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Sports

GIRLS WATER POLO: North Penn wins Eastern Conference title

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By KEV HUNTER

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FRANCONIA TWP — The Maidens and Indians were tied 2-2 in the second quarter Saturday night, with each team having had a lead and momentum going gone back and forth.

But North Penn took control by turning up the pressure — on both ends of the pool.

“I think we really started to focus on defense more than offense, and (coach Bill) Bartle definitely put that in our minds,” Maidens co-captain Brooke Else said. “Once we started getting going, we were getting back on defense and we were working a lot better together.”

The Maidens made it tougher for Souderton’s offense to operate and also produced better scoring opportunities at the other end, as North Penn racked up five goals in a crucial second quarter and pulled away to an 11-8 win in the Eastern Conference Championship at Souderton.

“We definitely have a school rivalry going on with them,” Else said, “and we were able to beat them again, so it feels good.”

The Maidens topped their rival for the second time this week, in two competitive contests — North Penn held on for a 6-4 win over Souderton on Thursday. North Penn is now 3-0 against Big Red this year — the Maidens won 11-8 in the first meeting back in September.

The two squads might battle again this coming weekend at states, which will be held at North Penn.

The Maiden offense, an attack that has five players that have scored 25 goals or more, worked their way to get open shots, and Jenn Halcovage scored a pair of goals in that pivotal second quarter to help stretch the lead to 7-4 by halftime.

The Maidens’ solid play at both ends allowed them to stay comfortably ahead — Souderton got within two goals on three separate occasions but could not get closer.

Halcovage finished with a game-high six goals while Laureana Zrada had a hat trick for Big Red.

North Penn, undefeated against state competition this fall, can now focus on its ultimate goal.

“I hope we make it to the championship game again,” Else said of states, “and hopefully we can win it.”

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Girls Water Polo

Eastern Conference Championship

North Penn 11,

Souderton Area 8

at Souderton

North Penn 2 5 3 1 — 11

Souderton 2 2 3 1 — 8

North Penn goals: Jenn Halcovage 6; Brooke Else 2; Aspen Trautz 3

Souderton goals: Laureana Zrada 3; Bekah Hershey 1; Alyssa Santangelo 1; Erica Witoslawski 1; Sarah Kesack 1; Ann Fadden 1

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