By Ken Wunderley

Tri-State Sports & News Service

The PIAA Class 2A title match featured two schools that were making their first appearance in a state title match - Camp Hill Trinity and Philipsburg-Osceola. And both were unbeaten.

The match featured three powerful hitters - Trinity's combo of Lauren Trumpey and Gracie Britton, and Philipsburg-Osceola's Reese Hazelton.

It was the second of four title matches held at Cumberland Valley High School and the only one that required more than three sets.

Two of the four sets were decided by two points, with each team recording a victory. The margin of victory in the other two sets was six points, but both were one-point affairs until the winner recorded a late rally.

Trinity posted the late rally in both sets to record its first PIAA girls volleyball title.

"We made this our goal from the beginning of the season," Trinity coach John Barrick said. "We got to the state semifinals last year (before losing to runner-up North Penn-Liberty) and thought we could turn it around this year and make it to the finals. This is a testament to how hard the girls worked all year. It's incredible."

Trinity (17-0) earned its berth in the nine-team bracket by winning the District 3 title. The Shamrocks advanced to the title match with wins against District 2 champion Holy Redeemer, 3-0 in the quarterfinals; and District 11 champion Pine Grove, 3-0 in the semifinals.

"It's everything that we have been working for for years and years," senior defense specialist Sophie Rojas said. "I have been playing for six years and this is exactly how I thought in my dreams I wanted it to end. I cannot believe that me and my teammates just did this."

Philipsburg-Osceola (20-1) earned its PIAA berth by winning the District 6 title. The Mounties advanced to the finals with wins against District 10 champion Maplewood, 3-2 in the quarterfinals; and District 7 champion North Catholic, 3-1 in the semifinals.

"Their height was a problem for us," Mounties coach Dave Eckberg said. "It was hard for us to matchup with them. We tried to simulate it in practice, but we just don't have anybody 6-foot-3. We tried some different things, some worked and some didn't."

Eckberg was referring to Trumpey, a 6-3 junior middle hitter who was voted to the PVCA Class 2A All-Star Team last year. Britton, the Shamrocks other middle hitter, is 5-11.

"They have an incredible player in No. 24," said Barrick, referring to Hazelton, a 6-2 freshman outside hitter. "I watched her for three or four days on tape. We tried to put our height in front of their height and try to slow her down and throw them off a little bit. I think it worked, just enough to get us over the hump."

The first set featured three lead changes and seven ties. Trinity scored six of the last seven points to pull out a 25-19 victory.

Hazelton recorded eight kills in the second set to lead Philipsburg-Osceola to a 25-23 victory. Trumpey and Britton each registered five kills in the third set as the Shamrocks won 25-23.

The Mounties jumped out to a 9-3 lead in the fourth set, but Trinity rallied to post a 25-19

victory, including seven of the last nine points. Britton recorded the final three kills for the Shamrocks.

"She was not going to be denied," Barrick said. "(Setter) Jena (Minnick) just get kept feeding her and Gracie was burying the ball. It was great."

Trumpey recorded 19 kills and six blocks, while Britton had 17 kills and 12 blocks. Hazelton registered 26 kills and 30 digs.

"I don't think you will find any freshman stronger than Reese," Eckberg said. "She was a matchup problem for other teams all year long. You will see her playing at the next level in a few years. She's a very coachable kid who has a bright future."

Britton is one of only three seniors on Trinity's squad. Philipsburg-Osceola has only one senior.

"Both teams are very young," Eckberg said. "Our goal is to get back here next year and win our first title. It would be great if both teams made it back to the finals. We would welcome a rematch."