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The Intelligencer

Souderton takes 1st shot at 2nd place

By: **Bill Keen**
The Intelligencer

TEXT SIZE

The problem with being in the same league as a powerhouse like North Penn is that every season starts with the rest of the teams fighting for second place. They can tell themselves that no team wins a meet on paper no matter how dominant the program might be, but they also know they have to beat North Penn, because North Penn will never beat itself.

So it is that second place becomes a valuable consolation prize, and, on Jan. 13, when both the Knights and Maidens withstood Souderton's challenge in their dual meet, the Indians dropped into the all-too-familiar Battle of the Bridesmaids.

Wednesday, Souderton faced Central Bucks East in the Patriots' pool. Souderton's boys won only four events, however superior depth allowed them to take second and third behind every East winner as Souderton's boys won, 107-79. The girls' meet was a bit closer, but the Indians swam off with a 103-83 victory, giving the Indians a leg up on the field - in the fight for second, that is.

Double trouble

Their teams might have come up second best in their battle with Souderton, but CB East's Mark DiLemmo and Katie Dempster each won two individual events.

DiLemmo, whose teammate Kevin Magee also won twice, touched the wall first in the 100-yard butterfly and the 200 freestyle.

"Mark came very close to breaking Kevin McCann's (1998 school) record in the butterfly," East coach Ed Walsh said. "In fact, this is the third time this season he almost broke it, so it's definitely within his grasp; he's been working his tail off, and so have Kevin (Magee) and all the guys."

Dempster's wins came in the 200 individual medley and the 100 fly as she continues to work toward her goal of qualifying for the PIAA District One Class AAA meet in every individual event.

"Katie has been going hard all season because she wants to meet the goal she set for herself," Patriots girls coach Tom Kane said. "So far, she has met the district time in the 100, 200 and 500 free, the IM, fly and breaststroke, but not the backstroke; that's been her Achilles heel."

A message to the Inter-Ac

In the first meet of the season, Episcopal Academy's girls handed Germantown Academy its first loss ever in the Inter-Academic League, 103-81. However, the Patriots' top four swimmers - Taylor Sneed, Madeline Maher, Bridget Casey and Kacie Ciampoli - missed the meet because they were competing in the Junior Nationals.

As a point of comparison, Friday's GA-Penn Charter meet offers a chance to make a pretty good guess about how things might have changed. Penn Charter had been undefeated coming in, but they were crushed, 129-56.

Using their times from Friday and plugging them into the Episcopal meet, Maher and Casey both went 2:09-and-change in the 200 IM, compared to the winning 2:18.96 Episcopal's Tara O'Prey had that day. Casey and Sneed were 57-and-change in the 100 fly - GA's Rebecca Dugan won that day in 1:00.49, with Episcopal getting second and third.

There were other similar, dramatic differences. Perhaps we'll get a better idea of what might have been at the Inter-Ac championship meet Tuesday, Feb. 9.

Keen's Top 5

Girls

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3. Souderton (7-2)
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Boys

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

Meet to watch

? The Germantown Academy boys can clinch the Inter-Ac title Tuesday when they host Haverford School at 3:45 p.m.

Call Mike ... at 615-615-6105 or Mike@PhillyBurbs.com

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