

Byron

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gold medals in individual events at the same state meet.

Byron won the 100 freestyle in 51.38 seconds, with Blue Mountain sophomore Lindsay Guers finishing second in 51.91. Guers also finished second to Byron in the 50 freestyle.

"I wasn't thinking about the 100 free," Byron said. "I was thinking about the relay. I wanted to win the 100 and get back and help us in the relay."

Byron swam the final 100 yards of the 400 freestyle relay in 50.57. When she hit the water, Hoban was in sixth place, and the heroics of Byron allowed the Argents to win bronze and wind up third in the team standings.

"In the relay, I go beyond what I think my capabilities are," Byron said. "The only way it happens is when you have a team as great as Hoban is. That's what triggers it and makes you swim faster."

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FOR THE POST/PETE G. WILCOX

Bishop Hoban's Caroline Byron won gold in both the 50 and 100-yard freestyle at the PIAA Class 2A Swimming Championships. She is shown above in the 50-yard race on March 12.

Eby

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field was cut to 12. He solidified his position in the final three dives.

Eby went into the state meet with high hopes, after setting a District 2 record of 482.60 points. Even though he didn't win gold, he is satisfied with the effort.

"I'm still really glad to win a medal," Eby said two days after the event. "What keeps me up is knowing I recovered."

In the girls competition, Dallas junior Whitney Bolton placed 14th with 238.45 points for eight dives.

Bolton's experience show how precise competitors have to be to advance at states. She was 14th after the first round of five dives. She made the cut by sev-

en points and was only 11 points out of sixth place at that point. She remained 14th after the semifinal round of three more dives, missing the top 12 by a little more than three points.

"You realize how tough the competition really is," said Bolton, who won the District 2 Class 2A Diving Championship by a comfortable margin. "It makes you want to work harder."

Overall, Bolton said she was thrilled with the way her season turned out, and that her experience at states has inspired her for her senior year.

"I didn't expect to place this well," Bolton said. "I was shocked that I even made it to states."

O'Reilly

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turnovers in the first half, including five in the first three minutes and 10 in the first quarter. The O'Reilly zone defense also created four turnovers in the third quarter and seven in the fourth.

"(Scotland) was very, very frustrated," said Queensmen head coach Mark Belenski. "We knew they liked to pound the ball inside and we weren't going to allow it."

The Queensmen couldn't take advantage of the Scotland turnovers, committing seven of their own in the first quarter.

"We usually take care of the ball, but we didn't do that early," said Belenski. "It took a while for our kids to settle down."

That took place in the second quarter, when Flanagan and Aciekewicz began to take over. The duo combined for 19 points in the first half, one more than the entire Scotland team.

Mark Williams and Kevin Della Rosa provided a spark off the bench in the final minute of the half, with Della Rosa's short jumper and a three-pointer by Williams with 20 seconds remaining giving O'Reilly a 30-18 halftime lead.

"It was just nervous energy," said Flanagan of his team's slow start. "Once we calmed down, we cut down on the turnovers and started to score more. This is a great feeling. It's what we've worked so hard all summer to accomplish."

O'Reilly began to put the game away in the third quarter, using a 9-0 run capped by a Crossin layup to take a 17-point lead, 45-28, with 1:38 remaining. Greg Robinson chopped two points off the lead for Scotland, but Aciekewicz closed the door with five consecutive points to make it 50-30. He also finished the game with 10 rebounds.

"We knew Scotland wasn't very tall, but they have tough inside players," said the 6-foot-5 Aciekewicz of the Cadets, who have only one player taller than 6-2. "I took that as a challenge and I love a challenge."

The Queensmen played nine players against Scotland — all quality players, according to Young.

"They have a lot of talent," he said. "Flanagan can shoot and Aciekewicz was impressive. They're very deep. Everybody they put on the floor can play. They didn't put a player on the floor that hurt them."

