

Decision due on status of North Penn's swimming pool

By **Bill Keen Staff writer** | **Posted: Thursday, February 16, 2012 12:00 am**

Repairs have been made to the moveable bulkhead in the pool at North Penn's Rick Carroll Natatorium, but a decision is still pending on whether it will be available to host Friday's Suburban One League Continental Conference boys swimming championships.

According to North Penn athletic director Don Ryan, the problem with the underwater wall of the structure was detected when a member of the boys team was injured and needed stitches to close a gash in his foot.

The Feb. 7 regular-season home meet against Central Bucks East was moved to East's pool and the league's diving championships, which had been scheduled Wednesday for North Penn, were moved to Central Bucks South.

Ryan said the pool had to be partially drained to allow workers to get to the problem area. It was then they discovered welds to some of the supports behind the wall had broken. Repairs were completed and, on Tuesday, the process began to refill the pool with more than 430,000 gallons of water.

"The real problem comes in reheating the pool," Ryan said. "When you have that much water, it takes time to bring it up to the proper temperature."

Ryan had a meeting Wednesday with the district's aquatics director, Bill Bartle, and high school Principal Burton Hynes to discuss the progress and whether the reheating will be completed in time for Friday's 6 p.m. boys championships.

"The pool was finally filled by about 5 p.m. so that was done," Ryan said. "Now it's a question of whether the heaters can bring the temperature up to where it has to be to have a meet."

Ryan added it should be possible to make a go/no go decision by midday Thursday. In the increasingly diminishing chance the answer is no, CB South, which had already been slated to host the girls championships Saturday starting at 9 a.m., is the most likely site for the boys meet as well.