

Knights roll at home behind Dunigan's pool record

By **Bill Keen Staff writer** | **Posted: Friday, February 17, 2012 9:55 pm**

TOWAMENCIN — There is no truth to the rumor that Teddy Roosevelt was president the last time North Penn failed to win a Suburban One League boys' swimming team championship.

It just seems that way.

The Knights "only" won four individual events at Friday's SOL Continental Conference meet held at their repaired and refilled pool, but their overall depth and victories in all three relays gave them 559 points. Souderton had 340 for second place while Hatboro-Horsham's 317 was good for third.

Two of the Knights' individual wins were from senior Patrick Dunigan, including a pool record in the 500-yard freestyle. His 4:41.94 effort broke Dan Dingman's 4:43.19 set in 2008.

"Earlier in the week we swam Emmaus and we lost, unfortunately, and I went against a great guy who pushed me the whole way," said Dunigan, whose other win was in the individual medley. "I did 4:45 and it was a nice solid time, almost as fast as I went last year at districts.

"Coach Daly said, 'Good job, but Dingman's record is only a second-and-a-half faster, so if you want it, go get it.' That just added fuel to the fire and made me want it even more."

North Penn's other two individual winners were Tomas Gimenez in the breaststroke and Jack Morris in the 200 free, a 1-2-3 Knights' sweep they matched in the next race, the IM.

Morris finished second to Central Bucks East's Riley Weber in the 100 free, but Weber was denied a double when Penridge's David Zurmuhl topped him in the 50 free.

"I try not to psyche myself out too much about what's going on around me," said Zurmuhl, a junior. "When I'm getting ready to race I just think about everything I have to do to go my fastest.

"It felt like a good start, and the turn felt pretty good; it was one of my better turns this season so I was happy about that."

Zurmuhl didn't have much of a chance to see where he stood in relation to the Patriots' senior.

"It's hard to see because there's so much splashing," Zurmuhl said. "On one breath my first lap I kind of looked around and it looked like I was (in the lead), but I didn't want to take that (look) because I don't want to slow down."

Like Dunigan, Zurmuhl added a second win, edging North Penn's Brandon Anders in the backstroke.

Central Bucks' West had the remaining individual champion as Mike Chen swam a season best 52.61 in the butterfly.

"I was definitely pumped up because I knew I had tough competition," Chen said. "The first 50 I went 24.1, and that's the fastest I've ever gone in the fly, so I was really pleased with that. After the third wall I realized my legs were dead and my arms were dead, so the last 25 was just trying to survive."

With the boys' meet in the books, attention shifts to the Continental girls' championships set for Saturday starting at 9 a.m. at Central Bucks South.