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SWIMMING NOTEBOOK

Swimming Notebook: North Penn rolls on by rolling over the Hatters

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Keen's Top 5

Girls

1. Germantown Academy
2. North Penn
3. Central Bucks East
4. Hatboro-Horsham
5. Archbishop Wood

Boys

1. North Penn
2. Central Bucks East
3. Hatboro-Horsham

Posted: Sunday, January 19, 2014 6:48 pm | Updated: 12:54 am, Mon Jan 20, 2014.

Maybe they read last week's notebook.

Whatever the reason, the members of the North Penn swimming and diving teams put on quite a show Thursday when they traveled to Simmons Elementary School, the home pool of the Hatboro-Horsham Hatters.

In case you missed last week's visit, I had been talking to an individual who is well acquainted with this year's edition of the Knights and Maidens as well as many others that came before. I didn't mention any names but the person in question mentioned the Hatters' girls have

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SPORTS VIDEOS



- 4. Germantown Academy
- 5. Souderton

a very good team, placing slight emphasis on the word “very” and making it sound, to me at least, as though the outcome could be up for grabs.

That individual was there Thursday, and when we chatted after the Knights’ 116-64 victory and the 113-72 win for the Maidens, I got the very distinct impression I had been snookered.

North Penn “scored early and often” as the old saying goes. The Maidens went 1-2 in six events and swept the top three spots in the 500 free; the Knights finished first and second in four events and went 1-2-3 in four others. However, in an act of kindness, head coach Jeff Faikish informed meet officials his guys would be swimming strictly in exhibition for the final two events. That meant all the points went to the Hatters and while I don’t have a calculator handy, it’s obvious the final score would have added a new meaning to the word “lopsided” were it not for Faikish’s decision.

The lone bright spot for the home team was the continued outstanding performance of junior Michael Thomas. The silver medalist in the backstroke and fourth-place finisher in the individual medley at last season’s PIAA championships swam to an easy victory over North Penn’s Thanas Kountroubis in the IM. Thomas’s time was 1:53.52 compared to 1:56.44 for Kountroubis.

Thomas didn’t win the backstroke because he didn’t swim it. The back went to the Knights’ Greg Neidlinger as Thomas instead swam and won the butterfly. It makes you wonder how good he can be because his winning time, 51.61, was just off the school record of 51.49 he set in 2012.

There are two meets of note on Thursday, one of which we mentioned two weeks ago when we said if anybody is going to beat North Penn this season in the Suburban One League Continental Conference, it would probably happen on one of the next three Thursdays.

On the first Thursday, the Knights and Maidens beat Central Bucks East and then this past Thursday, as you’ve already seen, they made short work of Hatboro-Horsham. This week brings the third of those three Thursdays, when North Penn takes on Souderton.

After seeing what happened to the Patriots and Hatters, I have my own ideas about what’s in store for the Indians. I didn’t ask my anonymous source for a prediction because after last Thursday, I offer an old saying that is quite

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appropriate.

Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me. I shant be snookered again.

Incidentally, we mentioned there were two meets of note on Thursday and the second one should be a dandy. Yes, I know, you've heard that before, but this time every indication is it could easily be a down-to-the-wire finish when Central Bucks East travels to Hatboro-Horsham.



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