

SPORTS

Swimmers and divers kick off dual meets

Team opens season today with 5:30 p.m. dual meet at North

W Rexly Penafiora II
Managing Editor

With the swimming and diving team's first dual meet occurring today, the first since the loss of a significant number of alumni, boys' swimming team head coach Dan Vanderjeudt searches for something that can improve the team's strength by means other than the quantity of the varsity squad.

"This year, I am looking for more quality in the team," Vanderjeudt said. "If all of the swimmers swim in the off-season, then all of our hard work will pay off during meets."

Senior captain and freestyler Nate Biser agrees.

"The season looks good because a lot of people have been training in the off-season, and that has made up for the lack of seniors on the team."

Vanderjeudt sees the team's third-place finish at the Deerfield Invite and the second-place finish at the Shamrock Relays at St. Patrick High School as evidence of that training.

"Our primary swimmers are very fast. The same can be



Sophomore Tim Binkley sets the pace in the butterfly. Photo by Rexly Penafiora

said for our secondary swimmers," senior captain and butterfly specialist Andre Chen-Young said. "I think it is great that our team has had this much success this early in the season."

Off-season workouts are not the only thing that has spurred the team to victory.

According to Vanderjeudt, regular team practices have become more rigorous, and they have resulted in very fast meet times.

Sophomore Konner Scott broke his own record in the 100-yard backstroke in the team's defeat of Brother Rice and Latin.

"The fast times are keeping us in good spirits," Chen-Young said. "At this rate, we should be able to make our meets very competitive."

Although the season is still in its early stages, Vanderjeudt has a prediction as to where the team will lie in the post season.

"I believe we will be somewhere in the top 20 teams in the state. With the current status of the team, we could have some great meets against big teams such as Evanston [Township] and Glenbrook South," Vanderjeudt said.

Today's meet at North begins at 5:30 p.m.

Improving grapplers look forward to second half

W Adriana Zalloni
Sports Editor

With his team starting the season with sub-par 5-8 record, varsity wrestling head coach Bryan Wittersheim said he expects to see improvement as the season continues.

According to Wittersheim, the wrestling team experienced the loss of several key wrestlers as they decided not to pursue wrestling in order to concentrate on academics and other sports. However, Wittersheim said, the team has been coping well.

"As coaches, we can only worry about the guys who are in the room with us," Wittersheim said. "They are the ones who want to be there."

Regardless of their current season record, Wittersheim and

team members expressed optimism about the rest of the season.

"If we keep working as hard as we have been, we are going to do great this year," junior captain Ben Rosen (112 lbs.) said.

Junior teammate Jimmy Rosati (135 lbs.) agreed.

"We got off to a slow start, but I know with a lot of hard work and dedication, we can end the season fantastically," Rosati said.

Wittersheim said that he expects several wrestlers to qualify for, and potentially place at, the state meet. According to the coach, those wrestlers include: Rosen, seniors Jamal Johnson (125 lbs.), Andres Osorio (119 lbs.), Patrick

Conrad (140 lbs.) and junior Mike Bahrmassel (130 lbs.).

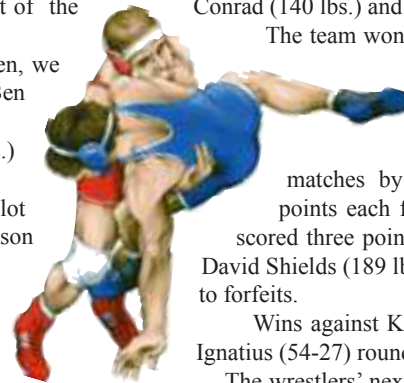
The team won its most recent match against Evanston Township by a final score of 48-24.

Juniors Eric Ronning (145 lbs.), Dylan Mahoney-Muno (152 lbs.), Osorio, Rosen and Conrad won their

matches by pinning their opponents, scoring six points each for the team. Rosati and Johnson each scored three points by winning by decision. Sophomore David Shields (189 lbs.) and Bahrmassel scored six points due to forfeits.

Wins against Kelly (42-27), Lake Park (30-29) and St. Ignatius (54-27) round out the team's record.

The wrestlers' next home meet will take place Friday, Jan. 9, against New Trier.



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