

Sports 

Patriots' reign ends in state semifinals

By **Jim Trant**

Thu Nov 15, 2007, 04:05 PM EST

LOWELL - The Sharon Eagles defeated the Concord-Carlisle boys soccer team on a goal by Andrew Revanales in the second sudden-death overtime period, in the Division 2 state semifinals.

The goal gave Sharon a 2 -1 victory, the right to play for the Division 2 state championship against Hampshire Regional, and ended the Patriots' reign as state champions.

C-C dictated play early in the game. They had two corners kicks within the first five minutes of play. Sharon also committed a couple of early fouls, which showed the Patriots' quickness to the ball. With the Patriots controlling play, Sharon's first few chances came on counter-attacks initiated by one of their three forwards.

Michael Burke had C-C's first good scoring opportunity, when he was sprung for a quick shot, but Sharon's goalkeeper – Stephen Gage - cut down the angle and knocked the shot away. At the other end, Revanales made a nice move to fire a shot on goal. It was deflected, but C-C keeper James Smith adjusted to cover the ball.

At the 25-minute mark, C-C took a 1-0 lead on a goal by Robert Schmidt-Chang. Rob Kolowich raced down the left wing and crossed the ball to an open Schmidt-Chang. He blasted the shot past Gage to put C-C on the board. Sharon responded with a good run from Revanales. His lefty shot was labeled at the near post, but Smith was up to the challenge.

C-C came back and had good opportunities. Theo Terris dribbled his way open and fired a shot that Gage saved, but could not control. Burke pounced on the rebound but was thwarted by the Sharon keeper. Later, Burke went streaking down the right wing, cut to the middle and fired a shot just over the cross bar.

With three minutes left in the half, Sharon forward John Kazan set up Revanales for the game-tying goal. Kazan's pass led Revanales past the defense. Smith came out, but could not stop the shot as Sharon evened the score at 1 -1.

The half ended at 1-1. During the half, C-C had an overall territorial advantage as evidenced by more shots and more corner kicks than Sharon. The Eagles countered with quickness from their front line and tested Smith several times, but he was solid in goal.

The late first-half goal seemed to give Sharon momentum at the start of the second half. Within the first minute of play, Kazan and fellow forward Deven Ligon combined to spring Revanales for a point-blank shot. His shot spun off the side of his foot and went wide.

C-C quickly regained its composure. Tony Lania had a good shot off a set play, but was denied. Gage misjudged a cross, however C-C could not convert. Meanwhile, Peter Robitaille and Sam Williams anchored the defense.

In the final 10 minutes of the half, C-C turned up the pressure. Burke had a lefty shot knocked away for a

corner kick. Kolowich and Tony Meyer set up Terris, who went in alone against Gage, but the Sharon keeper made a great save to keep the score tied. The scoreless second half sent the teams to sudden death overtime.

During the first overtime, C-C continued to pressure Sharon. A Lania cross found Burke, but his shot narrowly missed the top right corner of the goal. Terris and Burke combined to give Burke a shot that beat the goalkeeper, but was deflected wide by a defender.

In the second overtime, Revanales broke in alone on Smith. Smith practically took the ball off Revanales foot to make the save.

On the final sequence of plays, Burke took a clear and raced 50 yards with a defender on his hip. The defender and Gage angled him off and his bid for the win was deflected for a C-C corner kick. On the corner, Gage punched the ball towards the left wing. A Sharon defender won the possession and sent a pass along the sideline to Revanales. He beat two defenders on his way to the goal and his shot eluded Smith for the game-winning goal.

Sharon coach Barry Kaye was surprised that the teams combined for only three goals.

“We have been an attacking team all year and we have an explosive player in Andrew Revanales,” he said. “We also know that Concord-Carlisle can score goals in bunches. They are a great team. It took a total team effort on both sides of the field for us to earn the victory.”

Said C-C coach Ray Pavlik, “We had our chances. Given those opportunities, I thought we would have scored more goals, but we didn’t finish tonight. Give credit to Sharon and their keeper Gage for holding us to one goal.”

Comments (0)

Leave a Comment:

Add Comment

Powered by: [SEO by eLocalListing](#), [Advertiser profiles](#), [Business directory by Planet Discover](#), [Zope Corp.](#)

WEB BROWSING REDEFINED  FIREFOX 2