

GA boys, girls finish second

Peddie School edges Patriots for first places

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— There is an old cliché that there is only one winner in any competition. It's not true.

Germantown Academy couldn't quite match up with the Peddie School, but coach Dick Shoulberg was ecstatic with second-place finishes in both the boys and girls competition at the Eastern Independent School Swimming and Diving Championships at La Salle University's Kirk Pool Saturday night.

"The boys were outstanding," Shoulberg said after the meet concluded. "Every boy had at least one lifetime best, and they swam as a team and achieved.

"They far exceeded my expectations. They won five of the 11 events, and this is the smallest (boys) team that I ever had.

"My girls were solid. They never reached their total (goals), and I don't know why. I'm perplexed, but I guess we'll have to go back to the drawing board. Hats off to the Peddie School."

The boys were in third place after Friday's events and moved up a notch on Saturday to close the gap against Peddie, which won the meet with 413 points. Behind GA (336) were Loyola Blakefield (324.5), Malvern Prep (306) and La Salle (263).

The girls were in second place going into Saturday's events and held their place. The top five girls schools were Peddie (659), GA (613), Mercersburg Academy (221), Mount de Sales Academy (173) and Episcopal Academy (148).

Swimming

The boys were helped before Saturday night's finals when Tom Henninger and Jeff Craig collected 45 points by placing first and second, respectively, in the diving competition, which was held earlier in the day.

Then Reece Chandler and Matt Cox did likewise in the 500 freestyle. And Chandler, the fourth seed, won it by taking more than six seconds off of his qualifying time of 4:41.03. His winning time was 4:34.38.

"This morning, I really didn't give it my all," said Chandler. "I wanted to give my best shot tonight, so I guess I was kind of saving something for tonight. I got off to a good start and just kept it up. I'm pleased with my time, and I'm ecstatic with my teammates. Two years ago, (Cox and I) were first and second in the 500, so it was great that we did it again."

Cox had won the 200 individual medley on Friday.

Shoulberg has long had a reputation for coaching distance events, and the best example of that was when teammates Teresa Crippen, Lauren Sylvester and Abby Reilly took the top three places, respectively, in the girls 500 freestyle. On Friday, junior Teresa had outdueled her older sister, Claire, to win the individual medley.

"Me and my sister are always in competition," said Teresa Crippen on Saturday. "I always know that I'm going to get a good run out of her. She's

going to college, so besides nationals, this is probably our last high school meet together. She's always been with me, so it's going to be different for me next year."

Both sisters, as well as some of their teammates, made qualifying times for nationals, which will be held on Long Island at the end of March.

In other events, Katie Riefenstahl (50.58), who won the 200 freestyle on Friday, was touched out by Peddie's Amywren Miller (50.46) in the 100 freestyle. Miller was later named the outstanding swimmer in the girls competition.

Heading into the last event, GA knew that it couldn't make up points to overcome Peddie, but the girls certainly let Peddie know that they were giving it their best shot.

The team of Teresa Crippen, Katie Magee, Claire Crippen and Riefenstahl took the 400 freestyle with a time of 3:25.74, more than seven seconds ahead of second-place Peddie (3:32.89).

"That was the fastest time in the country this year (for the 400 freestyle relay)," said Shoulberg. "We still hold the national record."

The Patriots set that mark last year with a 3:22.34.

Elsewhere from the area, Archbishop Wood finished in 12th place in the girls meet. Megen Donovan had the highest finish for the Vikings by placing ninth in the 500 freestyle. Wood boys didn't have anyone qualify for the final three heats.

Evan Reed, from Delaware County Christian Academy, was named outstanding swimmer for the boys meet. He won the 200 freestyle on Friday and the 100 freestyle on Saturday.

107th Eastern Independent Schools Swimming & Diving championships

Girls

Team scoring: 1. Peddie School, 659; 2. Germantown Academy, 613; 3. Mercersburg Academy, 221; 4. Mount de Sales Academy, 173; 5. Episcopal Academy, 148; 6. William Penn Charter, 142; 7. Academy of Notre Dame, 138; 8. Hill School, 134; 9. Hockaday School, 93; 10. Hackley School, 78.

100 freestyle: 1. Amywren Miller (PS), 50.46; 2. Katie Riefenstahl (GA), 50.58; 3. Amy Jacobi (PS), 52.06.

500 freestyle: 1. Teresa Crippen (GA), 4:51.41; 2. Lauren Sylvester (GA), 4:56.31; 3. Abby Reilly (GA), 5:02.52.

100 backstroke: 1. Annie Fittin (PS), 56.36; 2. Jen Kopenitz (GA), 57.71; 3. Lauren Smart (PS), 58.64.

100 breaststroke: 1. Heather Holton (PM), 1:03.07; 2. JiYoung Lee (PS), 1:03.81; 3. Alicia Lightbourne (PS), 1:05.06.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Germantown Academy, 3:25.74; 2. Peddie School, 3:32.89; 3. Mercersburg Academy, 3:40.32.

Diving: 1. Bridget Duffy (Pingree School), 413.35; 2. Erin Kennedy (Western Reserve), 404.05; 3. Courtney Levering (Hockaday School), 362.95.

Boys

Team scoring: 1. Peddie School, 413; 2. Germantown Academy, 336; 3. Loyola Blakefield, 324.5; 4. Malvern Prep, 306; 5. La Salle, 263; 6. Mercersburg Academy, 191.5; 7. Lawrenceville School, 182; 8. St. Joseph's Prep, 165.5; 9. Haverford School, 101; 10. Hargrave Varsity 90.

100 freestyle: 1. Evan Reed (DC), 45.52; 2. Peter Geissinger (LS), 45.78; 3. John McGinley (MP), 46.82.

500 freestyle: 1. Reece Chandler (GA), 4:36.53; 2. Matt Cox (GA), 4:36.53; 3. Peter Park (PS), 4:38.72.

100 backstroke: 1. Josh Charmin-Aker (PS), 51.55; 2. Matt O'Brien (PS), 51.86; 3. Derick Chui (PS), 51.88.

100 breaststroke: 1. Eric McAnelly (MP), 58.97; 2. Sean Roddy (LS), 58.99; 3. Chris Tiano (PC), 59.54.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Lawrenceville School, 3:08.62; 2. Peddie School, 3:10.25; 3. Malvern Prep, 3:10.60.

Diving: 1. Tom Henninger (GA), 565.55; 2. Jeff Craig (GA), 527.70; 3. Nolan Kingsley (MP), 395.40.

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