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North Penn's Murray is heading to states after third place finish

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By DENNY DYROFF
For The Times Herald

LANSDALE — North Penn fared the best of all the local teams at this year's District 1 Boys' Class AAA Diving Championships, which were held Saturday at North Penn High's Rick Carroll Natatorium.

Setting the pace was Frankie Murray. The Knights' veteran senior finished third with a score of 448.30. T.J. Schenkel from Council Rock South won the gold medal at 458.20 and the silver medal went to Ozzie Moyer from Souderton with a score of 452.15.

The top eight finishers at the District 1 Class AAA meet also receive berths at the PIAA Championships which will be held mid-March at Bucknell University. So, Murray had his ticket to Lewisburg validated.

"In the prelims, I seemed to hit my one-and-one-half well," said Murray, a senior. "I did well on all my voluntaries but I didn't do my two-and-one-half that well. After that round (prelims), I started to step it up.

"I dove pretty consistently in the semis. I got 7's and 7.5's on my inward one-and-one-half. I got it up and was above the board when I came out. I had time to line it up and drop it. In the finals, I liked my front somersault with two-and-one-half twists. It was one of the best tops I ever had."

North Penn's Mike Kohler placed seventh with a score of 414.30 and his Knight teammate Josh Hoch took 10th place at 384.60.

"I was happiest with my last dive – back one-and-one-half with one-and-one-half twists," said Kohler, a Knight senior. "It's always been my best dive and I nailed it tonight. My inward double was better than I expected. I had a good hurdle and everything went smooth."

The area's other top finishers were Methacton's Kyle Schultz, who was 11th with a score of 384.35 and Plymouth Whitmarsh's Mike Hufnagel, who finished 13th at 371.75.

"My inward was a good dive," said Schultz. "I scored 7's and 7.5's. My toes were pointed and I had a good entry. I also did my two-and-one-half well. I had the height and I actually kicked out of it at the right time."

Other local competitors in Saturday's Class AAA meet were North Penn's A.J. Russo (17th), Plymouth

Whitemarsh's Alfred Garvey (27th), Norristown's Danny Staufenberg (32nd) and Methacton's Craig Mootz (36th).

In the Class AA Championships, Upper Merion's Will Stephens placed third overall with a score of 271.30. Holy Ghost Prep's Joe Esposito took first at 409.75 and Bishop Shanahan's Evan Barr was runner-up with a score of 328.45.

District 1 Diving Championships

At North Penn High

Boys'

Class AA

Joe Esposito (Holy Ghost Prep) 409.75, Evan Barr (Bishop Shanahan) 328.45, Will Stephens (U. Merion) 271.30, Justin Sloyer (Upper Perkiomen) 210.75, Quinn Perlstein (Upper Perkiomen) 200.20.

Class AAA

T.J. Schenkel (Council Rock South) 458.20, Ozzie Moyer (Souderton) 452.15, Frankie Murray (North Penn) 448.30, John Brice (Central Bucks East) 445.95, Chris Murphy (Ridley) 426.05, Logan Knauss (St. Joseph's Prep) 418.00, Mike Kohler (North Penn) 414.30, Tyler Wenzel (Souderton) 409.95.

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