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Sports

HUNTER: North Penn's Deana now in the record books

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It's only a week into 2012, and this year already has one glaring similarity to that of years past — both the North Penn boys and girls swim teams are undefeated.

The Knights and Maidens have raced and dove their way to 5-0 starts, an almost annual tradition around these parts.

But one performer in particular is accomplishing some things that are pretty rare and unique.

The Knights' Jason Deana, a state qualifier last season for North Penn, is off to a record-breaking start...in multiple events.

And his talents were showcased at just the right time.

Every year the Knights take on District One rival Upper Dublin, in a meet held just before Christmas so that it allows plenty of fans, family and alumni from both sides to attend.

And it's always a loud and frenzied atmosphere.

Well this year, Deana made the meet even more memorable.

The Knights' top sprinter managed to break four pool records, and considering all of the great swimmers that have competed at The Rick Carroll Natatorium, that just makes this feat that much more amazing.

Deana set records in the 50 free, 100 fly, was a part of the record-breaking 200 free relay along with Brandon Anders, Tomas Gimenez and Jack Morris, and then he capped off the night by swimming a record-breaking leadoff leg in the 400 free relay.

Deana's dedication and work ethic — not just in the past month or so but in the offseason as well — are showing up big.

With as many stellar performers North Penn has had over the years, to stand out this vividly, and in this many events, that's something that won't be forgotten any time soon.

It was quite a start to his senior season, and maybe more record-breakers will come for he and the Knights — 2012 has just begun.

Some predictions

As the NFL Playoffs get under way, I would love to see a Packers-Saints matchup in the NFC Championship Game.

Besides the fact that it would be the last two Super Bowl Champs going head-to-head, which doesn't often happen, but both squads are

powered by high-scoring offenses and both are led by dynamic quarterbacks.

And each squad is going for a piece of history.

The Packers are trying to distinguish themselves in two different ways: they are attempting to become the first NFC team to win back-to-back Super Bows since the Jimmy Johnson Cowboys of 1992-'93, and they also want to be only the third Super-Bowl winning team to finish 18-1, joining the '85 Bears and '84 49ers.

And for the Saints, a Super Bowl win gives them two titles in three years, which automatically puts them in an elite group.

If this dream matchup is to take place, I give the edge to the Packers.

After all, the game will be held at Lambeau Field.

And in the AFC, not one team is overpowering but the playoffs should be highly competitive.

I'm favoring Baltimore because they do seem to be the most all-around team.

Also, quarterback Joe Flacco played for the same high school team my dad did — the Audubon Green Wave in South Jersey.

Let's say the Super Bowl is another close one this year: Packers 31, Ravens 24.

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