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Framingham makes rally second nature

By Bruce Lerch and Joe Vieira / North Boys Soccer
 Tuesday, November 13, 2007 - Added 10h ago

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LOWELL - Three minutes into yesterday's Division 1 North final, Framingham found itself in an eerily similar position to its game against Lexington just two days earlier - facing an early deficit and watching the momentum make its way to the opposing side.

By staying calm and waiting for the game to come to them, the Flyers were able to prevail once again, scoring three times in the second half, with Marlon Ramalho potting the game-winner midway through. No. 2 Framingham defeated eighth-seeded Woburn, 3-1, to capture the Div. 1 North championship for the first time since its state championship run of 1992.

"Woburn came out flying like this all through the playoffs, and we were prepared for it, but they did it anyway," Flyers coach Dan Avery said.



The Tanners (14-4-4) took the early lead when an errant clearing attempt found the back of the net.

Following the break, the Flyers came out with a renewed determination, and John Goncalves got them on the board six minutes into play, slamming home a beautiful crossing pass from Jepherson Cardoso.

"Once they got that first goal, we knew we were in some trouble," admitted Woburn coach Paul Sands. "They really started coming back at us after that one."

Ramalho netted his game-winner 15 minutes later, then Erick Nader scored on a penalty kick.

Concord-Carlisle 3, Dracut 1 - Lucky superstitions are not to be trifled with, even it means eating a turkey sandwich at 9 a.m. That was the case for Patriots [team stats] coach Ray Pavlik as his top-seeded Colonials prepared to battle the sixth-seeded Middies.

Lucky superstitions look even better with a duo like Michael Burke and Theo Terris roaming the field. The Patriots duo was in the thick of every offensive attack, and each had a goal and an assist to lift Concord-Carlisle to its second straight Div. 2 North title.

"There is probably no better tandem in the state than Burke and Terris," Pavlik said. "They have speed and talent, and they've played together a long time."

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Tony Lania also scored as C-C took a 3-0 halftime lead. Kyle Adie scored on a second-half corner kick for Dracut.

Lynnfield 2, Greater Lowell 1 - The No. 12 Pioneers overcame an early defensive lapse to upset the No. 6 Gryphons, earning their second consecutive Div. 3 North title.


Mike Kennedy, who led the Cape Ann League with 26 goals in the regular season, scored twice for Lynnfield (13-6-2). His first tally came with 9:37 remaining in the first half. After being taken down by a defender just outside of the goal box, Kennedy was awarded a direct kick in the center of the field from 25 yards out. He sent his shot low to the right post, just past a diving attempt by Gryphons goalkeeper Yorlin Grajales (11 saves) to tie the game at 1.

In the 11th minute of the second half, Kennedy beat two defenders to a loose ball near the top left corner of the goal box. After making two impressive cuts to shake the defenders, Kennedy sliced a left-footed shot into the top corner for the game-winner, with an assist to Tino Acierno.

"Last year was a little bit more of a surprise even though we were a higher seed," coach Brent Munroe said of Lynnfield's two titles. "We hadn't been (deep in the postseason). This group has been there, a lot of these guys. Even though we at times struggled a lot this season, this group always had a confidence that I think other groups haven't, because they've been there."

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