

Intelligencer boys swimming capsules

By Bill Keen Staff writer | Posted: Monday, December 3, 2012 12:00 am

Abington

Coach: Joe Lennon (ninth year)

Last year: 5-7 (1-6 SOL National)

Key performers: Sr. Dakota Korn (freestyle, backstroke); Sr. Juan Munoz (freestyle, butterfly); Sr. Liam Sweeney (backstroke); Fr. Tommy Whitman (freestyle); Fr. Randwei Hu (breaststroke); Fr. Hunter Mackenzie (freestyle, backstroke)

The season: The Ghosts return a solid nucleus of athletes, but newcomers will have to step up and replace the five graduated seniors. While freestyle is the top event, backstroke and individual medley are also deep. A winning record is within reach.

Archbishop Wood

Coach: Charlie Stillwell (15th year)

Last year: 1-7

Key performers: Fr. Timothy Quigly (breaststroke, butterfly); Sr. Matt Trudeau (freestyle); Jr. Gus Lawn (breaststroke); Sr. Chris Atras (distance freestyle); Sr. Diego Racanco (sprint freestyle)

The season: The team is filled with mostly seniors and juniors who need to have breakout years to be competitive this season. With the loss of two top swimmers to graduation, good sophomore and freshman classes will help fill the gaps, but every meet will be a challenge.

Central Bucks East

Coach: Ed Walsh (31st year)

Last year: 8-4 (4-3 SOL Continental)

Key performers: Sr. Alex Butler (individual medley, butterfly); Sr. Matt Holland (backstroke, freestyle); Sr. Evan Lunak (sprint freestyle); Sr. Pat Zalesky (freestyle, backstroke); Sr. Kevin Jongeneel (freestyle, butterfly); Sr. Matt Kolosick (diving); Jr. Jared Becker (freestyle); So. Evan Villafranca (freestyle, butterfly); So. Zach Collester (freestyle)

The season: Depth will not be a problem for the first time in years in diving, where the Patriots have a four-man unit. Graduation took some talented swimmers, including all-everything Riley Weber, but the returning starters and talented newcomers should keep East in the thick of things.

Central Bucks South

Coach: Jeff Lake (ninth year)

Last year: 8-4 (5th SOL Continental)

Key performers: Sr. Ryan Troy (butterfly, individual medley); Sr. JJ Cataldi (breaststroke, individual medley); Sr. Trevor McLaughlin (sprint freestyle); Sr. John Quinlisk (backstroke); Sr. Matt Velardi (sprint freestyle); Sr. Dan Slysh (butterfly, freestyle); Sr. Andrew Slysh (utility); Sr. Dan Bromley (sprint free)

The season: This will be a team led by eight seniors, and all are returning varsity letter-winners. An enthusiastic group of underclassmen should make it a fun season, especially as the sophomores mature to provide valuable team points.

Central Bucks West

Coach: Rich Reshetar (sixth year)

Last year: 5-6 (2-5 SOL Continental)

Key performers: Jr. Pat Blaser (utility); Jr. Matt Schnell (sprint freestyle); So. Henry Mackensen (utility); So. Andrew Evans (freestyle); Sr. Jackson Butkus (sprint freestyle)

The season: With the graduation of Sam Byers and Mike Chen, the team has stepped it up in the preseason and returning swimmers have picked up the slack. Two fantastic freshman divers should make instant contributions on a team that is strong in freestyle and the individual medley.

Germantown Academy

Coach: Dick Shoulberg (45th year)

Last year: 9-1 (4-0 Inter-Academic League)

Key performers: Sr. Conall Loughlin (middle and distance freestyle); So. Alex Lebed (individual medley, backstroke); Fr. Andrew DeFriece (individual medley, distance freestyle, backstroke); So. Kashta Davis (sprint freestyle); Fr. Andrew Karr (sprint freestyle); Sr. Ben Ritz (breaststroke); So. Sam Ritz (butterfly); Sr. Grant Robinson (diving)

The season: One of the best Patriots' boys teams in years was ripped apart by graduation, making this a definite rebuilding year. There will be depth with talented freshmen and sophomore classes showing promise in camp, but quality depth will be a problem.

Hatboro-Horsham

Coach: Kip Emig (seventh year)

Last year: 11-3 (third place SOL Continental)

Key performers: Sr. Kyle Finn (freestyle); Sr. Bob Lenahan (individual medley, backstroke); Sr. Pat Stasio (freestyle); Jr. Tom Fisher (free); Jr. Curtis Sumner (freestyle); So. Mike Thomas (individual medley, backstroke); So. Jeremy Brosius (individual medley, breaststroke)

The season: Graduation took a lot of quality seniors, but six underclassmen who went to states in relays return, as does Mike Thomas in the backstroke. Don't count this team out, especially when the postseason rolls around.

