

# Wood girls third in PCL meet

By Louis Williams  
Sportswriter

Sunday was just another day at the office for the La Salle College High School swimming team, who won its 17th straight Philadelphia Catholic League title.

The Explorers nearly doubled up second place finisher St. Joe's Prep with their PCL title score of 904 points. Their total accounted for better than a quarter of the total of 3,076 team points in the meet that concluded at La Salle University's Kirk Natatorium on Sunday.

"The boys just came in here and swam tough," said La Salle coach Frank Lichtner. "But that has always been characteristic of this team. They are confident and swam some very good times."

The Explorers won two out of three relays and took top honors in two individual events on their way to the team title.

The Explorers opened the meet with a victory in the 200 medley relay, where they touched out Cardinal O'Hara by .02 seconds, winning the race in a time of 1:42.19.

Junior Pat Jeffers dropped more than two seconds from his seed time to win the 200 individual medley in a time of 2:03.42 and junior Ben Deardon won the 100 butterfly in 54.86 before the Explorers' 200 freestyle relay team won by .31 over Father Judge, gaining an important 40 points.

But this was not a meet won by a few top swimmers, the

Explorers used their whole team to take home the meet.

After losing a large number of seniors following last season, this year's final result was as much in doubt as any other and a complete team effort would be needed to repeat as PCL champs.

"We are a team that, luckily, never has to rely on one or two people," said Lichtner. "We have a tremendous amount of team depth and they all get in and contribute. The fact that it was a team effort is what makes this so gratifying for everyone."

The Explorers had at least one swimmer finish in the top three in all but one individual event and had two swimmers in the top three of both the 200 freestyle and the 100 butterfly.

"A lot of people doubted we would be able to do it again and we came out and proved them wrong," said senior captain Kevin Hylinski, who took fourth in the 50 freestyle and third in the 100 breaststroke. "To be able go undefeated for the second straight year, win the PCL and prove everyone wrong was just awesome."

"We always want to win this meet," said senior Brennan Hagy, who finished fifth in the 200 freestyle and third in the 100 butterfly. "Especially for us seniors because we don't want to let anyone down and end the streak."

Paced by strong finishes from a pair of breaststrokers, Archbishop Wood had one of the strongest performances at the

PCL championships in the 9-year tenure of coach Charlie Stillwell.

Wood's boys' team finished in sixth place out of nine teams with 200 total points and the Vikings' girls took third place overall with 411 points.

"This whole weekend was awesome," said Stillwell. "This is the best my kids have swam as a team since I have been here. All the kids I wanted to make it in to the finals made it in and we had almost all best times."

The Vikings' only individual event winner was sophomore Megan Donovan, who took top honors in the 500 freestyle. Donovan won the 20-lap event by more than four seconds with her time of 5:25.53.

"You can always swim better but I was pretty happy with the way that I swam," said Donovan.

Donovan also swam the 100 breaststroke, where she took fourth place in a time of 1:11.66 as well as a pair of Wood relays.

Junior Thomas Whelan also garnered solid team points with his finish in the 100 breaststroke event. Whelan dropped .47 from his seed time to take second place with a time of 1:02.12.

Whelan also swam the 50 freestyle, where he took 10th in a time of 23.62 as well as two relays.

## Girls

**Final team standings:** Archbishop Ryan (AR) 982; Cardinal O'Hara (CO) 555; Archbishop Wood (AW) 411; Saint Hubert (SH) 341; Archbishop Carroll (AC) 242; Archbishop Prendergast (AP) 172; Little Flower (LF) 89; Saint Maria (SM) 68.

200 medley relay—Archbishop Ryan 1:55.95; Archbishop Wood 1:59.50; Cardinal O'Hara 2:00.85; 200 freestyle—Susan Horstmann (CO) 1:55.50; Kelly Fleagle (CO) 2:01.34; Jaclyn Smith (AW) 2:03.87; 200 individual medley—Jessica Williams (AR) 2:14.43; Kellie Pastore (AR) 2:16.83; Katie McDade (AR) 2:17.21; 50 freestyle—Stephanie Zielinski (AR) 25.19; Katie Erikson (CO) 25.42; Christina Rios (AW) 25.96; 100 butterfly—Kaitlin Slowey (AR) 59.09; Williams (AR) 1:01.60; Erin Searl (AR) 1:01.97; 100 freestyle—Horstmann (CO) 53.15; Zielinski (AR) 55.83; Sarah Brickenmeier (CO) 56.89; 500 freestyle—Megan Donovan (AW) 5:25.53; Bridget Hennessey (AR) 5:29.99; Kelly Cotton (CO) 5:31.90; 200 freestyle relay—Cardinal O'Hara 1:40.96; Archbishop Ryan 1:42.30; Archbishop Carroll 1:49.50; 100 backstroke—Slowey (AR) 1:00.56; Fleagle (CO) 1:03.29; Searl (AR) 1:04.50; 100 breaststroke—Pastore (AR) 1:07.35; McDade (AR) 1:10.57; Kim Krzaczk (AR) 1:11.12; 400 freestyle relay—Cardinal O'Hara 3:42.79; Archbishop Ryan 3:42.99; Archbishop Wood 3:58.27.

## Boys

**Final team standings:** LaSalle (LS) 904; Saint Joseph's Prep (SJP) 486.5; Monsignor Bonner (MB) 394; Father Judge (FJ) 344.5; Cardinal O'Hara (CO) 299; Archbishop Wood (AW) 200; Roman Catholic (RC) 199; Archbishop Ryan 160; Archbishop Carroll (AC) 89.

200 medley relay—LaSalle 1:42.19; Cardinal O'Hara 1:42.21; Saint Joseph's Prep 1:44.68; 200 freestyle—Shawn McDevitt (MB) 1:49.33; John Holt (LS) 1:50.55; Eric Prendergast (LS) 1:50.61; 200 individual medley—Pat Jeffers (LS) 2:03.42; Matt Harner (FJ) 2:04.22; Andrew Gillespie (RC) 2:05.80; 50 freestyle—Gabe Oropollo (MB) 21.91; Garrett Gallagher (LS) 22.32; Steve Hartman (CO) 22.34; 100 butterfly—Ben Deardon (LS) 54.86; Mark Gilinski (RC) 55.03; Brennan Hagy (LS) 55.29; 100 freestyle—Oropollo (MB) 48.75; Gilinski (RC) 49.40; George Walters (LS) 50.04; 500 freestyle—Shawn McDevitt (MB) 4:59.89; Brian Jeffers (LS) 5:03.09; Dan English (MB) 5:03.90; 200 freestyle relay—LaSalle 1:29.32; Father Judge 1:29.63; Monsignor Bonner 1:30.40; 100 backstroke—Hartman (CO) Gillespie (RC) 55.42; Terence Marilton (SJP) 55.91; 100 breaststroke—Harner (FJ) 1:01.48; Tom Whelan (AW) 1:02.12; Kevin Hylinski (LS) 1:03.53; 400 freestyle relay—Monsignor Bonner 3:19.82; LaSalle 3:20.13; Father Judge 3:22.11.