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## BOYS SWIMMING: North Penn wins first District 1-AAA title since 2011

By KEV HUNTER

Posted: 03/01/2014 04:09:35 PM EST

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PHILADELPHIA — Their huge celebratory plunge at meet's end was emblematic of their weekend.

So many North Penn swimmers, so many contributors, such a big splash. The Knights, collectively, were an overwhelming force, a blue tidal wave that rolled through La Salle University's Kirk Pool, piling up 264 points and the program's first district crown since 2011.

"This is awesome," junior Thanas Kountroubis said. "It's the first time in a while and we worked real hard for it all season. Everyone pushed each other. This is the greatest feeling in the world. You can't even describe it."

North Penn finished 38 points ahead of runner-up Upper Dublin, and Souderton Area, led by Kevin Muserait's bronze-medal effort in the 100 free and his anchor leg on the fifth-place 400 free relay, finished third with 149 points.

Ahead comfortably going into Saturday, the Knights came out and scored points in every event on Day Two, with Kountroubis leading the way with his silver medal in the 500 free and his tremendous contribution on the bronze-medal 400 free relay.

In the 500, Upper Dublin's Chris Devlin (4:33.57) and Kountroubis (4:34.92) swam such a fast race that they both surpassed the 23-year-old district record of 4:34.97.

"Chris and I — we always joke about stuff like that," Kountroubis said of the record.

Knights coach Jeff Faikish was a youngster in the stands back in 1991 when West Chester Henderson's Steve Rivers set



Members of the North Penn boys swim team react as their 200-yard Freestyle Relay Team finishes first during the District 1 Swimming Championships at La Salle University on Friday, Feb. 28, 2014. (Mark C Psoras/The Reporter)

Kyle Supko in the 500; Corey Smith's 11th-place finish in the 100 back; and 14th- and 15th-place efforts by Jon Krail and Harrison Friel, and the points were piling up for an inspired North Penn group.

"It was amazing to watch a complete team effort at districts this year," Faikish said. "We had a lot of great swims and so many kids that are leaving here very happy.

"This year really stands out for me because so many kids stepped up throughout the whole year," Faikish said. "We had so many fast swims and fast kids that all believe in each other, and it's just a wonderful thing to be a part of."

## District One Boys Swim Championships

### Class AA

#### **Team scoring**

1. Upper Moreland, 301 points; 2. Springfield M, 284; 3. HolyGhost Prep, 269; 4. Pottsgrove, 204; 5. Lower Moreland, 194; 6. Phoenixville, 185; 7. Upper Perkiomen, 152; 8. Sun Valley, 39; 9. Pottstown, 33; 10. ValleyForge Military Academy, 13.

#### **Event results**

100 freestyle: 1. Owen Robinson (Calvary Christian), 49.66; 2. Anthony Gazzillo (Pottstown), 50.06; 3. Dan Maxian (New Hope-Solebury), 50.37; 4. Mike Freeman (Upper Moreland), 51.26; 5. Elijah Gibbons (Holy Ghost Prep), 51.89; 6. Jake Corcoran (Springfield M), 52.41; 7. Jake Winter (Upper Moreland), 52.51;

500 freestyle: 1. Danny Giampietro (Springfield M), 4:49.42; 2. Ondrej Maxian (New Hope-Solebury), 4:53.86; 3. Kevin Basch (Pottsgrove), 4:55.45; 4. John Polidoro (Holy Ghost Prep), 5:13.77; 5. Mitch Cairns (Upper Perkiomen), 5:15.18; 6. Ryan Mercado (Upper Perkiomen), 5:22.93; 7. Brennan Coleman (Upper Moreland), 5:26.31; 8. Jake Matthews (Upper Moreland), 5:35.01;

100 backstroke: 1. Morgan Schreiber (Pottsgrove), 53.86; 2. Brandon Umstead (Upper Perkiomen), 53.87; 3. Michael Prior

the previous record. On Saturday, Faikish was amazed just how composed Kountroubis was in surpassing it.

"He looked relaxed," Faikish said, "right until the end. (In his 200 on Friday), that's the first time I've seen him swim it with that much confidence."

Greg Neidlinger was also at his best for NP, swimming a 51.36 in the 100 back. It took a record-setting performance by Hatboro-Horsham's Michael Thomas to keep him from taking the gold.

