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Intelligencer Swimming Notebook: Kolokithias proves value to North Penn

By: **Todd Thorpe**
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TEXT SIZE

By Bill Keen
 Staff Writer

Some area teams would have a big-time problem if a swimmer with the talent and versatility of **North Penn** junior Peter Kolokithias was injured and couldn't compete for even a few meets.

He is a backstroke and individual medley specialist, meaning head coach Brian Daly can ask him to swim just about any event knowing that a top-three finish, if not a victory, is a distinct possibility.

This past week was a perfect example of the way an athlete like Kolokithias makes his coach's job easier.

Wednesday, the Knights won their showdown with **Souderton**, 103-75, Kolokithias was second behind teammate Patrick Dunigan in the IM and finished first in the backstroke. Friday, when North Penn beat **Central Bucks West**, 96-75, Kolokithias won the 200 freestyle and was second in the butterfly — the only one of the four where he failed to better the PIAA District One Class AAA qualifying time.

It was quite an impressive week, considering a recent injury left him sidelined and unable to help the team earlier in the season.

"Peter's been out of the water for a while because of a cut on his hand," said Daly after the Souderton meet. "His times weren't bad today. They were just a little bit off his best times, but that's to be expected since he's transitioning back to the water."

"For him to come back, just get some competition and pop out some nice times, I'm happy to see him back."

I'll lead, you follow

Last season as a sophomore, Souderton's Chloe Thomas had the luxury of concentrating on improving her own times in the 50 and 100 freestyle without having to worry about being a team leader. That job fell to ultra-talented seniors Paige Whitmire and Angela Severn.

When head coach Todd Bauer named the members of his "A" relay teams for the postseason, Thomas joined the two seniors and then-junior Missy Doll in the 200 and 400 free relays. Both relay teams went on to win state championships.

This season, with Whitmire and Severn gone, Thomas is one of the veterans who must lead her younger teammates.

Wednesday, when the Indians lost a 110-76 decision to North Penn, Thomas displayed postseason form. Her winning time in the 50 free, 24.80, was just off the 24.58 she swam at states, where she was 18th. While she still has a lot of chances to shave her times even more, she has already adapted quite nicely to the leadership role she now must fill.

"I definitely feel a little pressure," she said. "I just tell myself to stay calm and don't let the nerves get to me so that I can just do my job."

While Thomas has two state relay gold medals already to her credit, she isn't satisfied.

"I still want to get the relays (to states)," Thomas said. "But I also want to get there individually and try to go after some medals for myself."

Just the Facts

Keen's Top 5 Boys

1. Germantown Academy (3-1)
2. North Penn (6-1)
3. William Tennent (5-1)
4. Central Bucks East (5-1)

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Girls

1. North Penn (7-0)
2. Germantown Academy (3-1)
3. Souderton (6-2)
4. Central Bucks East (5-1)
5. William Tennent (4-2)

Meets to watch

* Wednesday at 3:45 p.m., there's a showdown in both the boys and girls' Top 5 with Souderton at Central Bucks East.

* Friday, Germantown Academy's boys try to take a giant step towards the Inter-Ac title at home against Penn Charter starting at 3:30 p.m.

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