

# Tennent's Forlini repeats as district champ

By Karen Sangillo Staff writer | Posted: Saturday, February 23, 2013 12:01 am

UPPER DUBLIN — Ian Forlini makes it look so easy.

The William Tennent junior captured his third consecutive District One Class AAA boys diving title Friday night at Upper Dublin, looking nonplussed through the whole event.

"I definitely get more relaxed as the competition goes on," said Forlini, who won the Suburban One League National Conference title for the third year in a row earlier in the month.

"Over the years, I've just become much more relaxed and able to just focus on what I need to do."

The top 10 divers in Class AAA move on to the PIAA championships. That number is up from seven qualifiers last year.

Forlini took over first place for good with his last dive in the preliminaries, passing eventual runner-up Liam Fitzgerald of Bayard Rustin in the fifth round.

After that, it was smooth sailing for Forlini, who scored 556.15 points over 11 dives, short of his pool and district record of 602.45 points set last year.

"I do feel a little bit of pressure to do well at this meet again and also to do what I can to advance my school or pool records, but I'm happy with how I dove," said Forlini, who is undefeated to date this season.

"I did pretty much everything well. I missed a couple of dives, but there's nothing I can't improve on for states.

"I'm really looking forward to states and hopefully doing better than I did last year."

He was third at the PIAA championships last year.

Forlini received the Roy J. Moose award as the outstanding diver of the meet, presented by the Bux-Mont chapter of swim officials.

Pennsbury's Will Beliveau will be attending his second state meet. He finished third (469.50).

"I was really hoping to place around there so this is awesome," said Beliveau, a senior who finished seventh at last year's district meet.

"The meet was different this year. There were a lot of seniors last year, so they were all gone and that created a lot of room at the top.

"I'm so excited for states now because this has given me so much confidence, and hopefully I'll do well there too."

Beliveau has been battling a sinus infection.

"I'm just happy I made it through the meet," he said.

Souderton senior Matt Evers will also be returning to the state meet. Evers, who took sixth last year, finished in fourth place (464.40).

Junior Geoffroy Gagnon of North Penn was fifth (446.40), freshman Matt McCool of Central Bucks West was ninth (396.85) and freshman Nash Nickerson of Central Bucks South took the 10th (396.50) to round out the locals advancing to states.

The top two finishers in Class AA also move on to the state meet.

Dan Wilcox of Upper Moreland finished second (395.85) at his first district meet.

"This was my goal at the beginning of the year," said Wilcox, a sophomore. "I've been working toward it all season.

"I thought it was going to be a little tricky at first but, as the meet went on, I gained confidence. I knew this was a big competition, but I felt confident enough that I could take second."

He was a district qualifier last year, but missed the meet because of a concussion.

"That was unfortunate, but this definitely makes up for it," he said.

The PIAA championships will be held March 13-17 at Bucknell.