

Sports

## BOYS WATER POLO ATHLETE OF YEAR: Dunigan delivers for NP

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Pat Dunigan did many different things for the North Penn boys water polo team, and he did them all for one singular reason.

“Win,” he said of what drove him this year. “All we wanted to do was win.”

The Knights won time and time again in 2011, and Dunigan was a major reason. Chosen as The Reporter’s Athlete of the Year for Boys Water Polo, the North Penn senior was the fuel in the Knights’ offensive machine.

“It was good — I was happy with it,” Dunigan said of the season. “Getting to the state final game was a major goal for us — we wanted to win states but we got second. All of our starters were seniors except one person, so we really wanted it. That was our focus. We all just wanted to win, period. That was our motivation.”

Dunigan, a First-Team All-State selection, led the Knights with 96 goals this year as his many skills helped him stand out on a squad that was defined by its offensive firepower.

North Penn averaged nearly 13 goals per game, and Dunigan was the Knights’ most consistent scorer. He also added 18 assists and had 40 steals as a versatile, multi-talented threat.

The Knights racked up 22 wins this year, including a perfect 14-0 record in the division. They won 15 out of 17 games in one stretch as they started to hit their stride.

“As the year went on, we started doing more and more things, started doing more of our things,” Dunigan said. “With that, we got better. These guys — we had all been playing together for years.”

The Knights put on an offensive show at the Eastern Conference Tournament, defeating La Salle 15-11 in the semifinals and then Governor Mifflin 20-15 in the championship game.

The scoring didn’t stop there, as the Knights earned a 20-17 win over Wilson in the opening round of states, followed by a 9-7 win over North Allegheny in the semifinals.

North Penn then battled hard with Cumberland Valley in the state final, falling 6-4. The Knights finished their stellar season 22-6.

Dunigan is now in the midst of the Knights’ swim season, as they try to defend their Suburban One League Continental Conference crown as well as their District One Class 3A title.

After that, Dunigan will be swimming on the college level next year as he heads to Misericordia University.

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