

## Dec. 15 Swimming



**DS** DENNIS SYMONS .COM  
PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS

*Steinert's Zach Mabin made his school record in the 100 breast just a little tougher to break today as he brought it down to 1:03.06 in the Spartans win over Hopewell Valley (Photo by Dennis Symons/purchase photos at [www.dennissymons.com](http://www.dennissymons.com)).*

### **Fab frosh Hutton beats his 400 free record and hopes to go after others**

**By Rich Fisher**

**Fish4Scores.com**

**Dec. 15:** There's something brewing in the Hamilton West pool.

And no, football coach Tom Hoglen did not throw fizzies in the water in a fit of pre-holiday giddiness.

What's cooking is the Hornets boys swim team, which is 0-4 but laying the foundation for a nice future.

Leading the way is freshman Griffin Hutton, who set a new school record in the 400-yard freestyle for the second straight meet in the Hornets 114-56 loss to Hightstown today at the Lea A Terry Natatorium.

Against Nottingham on Tuesday, Hutton broke the record of big brother Zack, who swam a 4:32.27 two years ago. Griffin clocked a 4:29.69 against the Northstars and today he smashed his own mark by clocking a 4:26.75

None of this comes as a surprise to coach Dan Seeth.

"Griffin had told me things over the summer about what his times were so I already knew what to expect when he came in," Seeth said. "But I'm happy it's happening now. He's not coming close and not getting it, or just breaking it by a little bit. He's making it his record and that's really a great thing." Hutton said his brother expected him to break the mark after an outstanding summer in which he clocked some quick times swimming for the Princeton Piranhas club team.

"I started to swim for Hamilton Aquatics when I was about five," Hutton said. "Last year I switched to Princeton just for a change. It helped me a lot, but Hamilton Aquatics was a good starting point and got me ready to come here."

So far, Hutton has been as good as advertised. He also won the 100 fly (1:03.93) today, which he considers his best event.

"I'm happy with how it's going," Hutton said. "Hopefully I can get some more (records) by the end of this season and the end of my high school career. But I couldn't ask for a better start."

Neither could his coach, who has been anxiously awaiting Hutton's arrival.

"Griffin's been great," Seeth said. "I knew he was coming into our program last year. He's been a great help on the pool deck, during the practices.

"He comes every day. He pokes his head in then goes to his other practice so he's got a great work ethic. He's great to have."

And while he is the star right now, he is leading a strong youth movement for Hamilton.

"He's part of this young freshman class we have, they're gonna be unstoppable the next couple years," Seeth said. "We're kind of working out the kinks now."

Hutton's ninth-grade classmates include Jacob Torres, who took third in the 200 IM and 100 back today; Aleks Henson, who was third in the 200 free and second in the 100 breast; and John Novak (third 100 free).

"They're inspiring other guys who aren't year-round swimmers to start stepping up," Seeth said. "Even the older guys are kind of looking at them and saying 'All right, if they're doing that, we can do it too.'"

"The whole team is growing collectively because of the younger guys who have come on the scene. They're really showing people what fast swimming is about.

Griffin is definitely the leader of the pack as far as speed and performance."

In looking up at Zack Hutton's name on the record board, Seeth smiled when discussing the strip that will replace it.

"This is only our fourth meet, so we're not going to buy a time," the coach said. "We're gonna buy the name card and we'll put it up there and figure out the time at the end of the season. "His brother asked for his nametag, so he can hand it to Zack over dinner or something. That'll be cool."

What is really cool for Seeth is the way this season is unfolding despite the winless record. He notes that 10 seniors from last year have been replaced with a ton of eager freshmen.

"I'm having the season a lot of coaches don't get to have," he said. "When you walk into a team with a majority of seniors, you have a lot of attitude with pre-determined opinions about things.

"A lot of that is cleaned out. I'm fortunate enough with that cleaning out, I've sucked up that whole freshman class and it's been amazing. We're small and we're young but I think we'll be something to keep an eye on the next few years."

\* \* \* \*

In the girls meet, Hightstown took a 111-59 victory over the Hornets but coach Kyle Schulke continued to get what he's looking for as the times kept dropping for his equally young team.

"I was happy with it," said Schulke, whose team slipped to 0-4. "A lot of the girls swam really well.

"We had that tight meet with Nottingham (Tuesday) and the girls today swam faster than they had then. If they swam against Nottingham like today, it might have been different."

Abi Wagner was Hamilton's lone winner, taking the 400 freestyle in 5:44.80. She also took second in the 200 freestyle. Maddie Uram had two second-place finishes in the 200 IM and 100 breast, while Autumn Sharkey was third in the 200 IM and 100 fly. Sofi Walter was second in the 100 fly, and Cassidy Wagner added a third in the 100 back.

"Autumn Sharkey has just been phenomenal, she just keeps dropping time," Schulke said. "In her 200 IM she dropped six seconds more, and she's our second fastest flyer. She's looking real strong in practice, which is good.

"Abi Wagner is doing real well. She's dropping more time and is faster now than last year. Sofi's been battling a little elbow injury but she's working hard in practice and that's all we can ask."

## **Mabin sets record as Steinert boys remain perfect; girls move to 3-1**

Griffin Hutton wasn't the only guy breaking his own record today.

The Steinert boys continued to roll through the early part of the season, taking a 102-68 win over Hopewell Valley at the Pennington School.

Zach Mabin was a quadruple winner, highlighted by his school record swim of 1:03.06 in the 100 breast. Mabin owned the previous mark of 1:03.24. He also won the 200 IM (2:09.24) and was part of the 200 medley relay team with Billy Maloney, Tyler Gulsby and Kevin Diefenbach (1:49.90); and the 200 free relay with Tyler Gulsby, Kyle Gulsby and Diefenbach.

Tyler Gulsby was also a four-time winner, copping the 100 fly (59.47) and 100 back (1:00.06). Diefenbach won the 50 free (24.69).

The team of Wright, Stephen Huie, Maloney and Kyle Gulsby were second in the 400 free relay. Other second-place finishers were Wright (200 free, 500 free) and Steve Chranowski (50 free). Taking thirds were Kyle Gulsby (200 free), Frank Sun (200 IM, 100 breast) and Huie (100 fly, 100 back). Billy Maloney had two fourths and Hunter Dalton two fifths.

\* \* \* \*

The Spartan girls won their third straight with a 95-75 win over HoVal. Lauren Cruz and Sara DeAngelo again led the way with four wins apiece.

The two were on the 200 medley relay (2:02.39) with Taylor Kwok and Hailey Thayer, and on the 400 free relay (4:02.86) with Kwok and Tess Dalton. Cruz won the 50 free (26.41) and 100 free (58.27), while DeAngelo won the 100 fly (1:07.39) and 100 breast (1:15.60).

Dalton easily won the 500 free in 5:54.71 and was second in the 200 free as her strong freshman campaign continues. Making it a clean sweep for the relays was the 200 free quartet of Maggie Herbert, Ciera Jones, Sarah Sacco and Thayer.

Thayer finished second in the 50 free and 100 back, while Jones (100 breast), Carley Conti (200 IM), Jess Cocroft (100 fly) and Kwok (100 free) finished third. Steinert improved to 3-1 and the Bulldogs fell to 1-3.