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Boys diving: District One championships

BOYS DIVING: North Penn's Boland Bintner, Upper Moreland's Wilcox take titles

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By Karen Sangillo Staff writer

TOWAMENCIN — A new winner was crowned at the District One Class AAA boys diving championships.

Ian Boland Bintner of North Penn emerged victorious, posting a score of 510.95 points to capture his first district title on Friday night at North Penn's Rick Carroll Natatorium.

He also received the Roy J. Moose Award for having the highest score of the meet.

Boland Bintner went wire-to-wire for the title, leading after the preliminaries and semifinals.

"I wasn't really expecting to win," said Boland Bintner, a sophomore. "I knew I had a really good chance to get to states, but I wasn't thinking about first place.

"I got fourth last year, and everyone who was ahead of me graduated, so I thought I had a chance. I went to states last year and, throughout the whole meet, I was remembering how much fun that was and I wanted to do it again.

"Last year at states, I missed the finals by half a point, so this year, hopefully, I'll be closer this year."

North Penn had three of the top four finishers, as Bryce Hoch took third (468.45) and Quinn Mitchell took fourth (459.10) for the Knights.

"This is awesome," North Penn coach Jeff Faikish said. "It's very exciting. A lot of hard work went into it, and what a great start for districts this is for us."

Nash Nickerson of Central Bucks South finished second (479.60).

"It was a really good competition," said Nickerson, who was seventh at districts last year. "Everyone was doing great dives.

"I thought that there was a good group of top 10 kids who would be fighting for it, and they did. No one here had a bad meet."

Hatboro-Horsham's Nick Zumpino finished seventh (434.45).

Ian Forlini of William Tennent owned this meet for four years, winning it each of his years in high school. His graduation paved the way for a new champion.

"I felt that it was wide open," Boland Bintner said. "With Ian gone, it was anybody's meet."

It was a good night for Upper Moreland senior Dan Wilcox, who finally won the Class AA title after finishing second for the past two seasons.

Wilcox scored 449.10 points and led from start to finish. Teammate Dylan Walker also punched his state ticket, finishing second (378.80).

The top eight finishers in Class AAA and the top two in Class AA advanced to the PIAA meet, to be held March 11-14 at Bucknell University's Kinney Natatorium.

The girls competition, originally slated for Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at North Penn, was postponed because of snow forecasts. It is now set for 5 p.m. Monday at North Penn.

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