

North Penn in race for district team title

By Karen Sangillo Staff writer | Posted: Thursday, March 1, 2012 3:48 pm

PHILADELPHIA — North Penn is in the hunt.

The Knights are currently in second place in team scoring after the first day of competition in the District One Class AAA boys swimming meet, held at La Salle University's Kirk Natatorium.

North Penn has 162 points, trailing first place Upper Dublin by a mere .5.

The Knights capped off the day with a win in the 200-yard freestyle in a meet-record time of 1:24.78, eclipsing the previous mark of 1:25.00 by West Chester Henderson in 2009.

Brandon Anders, Tomas Gimenez, Jack Morris and Jason Deana were on the relay. They received the Everett (Tom) Farr Memorial award, given by the Lower Bucks Chapter of Swimming Officials to the fastest 200 freestyle relay in the meet.

Deana finished second in the 50 freestyle (20.96) to Haverford's Shane Ryan, who set a meet record (20.44).

"It felt good," Deana said of the record-setting relay. "We weren't going for the record, just the win, but we all went the times that we wanted to do.

"The team title is always the No. 1 goal. That comes before everything else, before records, before personal bests.

"I was happy with the 50 for being out for a couple weeks. I just wanted to get to states and finishing second to Shane Ryan, you can't get much better than that."

Deana had a torn tendon in his foot that required stitches.

"After about a week, I did dryland and I got back into the pool about a week and a half ago," he said. "I definitely think I can go faster than this, but I can't really complain about what I did here."

Also for North Penn, Patrick Dunigan was second in the 200 individual medley (1:56.85), and Gimenez was third (1:58.34).

Anders, Gimenez, Deana and Spencer Collopy took second in the 200 medley relay (1:34.75).

Connor Forlini of William Tennent took third in the 200 freestyle (1:42.95).

"This is a good start for the meet for me," said Forlini, a senior who is headed to West Chester next year.

"It's good to get the automatic spot so I don't have to worry about waiting to see if I qualified. If you're in the top four you're in, so I'm happy about that."

He also anchored the 200 freestyle relay, which is also state-bound. Andrew Richey, Brennen Bastian, Dylan Cooper and Forlini finished fourth (1:27.89).

Riley Weber of Central Bucks East was third in the 50 freestyle (21.32).

David Zurmuhl of Penridge was fourth in the 50 freestyle (21.36).

He was seventh in this event last year, but earned an at-large bid to the state meet.

"This was definitely my goal," said Zurmuhl, a junior. "I'm real happy about it. I don't have to wait around two or three days to figure out if I'm going to states or not, and I was real happy with my time."

Souderton's Elliot Miller, Alex Paparella, Triston Loux and Kevin Muserait took fourth in the 200 medley relay (1:38.22) to punch a ticket to states.

Souderton is third in team scoring (140), Hatboro-Horsham is fourth (87) and William Tennent is seventh (69.5).

The meet concludes on Friday.