Add to that a ninth-place swim by Liam Kelly and a 12th-place finish by Else in the 100 free; 13th- and 14th-place swim by Mike Kern and



North Penn swimming head coach Jeff Faikish cheers on one of his swimmers in a 50 Freestyle event during the District 1 Swimming Championships at La Salle University on Friday, Feb. 28, 2014. (Mark C Psoras/The Reporter)

(Pottsgrove), 57.09; 4. Bobby McLaughlin (Holy Ghost Prep), 59.19; 5. Jan Aclan (Phoenixville), 59.91; 6. Jake Corcoran (Springfield M), 1:00.94; 7. Jack Ryan (Lower Moreland), 1:10.28; 8. Alan Shtraks (Lower Moreland), 1:01.28;

100 breaststroke: 1. Iain Smith (Upper Moreland), 58.42; 2. Tyler Chamberlain (Springfield M), 1:00.82; 3. Josh Ziev (Phoenixville), 1:05.52; 4. Thomas Theuer (Holy Ghost Prep), 1:05.60; 5. Brennen Garber (Springfield M), 1:06.55; 6. Josh Levis (Lower Moreland), 1:06.81; 7. Connor Pietro (Lower Moreland), 1:08.56; 8. Justin Yi (Lower Moreland), 1:11.57;

400 freestyle relay: 1. Springfield M (Tim Resch, Ben Wiley, Jake Corcoran, Danny Giampietro), 3:21.38; 2. Upper Moreland, 3:22.39; 3. Holy Ghost Prep, 3:27.74; 4. Phoenixville, 3:30.34; 5. Pottsgrove, 3:30.70; 6. Upper Perkiomen, 3:31.97; 7. Lower Moreland, 3:45.93.

## **Class AA**

### **Team scoring**

1. North Penn, 264 points; 2. Upper Dublin, 226; 3. Souderton, 149; 4. Owen J. Roberts, 146.5; 5. Council Rock North, 129.5; 6. Radnor, 124; 7. Hatboro-Horsham, 121; 8. Perkiomen Valley, 120; 9. Bayard Rustin, 103; 10. Methacton, 98.

### **Event results**

100 freestyle: 1. Michael Jensen (Upper Dublin), 45.52; 2. Brandon McCredie (Council Rock North), 45.97; 3. Kevin Mustera (Souderton), 46.37; 4. Quentin Cody (Downingtown East), 46.79; 5. Kyle Dix (Perkiomen Valley), 46.97; 6. Andrew Zhugayevich (Central Bucks East), 47.07; 7. Danny Knoll (Wissahickon), 47.14; 8. Clay Resweber (Strath Haven), 47.32;

500 freestyle: 1. Christopher Devlin (Upper Dublin), 4:33.57 (meet record, previous record Steve Rivers, West Chester Henderson, 4:34.97, 1991); 2. Thanas Kountroubis (North Penn), 4:34.92; 3. Mark Miller (Downingtown West), 4:36.64; 4. Connor Hart (Haverford), 4:37.43; 5. Steven Keashon (Neshaminy), 4:38.16; 6. Steve Miller (Boyertown), 4:41.17; 7. Philip Nawn (Penncrest), 4:42.56; 8. Ivan Michalovic (Garnet Valley), 4:44.64;

100 backstroke: 1. Michael Thomas (Hatboro-Horsham), 47.56 (meet record, previous record 48.49 by Shane Ryan, Haverford, 2012; pool record, previous record 48.63 by Ryan); 2. Greg Neidlinger (North Penn), 51.36; 3. Jake Goroshko (Council Rock North), 52.10; 4. Greg Buckley (Unionville), 52.24; 5. Ryan Freedman (Radnor), 52.45; 6. Brendan Ryan (Haverford), 52.47; 7. Ben Halkowski (Unionville), 52.68; 8. Eli Avart (Radnor), 53.00;

100 breaststroke: 1. Wyatt Amdor (Perkiomen Valley), 57.03; 2. Thomas McCormick (West Chester Henderson), 57.40; 3. Ben Service (Bayard Rustin), 57.47; 4. Cooper Tollen (Upper Dublin), 57.75; 6. Mitchell Gartland (Radnor), 58.37; 7. Dustin Jen (Methacton), 59.66; 8. Nick Savino (Boyertown), 1:00.20.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Upper Dublin (Scott Luttmann, Christopher Devlin, Ogden Leyens, Michael Jensen), 3:08.14; 2. Owen J. Roberts, 3:08.39; 3. North Penn, 3:09.74; 4. Perkiomen Valley, 3:10.14; 5. Souderton, 3:10.31; 6. Conestoga, 3:11.89; 7. Central Bucks East, 3:12.62; 8. Downingtown West, 3:12.80.

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