



Concord-Carlisle ends Danvers' season

By Ryan Froats
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WOBURN — As both the Danvers and Concord-Carlisle boys' soccer teams prepared for their Division 2 North semifinal at Woburn High School last night, it became obvious that another opponent they might not have prepared for decided to show up.

The crisp November night, along with strong autumn winds, certainly played a role in disrupting the game plan for both contenders. But when all was said and done, it was the Patriots who managed to score twice, ending Danvers' season with a 2-0 victory.

"That's a team with very good players and great coaching. They're traditionally a soccer powerhouse — and they showed why out there tonight," said Danvers head coach Antonio Lage of Concord-Carlisle.

Lage and his Falcons (15-3-3) knew they were going to have to play their best game in order to compete with the eighth-seeded Patriots, who were just three years removed from their 2006 Division 2 state championship.

The game was very evenly matched throughout the first half as both teams played hard to limit the shots their goalkeepers would see. The brisk temperatures definitely hindered the players from being able to utilize all of their energy early on, so it was evident that the game could change dramatically with one misstep by either squad.

Danvers, the tournament's No. 5 seed, was inches from grabbing an early lead when a C-C defender misplayed the ball and NorthEastern Conference Small Player of the Year Chris Ciampa sprung free for a 1-on-1 opportunity with Patriots' goalkeeper Cam Gregory.

As C-C's netminder sprinted out towards the Falcons' senior captain, Ciampa beautifully chipped the ball over a lunging Gregory towards a wide open net. Unfortunately for the Falcons, the ball just sailed over the upper right hand corner of the cage, keeping the game scoreless.

Tom Eldridge nearly gave Concord-Carlisle (14-3-3) the lead in the 45th minute of play, but his blast from the top of the box hit the crossbar.

But just four minutes later Eldridge was given another opportunity — and this time he wouldn't be denied. He slipped behind the Danvers defense and buried a shot in the back right of the net to give the Patriots a 1-0 advantage.

In the 62nd minute, Ciampa had an opportunity to tie the game up when he was awarded a free kick from about 20 yards out. He booted a gorgeous ball toward the vacant right side of the C-C net, only to be one-upped by McGregor, who made a remarkable save as he dove to his left.

Later in the game, Mike O'Brien took a nice pass from Sam Atwood and beat Danvers goalkeeper Andrew Mikulski to give C-C a 2-0 advantage. The stingy Patriot defense continued to limit the Falcons' chances from there until the final whistle.

"That's a good club and they tested us tonight," said Concord-Carlisle head coach Ray Pavlik, whose team will play for the Division 2 North final Monday at Manning Field in Lynn (5 p.m.) against Wilmington.

"We scouted them and knew No. 3 (Ciampa) was a fantastic player who we'd have to keep eyes on at all times."

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