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## Water Polo

### Strong start for NP

Wednesday, September 8, 2010

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Staff Writer

TOWAMENCIN — The North Penn boys and girls water polo teams opened their seasons in commanding fashion on Tuesday, as both the Knights and Maidens earned wins over Penridge at The Rick Carroll Natatorium.

The Maidens, who are going for their third straight state title this season, were dominant in the first game of the boys-girls doubleheader, building an 8-1 lead by halftime and going on to win 11-3.

"We came out and found out where we are," said coach Bill Bartle, who has guided the Maidens to three state crowns in the last four years. "It's very early in the season, you know you're gonna make mistakes, but it gives you an idea of where you are. You see that day in and day out at practice, but sometimes in a game situation, individuals play a little different, they step it up, so it gives you a little different look."

Mary Morris was a catalyst out in the field for the Maidens, and Katie Patterson was solid in net, as the pair of seniors exemplified the type of upperclassmen NP has to work with this year.

"They've provided good leadership so far, and they've provided excitement," Bartle said of his veterans.

The Maidens also got some promising play from their youngsters, and goals from seven different players in all. The Rams knew this would be quite a test, especially on opening night.

"They're at a different level than where we are, and one of our goals is to get to their level, and compete with them," Ram girls coach James Bauman said.

"I like playing them early because it shows us what we need to work on. I told the girls after the game that any mistake you make, (North Penn) is gonna capitalize on it. They're just that good. So the key for us now is to learn from those mistakes for when we progress through the season."

The Rams' Deanna Maurone notched a hat trick in the loss.

"The talent level of the team is the best we've ever had at Penridge," Bauman said. "Now we're still a young program, but this is the most talent, the most experienced group."

The North Penn boys followed up the girls with a dominant performance of their own, jumping out to a 5-0 lead early. Jack Morris would

go on to lead all scorers with six goals in the Knights' 17-3 victory.

"It was a good first game for us," Knights first-year head coach Jason Grubb said. "We played nice and clean, we worked on a few plays that we were trying to do in the preseason, and I was pretty happy with how they worked out. It was nice, aggressive play."

The Pennridge boys, an improving squad, got goals from three different players in the loss.

Both North Penn squads will travel out to Wyoming Valley West on Saturday, with Hazleton also attending, and Pennridge has off until Tuesday, when it hosts next-door neighbor Souderton Area.

#### Boys Water Polo

North Penn 17, Pennridge 3

Pennridge 0 1 1 1 - 3

North Penn 5 5 4 3 - 17

Goals: NP-Jack Morris 6; Pat Dunigan 5; Jake Sisko 2; Jason Deana 2; P-Jon Swartz; Torin Miner; Justin Swan.

Assists: Kevin Dunigan 3; Jake Sisko 2; Nick Pulli 2.

Saves: Jeremy Smith (NP) 11; Nick Lowery (P) 5 and Angus Blaxall (P) 1.

#### Girls Water Polo

North Penn 11, Pennridge 3

Pennridge 1 0 2 0 - 3

North Penn 3 5 3 0 - 11

Goals: NP-Taylor Connolly 1; Alex Kajari 1; Mary Kate Meingossner 1; Brooke Else 2; Mary Morris 1; Lindsay Musoleno 2; K. Vogt 3; P-Deanna Maurone 3.

Assists: NP-Meingossner 2; Meghan Quinn 2; Brooke Else 1; Brittany P. 1; Musoleno 1; Jen Halcovage 1.

Saves: Katie Patterson (NP) 2 and Jen Barrett (NP) 1; Julia Nadovich (P) 3.

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