Lansdale Catholic

Coach: Bob Birnbrauer (18th year)

Last year: 3-9 (1-4 PCL)

Key performers: Sr. Conor Plasha (freestyle, backstroke); Jr. Dang Khoa Tran (individual medley, freestyle, breaststroke); Jr. Conor McCann (freestyle, breaststroke); Jr. Dylan Yurasits (freestyle, diving); So. James Kulik (freestyle); So. Brian Lockhart (freestyle, butterfly); Fr. Steve Bedrossian (freestyle); Fr. Christian Paulsen (freestyle); Fr. Garhett Moore (freestyle)

The season: Diver Dylan Yurasits placed in the top eight at states last season and won the District 12 title. Depth will be a problem in dual meets, unless incoming freshmen mature quickly enough to contribute points on a team with only one senior.

North Penn

Coach: Jeff Faikish (first year)

Last year: 10-1 (7-0 SOL Continental)

Key performers: Sr. Brandon Anders (backstroke, sprint freestyle); Sr. Alex Chasar (breaststroke); Sr. Spencer Collopy (sprint freestyle); Sr. Adam DeFazio (utility); Sr. David Jordan (utility); Sr. Colin Kelly (breaststroke, individual medley); Sr. Jack Morris (freestyle); Jr. Jon Krail (distance freestyle); So. Thanas Kountroubis (breaststroke, freestyle, individual medley); Fr. Corey Smith (backstroke, individual medley)

The season: The Knights lost a small army of talented seniors, including state champ Jason Deana, but there are still plenty of quality performers returning. Depth, talent and tradition should keep the area's premier program on top in the SOL Continental unless the totally unexpected happens.

Pennridge

Coach: Ryan Griffiths (seventh year)

Last year: 2-10 (1-6 SOL Continental)

Key performers: Sr. Jon Spehar (individual medley, backstroke, breaststroke); Sr. David Zurmuhl (sprint freestyle, backstroke); Sr. Andrew Koch (distance freestyle); So. DJ Maurone (sprint freestyle, butterfly, individual medley); So. Kyle Frerichs (middle freestyle, breaststroke)

The season: No less than 67 athletes responded to tryouts. The program is healthy, but the roster features a disproportionate number of freshmen and sophomores. How quickly they mature and contribute team points will tell whether the squad will be able to contend in the tough SOL Continental.

Quakertown

Coach: Wendy Yons (fourth year)

Last year: 0-7

Key performers: So. Nick Bluder (breaststroke, freestyle); So. Bobby Tooley (freestyle); Fr. Chris Cowen (freestyle); Fr. Mike Deirof (utility); Fr. Zack Deirof (breaststroke, freestyle); Fr. Danny Reigh (freestyle)

The season: If attitude alone could win swimming meets, the Panthers would be undefeated. Unfortunately for Quakertown, it again suffers from a lack of numbers with only six out for the team and all are underclassmen. Obviously, their best shot is qualifying for districts.

Souderton

Coach: Caity Warren (first year)

Last year: 10-2 (6-1 SOL Continental)

Key performers: Sr. Nick Wieder (backstroke, distance free); Sr. Jesse Rush (butterfly, individual medley); Sr. Scott Jorgensen (distance freestyle); Sr. P.J. Ryan (breaststroke, individual medley); Sr. Matt Evers (diving); Jr. Triston Loux (utility); Jr. Kevin Musterait (sprint freestyle); Jr. Matt Holcombe (utility)

The season: A talented group of sprint freestylers was the program's only loss. Head coach Todd Bauer moved on, and assistant Caity Warren steps up and takes over a squad long on numbers but looking for new team leaders to step up.

Upper Moreland

Coach: Melanie Rowland (ninth year)

Last year: 3-10 (2-4 SOL American)

Key performers: Sr. Alex Pronzato (utility); Sr. Petro Sokirny (sprint freestyle); Sr. Patrick Smith (sprint freestyle, breaststroke); Sr. Carl Dyke (distance freestyle); Jr. Mike Freeman (utility); Jr. Kane Nelson (utility); So. Iain Smith (breaststroke); So. Dan Wilcox (diving); So. Jelani Crosby (diving)

The season: Against larger schools in the SOL American, the Golden Bears will have trouble, but they should excel against teams their own size. Six returning swimmers went to states last season, so this is a team with a lot of individual talent.

William Tennent

Coach: Lisa Forlini (20th year)

Last year: 9-4 (4-2 SOL National)

Key performers: Jr. Ian Forlini (diving, breaststroke, freestyle, butterfly); Sr. Dylan Cooper (freestyle, backstroke); Sr. Andrew Richey (freestyle, backstroke); Jr. Ryen Leneghan (butterfly, freestyle, individual medley); So. Brennen Bastian (freestyle, breaststroke); Sr. Joe Greiner (freestyle)

The season: This team has a nice combination of experience and new athletes. Veteran leadership and underclassmen improvement will be keys for their success. It will be interesting to see what the Panthers can do in the SOL National in light of last season's successes.

— Bill Keen