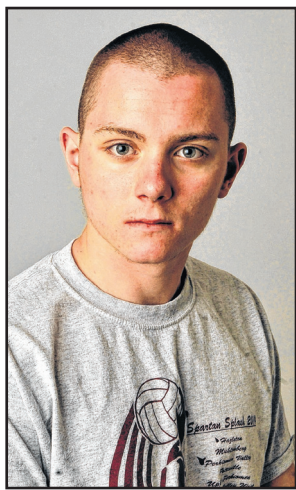


TIMES LEADER BOYS SWIMMING ALL-STARS

Lauding 'Fast Eddie'



Terry Vrabec
Wyoming Valley West
Sr. – Breast/Medley

Vrabec returned to the top of the regional podium with a Class 3A championship in the 100 breaststroke in 1:00.41. He finished just 14-hundredths of a second short in the 200 IM with a second-place showing of 2:05.27. In his first year with the WVC champion Spartans, he also took the 200 medley relay team to a regional gold. His Spartans' relay squad took 21st at the PIAA championships.



Logan Fluegel
Wyoming Valley West
So. – Butterfly

Fluegel was the Wyoming Valley Conference's top finisher at regionals in the 100 butterfly, touching the wall in 55.36 for third place. Missing out on a medal in the 100 free did not deter him; the Spartan sophomore helped his WVC championship Spartans win two relay titles in the 200 medley and 400 free. Fluegel's relay teams garnered 21st and 24th finishes, respectively, at states.



Matthew Edkins
Lake-Lehman
Sr. – Diving

Edkins wrapped up his career with his fourth consecutive District Class 2A diving championship. He broke his own record, by over 60 points, with a 548.6 score. Edkins took his fourth PIAA medal with a third-place finish in Lewisburg, totaling a 449.45. He was eighth in 2014, third in 2013, and sixth in 2012. The Black Knights used him on both of their eighth-place relay teams.



Connor Thole
Holy Redeemer
Jr. – Free/Back

Thole walked away from the District 2 championships with his first and second gold medals. Coming in with the third-best seed, Thole wiped the field in the 100 free with a 49.08-second finish. The Royal junior upset another Lackawanna favorite in the 100 back with a come-from-behind 55.9-second finish. At states, Thole came in 20th in the 100 back and 28th in the 100 free.



Aimee Dilger | Times Leader

One of the area's most decorated swimmers, Wyoming Valley West's Ed Zawatski recently decided to compete in college at Purdue.

WWV's Zawatski leaves a huge legacy

By Jay Monahan
For Times Leader

Ed Zawatski came. He saw. He conquered.

In his four years on the Wyoming Valley West boys swimming team, not once did a District 2 swimmer ever beat Zawatski in a race. Not when he was a freshman. Not when the sprinter tried his hand at medley, backstroke, butterfly, breaststroke or even distance events. Not even close at regionals.

Unblemished in hundreds of races, Zawatski leaves his mark as one of the top male swimmers to ever come out of the Wyoming Valley Conference. Adding to an already crowded resume that saw four regional championships, two state medals and two district records this year, The Times Leader names Zawatski its Boys Swimmer of the Year for the second straight season.

He said that the most memorable part of his career was forging relationships with opposing swimmers in the conference.

"It is definitely different people met in my life through swimming," he said. "If I think about it, technically I feel a part of four different teams – WWV, Holy Redeemer, Pittston Area, and Crestwood. Sharing what I can do and the experiences that I had with all of the different swimmers of those teams... that's the best takeaway from my four years."

Zawatski will be taking his talents to the Big Ten next year. He signed a National Letter of Intent to swim at Purdue University on April 17 – his birthday. Immediately after making his decision, he received a flurry of congratulatory and birthday texts from his soon-to-be Boilermaker teammates.

"A lot of the talk in the swimming world is that the Big Ten is the place to be," he said. "I'll get to swim against Michigan, Ohio State, Indiana, some of the top programs in the country. It'll really be a place for me to flourish. Everyone is advancing themselves and learning through competition."

He said he chose Purdue because of its academic reputation, the coaches that "want to transform" him "into a huge threat at the NCAA level", and the closeness of the Purdue team that reminds him of his own Valley West squad.

Zawatski was fortunate enough to gain the last spot on Purdue's relay team. He'll be swimming in the 50 and 100 free, and will play around with the 100 backstroke and 200 free races.

His senior year was the one he finally took the elusive 50 free District 2 record that he'd been pinning for four years. After coming 13-hundredths of a second short in his junior year, he overtook personal idol Jamie Grennan, of Delaware Valley, with a 20.36 second finish for a regional title.

He also broke his own District 2 record in the 100 free with a 45.58 second finish. Toying with breathing patterns throughout the season enabled him to find success in the event.

"The 100 free was very unique," Zawatski said. "Every time I swam it, I swam it differently. I tried a different thing each time and my times increasingly dropped every time I swam it. I'd take no breath for the first 25 yards. Then take a breath three specific times."

At states, he finished with a silver medal in the 50 free in 20.54 seconds. For the first time in his career, Zawatski garnered a state medal in the 100 free, coming in fourth place at 45.11 seconds.

