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The Intelligencer

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BOYS SWIMMING: Team-by-team preview capsules

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Posted: Tuesday, December 2, 2014 7:45 pm | Updated: 6:59 pm, Thu Dec 4, 2014.

Abington

Coach: Joe Lennon (11th year)**Last year:** 3-8**Key performers:** Jr. Amit Cukierman (free/backstroke); Jr. Wyatt Whitney (freestyle/breaststroke); Jr. Hunter Mackenzie (backstroke); Jr. Alec Leibsch (sprint freestyle); So. Axel Martinez (freestyle/individual medley); Fr. Jack Sullivan (freestyle/breaststroke); Fr. Billy McCormick (freestyle/individual medley)**The season:** It could be a rocky season for the Ghosts, as six seniors graduated, including the top three point-scorers. There are plenty of spots to be filled, which will translate into excellent competition to fill them, but finding wins in the SOL National won't be easy.

Archbishop Wood

Coach: Charlie Stillwell (19th year)**Last year:** 5-3**Key performers:** Jr. Timothy Quigley (breaststroke/individual medley); Sr. John Waltrich (backstroke/freestyle); So. Conor Lynskey (sprint freestyle/breaststroke); So. Daniel Johnston (backstroke/sprint freestyle); Jr. Lucas Dyke (distance freestyle/individual medley); So. Kevin Harte (butterfly); Sr. Andrew Repisky (breaststroke/sprint freestyle); Fr. Peter Gori (sprint freestyle)**The season:** Excitement is high on a team coming off its first winning season in years, but a move to Class AAA will be a challenge in the District 12 meet. The lineup is young but, with a year's experience, the Vikings look to keep winning in the PCL.

Central Bucks East

Coach: Ed Walsh (33rd year)**Last year:** 9-3**Key performers:** Sr. Zach Collester (freestyle/backstroke); Sr. Evan Villafranca (freestyle/butterfly); Sr. Andrew Zhugayevich (freestyle); Jr. Nick DiLemmo (breaststroke); Jr. Hunter McRee (individual medley/breaststroke); Jr. Dan Powell (freestyle/butterfly); Jr. Collin Villari (individual medley/backstroke)**The season:** With the loss of eight seniors, each of them key point-scorers, it will be up to a solid nucleus of returning swimmers to pick up the slack. Depth could be a problem, unless newcomers contribute early, but the Patriots won't be hurting for wins.

Central Bucks South

Coach: Jeff Lake (11th year)**Last year:** 6-5

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Key performers: Sr. Brian Ross (backstroke); Sr. Nick Radziul (distance freestyle); Sr. Mike Szczesniak (butterfly); Sr. Alex Bowen (breaststroke); Sr. Matt Moretti (distance freestyle); Jr. Nash Nickerson (diving)

The season: This could be a big season for the Titans. The lineup is packed with seniors looking to continue their successes from last year and a strong freshman class that should help fill gaps left by graduation. Don't be surprised if the team wins a lot of dual meets and sends a strong contingent to districts.

Central Bucks West

Coach: Zach Wilson (first year)

Last year: 5-7

Key performers: Sr. Henry Mackensen (butterfly/individual medley); Sr. Andrew Evans (sprint freestyle); Sr. Will Lambert (freestyle/breaststroke)

The season: The Bucks have a strong group of returning swimmers ready to step up to lead the team. The newcomers appear to have a lot of talent and should be able to contribute points early in the schedule. With a new head coach and confidence in their ability to win in the SOL Continental, the lineup should be more than competitive.

Germantown Academy

Coach: Jeff Thompson (first year)

Last year: 2-5

Key performers: Jr. Andrew DeFriece (distance freestyle); Jr. Chris Hayburn (distance freestyle); Jr. Tommy Whitman (freestyle); Fr. Andrew Abruzzo (individual medley/backstroke/butterfly/distance freestyle); Jr. Andrew Karr (sprint freestyle); So. Brien Collier (middle distance freestyle/butterfly); Fr. Joseph Kim (distance freestyle); Sr. Liam Kelly (butterfly)

The season: One good thing to come out of last season was the lack of seniors on the roster; nobody graduated. The year of experience will make this team stronger, but wins could still be hard to come by in the Inter-Academic League and at Easterns.

Hatboro-Horsham

Coach: Kip Emig (ninth year)

Last year: 7-6

Key performers: Sr. Michael Thomas (backstroke/individual medley); Sr. Tim Reilly (freestyle); Sr. Sean Claggett (freestyle); Sr. Jeremy Brosius (breaststroke/individual medley); Sr. Nick Bannon (utility); Sr. John Murphy (breaststroke); Jr. Adam Thron (distance freestyle); So. Matt Hammer (butterfly); So. Tim McPoyle (backstroke/breaststroke); So. Mike Joyce (sprint free); So. Nick Zumpino (diving)

The season: How successful the Hatters are in the SOL Continental depends on contributions from what looks to be a strong freshman class. They'll learn from a solid core of veterans who will score a lot of points and should easily coast into districts and states.

