

Jan. 19 Swimming

Torres, Hutton, Matisa lead Hamilton to first win of the season

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

Jan. 19: Pop the champagne bottles – non alcoholic, of course – and pass ‘em around.

It’s time for the Hamilton West program to celebrate.

The Hornets finally got that elusive first victory today, traveling to Trenton and bringing home a 63-1/3 to 30-1/2 victory over the winless hosts in a co-ed meet.

While the W goes on the boy’s record, both squads can claim it as several girls also chipped in with some points.

But no one was quibbling. A win is a win and deserved to be appreciated.

“This feels great,” said freshman Jacob Torres, who had three first-place finishes. “After a whole season of not winning, to finally get at least one win feels good.”

And the Hornets had a feeling they could do it after coming close against Ewing last week when six team members missed the meet with illness. A few more missed today, which has been part of the problem this year.

“I was really excited,” said junior captain John Matisa. “I was disappointed some of our other team members couldn’t come because of sickness but I was real excited about this meet.”

So was boys coach Dan Seeth, who admitted he didn’t want to leave a lot to chance against a struggling but incredibly spirited Trenton High team.

“Coming off the Ewing meet we really needed to go for the win so we swam them a little harder than I usually intended to,” Seeth said. “But we had to be sure they were winning.”

And win they did. Griffin Hutton led the way by taking the 100 fly (1:11.86) and 100 breast (1:23.56) and also swimming on the winning 200 medley relay (2:22.06) and 200 free relay (2:04.88).

Torres was on the 200 MR and 200 FR and also won the 100 back (1:18.81).

“I was excited,” Torres said. “I tried my best. A couple of their kids put up a good effort. They showed a lot of heart and spirit so it was good swimming against them.”

Matisa set the pace in the 200 free (2:49.0) and 500 free (6:04.8).

“John did very well,” Seeth said. “He’s been doing well all season and progressing as the season has gone along.”

Austin Jenkins won twice in the 200 MR and 400 FR and Nick Walter won twice in the 200 FR and 400 FR. Aleks Henson won twice in the 200 MR and 200 FR, while rounding out the 400 FR (5:05.50) were Gerritt Furda and Maciej Bury.

Henson had second-place finishes in the 50 free and 100 breast. Other seconds came from Maciej Bury (20 free), Matt Maul (200 IM), Gerrit Furda (100 fly), Arianna Gagliardi (100 free) and Ed Kitner (500 free).

Finishing third in the unique four-lane pool were Maul (100 free) and Christine Carbone (100 back), who was told by coach Kyle Schulke she would never have to do that race again.

“Hold him to that,” Trenton coach Michelle Purvis said playfully.

All in all, a nice day for Hamilton in the midst of a tough season.

“We’ve had a lot of illness on our team, especially against Ewing,” Seeth said. “I’m not saying we would have won but it would have been different. The season we’re having with illness has hurt us in a lot of places.

“When we swam Nottingham we were missing kids. I’ve never been able to put a full lineup in. I’ve been going through my meets and there are holes in every meet and different holes every time so I don’t have a consistent team.”

For one day, however, it didn’t matter.

It was time to rejoice.

Pop!

Minus Mabin, Spartan boys fall to Rams while girls get a victory

Missing one its top swimmers proved costly to the Steinert boys today, as Hightstown squeaked out an 86-84 victory by winning the 400 relay.

Zach Mabin, a state qualifier in the breaststroke and a key member of the state-qualifying 400 free relay team, missed the meet due to illness as the Spartans (6-4) dropped their fourth straight.

Kevin Diefenbach won twice for Steinert in the 200 IM (2:09.11) and 100 free (52.54), while Tommy Wright won the 500 free (5:22.81). A key to Hightstown’s victory was winning all four relays.

Second-place finishers for the Spartans were Wright (200 free), Tyler Gulsby (100 fly) and Billy Maloney (500 free). The 100 breast result was unavailable.

It was better news for the girls’ team, which took a 103-67 victory over the Rams to improve to 6-3.

The usual double-sword attack of Sara DeAngelo and Lauren Cruz had another big day with four wins apiece.

Both were on the 200 MR (2:03.75) and 200 FR (1:49.52) along with Haley Thayer, while Cruz won the 50 free (26.41) and 100 free (58.74) and DeAngelo won the 100 fly (1:05.84) and 100 breast (1:17.24).

Thayer added second-place finishes in the 50 and 100 free, while Taylor Kwok was on the 200 MR and winning 400 free relay (4:21.59) along with Mackenzie Schlosser, Ciera Jones and Tess Dalton. Kwok was second in the 200 IM.

Finishing third were Gandy (200 free), Carley Conti (200 IM), Margaret Herbert (50 & 100 free), Adrienne Barsoum (500 free), Kwok (100 back) and Jones (100 breast).

Nottingham-WWP North results unavailable