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Camp Hill Trinity entered the PIAA Class 2A title match with hopes of defending the title it won last year. Instead, the Shamrocks ran into a North Catholic squad that recorded a surprising sweep, thus ending their reign.

"We didn't play our typical Trinity game today," Shamrocks coach John Barrick said. "Today was a state final, and usually if you don't bring your best game, you are going to get beat. Give credit to North Catholic, they played out of their minds and we didn't have an answer for that. These girls are gritty, and that is one of the best compliments you can give a team."

North Catholic coach Amanda Fetter was surprised that the Trojans needed only three sets to knock off the defending champions in the second of four championship matches played at Cumberland Valley High School on Nov. 20.

"Not in a million years," said Fetter, after North Catholic claimed its second title in three years. "I thought this one might go five."

North Catholic setter Sydnei Jones agreed.

"It's awesome to win it in three," Jones said. "I never expected that. It doesn't happen very often at this level."

Not in Class 2A. It was only the second sweep in 11 years in Class 2A.

"North Catholic was phenomenal today," Barrick. "What we saw on tape, they played better than what we thought we could do to them. They were awesome. They took us out of our game."

It was actually the second time the two teams met this season. Their first meeting was on Sept. 18 at the Big Eight Catholic Volleyball Tournament, held at Trinity. The Shamrocks posted a 3-0 victory.

"That was a very stressful weekend for us," Fetter said. "We were working out some things and we didn't play as well as I had hoped. We purposely did not watch the film from that match in preparation of the title match."

Trinity had Lauren Trumpy, a 6-4 senior middle hitter, in that match. She did not play in the title match. The two-time PVCA All-Star suffered a season-ending ACL injury halfway through the season.

"Lauren is a once on lifetime player," Barrick said. "Losing her was very difficult, but when it happened, we as a program decided to make it into a positive. The player that settled into her spot, 6-0 sophomore Melissa Zack, really came into her own in the second half of the season."

Fetter admitted that having Trumpy out of the lineup helped the Trojans.

"Trumpy is an amazing player," Fetter said. "We changed our strategy with her out of the lineup."

"Their serving is better than any team we faced all year," said Fetter, referring to Trinity's nine aces. "Our plan was to weather serve/receive and beat them in transition. And that's the way it worked out. We ran a very fast offense and that took them out of their game."

The first set was much closer than the 25-20 score indicated. The set was tied nine times and the lead changed five times. Trinity held an 19-17 lead when North Catholic took over. The Trojans outscored the Shamrocks 8-2 to complete the victory.

North Catholic's Allison Feczko, a junior outside hitter, took over in the second set. She recorded 11 kills and one serving ace in the Trojans 25-20 victory. North Catholic jumped out to an 8-2 lead in the set and never trailed.

"Feczko was unbelievable," said Barrick of Feczko, who finished with 25 kills and three aces. "We tried to get a blocker in front of her and she just killed us. I don't even think she made an error. How do you stop that."

Barrick was also impressed by Jones, a junior who was voted to the PVCA All-State Team last year.

"(North Catholic) has one of the best setters in the state," said Barrick of Jones, who had 37 assists. "She's already a Division I recruit. She's going to Howard University. She was phenomenal."

With their backs against the wall, Trinity did mount a rally in the third set and held an 18-14 advantage. North Catholic responded with an 11-5 run to claim a 25-23 victory and clinch the title.

"It was a great season," said Barrick, who loses 10 players to graduation. "There aren't many teams that can lose an All-State player like Lauren Trumpy and still get to the state final, which we managed to do and we were very close to winning it. I'm very pleased with the season and we're going to try to do it again next year."

Fetter was also thinking about the future after the Trojans collected their second championship trophy in three years.

"We have four seniors and only one played today," Fetter said. "And if you look at our freshman and sophomore classes, we should be good for the next three or four years."

North Catholic (21-1) earned its PIAA berth by winning its third WPIAL (District 7) title in four years. The Trojans advanced to the state finals for the second time in three years with wins over District 10 runner-up Corry, 3-0 in the first round; District 5 champion Bedford, 3-0 in the quarterfinals; and District 6 champion Philipsburg-Osceola, 3-2 in Tuesday's semifinals.

Camp Hill Trinity (22-2) qualified for the state tournament by winning its third consecutive Section 3 title. The Shamrocks earned a return trip to the finals with wins over District 6 runner-up Central Columbia, 3-0 in the first round; District 1 champion New Hope-Solebury, 3-0 in the quarterfinals; and District 11 champion Allentown Central Catholic, 3-0 in the semifinals.