

# North Penn whips Emmaus in regular-season finale

By Bill Keen Staff writer | Posted: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 12:00 am

TOWAMENCIN — Jack Morris was in fourth grade on Feb. 1, 2005, the day Emmaus snapped the North Penn's 17-year dual-meet winning streak at 251 in boys swimming.

Much has changed since then, starting with the hype surrounding the meeting between the two regional rivals who squared off Tuesday afternoon.

Each boys team came in with one loss, but Emmaus left with two. When Morris anchored the 400-yard freestyle relay to victory in 3 minutes, 15.32 seconds, it gave the Knights a highly satisfying 104½-80½ victory and a 10-1 regular-season record.

The day was even more satisfying for the North Penn girls. They won 10 of the 12 events and coasted to a 113-73 win, their 11th in 11 starts.

Morris' win in the 200 free got the ball rolling for the Knights, who saw Emmaus take the opening medley relay by nearly 4 seconds. As he stepped up to the blocks, Morris was clock watching.

"I was pretty confident, but I was racing the clock a little bit, too," the senior said. "I was looking to go my best time. I was feeling good, but it's always easier to go faster when you have a really fast guy pushing you."

In this case, that fast guy was the Hornets' Cody Wimmer. He finished second, as Morris got that season's best 1:43.44. A 1:58.93 gave teammate Thanas Kountroubis a first in the individual medley. And when Brandon Anders won a cavalry charge to win the 50 in 22.21 to 22.31 for the Hornets' Greg Ritchie, the Knights were in command.

"When Brandon got that hand in there in the 50, it was an awesome race," Knights coach Jeff Faikish said. "It really swung the meet, momentum-wise, in our favor. Then we had two divers and a swimmer go 1-2-3 in diving. That was also a huge point swing in our favor."

For all intents and purposes, the girls' meet was over when the visitors got the first of their two individual wins in the butterfly. North Penn scored a 3-second victory in the medley relay, the win that junior Tara Rogers said was exactly what the team needed.

"We knew it was going to be a very competitive meet from the beginning, because they're a really good team," said Rogers, who later doubled with a 17-second blowout win in the 500. "We wanted to get momentum going into (the medley relay) and (when) we got a good start, it set the right atmosphere because we were high energy after that."

Maidens coach Matt Weiser praised the entire team for a fabulous regular season.

"Everybody's just swimming so well," Weiser said. "We know when we really need to pull something out, we have the swimmers who can do it. We only have five seniors, so a lot of our big contributions are coming from underclassmen."