



THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL

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PENNINGTON, N.J., Feb. 22--- Pennington School freshman David Curtiss made history at the prestigious Eastern Interscholastic Swimming and Diving meet held at Franklin & Marshall College on Feb 16 and 17. Curtiss, of Yardley, Pa., became the talk of the meet by swimming the 50-Yard Freestyle event in 19.97 seconds. In the history of the Easterns, which began in 1935, no high school swimmer had ever swum the 50 Free in less than 20 seconds.

With this accomplishment, in addition to the Easterns record, Curtiss has set new records in the 50 Free for The Pennington School, Mercer County, and the New Jersey Independent School Athletic Association. He also has the top time in the country for his age group in USA Swimming. Curtiss finished his freshman high school season undefeated in this event.

The previous record had most recently been set in 2017 by Alberto Mestre of The Hill School at 20.00 seconds; Mestre now swims for Stanford University. Curtiss also joins an impressive list of former Easterns meet sprinters including Andy Coan (Pine Crest), Brazilian Olympian Gustavo Borges (Mercersberg) Mercersberg, and Team USA Olympian Cullen Jones (St. Benedict's). None of these swimmers went under 20.00 seconds in high school.

Curtiss's time places him less than half a second away from the national prep school record held by Olympian Ryan Murphy of the Bolles School. Curtiss has set as his goal for next year to make a "Nationals cut" of 19.79 seconds, which would put him in contention for Olympic trials.

The Pennington School is an independent coeducational school for students in grades 6 through 12, in both day and boarding programs. The curriculum is college preparatory, with an emphasis on individual excellence, fostering the development of the whole student through academics, athletics, community service, and the creative and performing arts.

-30-

Caption for photo: