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## Sports

# WATER POLO PREVIEW: North Penn Maidens aim for a 3-peat

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By MIKE CABREY

The North Penn girls water polo team clinched its third state championship in four years — and second-consecutive title — last season with a thrilling overtime victory over Wilson.

But if the Maidens are to once again become the Commonwealth's queens of the pool, they will have to do it in a slightly different way in 2010.

Starting this season, teams will earn their places at states at either the Eastern and Western Conference championships. Top six squads from each conference qualify for each tournament, with the best four teams at the Eastern and Western championships advancing to states.

While the route has changed, the Maidens should be able to find their way into contend for the threeppeat.

North Penn lost All-Americans Sam Deana and Kristi Bauer, but still has some scoring punch in juniors Lindsay Musoleno and Mary Morris and sophomore Brooke Else.

The North Penn boys fell a game short of winning the state title and now take to the pool under new coach Jason Grubb.

The Knights are looking to replace the 98 goals that Pennsylvania Mr. Water Polo Jack Else collected last season, many of which could come this year from Patrick Dunigan — a state honorable mention pick.

The Souderton boys team has just one senior on the team — third team all-state selection Kody Veit — to go with a young but experienced team that includes all-state honorable mention junior Elliott Miller

For the Souderton girls, two-time Pennsylvania Miss Water Polo Missy Doll is now at Cal State Northridge, but the Indians still have some talent on its roster, such as senior Monica Stiles, who made third team all-state and 2009 State Rookie of the Year sophomore Bronwyn Smith.

Junior Melissa Rudolph, a second team all-state pick, will try to help the Wissahickon girls team improve upon its seventh place finish at states a season ago. The Trojans boys did not qualify for states in '09, but are aiming to reach the tournament with a strong defensive squad this year.

boys capsules

North Penn

Coach: Jason Grubb (first season)

Last Year: 26-5

Key Losses: Jack Else (NISCA First Team All-American), C.J. Millonig, Sean McDonald (NISCA Fourth Team All-American), Craig Hennessey, Adam Myzal, Nevin O'Malley, Chris Ward

Top Returners: Cris Anton (Sr., utility), Jake Sisko (Sr, driver), Pat Dunigan (Sr., center).

Others to Watch: Eugene Feeley (Sr., center defender), Jeremy Smith (Jr., goalkeeper), Jack Morris (So., center)

Outlook: State runners-up a year ago, the Knights will try to get a step further in the first season under Grubb.

Patrick Dunigan is North Penn's top returner scoring, as the junior found the back of the net 47 times in '09. Kevin Dunigan had 18 goals, while Morris scored 16. Defensively, Anton had the most steals on the current team, finishing with 31 last year.

Souderton

Coach: Bill Hence (third season)

Key Losses: Lee Stiles, Sean Corcoran, Todd Bronsdon, Dan Yocum

Top Returners: Kody Veit (Sr.), Mike Hay (Jr.), Elliott Miller (Jr.), Tyler Wenzel (Jr.), Alex Paparella (Jr.), Matt Evers (So.).

Others to Watch: Jake Mertz (Jr.), Kevin Callahan (So.).

Outlook: Veit is in the lone senior of the Souderton roster, but while the Indians are young, many do have playing experience from last year.

With Stiles have graduated, the scoring responsibility will have to be shared amongst the Indians, with Veit (third team all-state) and Miller (all-state honorable mention) key contributors.

Goalkeeping should be a strenght with the return of Wenzel at the position.

Wissahickon

Coach: Rob Mida (second season)

Last Year: 15-9

Key Losses: Tim Greer, Brian Wi, Ben Byrne, Sean High

Top Returners Carl Krause (Sr., driver), Evan Horn (Jr.),

Others to Watch: Adam Smith (Jr.), Tommy Ruser (Sr., goalkeeper), Billy McFarland (So.), Brad Jones (So.), Eun Bue (So.)

Outlook: After missing out on the state tournament last seasons, this Trojan side will be a strong defensive group, but is short on experience and depth.

Krause should be Wissahickon's top scoring threat, while Mida says Horn has played well at the two-meter position.

girls capsules

North Penn

Coach: Bill Bartle (22nd season)

Last Year: 27-2 overall, 10-0 conference, state champion

Key Losses: Sam Deana (NISCA Second Team All-America, First-Team All-State), Kristi Baur (NISCA) Fourth Team All-America, First Team All-State), Sarah Hannings (Second Team All-State), Shauna Hannings (Third Team All-State)

Top Returners: Katie Patterson (Sr., goalkeeper), Mary Morris (Sr., defensive two-meter)

Others to Watch: Lindsay Musoleno (Sr.), Claire Thompson (Sr.), Taylor Connolly (Sr.), Jen Barrett (Sr.), Brooke Else (Jr.), Alex Kajari (Jr.).

Outlook: The Maidens quest for a threepeat hinges on how the young players get up to speed in replacing a talent senior group that included All-Americans Deana and Baur.

Musoleno was North Penn's third-leading scorer in '09, collecting 35 goals. Else and Morris were fourth and fifth on the team, respectively, in that category. Morris also handed out 22 assists and had a NP-best 54 steals.

Souderton

Coach: Bill Hence (third season)

Key Losses: Missy Doll, Hannah Cross, Aubrey Goertel

Top Returners: Monica Stiles (Sr.), Chloe Thomas (Sr.), Ann Fadden (Jr.), Jill Whitmire (Jr.), Sara Kesack (Jr.) Bronwyn Smith (So.), Laureana Zrada (So.), Erica Witoslawski (So.), Alyssa Santangelo (So.)

Others to Watch: Kara Stegmann (So.)

Outlook: The Indians are a young group, but Hence likes the team's interchangeability, as Souderton can work in 10 or 12 different girls into the lineup. Stiles — a third team all-state lection — and Smith — the state's Rookie of the Year — should be threats in the offensive zone.

Doll was a two-time Pennsylvania Miss Water Polo playing goalkeeper, so Souderton will have to concentrate on playing more team defense. Hence said new keeper Stegmann has work hard to fill in the role.

Wissahickon

Coach: Rob Mida (second season)

Last Year: 13-14

Key Losses: Kelsey Tarzia, Serena Xu, Ryan Marie Conway, Whitney Walsh, Kim Bauer, Lorie Jefferson

Top Returners: Meg Royer (Sr.), Katie High (Sr.), Melissa Rudolph (Jr.)

Others to Watch: Hanna Van Reed (Sr.), Lauren Mitchell (Sr.), Rachel Bohr (Jr.), Carrie Johnson (Jr.)

Outlook: Rudolph, a second-team all-state selection in '09, will be a big key to the Trojans' offense playing at the two-meter position.

Mida sees Bohr and Johnson are solidified the defense in front of goalkeeper High.

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