

## Jan. 10 Swimming



*Abi Wagner had a pair of second-place finishes in Hamilton's dual meet with Robbinsville today (Photo by Kim Walter)*

### **Steinert boys drop first of the season to WWPN, girls also fall**

**By Rich Fisher  
Fish4Scores.com**

Facing its biggest test of the year, Steinert got several strong individual showings but didn't have enough depth to keep up with West Windsor-Plainsboro South, as the Spartans dropped a 101-69 victory.

It was the first setback of the season for Steinert, which dropped to 6-1.

The Spartans got a 1-2 finish in the 200 IM by Zach Mabin and Tyler Gulsby, while Mabin also won the 100 breast. Kevin Diefenbach took first in the 100 freestyle, Tommy Wright won the 500 free and Gulsby claimed the 200 back.

The Spartans started the meet well, winning the 200 medley relay behind Billy Maloney, Mabin, Gulsby and Diefenbach.

The Spartan girls fell to the Northern Knights, 95-75, to drop to 3-3.

Lauren Cruz continued her stellar season by winning the 50 and 100 freestyle, while Sara DeAngelo won the IM and was second in the breaststroke.

Tess Dalton had second in the 400, Hailey Thayer was second in the backstroke and Taylor

Kwok took third in the 200.

The season's toughest stretch continues Thursday as Steinert heads for Princeton.

## **Hornet coaches find numerous bright spots in losses at Robbinsville**

**Jan. 10:** Despite both teams suffering losses at Robbinsville today, Hamilton West boys' coach Dan Seeth and girls' coach Kyle Schulke were enthused by their teams' efforts.

"We had a great meet, despite our close loss," said Seeth, whose Hornets fell 96-74.

"Despite the loss we had big improvements from several girls," said Schulke after the Ravens 108-62 win.

In the boys meet, Griffin Hutton won the 200 IM (2:25.86) and 100 freestyle (59.18), while Aleks Henson took the 100 breast (1:30.53).

"That was a huge win for Aleks," said Seeth, noting that Nick Walter and John Matisa finished 4-5 in the event.

Seeth said the 500 free was "an incredibly exciting race as Jacob Torres was just touched out for first place (by Rohan Bajaj). I don't think there was more than a meter between him and their swimmer. Torres made (Bajaj) work for it."

The coach noted that a 2-3-4 finish by Sam Markos, Matisa and Maciej Bury in the 200 free enabled the Hornets to win the event on points. The same occurred in the 50 free with "a surprise second-place" from Gerritt Furda, while Henson and Austin Jenkins finished 3-4.

Markos, Bury and Jenkins were 2-3-5 in the 100 back, while Ed Kitner and Mitchell Fechter were 3-5 in the 100 free.

"Mitchell has been very ill this season, but continues to be part of the team," Seeth said. "Once his health returns, I expect that he will really do well the rest of his high school career."

Torres also had a third-place finish in the fly, while Walter was fourth in the 200 IM.

In the relays, Torres, Henson, Hutton and Jenkins were second in the 200 medley, Kitner, Furda, Walter and Jenkins were second in the 200 free and Torres, Markos, Henson and Hutton were second in the 400 free.

In the girls' meet, Maddie Uram took second in the 100 breast and third in the IM, while Sofi Walter was second in the 200 free and 400 free and recorded season-best times in both events. Autumn Sharkey had a personal-best with her second-place finish in the 100 fly, and she also was fourth in the 100 IM.

Stephanie Sparano took second in the 100 back and third in the 100 free, while Abi Wagner was second in the 100 and 50 freestyles. Freshman Cassidy Wagner "had her best meet of the season" according to Schulke, as she dropped five seconds in the 100 back for a fourth-place finish. Alyson Courtney took third in the 100 back and 200 free.

"The silver lining to this season," said Schulke, "is that the girls are working hard, improving, and seeing that hard work can pay off."

## **Hopewell Valley too much for Nottingham boys and girls to handle**

The Nottingham boys came up against some tough competition at Hopewell Valley, suffering a 107-62 defeat to drop to 2-5. HoVal improved to 3-6 with its second straight win over a township school.

The Northstars highlight came at the end, as the team of Eric Cougan, Michael John, Jeremy Oiler and Joe Oliver won the 400 free relay in 3:55.99.

Nottingham got second-place finishes from Oiler (200 IM), Cougan (50 free), John (100 free),

Frank Gonzalez (500 free), Jawad Shah (100 back), the 200 medley relay team of Cougan, John, Oiler and Tom Padulchick and the 200 free relay team of Gonzalez, Oliver, Edgar Sarat and Max Wackerman.

Third-place finishers included Gonzalez (200 free), Oiler (100 fly), Padulchick (100 back) and John (100 breast).

The Northstar girls also came up on the short end in a 120-50 loss to HoVal.

Sam Williams and Lisa Mazukewicz were both winners for the Northstars, with Williams taking the 500 free (6:08.09) and Mazukewicz winning the 100 back (1:09.94). Mazukewicz was also second in the 200 IM and 100 fly.

Bridget Doolittle was third in the 500 free while Theresa Henry took third in the 100 breast.

The 400 free relay team of Doolittle, Henry, Mazukewicz and Williams took second.