

Intelligencers Boys Swimming High 5s

Posted: Monday, December 3, 2012 12:00 am

(listed in order of strength)

North Penn: The area's finest program for the past four decades continues to reload rather than rebuild. Graduation took state champ Jason Deana and several other very talented performers, but there is more than enough quality to keep the Knights on top.

Central Bucks East: It will be strange not to see Riley Weber for the first time in four years, but don't cry too much for the Patriots. The roster is huge, the talent level is high and East is ready to roll.

Souderton: A new head coach usually means changes in the system and maybe emphasis on different events, but Caity Warren was an assistant and part of the team. The Indians are set to make a run in the SOL Continental.

Hatboro-Horsham: For the Hatters to make noise in the league, they'll need contributions from some talented newcomers; that should not be a problem. A solid returning nucleus will make this a team to be reckoned with.

Germantown Academy: GA was hit hard by graduation, and head coach Dick Shoulberg says this will be a young team. Don't be surprised if he's doing a little leg pulling; by Easterns, this team will be in the thick of things.

(Listed in alphabetical order)

Ian Forlini, William Tennent: There have been a lot of extremely gifted divers coming out of District One in the past, but none of them had ever broken the 600-point barrier until this talented junior did it last season as a sophomore. The sky's the limit.

Alex Lebed, Germantown Academy: With all eyes focused on the Patriots' talented senior at Easterns, Lebed grabbed the spotlight in the second individual final when he won gold in the IM. He came back the next day and was second in the backstroke. His potential is off the charts.

Jack Morris, North Penn: The newest kind of freestyle specialist, the middle distances. He finished fifth at districts in both the 100 and 200 free and was third in the consolation final at states in the 200. He also won state bronze on the Knights' 400 free relay.

Patrick Smith, Upper Moreland: Surprised just about everybody at districts last season where he won the gold in the AA breaststroke and showed his versatility with a fifth in the 50 free. At states, he took third in the consolation finals of the breaststroke behind brother Iain.

David Zurmuhi, Pennridge: Even before the first meet, he is No. 1 in the District One AAA 50 free. He was fourth last season but all three swimmers ahead of him graduated. Look for him to prove in the pool this season that he deserves the recognition; beyond that, watch him at states in the 100 free as well.

Hatboro-Horsham at Souderton

Jan. 8, 3:45 p.m.

Both teams start the season feeling they can contend in the SOL Continental. One of them will be proven right.

Germantown Academy at Malvern Prep

Jan. 10, 3:45 p.m.

This matchup has produced some memorable battles over the years but this one looks to be a toss-up. The winner will be the favorite in the Inter-Ac.

North Penn at Central Bucks East

Jan. 15, 3:30 p.m.

Does anybody have the depth and talent to stay with North Penn this season? The Patriots have a very deep team and a well-rounded lineup. It could get interesting.

Central Bucks South at Central Bucks West

Feb. 1, 6 p.m.

The schedule says the Bucks are the home team but the Titans are as well; both teams swim in the pool at South. That's why this one will be at night.

Emmaus at North Penn

Feb. 12, 3:30 p.m.

Ever since Emmaus snapped the Knights' 250-plus consecutive dual meet winning string, their annual battle has turned into a war. This will be no different.