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## Lexington moves on

The Boston Globe

### Ruocco's shootout saves stymie Lincoln-Sudbury, 2-1

By [Evan MacDonald](#)

Globe Correspondent / November 17, 2009

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Entering this year's state tournament, Lexington keeper Alex Ruocco had never faced the pressure of a shootout.

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For the second straight game, Ruocco came up big in the penalty-kicks round, helping Lexington defeat Lincoln-Sudbury, 2-1, last night to secure the Division 1 North championship at Woburn High School.

"Last game against Framingham was the first time I've ever gone to a shootout in my life," he said. "But so long as you save one, you're good."

The senior made two diving saves to his right to stop shots by Clayton Russell and Brendan Caslin, preserving the Minutemen's 4-2 shootout win.

The Minutemen (19-0-3) will meet the winner of tonight's South final between Catholic Memorial and Brockton on Thursday night in the EMass final at Weymouth High.

The Minutemen had a golden opportunity in the eighth minute when Jordan Mizerak's shot deflected off the crossbar to teammate Alex Lukez. But Lukez had to rush his shot and it sailed high.

In the 18th minute, Lexington's Kristian Driscoll grabbed a loose ball and drove a low shot into the bottom right corner of the net for a 1-0 lead.

Lincoln-Sudbury (15-3-3) opened the second half with renewed intensity, but time and again Ruocco and the defense made the plays.

Finally, with a little more than a minute left in regulation, the Warriors' Daniel Birtwell snagged a rebound and found the back of the net, sending his team into a frenzy and the game into overtime.

"We'd come from behind in about seven of our games, so it was something we knew we could do," Lincoln-Sudbury coach David Hosford said.

"He [Ruocco] made some big saves," Lexington coach Dan Rudolph said. "[Lincoln-Sudbury's] a dangerous team that has a lot of weapons, and Alex had

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to come up big.”

**Division 2 North** - Coming into the final, Wilmington hadn't allowed a goal in over a month. Then again, the Wildcats hadn't faced the Concord-Carlisle offensive juggernaut.

Concord-Carlisle got two goals from Alex Puchrik in the first 10 minutes and shocked previously undefeated Wilmington in a blowout 5-1 win at Manning Field in Lynn.

“The kids absolutely executed everything perfect and finished their opportunities,” Concord-Carlisle coach Ray Pavlik said of his offense, which used touch passes and off-ball movement to shoot at will.

Puchrik was the beneficiary of the skilled passing, tipping a cross just over Wildcat goalie Martin Bamberg's head in the seventh minute. The junior struck again just three minutes later, redirecting a beautiful no-look pass from Daniel Tchen.

Wilmington couldn't clear the ball out of its end, and Bamberg was subjected to a barrage of shots. The senior led the Cape Ann League with a 0.27 goals-against average, allowing just four goals before last night, but he was powerless to stop an attack that put 17 shots on net, including Jake Delehey's first varsity goal on a rocket from 18 yards out after Puchrik's second goal.

“It was one of those nights where we just didn't miss the net,” Pavlik said. “Bamberg couldn't have done much with those shots.”

Tchen had two assists and played the role of a point guard, orchestrating the attack from the middle with clean touch passes ahead to Puchrik and Tom Eldridge, who finished with a goal and an assist. Mike O'Brien added a goal late to complete the Patriot scoring.

“They came in with eleven straight shutouts,” Pavlik said of Wilmington. “We didn't expect to put five up.”

*Globe correspondent Charlie Peters contributed to this report.* ■

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