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Sports

WATER POLO: North Penn sweeps past Pennridge

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By KEV HUNTER

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TOWAMENCIN — The intensity of the North Penn girls water polo team on Tuesday mirrored that of the boys squad, as the Maidens and the Knights each earned a victory — only fittingly by the same score of 12-5 — over area rival Pennridge at The Rick Carroll Natatorium.

Defense was key for North Penn on the boys and the girls side, as the Maidens and the Knights allowed only one first-half goal.

“That’s always been one of our strengths,” Maidens coach Bill Bartle said of the defense, keyed by three steals by Brooke Else. “We’ve always tried to pride ourselves on our defense, and these girls have done a very good job.”

Add to that an offensive attack that is one of the best the North Penn girls have had, and you have a team that is 15-0 against state competition this fall.

“It’s probably one of our strongest offensive teams we’ve had in a while,” Bartle said. “We’ve always been a power offensive team, strong hole sets, and one of the strengths this year is that we have a number of people who can score from the outside, which obviously is a real joy.”

The Maidens’ versatile offense helped break the game open in the second quarter, and Else would lead the way with a game-high four goals. Aspen Trautz and Brittney Patterson each scored twice for NP, which improved to 16-1 overall.

Pennridge did put some nice scoring plays together, and the Rams’ Alexis Detweiler led the visitors with a hat trick.

In the second half of the doubleheader, the Knights (12-4) jumped out to an 11-0 lead by the second quarter in continuing their dominant play.

The North Penn boys were coming off an impressive showing at their Knight Invite — they fell to Cumberland Valley by a single goal, and then earned solid wins over North Allegheny and Perkiomen Valley.

“We just had a really big weekend. Our guys are fired up, they’re getting pretty confident, and it shows in their play,” Knights coach Jason Grubb said. “We have a lot of offensive firepower — we had the same thing last year, but we couldn’t keep teams down. This year, our defense is better, and our goalie is playing outstanding right now.”

Jeremy Smith, a co-captain for the Knights, had a shutout going almost until halftime, against a strong offensive team in the Rams.

North Penn’s balanced attack was led by Shane Hennessey and Pat Dunigan, who each scored twice for the Knights.

Both the Knights and Maidens are in action again on Thursday, when they host Upper Merion.

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Girls Water Polo

Suburban One League

North Penn 12,

Pennridge 5

Pennridge 0 1 2 2 — 5

North Penn 3 3 3 3 — 12

Pennridge goals: Alexis Detweiler 3, Chelsea Weiss 1, Deanna Maurone 1.

North Penn goals: Katharine Munning 1, Tess O'Neill 1, Aspen Trautz 2, Brooke Else 4, Brittney Patterson 2, Becca Hoch 1, Jenn Halcovage 1.

Saves: Julia Nadovich (P) 8; Kat Perkins (NP) 9.

Boys Water Polo

Suburban One League

North Penn 12,

Pennridge 5

Pennridge 0 1 3 1 — 5

North Penn 3 8 1 0 — 12

North Penn goals: Nick Poulin 1, Jason Deana 1, Brett Else 1, Jack Morris 1, Shane Hennessey 2, David Jordan 1, Nick Pulli 1, Pat Dunigan 2, Kevin Dunigan 1, Colin Kelly 1.

Saves: Jeremy Smith (NP) 7; Scott Dickenson (NP) 3.

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