His speedy times will only drop more significantly in the Big Ten. Zawatski is one of the few sprinters to abstain from the weight room.

"A lot of the guys I swim against lift weights. I'm saving up a little," he said. "In college, I'll have a professional nutrition, strength trainer, everything. My whole high school career I stayed away from the weight room. Occasionally, I'd go in there to use the medicine ball."

"It blew the college coaches' minds when I told them. I love to race. Racing is everything."

Zawatski won the 400 free relay at regionals with Stanley Zaneski, Logan Fluegel and Llyam McGlynn in 3:19.86. His 200 free relay team with McGlynn, Fluegel and Terry Vrabec won regionals in a time of 1:38.33.



Brandon Winters
Pittston Area
Sr. – Back/Free

After missing out at a gold medal by the blink of an eye his junior year, the Pittston Area senior claimed his first regional championship with a first-place finish in the 100 back. He shaved nearly a second-and-a-half off his seed for a 55.47 second-place finish. Winters came second to WWV's Ed Zawatski in the 50 free in 21.97 seconds. At the Class 3A state race, he finished in 32nd place.



Nick Dubinski
Holy Redeemer
So. – Breast

Dubinski had one of the top local performances at the PIAA Class 2A championships, finishing one slot short of a medal in ninth place in the 100 breast. Earlier, he booked his first trip to states with a second-place finish at districts where he shaved 2.82 seconds off his seed and another 61-hundredths of a second at states to clock a season-best 1:01.47 in the PIAA consolation finals.



Reid Luksic
Dallas
Sr. – Medley/Breast

Luksic helped the Mountaineers win a district championship with a pair of medals. He shaved 4.35 seconds off in the 100 breast to finish in 1:02.32 for third. Luksic had another four-plus second knockoff in the 200 IM to take fourth place in 2:13.41. His 100 breast time earned a state bid and paved the way for a 13th place in Lewisburg. His 200-medley relay team qualified for states after taking second at districts.



Porter Luksic
Dallas
Jr. – Medley/Breast

The younger Luksic brother nabbed third at districts in the 200 IM, nipping nearly four seconds off his seed time to finish in 2:08.08. His fourth-place finish in the 100 breast secured integral points toward Dallas' District 2 Class 2A championship. His 400-free relay squad earned silver medal at districts. Porter came in 18th place at PIAAs in the 100 breast.



Ezra Moore
Dallas
Sr. – Distance

The Dallas senior capped his scholastic swimming career with a second-place finish in the 500 free. Moore qualified for states and finished in 26th place in the Class 2A field with a time of 5:02.24. Leading Dallas to a district championship, he claimed fifth in the 200 free and his 400-free relay squad came in second.



Jared Krawetz
Dallas
Jr. – Distance

Krawetz makes his first All-Star appearance following two individual and two relay medals en route to Dallas' district championship campaign. He came in third in the 500 free with a time of 5:11.58, knocking six-plus seconds off his previous best. In the 200 free, Krawetz took fourth with a 1:51.92.



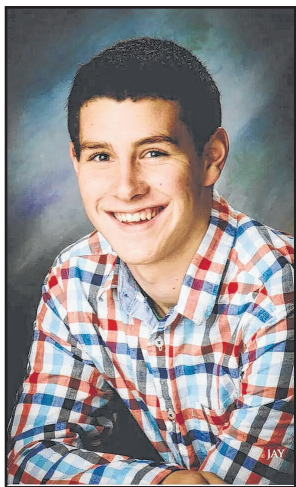
Mike Rehrig
Berwick
Sr. – Free

Rehrig made some of the biggest drops at the District 2 championships. He erased nearly a full second off his 50 free time to finish with a silver medal. Rehrig touched at 22.68 seconds to come 22-hundredths of a second short of gold. The Berwick senior was unable to hold a lead in the 100 free and took fourth despite docking 2.14 seconds off his seed time. He finished in 51.16 seconds.



Jacob Skoronski
Tunkhannock
Jr. – Butterfly

Skoronski crushed the field in the 100 butterfly on his way to winning his first District 2 championship. With a two-plus second drop, the Tunkhannock junior won the race in 55.08 seconds. He came in 24th place at the PIAA championships. His 200-free relay team earned a spot to states following its second-place performance at districts. Skoronski also tabbed third in the 200 free.



Llyam McGlynn
Wyoming Valley West
Sr. – Back

McGlynn wrapped his high school career with a WVC championship and two regional relay titles. He finished with a silver medal in the 100 back, clocking in at 56.02 seconds. McGlynn was part of regional champion in the 200 medley and 400 free relays, taking the former to 21st and the latter to 24th at the Class 3A state race. He was fourth in the 200 free at regionals.

SECOND TEAM

Andy Acosta
Hazleton Area

Matt Bean
Wyoming Seminary

Owen Kiluk
Dallas

Patrick Lehman
Holy Redeemer

Chris Michael
Berwick

Andriy Molchanov
Wyoming Seminary

Michael Murphy
Wyoming Area

Seth Platukis
Hazleton Area

Troy Reinert
Dallas

Stefan Sehne
Tunkhannock

Yonah Wasik
Lake-Lehman

Josh Zawatski
Wyoming Valley West

Jorge Moncayo
Hazleton Area