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Camp Hill Trinity coach John Barrick said it best.

"An all-time great player, an all-time great final, and one that will be talked about for years to come,"

Barrick was referring to Philipsburg-Osceola senior Reese Hazelton and her incredible performance in the PIAA Class 2A title match, held Nov. 18 at Cumberland Valley High School.

Three different media outlets had a different kill total for Hazelton, a University of Indiana recruit. The Centre Daily Times had her with 46 kills. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette had her with 44 kills. And the commentators on PCN had her with 42.

"I have never heard of a player having that many kills in a single match let alone a state final," said Barrick, referring to the Centre Daily Times article, after Philipsburg-Osceola defeated Trinity, 3-1, to claim its first PIAA title.

Hazelton's official kill total was a slight bit less than what was reported by the media outlets, but still very impressive.

"We use Hudl for our official stats," Philipsburg-Osceola coach Dave Eckberg said. "They had her with 40 kills and only six errors on 95 swings. That's a .358 hitting percentage."

There are no records from previous PIAA finals, but Hazelton is believed to be the first girl to have 40 or more kills in a title match.

"It's amazing the things Reese can do on the court. She's quite the weapon," Eckberg said. "Reese knew we had to lean on her and she turned in her best performance of the season. And she still looked fresh up until the final point."

And of course it was Hazelton who recorded the final kill. In fact, she scored the last eight points for the Mounties in a 25-21 fourth set victory.

"Reese also had 22 serve attempts, one ace, and no errors," Eckberg said. "She even led us with 23 digs."

"All the hard work we put in every day in practice, it finally paid off," Hazelton said. "Freshman year, we didn't end up on top, and that has been haunting me ever since. But now we're on top, so it feels great."

Hazelton was referring to the fact that Philipsburg-Osceola played in the title match in 2020, her freshman year. Ironically, the Mounties played Trinity that year and the Shamrocks came away with a 3-1 victory.

The last two years, the Mounties lost to North Catholic (in 2021) and Freeport (in 2022) in the semifinals. Both teams went on to win the state title.

"This is such a great feeling," said senior outside hitter Sophie Granville, who had 13 kills, 18 digs, and 3 serving aces for the Mounties. "Since freshman year, we've (Granville and Hazelton) been called the 'Dynamic Duo.' When we were in this gym playing Trinity and we went home with a loss, and then to beat them today, it feels like it came full circle. We are finally going home with a gold medal. It's incredible to experience this with Reese by my side."

Trinity jumped out to a 13-6 in the first set with setter Jessica Minnick leading the way with two serving aces and a kill. Philipsburg-Osceola slowly chipped away at the deficit with kill after kill by Hazelton. The Mounties eventually pulled out a 28-26 victory.

In the second set, Trinity came away with a 25-22 victory with junior outside hitter Jayda Gray recording four kills and senior middle hitter Melissa Zack adding three kills.

The third set saw four lead changes until the match was tied at 17-17. Hazelton followed with a kill to give the Mounties the lead for good in a 25-22 victory. The fourth and final set was just as close, but the Mounties came away with a 25-21 victory.

"My girls followed the game plan as well as they could," Barrick said. "And sometimes in our game, you just don't have the answers. We just ran into the best player in Pennsylvania today. It's that simple. And she was on 99% of the time. We slowed her down as best we could. My girls left it all on the floor. I'm glad I got to be a part of history and we are not hanging our heads."

Philipsburg-Osceola, the District 6 champion, earned its title berth with wins against Avonworth, 3-0 in the first round; Freeport, 3-0 in the quarterfinals; and Beaver, 3-1 in the semifinals.

"We had to go through the WPIAL to get to the finals," Eckberg said.

Trinity, the District 3 champion, earned its title berth with wins against Conwell-Egan, 3-0 in the first round; Holy Redeemer, 3-1 in the quarterfinals; and Forest Hills, 3-1 in the semifinals.

Gray had 14 kills to lead Trinity, while senior middle hitter Sammi McAuliffe had 13.

Philipsburg-Osceola loses eight players to graduation and all of them were starters.

"We will have quite the turnover," Eckberg said. "But we lost nine players to graduation after our first title appearance and came back and made it to the semifinals the following year. Our goal is to keep developing players."

Trinity was making its third appearance in the finals in four years. The Shamrocks lose 11 players to graduation.

"We are already working on getting back here next season," Barrick said.