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# The Intelligencer

December 5, 2014

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## BOYS SWIMMING: Intelligencer High 5s



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Posted: Tuesday, December 2, 2014 7:23 am | Updated: 12:53 am, Wed Dec 3, 2014.

5 Teams To Watch

(listed in order of strength)

**North Penn:** The Knights never rebuild, they reload. Once again they will dominate the SOL Continental before looking to repeat as team champion at districts. The team's biggest goal is to make a serious run at the top spot at states as well.

**Souderton:** The Indians are coming off a banner season that saw them win 10 of their 11 dual meets. They also excelled at states, but this time they'll have to do it with a different cast of characters. Still, this will be one of the area's strongest entries.

**Central Bucks East:** Can the Patriots push Souderton for second in the SOL Continental? They just might despite the loss of some talented seniors. Vacancies must be filled and consistent contribution from newcomers are a must, but it wouldn't be a smart thing for opponents to look past the Patriots.

**Hatboro-Horsham:** State champion Michael Thomas is back for his final season and is an overwhelming favorite to double at Bucknell. The Hatters had an average season a year ago in terms of wins, but this season could be different. They could press for second place in the SOL Continental.

**Germantown Academy:** The 2013-14 season was one the Patriots would like to forget. Wins could again be scarce unless a new attitude takes over in the first season with new head coach Jeff Thompson. The good news is there's only one way for the Patriots to go, and they just might.

5 Athletes To Watch

(Listed in alphabetical order)

**Andrew DeFriece, Germantown Academy:** The Easterns champion in the 500 freestyle won convincingly as a sophomore and will be heavily favored to repeat. A disappointing 12th in the 200 free won't happen again; he'll be in the finals.

**Thanas Kountroubis, North Penn:** An extremely versatile swimmer who could qualify for districts in just about every event. Finished second in the 200 and 500 free as a junior and made the consolation finals in both at states. He'll return, but in which events?

**Dan Maxian, New Hope-Solebury:** The latest swimming standout at The School Without A Team. Finished third in both the 200 and 100 free at the District One AA meet. His time in the 100 was fast enough to qualify for states,

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although he elected to swim at a big meet with his club team. If he qualifies this season, he says he'll go. He'll be there.

**Michael Thomas, Hatboro-Horsham:** The area's premier swimmer after winning gold at states as a junior in the backstroke and finishing second by a whisker in the individual medley. At the district meet, he set records in both, breaking the old record in the IM by more than two seconds. A runaway favorite to double at states.

**Andrew Zhugayevich, Central Bucks East:** The heir apparent to the title of the area's premier sprint freestyler. Finished sixth in the 100 free and seventh in the 50 at districts and made the consolation final in both at states. Don't be surprised if he's standing on the top step at districts not once, but twice.

5 Meets To Watch

(listed in chronological order)

**St. Joseph's Prep at North Penn, Friday, 3:45 p.m.**

The first meet of the season will be a good test for the Knights and an excellent way for fans to see how strong the Knights are against a quality foe.

**Pennridge at Central Bucks South, Jan. 8, 3:30 p.m.**

Two teams hoping to generate momentum early in the schedule and that, on paper, appear to be evenly matched. Regardless of the outcome, fans should see a lot of exciting action.

**Central Bucks East at Central Bucks West, Jan. 23, 6 p.m. (at CB South)**

Regardless of the sport, East and West produce some memorable battles. With this one starting at 6 p.m., the gallery should be packed and the noise levels ear-splitting. Don't miss it.

**Souderton at Hatboro-Horsham, Jan. 27, 3:30 p.m.**

The Indians and Hatters are the best bets to finish second in the SOL Continental behind North Penn. If they're even in the standings coming into this one, it will be a barn-burner.

**Emmaus at North Penn, Feb. 3, 4 p.m.**

Anyone who has seen the intensity these two rivals show every time they meet knows why it's always at the end of the season. If you see only one North Penn meet, make it this one.

— Bill Keen

— Bill Keen

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A Towamencin man admits he brandished a gun he was not entitled to possess during a dogfighting incident.



### Bristol Township man suspected in 11 copper thefts

Bensalem police believe that Michael A. Gragilla, 30, of Bristol Township caused upwards of \$67,000 in property damage over seven months and 11 copper thefts. He also reportedly inflicted some damage on himself.



### Former Central Bucks teacher appeals federal judge's ruling

Natalie Munroe, the former Central Bucks School District teacher who blogged about her students in critical and less-than-stellar terms, is appealing a lower court's ruling that blocked her \$5 million lawsuit over her dismissal.

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