

# 5 TO WATCH AND TEAM CAPSULES

By: Bill Keen The Intelligencer

## 5 Teams to watch

(listed in order of strength)

**Germantown Academy:** The Patriots are back after three years that didn't measure up to the ultra-high standards of previous GA teams. There is talent in virtually every event, which should bode well for their chances of winning the team title at Easterns.

**North Penn:** There's a different look to this season's team in the lack of a "hammer" - one individual who is almost assured of two individual wins every meet. However, there is no problem with the depth, which should keep the Knights in the hunt for the Suburban One League Continental Conference title.

**Central Bucks East:** On paper, the Patriots are the most talent-rich team in the area. They have to prove themselves to an army of doubters, but if it all comes together at the right time this could be the team that knocks off North Penn in the SOL Continental.

**Souderton:** For a team that has won a lot of meets thanks to its sprint freestylers, the strength this season is in the distance free events. The Indians will still win more than their share of meets, but they look to be a stronger "tournament team" that could flourish at districts.

**William Tennent:** After years of domination by other members of the SOL National, the Panthers may be ready to step to the head of the pack. There is a lot of quality and talent among the returning swimmers, but several very promising newcomers could put the team over the top.

## 5 Performers to watch

(listed alphabetically)

**Artie Frayler, Germantown Academy:** He is the Patriots' new distance king, a talented junior whose future is as bright as can be. He finished second in the 500 free at Easterns as a sophomore, less than five seconds off the late Fran Crippen's national prep record.

**Jimmy McEldrew, Germantown Academy:** A promising newcomer as a freshman, he improved tremendously as a sophomore and blossomed last season as a junior when he finished second in the individual medley and third in the 500 free at Easterns. This is his year.

**Ozzie Moyer, Souderton:** The Wizard of Oz is back, ready to dazzle fans with an even more difficult assortment of dives. The most surprising thing about him is that he's only a junior. State gold definitely appears to be in his future, possibly this season.

**Mike Shaeffer, Hatboro-Horsham:** Before last spring's districts he was just a pretty good face in the crowd. Then he exploded with a 47.14-second, third-place finish in the 100 free and finished 17th at states. He has trained extremely hard ever since and deserves his place on this list.

**Riley Weber, Central Bucks East:** For two years he has been one of the best in the area in the sprint free events. Now a junior, he's the man to beat after a fifth-place finish in the 100 last spring at states. Anything other than a top three this season will be a major surprise.

## 5 Meets to watch

**William Tennent at Pennsbury, Tuesday, 3:30 p.m.:** The race for the SOL National title has a very early start this season between two teams that are at the top of just about everybody's list of favorites. The team that wins this one can control its own destiny.

**Hatboro-Horsham at Souderton, Jan. 6, 3:45 p.m.:** The Hatters had a 4-3 record in the SOL Continental last season and return the bulk of their lineup. While this one shapes up to be a meet they feel they can win, the Indians will have other ideas.

**Peddie at Germantown Academy, Jan. 26, 4 p.m.:** Asked which meet the Patriots were looking forward to the most, head coach Dick Shoulberg said this one. Given GA's talent, the Inter-Ac is the Patriots' for the taking. This could mean an undefeated season.

**Central Bucks East at North Penn, Feb. 1, 3:30 p.m.:** The Patriots stunned the Knights last season at districts when they beat them for the gold in the 200 free relay. That alone makes this a much anticipated meet. East will be sky high, but North Penn has a reputation to protect.

Emmaus at North Penn, Feb. 8, 3:30 p.m.: Ever since Emmaus snapped the Knights' 251 consecutive-meet winning streak, this has turned into to one meet the locals want more than any other. This season will be no different.

## **TEAM CAPSULES**

### **Archbishop Wood**

Coach: Charlie Stillwell (14th year)

Last year: 2-5 (PCL)

Key performers: Jr. Kevin McGuckin (individual medley, butterfly); Jr. Andrew Gnias (breaststroke, sprint free, butterfly); So. Chris Conway (backstroke, distance free); Sr. Ian Mee (individual medley, butterfly).

The season: The Vikings' roster is larger than normal, which will translate into greater depth. They finished second last season in the District 12 tournament and hope to challenge for the top spot, but that will depend on whether they can find a couple of hammers capable of winning, and on the number of others who finish second through sixth.

