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# The Intelligencer

## North Penn victory was one for the ages

By: BILL KEEN  
 The Intelligencer

TEXT SIZE  

### SWIMMING NOTEBOOK

It sounds like the title of a sequel to the Nicolas Cage movie of a decade ago.

Gone In Less Than 60 Seconds - the exciting story of the finish of a high school swimming meet, and how one senior helped erase a six-year string of losses to an archrival from the north.

Cage's movie was a work of fiction; the "sequel" is an actual event that happened Tuesday in the Rick Carroll Natatorium, where North Penn met District 11 power Emmaus.

Moments before the start of the boys 400-yard freestyle relay, North Penn's girls completed a convincing and satisfying 105-81 win. The last time the Maidens beat Emmaus was 2006, although they came close two years ago when the teams tied, and last year, when they fell two points short of breaking through.

Conversely, the boys meet was a thrilling back-and-forth affair. The teams traded wins and added valuable points for second- through fifth-place finishes, and, with one event remaining, the score was 86-86.

One event and a little more than three minutes stood between one team and victory.

Revealing the story's ending is usually frowned upon, but the details of what the Knights' Jason Deana did in less than a minute are being talked about all over the area, so it's not as though we're revealing any secrets.

Consider this an attempt to try to recreate the atmosphere and the bedlam that followed Deana every stroke of the way, from the instant his fingers pierced the surface of the water to the moment they smacked the touch pad for the final time in a pool-record 3 minutes, 12.28 seconds.

Peter Kolokithias, Jacob Sisko and Matt Ortlieb preceded him into the pool. Together, they refused to let the Hornets build an insurmountable lead the way they had in other races.

They gave Deana the chance he needed, and he made the most of it for the win.

Because it was Senior Day, family members of the 17 boys and girls seniors were there, along with a smattering of other enthusiastic fans. Together, they numbered between 100 and 125 people, but that total will almost assuredly grow larger with time.

Those who were there will talk about it to anyone who will listen, and those that were not there will say they were as the moment takes on a life of its own.

One thing is certain - in the long and storied history of one of Pennsylvania's premier high school swimming programs, the double dual win by the Knights and Maidens has already taken its place as one of its all-time greatest days.

As for the finish to the boys meet, not even

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Hollywood could come up with a better script.

Yo, SOL Continental officials

At this time next week, teams in the Suburban One League will be preparing for their conference championships. Here's a suggestion for the powers that be in the Continental Conference, where North Penn is expected to dominate - again.

Why not borrow a page from the old Chicago Charities College All-Star football game? From 1934 through 1976, the reigning NFL champion would meet a team of the top college players in a game every summer.

What if you matched North Penn against the best swimmers in each event from the other schools in the Continental Conference?

Just kidding - sort of.

Keen's Top 5:

Boys

1. Germantown Academy
2. North Penn
3. Hatboro-Horsham
4. Souderton
5. Central Bucks East

Girls

1. Germantown Academy
2. North Penn
3. Souderton
4. Archbishop Wood
5. Central Bucks East

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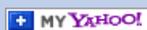
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