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Dover's Rubritz swims to career day

Jon Rubritz took home three state medals, while Warrior Zach Phillips struck gold in the 200 IM.

By STEVE NAVAROLI Daily Record/Sunday News

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Mar 18, 2006 — LEWISBURG - To say Jon Rubritz is a big-meet swimmer would be a major understatement.

Especially after the Dover junior swam like he did in Friday night's PIAA Class AA championships at Bucknell University.

Simply put, Rubritz went out and had an unbelievable meet, winning three topthree medals.

Now that is an incredible day.

After getting out to a flying start in the 200 freestyle, Rubritz held off Trevor Scheid of Shady Side Academy by .15 seconds to place first with a time of 1:41.59.

His gold was the first of two YAIAA gold medals on the night.

Susquehannock's Zach Phillips won the league's second gold in the next event, when he dominated the field in the 200 individual medley.

Phillips swam a 1:54.23, for a better than three-second margin of victory over

John Cremo of Mechanicsburg.

Rubritz won his event just minutes after swimming the third leg of the Dover 200 medley relay that won a bronze medal (1:37.96).

"I knew I had to get out there and make him (Scheid) chase me the whole race," Rubritz said.

He struggled finding the words to describe how he felt, but knows he benefited from swimming the relay.

"It was like 'OK, warm-down as best as you can, and here we go again,'"
Rubritz said. "It helped me get my muscles warmed up, get a feel for the water
and get a little nerves out of the way."

Last season, Rubritz was a part of the PIAA champion medley relay and placed third in the 200 free, although this year's medley set a new Dover school record.

His medley teammates, Eric Naylor, Jeremy Naylor and Dan Ruppert, couldn't say enough good things about their mate.

"It makes you feel ecstatic because Jon is such a great swimmer," Ruppert said. "It really caps off our medley relay having him come back and bring home the gold for us."

"Nothing but smiles," Jeremy Naylor added. "To be a part of anything like this and train with someone who is excellent a person as he is makes it all worth it."

Two events later, Rubritz took home another bronze medal in the 100 butterfly, as the seventh seed. He entered the morning's preliminaries as 13th.

"To me, that would be a career," Dover coach Rich Janosky said of Rubritz's three-medal day. "In four years you would be thankful to do that."

Quite a day indeed.

Phillips is the man: The Susquehannock junior came in as the favorite and didn't disappoint as he captured his first PIAA hardware.

Phillips also swam in the opening medley relay, helping the Warriors to a sixthplace finish. He said the relay was a good warm up for the IM, particularly the backstroke, his leg in the medley.

He is also the front-runner in today's 500 free, but Phillips doesn't even think about the expectations, even with the entire state chasing him.

But watch out PIAA, Phillips said he is definitely ready for the 500.

"I just love competing. Racing is what I want to do," he said. "It doesn't matter (where he finishes) as long as I get to race and swim my best. I have been training hard for the 500, so I am expecting to drop a good amount of time."

Warriors' coach Karissa Brown marvels at the unassuming Phillips.

"What is amazing is he can go so much farther," she said. "He didn't hit his goal times for today and still wowed every single person in here and continues to impress me with every race."

Suburban chases team title: Every swim counts for York Suburban as it chases the team title in the boys meet. Whether earned in the championship race, or a consolation heat, the points accumulated by the Trojans go toward their team score.

After the first day, Suburban sits atop the AA standings with 111 points. Radnor is second with 95. Today's events could produce a team PIAA championship for coach Dick Guyer's crew.

Boys' notes: It was a banner day for the YAIAA. In addition to York Suburban, Dover and Susquehannock are tied for fourth in the team standings with 72 points. ... Strong relays were key with all three schools having foursomes in the finals of the medley relay. The Trojans, who took a bronze medal (1:29.06) in the 200 free and fifth in the medley relay (1:40.03) and Warriors, who placed sixth in both the 200 free (1:29.39) and medley relays (1:41.20). ... Suburban sophomore Harry Foster placed seventh in the 200 free (1:44.56). Teammates Joe Bentz and Kevin Marsteller also earned top-10 finishes, with Bentz placing

sixth in the IM (2:00.69), and Marsteller swimming to a seventh-place finish in the 100 butterfly (53.40).

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PIAA SWIMMING AND DIVING

What: PIAA Swimming and Diving Championships **Where:** Bucknell University, Lewisburg **When:** Today **Today's schedule:** Class AA girls' and boys' preliminaries in the morning; Class AA boys' diving in the afternoon; Class AA girls' and boys' finals in the evening • Friday's results, **Page 4B**.

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