

Archbishop Wood swimming coach Charlie Stillwell is still in amazement.

"It was a very fast meet," Stillwell said. "A lot faster than any one I have ever been too."

Stillwell has been coaching at Wood for a decade now, and the meet he was referring to was the 2007 National Catholic High School Championships, which was held last weekend at Villanova University. Forty-four Catholic schools from across the country competed in the nationally renowned tournament, with local swim giants such as the Archbishop Wood girls' team and La Salle College High School team competing.

Not only did those two teams compete, but also found themselves being very successful placing in the top 10. Out of the 22 teams that were broken off into each competition, Wood's girls finished ninth with a team score of 67.5 points. La Salle ended up placing sixth with a score of 159 points.

Wood seniors Megen Donovan and Jaclyn Smith put forth superb performances, which should not come as much of a surprise. The two were individual Philadelphia Catholic League champions last year as juniors with Donovan, winning the 500 freestyle, the 100 breaststroke, and Smith winning the 100 backstroke.

Each made the finals in two events with Donovan finishing ninth in the 200 individual medley (2:15.83) and 11th in the 100 breaststroke (1:12.42) and Smith placing 12th in the 200 freestyle (2:03.08) and 13th in the 100 freestyle (57.58).

The two also contributed to the success of Wood's relay teams which all made the finals as well.

"They did very good," Stillwell said. "Especially on the second day. It's not a meet we taper for, so it's right about where I expected them to be."

La Salle had solid finishes in just about every event, but none more than the 50 freestyle in which four different Explorers placed in the top 15. They were Garret Gallagher (eighth place, 22.43), Andrew Sideras (11th,

See **Nationals**, page 12

February 1, 2007

# Area swimmers shine

By **Ryan C. Harkins**  
Sportswriter

## Area swimmers

■ **Nationals**, from Page 9

22.43), Todd Domanski (12th, 22.46), and James Maloney (15th, 22.87). La Salle's best individual performance was put forth by sophomore Ted Walker, who placed sixth in the 200 freestyle (1:46.75).

At one point in time, La Salle coach Frank Lichtner, who has five National Catholic Championships, saw this event as the pinnacle of his season, but recently that has changed.

"I'm pleased with how we did," Lichtner said. "But we were really looking past this meet. At one time this was 'the meet' and we dedicated our season to it. But now we see the Easterns as the highest level of competition. We consider this meet now the turning point to our season, and the last hard practice to get us prepared for the Easterns and the Catholic League championship."

The "Easterns" are the Eastern Interscholastic Swimming Championships, which will be held at La Salle University, Feb. 23-24. The Explorers won their last National Catholic Championship in 2004.

## Girls swimming

**Archbishop Wood 93.5, St. Hubert 74.5**  
**200-yard medley relay:** 1. SH (Petrosky, Homont, Spaeder, Robinson), 2:03.56; 2. AW, 2:08.19; 3. SH, 2:14.64.  
**200 freestyle:** 1. Alyse Davis (AW), 2:08.90; 2. Bridget Fitzgerald (SH), 2:10.47; 3. Rachael Gnias (AW), 2:13.70.  
**200 individual medley:** 1. Megen Donovan (AW), 2:21.84; 2. Maria Petrosky (SH), 2:34.60; 3. MariKate Cook (AW), 2:38.58.  
**50 freestyle:** 1. Jaclyn Smith (AW), 26.60; 2. Meghan McCann (SH), 26.69; 3. Bridget Gannon (AW), 27.65.  
**100 butterfly:** 1. J. Smith (AW), 1:04.96; 2. Amanda Spaeder (SH), 1:06.53; 3. Tara Robinson (SH), 1:07.47.  
**100 freestyle:** 1. Donovan (AW), 57.93; 2. Christina Rios (AW), 59.44; 3. Jen Salwach (SH), 1:00.44.  
**500 freestyle:** 1. Amy Finn (AW), 5:54.41; 2. Gnias (AW), 5:56.40; 3. McCann (SH), 5:58.81.  
**200 freestyle relay:** 1. AW (Rios, Davis, Gannon, Smith), 1:48.40; 2. SH, 1:51.22; 3. AW, 1:56.37.  
**100 backstroke:** 1. Rios (AW), 1:08.65; 2. Spaeder (SH), 1:09.25; 3. Petrosky (SH), 1:11.62.  
**100 breaststroke:** 1. Kelsey Homont (SH), 1:16.59; 2. Davis (AW), 1:17.57; 3. Emily Smith (AW), 1:18.37.  
**400 freestyle relay:** 1. SH (Spaeder, Fitzgerald, McCann, Salwach), 4:07.15; 2. SH, 4:34.31.

**Archbishop Wood 88, Archbishop Prendergast 80**  
**200-yard medley relay:** 1. Prendergast (Sciubba, Stewart, Damico, Viola), 2:06.15; 2. Wood, 2:09.29; 3. Wood, 2:19.69.  
**200 freestyle:** 1. MariKate Cook (AW), 2:21.67; 2. Brittany Maguire (AP), 2:25.50; 3. Kristin Steppke (AP), 2:26.03.  
**200 individual medley:** 1. Jillian Carmody (AP), 2:40.31; 2. Bridget Kerins (AW), 2:40.75; 3. Danielle Damico (AP), 2:41.21.  
**50 freestyle:** 1. Stephanie Viola (AP), 27.03; 2. Alyse Davis (AW), 27.56; 3. Rachael Gnias (AW), 28.94.  
**100 butterfly:** 1. Jaclyn Smith (AW), 1:06.75; 2. Damico (AP), 1:11.88; 3. Davis (AW), 1:13.15.  
**100 freestyle:** 1. Christina Rios (AW), 1:00.67; 2. Amy Finn (AW), 1:01.85; 3. Gnias (AW), 1:02.88.  
**500 freestyle:** 1. Megan Basgil (AW), 6:19.70; 2. Emily Smith (AW), 6:25.57; 3. Maguire (AP), 6:38.84.  
**200 freestyle relay:** 1. Wood (Donovan, Smith, Davis, Rios), 1:50.85; 2. Prendergast, 1:55.47; 3. Prendergast, 2:07.20.  
**100 backstroke:** 1. Megen Donovan (AW), 1:04.43; 2. J. Smith (AW), 1:09.91; 3. Bridget Gannon (AW), 1:14.03.  
**100 breaststroke:** 1. Viola (AP), 1:13.71; 2. Makenzie Stewart (AP), 1:19.03; 3. Erin Olszak (AW), 1:22.84.  
**400 freestyle relay:** 1. AP (Carmody, Steppke, Schivane, Reilly), 4:30.61; 2. AP, 4:48.44.