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It's seven and counting for the North Allegheny girls volleyball team.

The Tigers continued their dominance of the PIAA's largest classification with a 3-0 sweep of Unionville in the Class 4A title match, Nov. 18 at Cumberland Valley High School.

North Allegheny was making its 12th appearance in a PIAA title match and claimed its 10th title. The Tigers rank second in both categories.

Norwin ranks first in both with 12 titles, including eight consecutive titles from 1976-83. The Tigers will have a chance to tie Norwin's consecutive title streak next year.

"This group of seniors is special. It is so nice to be a part of their success," Tigers coach Russ Hoburg said. "They have worked so hard to be part of the tradition of NA volleyball.

What makes this year's title even more impressive is that North Allegheny had only one starter returning from last year's squad, which lost five PVCA All-Stars to graduation.

"This senior class was really motivated because people were doubting whether we could do it again," Hoburg said. "There's a lot of pressure on a team when you have a streak of this magnitude. I'm very proud of the way the girls handled the pressure."

Unionville gave North Allegheny all it could handle in the first half of the first set by matching the Tigers point for point until the set was tied 12-12. At that point, the Tigers took charge by outscoring the Longhorns 13-6 to register a 25-18 victory. Senior outside hitter Marin Dunaway leading the way with five kills.

The Tigers jumped out to an 8-1 lead in the second set and came away with a 25-19 victory. Dunaway and senior outside hitter Kyra Schmidt led the way with four kills each. Freshman setter/outside hitter Molly Robertson and senior opposite Jamie Frisco added three kills each.

"We played really well in the first two games but struggled a bit in the third," said Schmidt, who finished with 10 kills and 10 digs. "We moved the ball around well, and we played great defense to keep plays alive. I am so proud of this team and how hard they play."

Unionville came to life in the third set by jumping out to a 12-5 lead. The Tigers slowly chipped away at the deficit and came away with a narrow 26-24 victory. North Allegheny's final two points were recorded by freshmen: a kill by Robertson and a block for a point by middle hitter Alicia Mokube.

"We really started out slow in that third game," said Dunaway, who led the Tigers with 11 kills. "We have been down big before, and we just had to trust ourselves and our teammates to dig our way out. We played as well as we have as a team all year in those first two games. I am so proud of this team as we lost 8 seniors last year and will lose 10 this year."

Unionville was making its second title match appearance in four years. The Longhorns also lost to North Allegheny in the 2020 final.

"It's a challenging scenario to walk into a big gym with a lot of noise," said Unionville coach Stephanie Smith, who also coached the 2020 squad. "We came to play, but North Allegheny had so many different weapons. They kept us out of system most of the match."

North Allegheny (20-1) earned its PIAA berth by winning its fifth WPIAL title in seven years. The Tigers earned a seventh consecutive trip to the finals with wins against: Erie McDowell, 3-0 in the first round; Dallastown, 3-1 in the quarterfinals; and Landisville Hempfield, 3-2 in the semifinals.

Unionville (25-1) qualified for the state tournament by winning the District 1 title. The Indians earned their title berth with wins against: Ephrata, 3-0 in the first round; Spring-Ford, 3-0 in the quarterfinals; and Parkland, 3-2 in the semifinals.

"We had a really good season, but tonight we ran into a better team," Smith said. "We had good runs, but sometimes a couple of mistakes is all it takes."

North Allegheny has 10 seniors on this year's roster, and all 10 played in the championship match.

"We are losing a very special senior class, but do have some experienced players returning," Hoburg said. "We have some very talented players who have been waiting for their chance to play on the varsity. They will get that chance next year."

Unionville loses 11 players to graduation, but only five were starters.

"We have four starters returning and a good core group to build around them," Smith said. "So we are optimistic that we can make another run next year."

Unionville was led by senior outside hitter Brianna Miller (9 kills), senior setter Olivia Harper (22 assists), and senior libero Ava Van Deusen (13 digs).