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Round 1 goes to Maidens

By KEV HUNTER, Staff Writer 09/24/2008

TOWAMENCIN — Whenever the North Penn and Souderton girls water polo teams play, it seems that all that matters is the final couple minutes.

Once again, like so many times before in recent matchups, the score was tied late in the contest, and good thing for the Maidens, the ball was in the hands of one of their captains, Caley Britton.

"It was really physical. There was so much adrenaline, and everybody was just going all out," the senior said. "We knew we needed another goal, so I tried to fake out the goalie and just get it in."

Britton lofted a perfect shot to the far corner of the net, beating Indians goalie Missy Doll for the go-ahead goal with just 1 minute and 35 seconds left in the battle of unbeaten.



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Trailing 8-7, the Indians had one last chance to tie, as Paige Whitmire came up with a steal, but defended closely, she wasn't able to put everything into the shot, and goalie Erin Meingossner smothered it for the save.

The Maidens got it up to the middle of the pool, and Nicole DiBonaventura held onto the ball tight as time ran out, giving North Penn the 8-7 victory at the Rick Carroll Natatorium Tuesday night.

Maidens coach Bill Bartle praised his seniors after the victory, one made possible by limit

ing a high-powered Souderton offense.

"They shoot the ball real well and they counter real well," Bartle said. "They have some individuals that can shoot real well - Paige Whitmire - you try to control her, but you know she's gonna get her opportunities and you know she's gonna score, but you try to contain her as much as you can."

Whitmire scored four goals for the Indians (8-1), helping them to lead the contest on four separate occasions, but North Penn wouldn't let Souderton pull away.

Only once in the game did a team have a two-goal lead - Souderton led 4-2 in the second quarter, and the game was tied six times.

But down the stretch, the Maidens took control, with Heather Fellmeth tying the game 6-6 late in the third, and then she got to a loose ball and fired in another score to give the Maidens a 7-6 lead.

Whitmire tied it for the Big Red with 4:13 to play, but then Britton got the game-winner for the Maidens (12-0). Fellmeth would lead all scorers with five.

Souderton was limited to just two goals in the second half.

"Erin played really well in goal," Bartle said. "As the game went on, she calmed down."

The two teams will see each other again in the regular season, and possibly at states. Last year, the Indians beat the Maidens in the state semis, and the year before, North Penn beat Souderton in the state final to complete a perfect season.

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"It's tough for us, but we'll bounce back. We'll be okay," Indians coach Bill Hence said after the game Tuesday.

Both squads travel to The Beast of the East Tournament this weekend, and could meet up again in that one.

Indians dominate the boys contest

The second game in the doubleheader didn't have as much drama as the girls, with a determined Souderton team defeating North Penn 11-5 to improve to a perfect 9-0.

It quickly turned into the Lee Stiles show, as he poured in seven goals to lead the Indian attack.

"We're well-rounded everywhere, and it just depends on who gets the right matchup, and tonight just happened to be the night that I got it," Stiles said. "It worked out well."

Souderton bolted to a 7-1 lead, but North Penn came back in the third quarter, cutting it to 7-3 on a goal by Craig Hennessey.

But again, it was Stiles, this time scoring back-to-back goals to put the Indians up 9-3.

"He's a fantastic player," Hence said. "To have a kid like that on the team is great."

Souderton and North Penn will both travel to the Beast of the East Tourny this weekend.

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