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By Phillip King

Water polo

UA boys coach Jim Roberts had a feeling of confidence as the Bears prepared to meet Thomas Worthington in the state title game Oct. 24 in Mason.

"I thought if we played together as a team, played real strong defensively, we would have a shot at it," said Roberts.

The Bears (25-6) prevailed over Thomas Worthington 9-8 in a double-overtime thriller, taking home their first state title since 2004.

"We had more than 100 fans come down from UA," said Roberts. "It was loud, it was fun, people were screaming, even ringing cow bells."

Leading the Bears offensively were John Spangler (3 goals), Cris Miranda and Charlie Coons (2 each), and Andrew Rabe and Zach Kelch (1 each).

Keeper Dan Trotier had 10 saves.

In the state semifinal the night before, UA stopped Toledo St. Francis 9-6. Trotier had 12 saves, while Spangler (3 goals) and Rabe (2) led the attack.

On the same day the boys were enjoying their title, the Golden Bears girls had to absorb a bitter loss as Thomas Worthington won the crown 12-11.

UA was ahead 3-2 after the first period. The match was tied 6-piece at the break, then the Bears went ahead 8-7 going into the fourth.

Kristyn Fulcher (5 goals, 1 assist, 3 steals), Kayla Hammerberg (4 goals, 2 assists, 3 steals), Kasi Vazquez (1 goal, 2 assists, 4 steals), and Kelly Stiebler (1 goal, 2 assists, 2 steals) were among the statistical leaders. Goalie Stephanie Turner had 4 saves and 2 steals.

The Bears finished the season 22-4. The senior class capped their careers with two state championships and two runner-up trophies.