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WATER POLO: North Penn boys, girls best Souderton

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North Penn's Aimee Bauer (4) scores a goal past Souderton goalie Kara Stegman during their contest at North Penn High School on Thursday Oct. 4, 2012(Photo by Mark C. Psoras\The Reporter)

TOWAMENCIN — The North Penn boys and girls water polo teams were much stronger this time around in their rematch with Souderton Area Thursday evening, as the Maidens earned an 8-4 win over the Indians and the Knights scored six straight goals to close out their 11-8 victory over Big Red in the second half of the Suburban One League doubleheader.

After trailing Souderton Area 1-0 after the first quarter in a defensive battle, the Maidens' defense continued to shut down the Indians and the offense got going, as North Penn (17-2) would build a 5-1 lead.

"We had to stay in it defensively," said the Maidens' Brittney Patterson, who had a game-high six steals to go with her game-high five goals. "(Souderton) is relentless. They like to press up so it was great to come out with a win."

Patterson finished off her great two-way performance with a tremendous effort at the net, where she was able to steal the ball from Souderton goalie Kara Stegman and put it in for the final score of the contest.

"I was really mad," Patterson said, laughing about the play afterwards. "They were like drowning me for 10 seconds and I was like, 'come on, ref, gimme something.' I just saw the ball out of the corner of my eye and I just hit it in. I don't know what that was but it was a goal."

Laureana Zrada scored three goals for Big Red, who closed within 6-3 late in the third and 7-4 early in the fourth but could not get closer.

"The girls played really well," North Penn coach Bill Bartle said of his squad, which defeated Souderton 8-7 in the first meeting between the two. "Offensively, we played well on the man-up situation, the girls played the lanes very well, and they anticipated very well. We made very few mistakes."

The North Penn boys (8-11) might be playing their best water polo of the season, avenging an earlier 14-10 loss to Big Red to win for the sixth time in eight games.

“It was a lot of help defense,” said Knights senior Justin Veverka, who had four steals and a pair of blocks as well as three goals. “It was a lot of crashing. Souderton doesn’t like to use a lot of drives. We just had to keep our head on a swivel and play help defense and crash, and that creates turnovers, which sets up our scoring plays.”

The Knights cut down on their mental errors in the rematch with Big Red, and there was also one overall difference at this point in the season compared to that September matchup.

“Experience,” Knights coach Jason Grubb said. “Our guys just needed to get the experience. We graduated a lot of guys so it was a whole new crew this year. (To get on a roll) is what we’re hoping for. We want to sneak into Easterns - we’re in the last spot there right now, and we’ll try to get a few upsets.”

Kevin Callaghan and Matt Evers each scored three goals for the Indians, who led 8-5 in the third quarter but it was all North Penn from there.

Girls Water Polo

North Penn 8, Souderton 4

Souderton 1 0 2 1 - 4

North Penn 0 2 4 2 - 8

Souderton goals: Laureana Zrada 3, Kaitlyn Roberts 1

North Penn goals: Aspen Trautz 2, Brittney Patterson 5, Becca Hoch 1

Saves: Kara Stegman (S) 10; Kat Perkins (NP) 12

Boys Water Polo

North Penn 11, Souderton 8

Souderton 4 2 2 0 - 8

North Penn 3 2 4 2 - 11

Souderton goals: Kevin Callaghan 3, Matt Evers 3, Triston Loux 1, Jordan Hay 1

North Penn goals: Justin Veverka 3, Brett Else 3, Shane Hennessey 3, Jonah Kim 2

Saves: Kevin Muserait (S) 8; Jon Krail (NP) 17

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