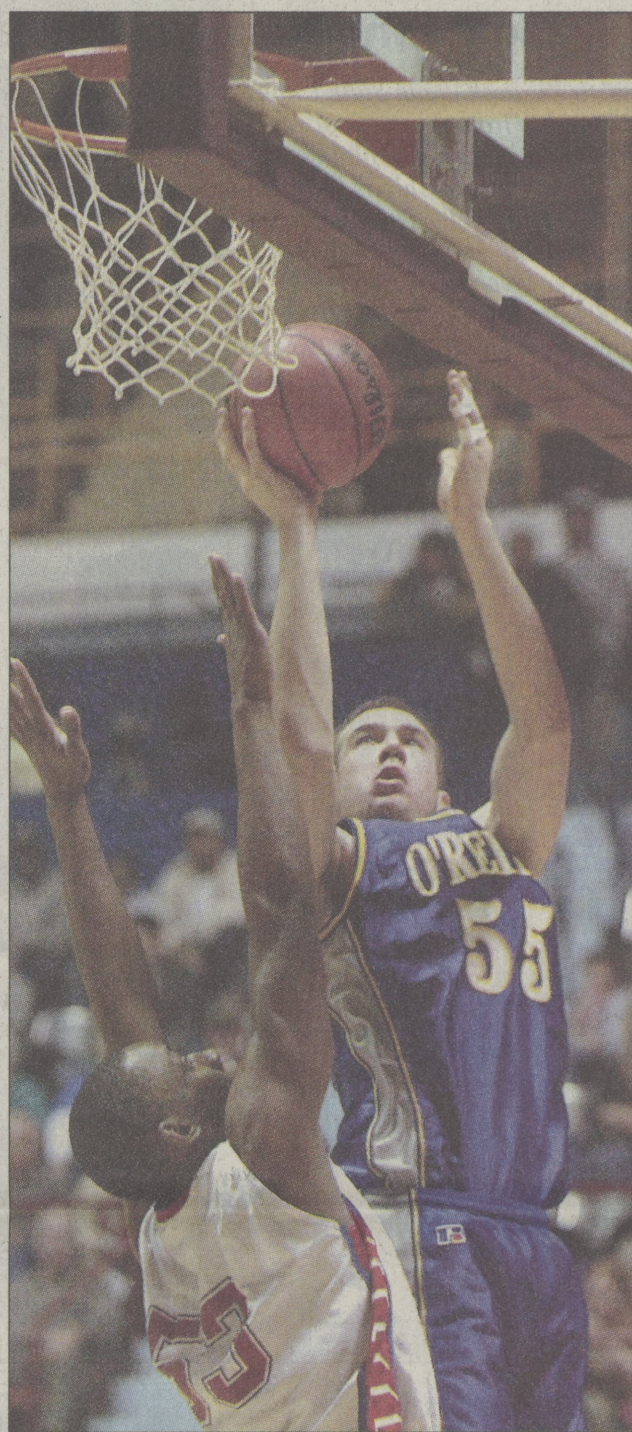
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FOR THE POST/PETE G. WILCOX

Above, Bishop O'Reilly coach Mark Belenski shouted out instructions to his players during Wednesday's Boys PIAA Class A semifinal in Hershey.

At right, Bishop O'Reilly's Josh Aciekewicz went up and over Scotland's Jarmal Ruffin (53) during Wednesday's Boys PIAA Class A semifinal in Hershey.



Queensmen pound NW Bradford in quarters

Mar. 12 — Tim Crossin nailed three consecutive three-pointers in the first 99 seconds of play and Bishop O'Reilly established its running game early en route to a 62-39 pounding of Northeast Bradford in a PIAA Class A eastern semifinal at Carbondale High School.

"We got off to a great start and we were able to put them away early said Mark Belenski, O'Reilly coach.

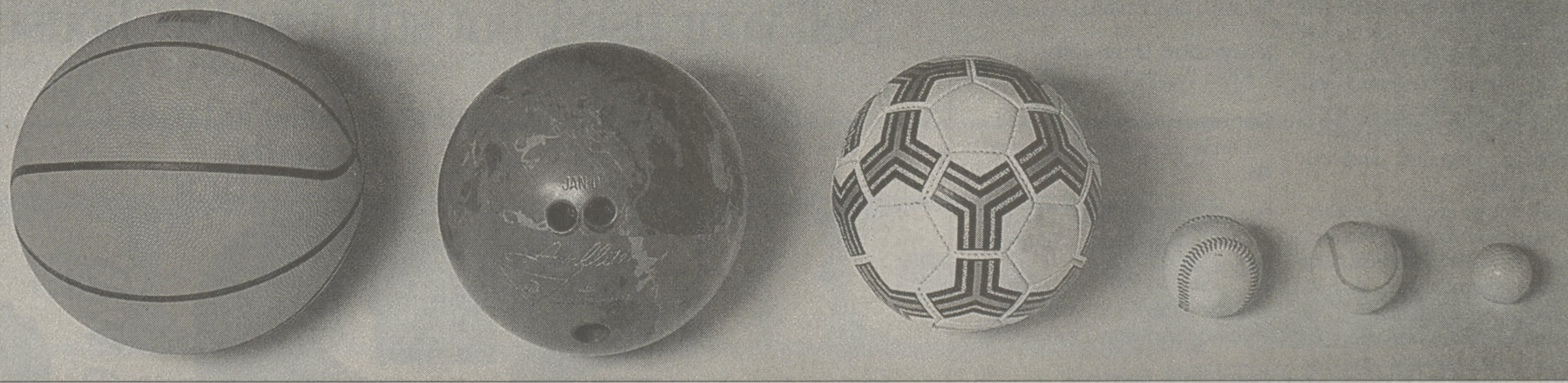
Crossin scored 11 of his game-high 20 points in the first quarter as O'Reilly took a 19-11 lead. The Queensmen dominated the second quarter, scoring another 19 points and limiting the Panthers to one field goal en route to taking a 38-17 halftime lead.

The Panthers didn't make another field goal until O'Reilly held a 45-17 lead with 5:37 left in the third quarter.

O'Reilly didn't let up in the second half, leading by as many as 28 points in the third quarter and invoking the mercy rule by taking a 30-point lead, 60-30, with 7:38 remaining in the game.

Sophomore center Josh Aciekewicz added 11 points for the Queensmen, who had nine players in the scoring column.

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Bishop O'Reilly's Matt Flanagan (31) shot inside the paint as teammate Jason Blazosek (32) and Scotland's Bryan DeBrest (15) look on during Wednesday's Boys PIAA Class A semifinal in Hershey.