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## Maidens are state champs again

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water polo

In this election season, there has been lots of talk about an “October surprise.” But there’s one thing that has come to be expected this time of year:

A state championship for the North Penn girls water polo team.

For the fifth time in seven years, the Maidens captured the state crown on Saturday, beating rival Souderton 9-3 in the final at Cumberland Valley High School in Mechanicsburg.

“The girls played extremely well, they deserve all the credit in the world,” said North Penn coach Bill Bartle, who has built a dynasty. “They really came together at the right time.”

The Maidens beat the host school 11-5 in the first round and then topped Governor Mifflin 7-3 in Round 2 before going on to win it all.

Brittney Patterson, Jenn Halcovage and Aspen Trautz earned First Team All-State honors. Tess O’Neill won Second Team All-State, goalie Kat Perkins took Third Team All-State and Karlie Vogt received Honorable Mention.

“The girls put their hearts and souls into this season,” Bartle said. “They did a great job defensively, offensively they came prepared to play, and overall the executed extremely well.”

Patterson scored nine goals over the three games at states and Halcovage had eight. Halcovage also had seven steals. Trautz tallied three goals and six assists and led a strong defensive effort. O’Neill had seven steals.

Perkins racked up 11 saves in each of the first two games and 13 in the final against Souderton, a team North Penn previously had beaten twice by one point on the road.

Amazingly, North Penn only lost three times all season — to Lawrenceville by a goal, to Wilson in overtime and to Wilson in sudden death.

Souderton downed Wilson in the second round of states. The Indians beat North Allegheny in Round 1.

Pennridge lost its three state matches to Wilson, North Allegheny and Villa Maria.

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