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Sports

WATER POLO: North Penn sweeps Souderton on Senior Night

Thursday, October 20, 2011

By KEV HUNTER

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TOWAMENCIN — North Penn's Alex Kajari didn't want her team going into halftime up by just a single goal.

With rival Souderton Area coming on strong and the crowd in the Rick Carroll Natatorium at full blast, Kajari rifled a long shot past Indians goalie Kara Stegman with just a few seconds remaining in the second quarter.

The goal put North Penn up 4-2, and the Maidens never lost control the rest of the way.

"Alex has always come up with some key goals throughout the season," Maidens coach Bill Bartle said. "And I credit both our seniors, Brooke (Else) and Alex. They've done a great job leading us all season. It was a great shot. Those things happen, and they can turn momentum around. And it did."

The Maidens added another goal in the third quarter, scored again in the fourth to go up 6-2, and then held off a late Big Red rally to earn a 6-4 victory in the regular-season finale for both squads.

The North Penn boys followed with a 13-8 win over Big Red to make it an NP sweep on Senior Night.

Kajari scored a hat trick for the Maidens, who finished the regular season 23-1 overall and 9-0 in the division.

"I feel like we've had more fun this year than we've had in a long time," said Bartle, who has guided the Maidens to multiple state titles. "We're going out there and enjoying it."

Kajari's buzzer beater loomed large in a game where both squads turned up the defense.

"We were able to tighten up the defense and slowly but surely put the ball in the net," said Indians coach Terrence Nesensohn. "Our goal is to see (North Penn) again Saturday night (at the Eastern Championships), and hopefully give them a better game for four quarters."

For the Knights, the first and second quarters were non-stop offense. North Penn jumped out 7-0 over Souderton.

"You can't ask for anything better than that," said Knights coach Jason Grubb. "(Defensively), we started off the beginning of the game crashing the middle of the pool, and you take away the middle, it's tough to have those outside shots. We have a big goalie (in Jeremy Smith), and he played well in the beginning of the game so we'll let him take those outside shots and take away their big guy in the middle."

The Knights (18-5 overall and 12-0 in the division) and Maidens both now head to Souderton on Saturday for the Eastern Conference

Championships.

Girls Water Polo

Suburban One League

North Penn 6, Souderton Area 4

Souderton Area 1 1 0 2 — 4

North Penn 1 3 1 1 — 6

Souderton goals: Laureana Zrada 2, Alyssa Santangelo 1, Bronwyn Smith 1

North Penn goals: Alex Kajari 3, Brooke Else 2, Jenn Halcovage 1

Saves: Kara Stegman (S) 4 and Ricki Hodges (S) 3; Kat Perkins (NP) 15

Boys Water Polo

Suburban One League

North Penn 13, Souderton Area 8

Souderton Area 0 1 4 3 — 8

North Penn 5 2 4 2 — 13

Souderton goals: Holden Kudla 2, Michael Hay 3, Elliot Miller 2, Jake Mertz 1

North Penn multiple scorers: Kevin Dunigan, Jack Morris, Jason Deana

Goalies: Tyler Wenzel (S) 10 saves; Jeremy Smith (NP) and Scott Dickenson (NP)

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