

## **SWIMMING: North Penn drubs Upper Dublin**

**By Bill Keen Staff writer | Posted: Thursday, December 18, 2014 9:27 pm**

UPPER DUBLIN — The storyline said Thursday's nonleague swimming showdown between North Penn and Upper Dublin could easily be a down-to-the-wire double dual dandy.

Apparently, the Knights and Maidens spent their practice time reading a different book.

North Penn's 103-78 win on the boys' side and 111-70 on the girls' would have been even worse, but Knights coach Jeff Faikish and his Maidens counterpart, Matt Weiser, elected to swim the breaststroke and the 400 freestyle relay in exhibition.

Although he didn't get credit for the win because of the exhibition status, the Knights' Thanas Kountroubis set a pool record of 56.22 in the breaststroke that will still go in the books as the new standard.

The Flying Cardinals won the opening medley relay, but the Knights quickly bounced back and pulled away. North Penn's coach said he was psyched before the first event.

"It was fun to watch, but (the excitement) started for me right at the national anthem," Faikish said. "Those two girls (Upper Dublin students) did a phenomenal job and, right from that moment, the butterflies in my stomach were almost overwhelming."

Brett Else started the romp when he beat teammate Mike Kern to the wall in the 200 freestyle, winning in 1:44.47.

He also won the night's most thrilling event, the 100 free. UD's Wyatt Amdor had about a half-body length lead at the final turn, but Else came off the wall like he was shot from a torpedo tube. Else had a .03-second margin at the wall for a 47.75 to 47.78 victory.

"On that third lap, I was breathing to my right and I was watching (Amdor) as I was chasing him down," Else said. "I hit that wall, and then, when I breathed again, to my right, I saw coach Faikish. He got me going, and I just went to the wall as fast as I could."

The Maidens won the medley relay and led 60-18 after diving. Sophomore Kailyn Evans won the 200 free when Weiser asked her to try it to tackle a former travel teammate, the Cardinals' Casey O'Neill.

"I'm good friends with her because I used to swim for Upper Dublin for US events," said Evans, who later doubled by taking the 100 free. "They wanted me to go head-to-head to see how I would do, and I did really good. I dropped two seconds (off my best time), so it surprised me."

Weiser praised Evans and all her teammates who are off to a 3-0 start.

“This is a special group of girls this year,” Weiser said. “They have such a competitive nature and spirit about them that I don’t even know where it comes from. As much as I try to ‘coach them up’ a bit, they’re just there already.

“They had it in their minds all week that they were going to come here and take care of business, and that’s what they did.”