### **Central Bucks East**

Coach: Ed Walsh (31st year)

Last year: 7-4 (third, SOL Continental)

Key performers: Sr. Mike Cox (sprint free, butterfly); Sr. Kevin Magee (sprint free, butterfly, backstroke); Sr. Kerry Thompson (individual medley, breaststroke, sprint free); Jr. Clay Clemens (individual medley, breaststroke); Jr. Ty Kooser (individual medley, breaststroke); Jr. Charlie O'Connor (sprint free, backstroke); Jr. Riley Weber (sprint free, breaststroke)

The season: Unlike the last few seasons, the Patriots won't have as much proven depth in the early part of the schedule, but there is time before the SOL Continental season opens for newcomers to step up. However, the top of the roster is as strong as any team in the league, maybe even good enough to make the Pats a contender for the league title.

### **Central Bucks South**

Coach: Tim Lake (sixth year)

Last year: 8-5 (fifth, SOL Continental)

Key performers: Sr. Tim Ware (distance free, backstroke); Sr. Paul Johnston (distance free); Sr. John Braun (sprint free); Sr. Tyler McLaughlin (breaststroke); Jr. Ian Scullion (sprint free); Jr. C.J. Gimpel (diving)

The season: Because graduation robbed the Titans of several strong swimmers, the senior class will have to pick up the slack if the team is to come close to last season's record. The sophomore class has the potential to make an impact, and several members of the group did as freshmen, so look for this team to be peaking just in time for districts.

### **Central Bucks West**

Coach: Rich Reshetar (fourth year)

Last year: 3-9 (1-6 SOL Continental)

Key performers: Sr. Ryan Place (Individual medley, breaststroke); Sr. Dean Rusciollelli (backstroke, sprint free); Jr. Mike Chen (butterfly, distance free); Jr. Sam Byers (backstroke, distance free)

The season: The Bucks endured quite a few lumps last season, but that should not be the case for several reasons. The returning swimmers benefited from all that experience and will be joined by a sizeable group of incoming freshmen to add depth. With a strong preseason behind them, this is one team that can't wait for the real thing.

### **Germantown Academy**

Coach: Dick Shoulberg (43rd year)

Last year: 6-2 (first, Inter-Academic League)

Key performers: Sr. Jimmy McEldrew (individual medley, distance free); Jr. Artie Fralder (distance free); Jr. Adam Sjolm (distance free); Jr. Justin Tang (individual medley, backstroke, butterfly); Sr. Chris Schillig (sprint free); Jr. Nelson Glendinning (spring free); Sr. Cameron Black (diving); Sr. Carl Dowzicky (distance free, backstroke); Sr. Bryan Draganosky (individual medley, breaststroke); So. Grant Robinson (diving)

The season: There have been some years when the Patriots have lacked a strong swimmer in an event or two but this team is loaded. The distance freestyle events will be, as always, the deepest events, but there is also talent in the sprints, the backstroke and individual medley. GA will be one of the favorites at Easterns.

### **Hatboro-Horsham**

Coach: Kip Emig (fifth year)

Last year: 7-6 (4-3 SOL Continental)

Key performers: Sr. Mike Shaeffer (sprint free); Sr. Rick Sutton (backstroke, distance free); Jr. Tim Janyszek (breaststroke, sprint free); Jr. Duane Adler (sprint free, butterfly); Sr. T.J. Guminski (individual medley); So. Kyle Finn (distance free); So. Bob Lenahan (backstroke); Sr. Ryan Supplee (sprint free, breaststroke)

The season: Looking back on last season, the Hatters surprised a lot of people with their plus-.500 record and fourth-place finish in the SOL Continental. While graduation took several key elements of that team, there is a lot of quality depth returning especially with Mike Shaeffer's emergence as one of District One's best sprint freestylers.

### **Lansdale Catholic**

Coach: Bob Birnbrauer (16th year)

Last year: 1-9 (1-6 PCL)

Key performers: Sr. Steven Douglas (sprint free, distance free); Sr. Tim Gillen (sprint free); Sr. Tony Mack (sprint free); Sr. Alex Marshall (individual medley, backstroke); Sr. Brian Matylewicz (distance free); Fr. Dylan Yurastis (diving)

The season: You don't lose an athlete the caliber of Patrick Augustine and come back as strong the following season, especially when you have a numbers problem like this season's Crusaders. It will be up to a group of unproven freshmen to step up and fill the holes in the lineup for LC to content for District 12 AA honors again this season.

