

Warriors upgraded to Gold

B35

By MIKE DEL ROSSO

DIV. 1 SWIMMING

Andover back on top after one-year hiatus

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Andover dominated the competition, taking seven first-place finishes out of the 12 events and placing in the top three in all events except for one (100-yard freestyle).

The Golden Warriors totaled a whopping 321 points, more than 100 points ahead of second-place Chelmsford.

"We have a lot of depth," Fitzgerald said. "In order to win a meet of this size, you have to have

people scoring in every event."

Not only was Andover scoring, it was setting records. Sophomore Rachel Moore set a state mark in the 100 butterfly with a time of 55:44, just under the former best set in 1999 by another Andover swimmer. Moore also tied the state record in the 100 backstroke with a time of 55:80.

"My best times are actually faster than the ones today," said Moore, who swam slightly better times at nationals earlier this season. "For right now in the (middle of the) season I think they're really good; those were my best times fully shaved and tapered, my best swims. And now I'm just doing them midseason."

Freshman Maggie D'Innocenzo also had two first-place finishes (500 freestyle and 200 individual medley) for Andover.

And the Golden Warriors relay teams, for which Moore and D'Innocenzo both swim, claimed all three events.

Every year Andover has won, a police cavalcade has escorted the girls back into town, where residents meet them coming off Interstate 93. That tradition is back on after a one-year hiatus.

"That's what it's been about all year," Fitzgerald said. "Every piece of res-

cue equipment the town owns will be on Main Street."

It's almost ironic that a sophomore and freshman led the Golden Warriors to their 10th victory, Fitzgerald noted, since "the freshmen and sophomores obviously haven't felt (the town celebration); they don't know it, and the seniors and juniors are just trying to get it back."

"They work hard all year, the sacrifices they make (in) their social life, and now every moment of it was worth it."

Cats cash in chips

By MIKE DEL ROSSO

LYNN — The Weston Wildcats played with a "chip on their shoulder" last night, according to coach Renato Capobianco.

Facing an opponent with 11 more wins on its resume

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| WESTON | 4 |
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will do that to a team.

But the confident Wildcats took it right at Cardinal Spellman in the Division 3 boys soccer state semifinals at Manning Field, handing the Cardinals (24-1-0) their first loss of the season, 4-0.

Weston (14-2-6) advances to the Div. 3 state final against Douglas.

"(My players) fed themselves the role of the underdog and they used that to play against a team that was 24-0," Capobianco said.

Neither team could muster a shot for the first nine minutes before Michael Kearney's errant attempt for Spellman. That gave CS a little life as Tony Bolduc, J.J. Battaglia and Paul Pitts put some pressure on the Weston goal.

But the Wildcats' tenacity paid off in the 28th minute when Derek Kachadurian scored the first of his two goals by taking control inside the penalty box and connecting through several defenders.

Much like Kachadurian's ice-breaker, Mike Collard took advantage of some confusion in front of the Spellman net to push the lead to 2-0 in the 50th minute. And in the waning minutes of the game, Weston added a pair of insurance goals (one by Kachadurian) as Spellman resorted to desperate measures and pulled several of its defenders to create more scoring opportunities.

"It probably wasn't the best game we've played all year, but I told (my players) that they lost to an opponent that was worthy," Cardinal Spellman coach Mike Gerrish said. "(Weston) has a chance to win it all."