

# Intelligencer swimming notebook: PCL championships kick off postseason

By: William Gardner [phillyBurbs.com](http://phillyburbs.com)

**By Bill Keen**  
**Staff Writer**

The PIAA swimming and diving championship will be March 16-19 at Bucknell University.

The boys meet could be subtitled “The La Salle Invitational,” because the Explorers usually dominate and should again this year. The lone individual from area schools seeded in the top 10 in any swimming event is Nick Augustine of **Lansdale Catholic**, the ninth-best in the 500-yard freestyle.

In diving there is not as deep a field, but that won’t be the only reason LC’s Dylan Yurasits should make a lot of noise. The freshman has already broken the school record for six dives, thanks to some high degree-of-difficulty dives that will put him in good stead at Bucknell.

On the girls side, a couple of Archbishops — Ryan and Wood — should battle for the team title, although **Archbishop Wood** coach Charlie Stillwell said the Vikings may not be able to duplicate their 89-81 dual-meet win.

“At the start of the season, I didn’t think we had a chance to beat Ryan, but we did,” the coach said. “The championships are different than the District 12 meet because there’s no limit how many swimmers a school can enter in each event and they have a lot of depth.”

Individually, LC’s Jess Gidzinski is the top seed in her specialties, the 100 freestyle and the 200 individual medley. She is eligible to swim two more times, but it will be as a member of two relay teams, depriving fans of the chance to see more of her versatility. She has the second-fastest time in the 50 and 200 free, third-fastest in the backstroke and fourth in the breaststroke.

Gidzinski’s decision means she will not face either of Wood’s top two swimmers individually, although they could meet in relay legs. Grace Cochrane enters the butterfly as the third seed and the backstroke as the second, while Taylor Kane goes in the 200 and 500 free and is the top seed in both.

Another of Wood’s top individuals is sophomore Renata Rios, a transfer student from Florida.

“She was swimming for her club team, Tri-Hampton Y in Newtown, but she wanted to swim in high school and enrolled at Wood,” Stillwell said. “She’s been a very pleasant surprise, and you could hear a lot from her in the future because she’s been in just about every event.”

Freestyle is a-changing

There used to be two unofficial “classifications” of freestyle in scholastic swimming — sprint free included the 50- and 100-yard races, while the 200 and 500 were considered distance freestyle.

Today, there is a third category. The 100 and 200 are considered middle distance, leaving the 50 as the sprint race and the 500 as the distance.

Tuesday, for example, when the North Penn boys beat Central Bucks East, 110-73, the Knights’ Peter Kolokithias and the Patriots’ Riley Weber swam the middle-distance events and swapped wins. Weber won the 100 and was second in the 200; Kolokithias won the 200 but was third in the 100, with teammate Jason Deana sandwiched in between the two in second.

Deana is obviously from the old school, a traditional sprint freestyler — he won the 50.

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

Meet to watch:

n Emmaus at North Penn, 3:30 p.m. Tuesday: Ever since Emmaus beat the North Penn boys in 2005 to snap the Knights' 17-year winning streak, the meet with the Green Hornets has been a grudge match. Tuesday, both the Knights and Maidens need a win to finish undefeated.

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First up, however, are the various league meets, starting Sunday with the Philadelphia Catholic League championships at Widener University.

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