



Pine-Richland, Penn-Trafford, Ellis win WPIAL field hockey titles



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Ellis School had been a fixture in the WPIAL Class 1A field hockey finals until last year when it was knocked out in the semifinals by Aquinas Academy.

It took a year — and a comeback — but the Tigers finally got their revenge.

Junior forward Rita Gianakis had an unconventional natural hat trick as she scored three goals in the fourth quarter to erase a one-goal deficit and lead Ellis School to a 3-1 victory against Aquinas Academy in the WPIAL Class 1A final at Washington & Jefferson.

“She did exactly what she needed to do,” first-year Ellis School coach Alexx Miller said. “We gave her the corrections and what she needed to do and she executed.”

Ellis won its ninth overall championship, its third in Class 1A and first since 2017.

Class 2A

Penn-Trafford scored two second-quarter goals and Ava Hershberger scored her school record 40th goal of the season on a fourth-quarter penalty corner to put it away as the Warriors came away with a 4-1 victory against Latrobe. It is the Warriors' seventh consecutive WPIAL Class 2A title. They have won every year since the PIAA split the sport into three classifications in 2016.

Class 3A

Emma Westerhoff picked up a first-half goal and Jessica Albertson chipped in her 41st of the season 27 seconds into the third quarter for some insurance as Pine-Richland won its fourth consecutive title with a 3-0 victory against second-seeded North Allegheny.

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