### **North Penn**

Coach: Brian Daly (sixth year)

Last year: 9-2 (7-0, first, SOL Continental)

Key performers: Sr. Josh Hoch (diving); Sr. Peter Kolokithias (distance free); Sr. Jacob Sisko (backstroke, sprint free); Jr. Jason Deana (sprint free, butterfly); Jr. Patrick Dunigan (individual medley, distance free); Jr. Tomas Gimenez (free, breaststroke); Sr. AJ Russo (diving); Sr. Eugene Feeley (distance free); Sr. Matt Ortlieb (butterfly); Jr. Kevin Dunigan (free, butterfly); So. Jack Morris (distance free); Sr. Colin Kelly (free); Fr. Jonathan Krail (utility)

The season: It should come as no surprise to anyone, but the Knights are loaded once again. A plus should be the sheer numbers in both the freshman and sophomore classes, but those individuals will have to mature quickly in December if they are to make valuable contributions this season. The SOL Continental title is a very real possibility, with districts and states after that.

### **Pennridge**

Coach: Ryan Griffiths (fifth year)

Last year: 5-7 (2-5 SOL Continental)

Key performers: So David Zurmuhl (sprint free); So. John Spehar (backstroke); Jr. Chris Bashar (butterfly, backstroke); Jr. Charles Brawner (individual medley, breaststroke); So. Drew Hendricks (backstroke, breaststroke)

The season: Outward appearances to the contrary, the Rams just might surprise teams that take them lightly because of graduation losses. One thing the returning swimmers are not afraid to do is work hard; as a result, several posted greatly improved times over the summer during the club season. Quality depth will be a problem to start the season.

### **Quakertown**

Coach: Wendy Yons (third year)

Last year: 0-8 (0-7 SOL Continental)

Key performers: Sr. Jason West (distance free, butterfly); Sr. Wayne Hailstone (sprint free)

The season: It's a very good thing swimming is not a contact sport. If it were, an injury or two could make it impossible for the Panthers to fill a relay team. Numbers are incredibly low this year, so winning a dual meet appears to be out of the question. However, that will make it easier for the swimmers to concentrate on dropping time and qualifying for districts.

### **Souderton**

Coach: Todd Bauer (fifth year)

Last year: 11-3 (6-1 SOL Continental)

Key performers: Sr. Kody Veit (distance free); Sr. Greg Smith (sprint free, breaststroke); Jr. Michael Hay (distance free, butterfly); Jr. Elliott Miller (distance free, backstroke); Jr. Alex Paparella (sprint free, breaststroke); Jr. Ozzie Moyer (diving); Jr. Tyler Wenzel (diving); So. Matt Evers (diving); So. Nick Wieder (free, backstroke); Jr. Jake Mertz (sprint free); So Stephen Hink (backstroke, free); Fr. Triston Loux (butterfly, individual medley); Fr. Kevin Musterait (free); So. Holden Kudla (diving); So. Scott Jorgenson (free); So. Jesse Rush (butterfly); Fr. Drew Nice (breaststroke)

The season: Judging from the makeup of this season's team, the Indians' chances of challenging North Penn for the SOL Continental title depends on how quickly the incoming freshmen and returning sophomores start earning their keep. There is no question about the junior and senior swimmers; both classes are deep and talented.

### **Upper Moreland**

Coach: Melanie Rowland (seventh year)

Last year: 0-7

Key performers: Sr. D.J. Chrobocinski (sprint free); Sr. Kevin Cyliax (distance free, breaststroke); Sr. Austin Davis (sprint free); So. Peter Sokirny (sprint free); So. Patrick Smith (breaststroke); So. Alex Pronzato (backstroke); Fr. Kane Nelson (butterfly)

The season: When a team is coming off a season when it failed to win a single meet, that usually spells trouble. However, the Golden Bears should be considerably better because only one swimmer graduated, and the returners will be better because of hard work in the preseason. They may not win many dual meets, but they could be a force to be reckoned with at districts.

### **William Tennent**

Coach: Lisa Forlini (18th year)

Last year: 7-2 (5-1 SOL National)

Key performers: Sr. Ryan Callanan (sprint free, backstroke, individual medley); So. Dylan Cooper (distance free); Sr. Stephen Doherty (diving); Jr. Connor Forlini (utility); Fr. Ian Forlini (diving, utility); Fr. Ryan Leneghan (butterfly); So. Andrew Richey (sprint free, backstroke).

The season: Every individual on the team is working hard and is looking forward to seeing whether they can match or improve on last season's record. The newcomers will have a lot of opportunities to step up and fill holes left by graduation, and some good swims at key moments could boost the Panthers to an SOL National title.

December 10, 2010