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C-C 1, Palmer 0: Boys soccer team wins states

By Stephen Tobey

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Worcester -

In Sunday's MIAA Division 2 state final, the Concord-Carlisle boys soccer team learned why Palmer entered the game with 15 shutouts to its credit.

The Patriots did not become shutout No. 16, however.

Junior Will Toczykowski's goal with 11:50 left in regulation gave C-C a 1-0 victory and the state championship at Worcester State College's Coughlin Field.

C-C (17-3-3) won its second state championship of the decade. The last one was in 2006. Palmer ended its season at 19-3-1.

Sam Atwood took the corner kick from the left side, sending it toward the middle of the net. There was a scramble in front of the goal and Toczykowski got his foot on the ball, putting it into the goal.

"During halftime, the coaches told us we could score on a corner," said Toczykowski. It went to me and I just dove for it."

C-C placed 16 shots on net, six in the first half and 10 in the second. Palmer goalie Steve Swiatlowski stopped 15 of them. The Panthers also placed a lot of players around the net and they also made their share of defensive stops. Sweeper Jason Roche cleared several shots away from the goal.

"They went in for every 50/50 ball," Toczykowski said. "Toward the end of the first half, we were frustrated. We all just calmed down and played our game."

Said C-C coach Ray Pavlik, "We possessed the ball well. At halftime we told them to relax and control the game. Their goalie made six or seven great saves.

"The thing we have to our advantage is our speed. We played a grinding, possession game and wore them down. Our fitness carried us."

The game was also fairly physical, with three Panthers receiving yellow cards. In the ninth minute of the game, senior midfielder Sam Terris left the game with an ankle injury and was taken to a nearby hospital. Atwood and Seth Bird were also shaken up and left the game briefly.

“I don’t think it’s any different than what we see in the Dual County League,” Pavlik said. “We play physical teams there as well.”

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