestyle:** 1. Harrison (Harriton), 22.06; Hugh Pedley (Springfield-Montco), 22.07; 3. Pat Dignazio (Strath Haven), 22.19; **100 butterfly:** 1. Michael Kramer (Christopher Dock), 54.28; Conard (Upper Moreland), 54.43; 3. Derek Donato (Springfield-Delco), 55.26; **200 freestyle relay:** 1 (tie). Springfield-Montco (Jake Oeschger, Ryan McWilliams, John Hacking, Pedley) and Strath Haven (Damien Kahmer, Jeremy Emata, Dignazio, JC Logan), 1:29.20; 3. Upper Moreland, 1:31.83.

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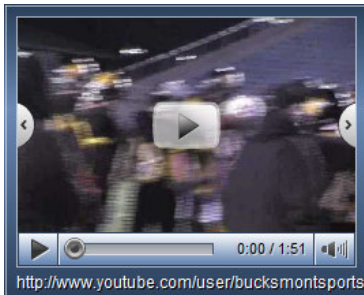
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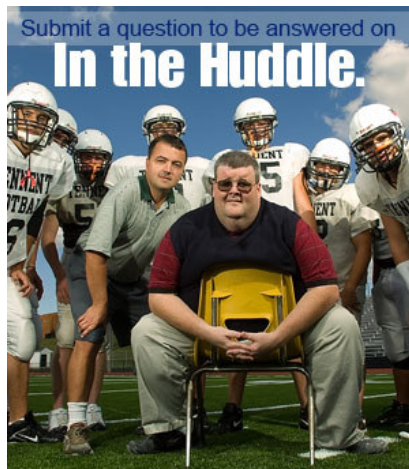
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