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Sports

## Local scholastic standouts Fanslau, Starosta and Borkowski primed to lead West Chester University to top of NCAA Division II

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By DENNY DYROFF  
For The Times Herald

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WEST GOSHEN — West Chester University is once again one of the premier NCAA Division II programs in both men's and women's swimming. And, as usual, the Golden Rams are being paced by a number of former scholastic swim standouts from the Times Herald area.

A few weeks ago, both WCU squads improved to 2-1 with convincing wins over visiting Bloomsburg University. A pair of swimmers who were Times Herald Swimmers of the Year – Brendan Fanslau (2006, North Penn) and Calvin Starosta (2009, Upper Dublin) – led the Ram men to a 146-111 PSAC win.

Jackie Borkowski, who swam for Methacton High and was the area's best public school swimmer from 2003-2006, logged multiple wins to fuel the Ram women's 146-116 victory over the Huskies. The talented senior placed first in the 100-yard butterfly at 58.42 and first in the 200 fly at 2:11.40.

Borkowski, who is a 16-time All-American after three seasons, was "Outstanding Swimmer of the Meet" at last year's PSAC Championships -- along with WCU's Matt Golebiewski, who was a Times Herald Swimmer of the Year when he competed for Plymouth Whitemarsh.

In addition to her individual wins in the meet against Bloomsburg, Borkowski also teamed with Laura Graesser, Leah Varvaro, and Dani Scott to take first in the 400 free relay. WCU coach Jamie Rudisill had most of his team swimming in events other than usual. As a result, there were no other individual multiple-winners.

"He (Rudisill) pretty much put everyone in different events – but it worked out," said Borkowski. "A lot of us did well in events we never thought we could. I did my best 200 fly time ever with a 2:11. And, my 58 in the 100 fly wasn't bad."

When the morning meet at WCU's Graham Natatorium concluded, Borkowski had to hustle over to Farrell Stadium. At halftime of the Rams' football game against Bloomsburg, Borkowski was honored as West Chester University's 2008-2009 Women's Athlete-of-the-Year.

There were four individual double-winners in the men's meet and Starosta was one of them. The former UD all-star took first in the 100 backstroke (55.01) and 200 back (2:01.04).

"My times were pretty good today – a little faster than they were at this time last year," said Starosta. "This was our last meet

before we start to taper for Virginia (Cavalier Classic at the University of Virginia on December 2 and 3). I'm feeling good going into it."

Fanslau, who was a four-time all area selection when he swam for North Penn, posted a gold medal finish in the 100-yard freestyle at the PIAA Class AAA Swimming and Diving Championships when he was a senior. In the Bloomsburg meet, he swam "off" events and placed in the 100 breaststroke and 500 freestyle.

"My main events here are the 50, 100 and 200 freestyle races," said Fanslau. "When I swam at North Penn, I played water polo in the fall and always got a late start for swimming. Here, I've been able to get started early. Right now, I'm just building – working hard and not taking any days off."

The Bloomsburg-West Chester meet also provided a homecoming for a number of area standouts who now swim for the Huskies – Perkiomen Valley's Tommy Hayes and Bridget Hilferty, North Penn's Nick Ortlieb and Upper Dublin's Jack Eichenlaub, Julia DeVincent and Melanie Redican.

"I'm a lot stronger than I was this time a year ago," said 200 free runner-up Hilferty, who was a state meet competitor for Perk Valley last year. "My times still aren't where I want them. But, I feel better."

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