

Swimming Previews

Archbishop Wood

- **Coach:** Charlie Stillwell (11th year)
- **Last year's record:** 1-7
- **Key returnees:** Dave Keller, senior, freestyle/backstroke
- **Others to watch:** Gregory Oprendek, sophomore, freestyle/breaststroke; Robert Cohen, freshman, backstroke/freestyle
- **Strengths:** Stillwell believes that most of his swimmers will improve their times this year, but will face a difficult task in competing with the rest of the Philadelphia Catholic League.
- **Question marks:** Wood fields a small team with only eight competitors, and it hopes that its young swimmers can build experience and confidence for the future.
- **Outlook:** Five of the team's eight swimmers are either freshmen or sophomores. The Vikings' three seniors, Keller, Joseph Greim and Eric Reuter will have to show their young teammates the ropes. "The new swimmers will be counted on to jump right in and get the needed experience through on-the-job training," Stillwell said.
- **Coach says:** "The team will remain small but could be a better overall team than last year."

Bucks County Courier Times
www.phillyBurbs.com

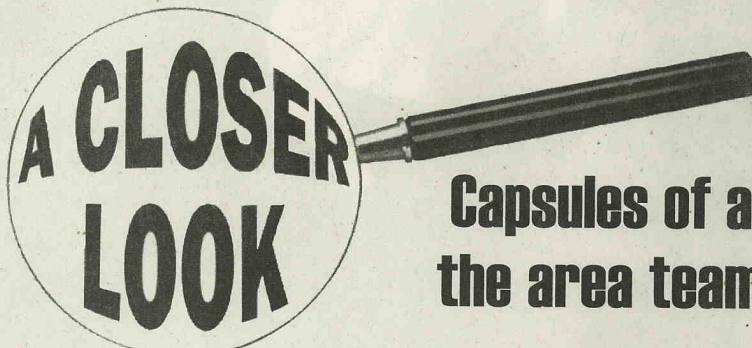
Archbishop Wood

Coach: Charlie Stillwell (11th year)

2006-07 record: 6-1 (5-1 PCL)

Key performers: Grace Cochrane (Fr., butterfly, sprint freestyle, individual medley); Alyse Davis (Jr., individual medley, breaststroke); Amy Finn (Sr., butterfly, distance freestyle); Bridget Gannon (Sr., sprint freestyle, butterfly); Rachael Gnias (Sr., distance freestyle); Taylor Kane (Fr., distance freestyle, breaststroke, individual medley); Christina Rios (Sr., backstroke, sprint freestyle); Emily Smith (So., breaststroke, freestyle).

Coach's quote: "With the loss of two of the best swimmers in the Catholic League, a fantastic freshman class will help the team keep going strong. While finishing second last year, our team had its goal set on rising to the challenge and swimming to a first place finish in the league this year. While the task will be difficult, a strong senior class will lead the way. If great things are to come to us this year it will definitely be a team effort. If we can improve enough in the freestyle events and get the effort from our middle swimmers, we will be in the race all the way to the end."



A CLOSER
LOOK

Capsules of all the area teams

Archbishop Wood

Coach: Charlie Stillwell (11th year)

Last year's overall record: 6-1

Swimmers to watch: Sr. Christina Rios (sprints, backstroke, freestyle), Sr. Amy Finn (butterfly, freestyle), Jr. Alyse Davis (IM, breaststroke), Soph. Emily Smith (breaststroke, freestyle).

The season: "With the loss of the top two swimmers in the Catholic League, a fantastic freshman class will keep us going," Stillwell said. "We finished second in the league last year, but our fine senior class is focused on winning it this year."

Archbishop Wood

Coach: Charlie Stillwell (11th year)

Last year's record: 1-7

Swimmers to watch: Sr. Dave Keller (sprint free, backstroke), Soph. Greg Oprendek (breaststroke), Fr. Robert Cohen (breaststroke, free)

The season: The Crusaders will be small in numbers but nobody will outwork them in practice nor deter them from their goal of peaking for the post season.

**Hatboro-Horsham at
Central Bucks East
Wednesday, Dec. 19,
3:30 p.m.**


The Continental Conference foes go at it early in the season.

**Germantown Academy at
Peddie School
Wednesday, Jan. 9, 4 p.m.**

Against the powerful Falcons, who defeated GA by 46 points at the Eastern Championships last season, expect the Patriots to have all of their top swimmers on hand and in their featured events.

**Archbishop Wood at
Archbishop Ryan
Tuesday, Jan. 15, 3:15 p.m.**

The Vikings take another crack at the four-time defending Philadelphia Catholic League champions to whom they finished second last season.



Meets
to watch

**Souderton at North Penn
Friday, Feb. 1, 3:45 p.m.**

This ranks among the top rivalries in the area. The Indians and Maidens are familiar with each other because they compete in water polo during the summer and fall as well as go at each other during aquatics club season and the high school season. Expect some pool records to fall.

**Emmaus at North Penn
Tuesday, Feb. 5,
3:45 p.m.**

Four days after North Penn hosts Souderton, it flops down the welcome mat for the Green Hornets, the defending Class AAA state champions who handed the Maidens their only loss last season.

— Phil Gianficaro