

A CLOSER look

A breakdown of the teams in your area:

ARCHBISHOP WOOD

Coach: Charlie Stillwell (ninth year)

Last year: 3-6, sixth in PCL

Swimmers to watch: Sr. Billy Langlois (breaststroke, individual medley), Soph. Tom Whalen (breaststroke, sprint freestyle), Jr. Brendon McGhee (sprint freestyle)

The season: An experienced lineup and more depth than last year raise hopes for a winning record.

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BOYS SWIMMING

Archbishop Wood

Coach: Charlie Stillwell (eighth year)

2003-04 record: 3-6 (2-6 PCL)

Key performers: Billy Langlois (Sr., individual medley, breaststroke, butterfly, backstroke); David Zerumski (Sr., breaststroke, sprint freestyle); Jim Hurley (Jr., freestyle, IM); Sean Joyce (Jr., distance freestyle); Brendon McGhee (Jr., freestyle, backstroke); Tom Whelan (Jr., breaststroke, sprint freestyle).

Coach's quote: "This will be another good building year. Last year, even though we had a losing record, we were a lot more competitive in our meets. Losing five seniors will hurt, but our remaining swimmers excelled at the end of last year and will swim much better this year."

GIRLS SWIMMING

Archbishop Wood

Coach: Charlie Stillwell (eighth year)

2003-04 record: 6-2 (5-2 PCL)

Key performers: Jacqueline Morley (Sr., breaststroke, backstroke, freestyle); Monica Cymerman (Jr., freestyle); Megan Gannon (Jr., freestyle, butterfly, individual medley); Sharon Racine (Jr., freestyle); Jessica Rios (Jr., IM, backstroke, freestyle); Megan Donovan (So., breaststroke, IM); Nicole Lydon (So., butterfly, freestyle); Jacklyn Smith (So., backstroke, IM, freestyle).

Coach's quote: "Another big freshman class coming in will help with the loss of our great senior class. Once again, our girls will challenge for a top spot in the league. With only five seniors, we will be a young squad. We will have good depth and several girls will challenge for top spots at our league championship meet. Look for this to be an exciting year, with the girls getting better each meet."

Relay results

At the Central Bucks East Relays, Archbishop Wood's foursome of Billy Langlois, Jim Hurley, David Zerumski and Tom Whelan won the 200-yard breaststroke relay with a time of 2:03.37. The same four took third in the 400 medley relay (4:16.94).

In addition, William Tennent's Joe Dooling, Matt Preedy, Andy Bodner and John Cattell took third in the 200 backstroke relay (1:59.27).

Also, for Tennent, the duo of Shane Breen and Daniel Aichele had a combined score of 328.05 points to take second in boys diving, while Amanda Burke and Carrie Dougherty scored 370.50 to take second in girls diving.

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Boys swimming notebook

By Bill Keen



Some athletes are inspired to succeed merely by a love of competition and others by a desire to challenge school records.

But some of the most driven of all athletes are those who had an older brother in the program.

At Archbishop Wood, Tom Whelan saw older brother Kevin — now swimming for the Explorers of La Salle University — make a name for himself during his days as a Viking, and would like nothing better than to eclipse Kevin's best times.

Wood coach Charlie Stillwell said the junior is well on his way to doing just that.

"Tom has already had some success in his own right," Stillwell said. "He was third in the Philadelphia Catholic League last season in the breaststroke. Kevin won the breaststroke at the league meet two years ago,

but Tommy's times are already better than Kevin's at the same point in their careers."

Considering that the younger Whelan has the rest of this season and all of his senior year to go, chances are excellent that there will be a new leader in the family's record books.

"I think he realizes what it takes to succeed," Stillwell said. "Because of his brother, Tommy knows what he needs to do to get to that level or to exceed it."

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The season: With only five seniors, the Vikings will be young, but they also have some promising freshmen who could provide good depth.

Philadelphia Catholic League: Archbishop Wood will definitely be in the hunt for the championship, getting tough competition from St.

Hubert and Cardinal O'Hara.

Inter-Ac: Germantown Academy is the heavy favorite, and it would be a major surprise if it does not run away with the title.