

# Donovan leads Wood

By Marty Katz  
Sportswriter

With five events remaining, and Archbishop Wood clinging to a four-point lead against visiting St. Hubert in a Philadelphia Catholic League girls' swimming meet last Wednesday, it was time for the Vikings' Megan Donovan to step to center stage.

Three Donovan victories later, the Vikings had their victory, by a 95-75 final tally.

It came as no surprise to Wood coach Charlie Stillwell.

"Megen is probably the best swimmer in the league," Stillwell said.

Donovan, a junior, came through with individual wins in the 500 freestyle and 100 breaststroke as well as an anchor leg victory in the 400 freestyle relay.

Then add the 200 individual medley and the 200 freestyle to the events in which the multitalented Donovan competes.

Last year, Donovan took home the gold medal in the PCL's 500 freestyle championship and has already dropped 10 seconds off her time in that event this season.

"Megen wants to go for the 500 freestyle record this year," Stillwell said. "She works extremely hard. She's a very motivated kid."

Donovan's times in the 500 freestyle and the breaststroke are the best in the PCL, while she ranks a very close second in the IM.

Stillwell believes that the junior phenom could possibly dip below the two minute mark in the 200 freestyle in the very near future, maybe even in the upcoming week.

Donovan's is a story of how great things can happen when talent meshes with motivation.

As a freshman, she barely missed earning All-PCL status in two events.

Not one to be deterred by any losses, Donovan came back stronger as a sophomore and in addition to her 500 freestyle victory, also placed second in the PCL breaststroke championship.

Along with Alyse Davis, Amy Finn and Christina Rios, Donovan makes up Wood's very tough 400 freestyle relay squad.

Donovan's favorite event is the 500 freestyle, a grueling event that tests the swimmer's stamina. To help with that, she has been training with a distance team over the past two years.

The 200 IM — which is truly for the all-around swimmer, as it combines backstroke, butterfly, breaststroke and freestyle — has captured the competitor in Donovan.

"I'm working hard on my butterfly," the junior said. "The breaststroke pulls me through. I'm shakiest in the backstroke. I

See **Wood GS**, page 11

# Donovan leads Wood

■ **Wood GS**, from Page 9

need to work hard on technique."

Her coach is thrilled to have someone with Donovan's enthusiasm and work ethic for the sport.

"Megen wants to learn how to do things better," Stillwell said. "She's a nice kid, too."

To look at Donovan, one would not know that she is such a fierce competitor.

"She's skinny as a rail," Stillwell said. "She just kicks everybody's butt."

Wood had a tremendous meet against the Bambis last Wednesday night as Jaclyn Smith finished first in both the 100 and 200 freestyle races, while Davis took top-spot in the 200 IM and Rios captured the 50 freestyle as well as the 100 backstroke events.

The Vikings' 200 -relay quartet of Smith, Davis, Rios and Megan Gannon also took home the gold in their 20-point team-victory.

It was truly a red letter night for Archbishop Wood girls swimming.

## Archbishop Wood 95, St. Hubert 75

200 medley relay — St. Hubert (Maria Petrosky, Kelsey Homont, Amanda Spaeder, Jen Salwach) 2:06.00; 200 freestyle—Jaclyn Smith (AW) 2:02.18; 200 IM—Alyse Davis (AW) 2:25.90; 50 freestyle—Christina Rios (AW) 26.29; 100 butterfly—Andrea Parissi (SH) 1:05.37; 100 freestyle—Jaclyn Smith (AW) 56.81; 500 freestyle—Megen Donovan (AW) 5:21.40; 200 relay—Archbishop Wood (Jaclyn Smith, Megan Gannon, Alyse Davis, Christina Rios) 1:49.00; 100 backstroke—Christina Rios (AW) 1:08.31; 100 breaststroke—Megen Donovan (AW) 1:10.53; 400 relay—Archbishop Wood (Alyse Davis, Amy Finn, Christina Rios, Megen Donovan) 4:02.96.