

2005-06 Boys Swimming Preview

Archbishop Wood

Coach: Charlie Stillwell (ninth year)

Last year's record: 2-6

Swimmers to watch: Sr. Tom Whelan (breaststroke), Sr. Jim Hurley (breaststroke), Sr. Brendon McGhee (sprint free)

The season: There's quality in individual events but a lack of depth could hurt the Vikings in the Philadelphia Catholic League.

Boys swimming notebook

By Bill Keen



The New Year brings the hope of better things to come, but **Archbishop Wood** has some solid evidence on which to base those expectations.

Saturday at Stroudsburg High School's Winter Swim Classic, Wood was third with 244 points behind East Stroudsburg South (255) and team champion Father Judge (270).

"The guys felt really good with the way they did and this should give them a confidence boost," Vikings coach Charlie Stillwell said.

The 400-yard freestyle relay — Brendon McGhee, David Keller, John Wright and Sean Joyce — finished first in 3 minutes, 45.24 seconds.

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Veteran **Archbishop Wood** coach Charlie Stillwell has seen swimmers like junior Tim Miller before, athletes who get a late start to scholastic competition yet immediately show their potential in different events.

"Tim started as basically a summer swimmer as a fresh-

man," Stillwell said. "Last season as a sophomore he came out for the team towards the end of the year and had his time in the 100-yard breaststroke down around 1 minute, 10 seconds."

A virus left Miller competing at less than top shape for the team's first Philadelphia Catholic League meet of this season, but he has bounced back and is looking much stronger.

"This year we don't have any freshmen on the squad," the coach said. "Everyone must contribute so it's good to see Tim getting better each day. I watched Tim's stroke today and you can see how he's getting a lot stronger and more consistent with his time."

"I'm really going to be pushing these kids hard in practice for about the next two weeks so they'll all be ready to peak by the end of the season and the PCL championships. I think Tim should be down around 1:07 or 1:08 if not better by then."