Lansdale Catholic

Coach: Bob Birnbauer (20th year)

Last year: 2-7

Key Performers: Sr. Brian Lockhart (freestyle/butterfly); Sr. James Kulik (middle distance freestyle); Jr. Garhett Moore (freestyle); (Fr. Tyler Arsuaga (freestyle/butterfly/individual medley); So. Nicholas Picozzi (freestyle/breaststroke)

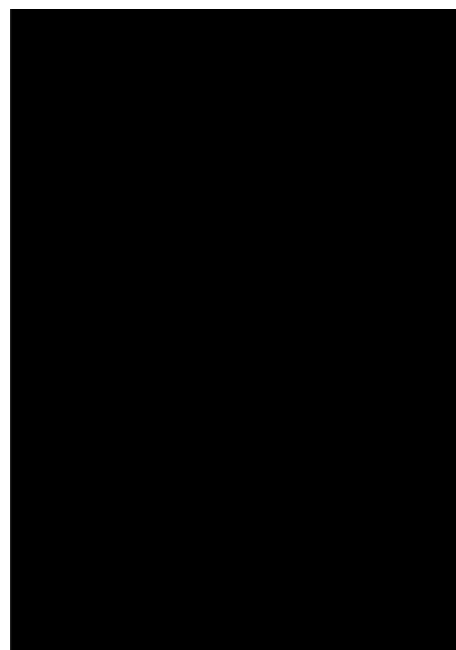
The season: Wins could be few and far between for the Crusaders, who suffer from what seems to be an annual problem — namely, lack of numbers. There is no lack of enthusiasm, but the goal is to grow and learn in dual meets to improve chances of success in districts.

North Penn

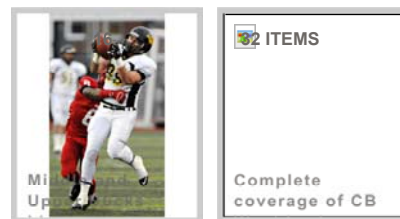
Coach: Jeff Faikish (third year)

Last year: 12-0, SOL Continental and District One AAA champions

Key performers: Sr. Thanas Kountroubis (distance freestyle/breaststroke); Sr. Liam Kelly (freestyle); Sr. Brett Else (freestyle); Sr. Shane Hennessey (freestyle); So. Ian Boland-Bintner (diving); Sr. Quinton Mitchell (diving); So. Bryce Hoch (diving); Jr. Corey Smith (backstroke)



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The season: So, what else is new? They're extremely talented and they're ready to repeat as District One class AAA champions; winning the SOL Continental is a foregone conclusion. A solid group of returning swimmers will help the newcomers get used to being the one team everybody wants to beat.

Pennridge

Coach: Ryan Griffiths (ninth year)

Last year: 3-9

Key performers: Sr. Max Coulter (individual medley/breaststroke); Sr. Kyle Frerichs (middle distance freestyle); Jr. Eric Jordan (butterfly); So. Hayden Sandt (sprint freestyle); So. John Handy (diving); So. Jakob Aigeldinger (diving)

The season: The Rams found wins hard to come by last season, but the year of experience will go a long way toward changing that. The key will be how quickly a strong group of newcomers fill holes left by graduation. By the time districts roll around, this could be a team to watch.

Quakertown

Co-coaches: Scott Woods (second season) and Sarah Siegel (first year)

Last year: 2-10

Key performers: Sr. Nick Bluder (breaststroke); Jr. Chris Cowan (distance freestyle); Jr. Mike Dierolf (sprint freestyle); So. Ethan Beeco (utility)

The season: Everybody is back on a team that hit the winning column for the first time in nearly 10 years. The attitude is excellent, and the core of quality veterans is ready to continue building a program capable of contending for medals at districts.

Souderton

Coach: Caitlyn Warren (third year)

Last year: 10-1

Key performers: Sr. Matt Holcombe (utility); Sr. Ryan Kierstan (sprint freestyle); Sr. James Beldham (distance freestyle); Jr. Brendon Loux (utility); Jr. Danny Trout (backstroke); Jr. Ryan Witoslawski (breaststroke); Jr. Spencer Smith (distance freestyle); Jr. Zeke Flandro (diving); Jr. Cristian Musterait (sprint freestyle); Jr. Nick Scott (utility)

The season: With state champion Kevin Musterait and Triston Loux lost to graduation, there are some very big shoes to fill. However, the bulk of last season's roster is back and ready to try and build upon that success. The Indians will again be prime players at districts and possibly states.

Upper Moreland

Coach: Jess Healy (second year)

Last year: 7-4

Key performers: Sr. Alex Perkins (backstroke/sprint freestyle); Sr. Everett Benson (utility); Sr. Dan Wilcox (diving); Sr. Jake Winter (butterfly/freestyle)

The season: The Golden Bears surprised at districts last season and won the team title. Three key swimmers are gone including current senior Iain Smith, the silver medalist in the breaststroke at states, who decided not to swim this year. Several other solid swimmers are rehabbing injuries and won't be ready until midseason, but with some talented newcomers the Bears could again contend at districts.

William Tennent

Coach: Lisa Forlini (22nd year)

Last year: 7-5

Key performers: Jr. Mark Preedy (breaststroke/freestyle/individual medley); Jr. Jacob Stotler (breaststroke/freestyle/individual medley); Sr. Matt Patrick (butterfly/freestyle); Sr. Tom Del Conte (freestyle); Sr. Brennan Bastian (freestyle); Sr. Dima Labko (breaststroke/butterfly/individual medley)

The season: The Panthers are stronger thanks to the addition of 12 new members of the team, but the biggest loss is state diving champion Ian Forlini. Overall there is depth and talent among swimmers capable of scoring a lot of points. This could be another successful season.

— Bill Keen

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