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Diving: SOL Continental championships

NP's Yacopino, Gagnon sweep Continental diving

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Posted: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 10:42 pm | Updated: 11:58 pm, Wed Feb 12, 2014.

By **Bill Keen** Staff writer

TOWAMENCIN — It was their pool, so it was only fitting that North Penn's Marie Yacopino and Geoffroy Gagnon won the gold at Wednesday's Suburban One League Continental Conference diving championships.

Yacopino — the silver medalist at the PIAA championships as a freshman — piled up 468.15 points, breaking both the school and league record in the process. The league mark of 444.80 was set by Central Bucks West graduate Rachel Saunders last year.

Yacopino said an exceptionally strong preliminary round helped give her the boost she needed.

"It helped a lot because I was really nervous," said Yacopino, whose first five-dive total was 220.75. "After getting that good start to the meet it gave me more confidence for the final two rounds."



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Yacopino's North Penn teammate, Madison Tanis, grabbed the silver with 422.75, while CB West's Sarah Stim came from behind in the final round to take third. Her 362.60 moved her passed Hatboro-Horsham's Gab Rudnitsky, who scored 252.40.

Gagnon led what was a one-sided meet for the Knights. His 464.75 was good for the win. Quinn Mitchell was second (429.65), Bryce Hoch came home fourth, with Ian Boland Binter in fifth. The only non-Knight in the top five was CB South's Nash Nickerson, the bronze medalist at 414.45.

Like Yacopino, Gagnon was sparked by his first three dives, each one higher-scoring than the one before.

"I felt like I had good momentum going into the meet, so I already had a good, positive attitude," he said. "After those first three dives, it just put me in a good vibe and things just fell into place.

"I was kind of hoping for a little higher final total, but it's still a very good score for me, so I'm happy with it. The goal that I set was to pull off a league championship. I was completely expected to win because there's a lot of good competition."



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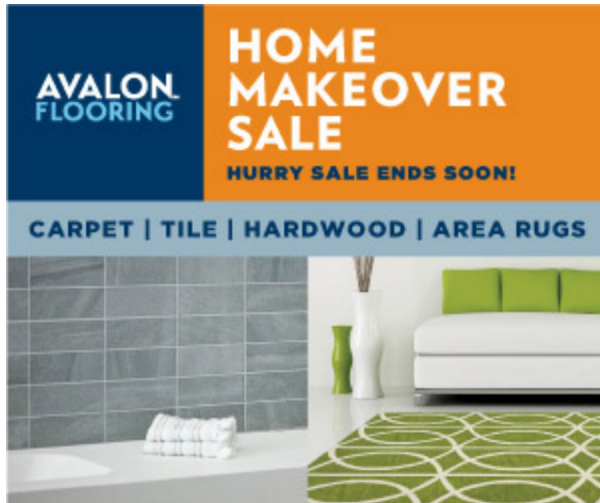
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