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UNIVERSITY PARK, PA. - The North Allegheny boys volleyball program stepped into an elite group with its 3-1 win in the PIAA Class 3A title match at Penn State University's Recreation Hall.

It was the fourth consecutive title for the Tigers and coach Dan Schall.

North Allegheny is the sixth team in PIAA history to win four or more titles consecutively.

Haverford (1966-71) and Northeastern (2013-18) share the record with six straight titles.

The other three programs that have won four consecutive titles are: Westinghouse (1936-39), Peabody (1949-52), and Landisville Hempfield (2001-04).

North Allegheny also became the fifth team to make five or more consecutive appearance in the finals, as the Tigers also placed second in 2017.

Haverford (1966-72) owns the record with seven consecutive appearances in the finals.

Westinghouse (1936-40) and Northeastern (2013-18) appeared in the finals six straight years.

Peabody (1949-53) was a finalist five times in a row.

"It is awesome. It's really, really great," North Allegheny coach Dan Schall said. "This group of seniors deserves to win on the last day of the season in their senior year. This group has lost one match since they started playing in seventh grade. That's pretty remarkable."

The title match was a rematch of last year's match, and it began and ended in the same way.

North Allegheny didn't look like a championship team in the first set. The Tigers committed five serving errors and had trouble blocking Central Dauphin's top three hitters.

"Our serving was bad and our passing was a little bit erratic, which made us a little more predicable on offense," said Schall, referring to the 25-23 loss. "It was just a matter of us setting down. I didn't lose faith or confidence in them and they didn't lose faith or confidence in themselves."

Senior middle hitter Brandon Berkebile and senior outside hitter Michael Zukowski each had four kills for the Rams, who held North Allegheny's top hitter, senior outside hitter Cole Dorn, to two kills.

"That was a flashback from last year when we took the first set," Central Dauphin coach Josh Brenneman said. "But it's never over against a team like North Allegheny. We did our best. North Allegheny stepped up really big today, just like they did last year."

North Allegheny looked like a completely different team in the second and third sets. The Tigers recorded three serving aces: two by senior outside hitter Titus LaMay and one by Dorn that clinched the victory. Dorn also registered five kills in the 25-16 win.

"Titus LaMay was special with that serve," Schall said. "He gets into a groove and hits harder and harder. "You need to take risks when serving or it will come back down your throat."

Schall's squad was even more dominant in a 25-12 win in the third set. Dorn had five kills, senior middle hitter Jack Birch had three kills and a block for a point, and LaMay had another serving ace.

"I knew from the beginning that whoever had the best serve/receive game would dictate the others offense," Schall said. "North Allegheny did better than us in that phase. They also had a great blocking game."

The fourth set could have gone either way. Central Dauphin rallied from a 9-6 deficit with five straight points and matched the Tigers point-for-point until the game was tied at 21-21. North Allegheny scored four of the next six points to pull out the victory. Dorn led the way with six kills and finished the match with a game-high 21.

"This group is a really resilient bunch," Schall said. "Regardless of the score or status of the match, they always know that it's 0-0 and the next point matters. That was on display a couple times, when we dropped the first set and when Central Dauphin went on a run in the fourth set and was blocking everything and had the momentum. Our guys were not fazed by it. It was a special match and a special win for this group."

As a member of the 2019 squad and a starter on the 2021 team, Dorn collected his third PIAA gold medal.

"It's just as special as the other ones," said Dorn, who missed more than a month of the season with a badly sprained ankle. "But maybe this one a little bit more, since there was doubt if I would be back for the playoffs. Just making it back and being able to play in my senior year is incredible."

Dorn was one of four Tigers who recorded seven or more kills. The others were senior opposite Nico Sfeir (12 kills, 4 blocks), Birch (7 kills), and junior outside hitter Jax Wilhite (7 kills). LeMay and senior setter Jake Koch each had four aces. Senior setter/outside hitter Caleb Schall had 48 assists and senior libero Ryan Treser had 18 digs.

Senior outside hitter Tyler McConnell led the Rams with 12 kills and 2 blocks. Zukowski had 7 kills and 2 blocks. Senior setter Jacob Miller had 34 assists and 3 aces.

North Allegheny (18-1) earned its title berth by winning its fifth consecutive WPIAL title. The Tigers advanced to the finals with wins over Palmyra, 3-0 in the first round; Shaler, 3-0 in the quarterfinals; and Pennridge, 3-0 in the semifinals.

Central Dauphin (22-1) earned its berth by winning its second straight District 3 title. The Rams advanced to the finals with wins over Upper Dublin, 3-0 in the first round; Parkland, 3-1 in the quarterfinals; and Northampton, 3-0 in the semifinals.