

# Summit reaches top for first time

**Rich Bevenssee** *For The Star-Ledger*

Bryan Harvey tossed and turned in bed the night before the biggest day in the history of the Summit boys swim program.

The Summit senior captain, knowing full well his team had beaten Union County powerhouse Westfield in a dual meet this month, was just too anxious about his team's chances to accomplish what used to seem impossible.

The impossible is no more.

Propelled by the exploits of Harvey and classmate Conor Fagan, Summit, No. 8 in the NJ.com Top 20, knocked off defending champion and No. 14 Westfield and No. 17 Scotch Plains-Fanwood to claim its first team title at the 62nd Union County Championships on Sunday at the Sonny Werblin Recreation Center at Rutgers University.

"I had trouble sleeping last night so much that I was shaking in bed. It was the only thing on my mind," Harvey said. "To be a leader of this team, it's something someone could only dream of. I don't have any words to describe it. I'm still trying to take it all in. It's amazing."

Summit edged Westfield 405-400 while Scotch Plains finished third with 378 points. It was the closest three-way meet in recent memory.

Founded by Bob Greenwald in the early 1960s, the Summit boys swim program once tied Westfield for the county title in

1986; Westfield won the diving title and the points were included in the overall score. That was the closest Summit had come to a title. It enjoyed a handful of runner-up finishes since then, including last season.

This season was different, especially after Summit defeated Westfield in a dual meet (87-83) for the first time in team history on Jan. 11. Summit's seventh-year coach, Luke Piede, said he still considered his team a slight underdog going into the county meet.

Fagan got his team motoring by anchoring the first-place 200-yard medley relay (1:36.59) with a blazing freestyle anchor split of 20.99. He then pulled off a sprint double by winning the 50 free in 21.32 (just .01 seconds off the meet record) and the 100 free in 47.38.

Harvey led off the medley relay with a 25.33 backstroke split, he won the 100 backstroke in 53.28 and placed third in the 200 individual medley.

Josh Cohen, a senior at Scotch Plains, celebrated his 18th birthday by wrapping up a marvelous county resume with his seventh and eighth individual county titles, sweeping the distance events for the fourth straight season. He broke his own meet record in the 200 free with a 1:40.07, and he won the 500 free again in 4:36.37.

