

## Dec. 29 Boys Hornet Relays



*Hamilton's Maciej Bury cuts through the water in the 4x200 meters during today's Hornet Relays at West (Photo by Dennis Symons Jr./purchase photos at [www.denissymons.com](http://www.denissymons.com)).*

### **Steinert wins third straight crown to highlight the day for township**

**By Mark Pratico**

**Fish4Scores.com**

**Dec. 29:** Swimming in Hamilton Township has been a work in progress the past few years

While Steinert has been the stronger team in the area, both Hamilton and Nottingham continue to make progress despite small numbers and the challenge of training part-time swimmers to be capable of competing with year rounder club swimmers.

Each year keeps getting better, and earlier today at the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Hornet Relays held at Hamilton West, the three township squads showed they are growing at a desirable rate.

For the third year in a row, the Spartans won the event with 98 points, achieving a goal that was considered a priority at the outset of the season.

“The win today was great. It truly topped off 2011,” said Spartan senior Kyle Gulsby, who has been a key contributor in coach Jen Smith’s lineup since his freshman year, “Winning this three years in a row is definitely awesome, and it gives us good momentum heading into the new year. We are really bringing this program to where we want it to be in comparison to other teams in Mercer County.”

“The Hornet Relays has been a great event for the township and for high school swimming,” Smith said, “When we are on break, we only get so many training days, and this is a great way to keep the kids competing. This way when we get back to regular training and meets, we are not rusty.”

Steinert took first place in five of the meet's eight events, as Smith utilized a host of younger swimmers, led by her upperclassmen leaders.

The team of Zach Mabin, Tyler Gulsby, Matt Jensen, and Kevin Diefenbach won the 4x200 meter IM relay (4:41.28). Steve Chronowski, Gary Liedtka-Bizuga, Tommy Wright, and Mabin then won the 750-meter crescendo relay (8:17.02).

"We have a lot of tough competition coming up in our next few meets. All the teams we are going to swim are real strong, but if we keep giving it our all, we will be fine," Kyle Gulsby said.

Steinert really flexed its endurance in the 4x50 meter butterfly relay, when Stephen Huie, Kyle Gulsby, Wright, and Tyler Gulsby won in 2:07.15

"This is a tough meet because everyone can swim in three events," Smith said. "Guys had to swim a race then come right back and swim another one, but they did really well. The adrenaline just keeps them going."

Along with their endurance, the Spartans showed their depth, which will pay dividends come the Mercer County Meet. Billy Maloney, Kyle Gulsby, Wright, and Diefenbach won the 4x200, clocking in at 9:13.77, and then Diefenbach, Frank Sun, Liedtka-Bizuga, and Mabin capped off the gold medal swims by winning the 4x50 breaststroke relay (2:21.77).

"We had a good lineup set to swim so we were confident that we'd come out on top," Diefenbach said, "We had a lot of underclassmen swim today, and they did really well. It is nice to see that as a senior the future of the program looks bright."

The hosting Hornets also had a nice outing. Swimming with a small roster, coach Dan Seeth's squad has a lot to be proud of.

"We have a small squad so our guys have to work really hard and immediately," Seeth said. "They would swim a race then get right into another lane to swim again. We did not have any expectations for this meet, but I was proud with the results."

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The Hornets best performance of the day came in the 750-meter crescendo relay, where the team of Aleks Henson, John Novak, Jacob Torres, and Griffin Hutton placed third with a time of 8:42.32.

"We concentrated on a few relays. We did particularly well in the crescendo. This meet turned out great again, as all the teams were competitive. The best part about it is being every event is a relay; one star swimmer cannot make the difference.

"Every year the event is so well received, which is why it keeps getting the support it does. All of the coaches and swimmers that participated were cooperative and helped make it a success," Seeth said.

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Nottingham also has to deal with limited numbers, but had a few noteworthy performances. They had a nice fourth-place finish in the 4x100 IM relay.

The team of Joe Oliver, Anthony Taffrow, Michael John, and Jeremy Oiler clocked in at 5:21.07.

Last night's performances by the Hamilton Township teams prove that swimming in the area is on the rise, and is constantly getting better.