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C-C crowned again

By Bruce Lerch / Div. 2 boys soccer

Monday, November 23, 2009 - Added 5h ago

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WORCESTER - Soccer goals may not always be aesthetically pleasing to the eye, but the one that ends up as the winner is always the prettiest.

Concord-Carlisle's Will Toczykowski pounced on a loose ball off of a corner kick and gained enough control to push the ball past an oncoming goalkeeper and into the the net with 11:54 remaining yesterday as the [Patriots](#) [[team stats](#)] defeated Palmer, 1-0, to capture the Division 2 state championship at Worcester State's Coughlin Field.

It was second state title for C-C (17-3-3) in four years.

“At halftime, coach told us to be all over the scramble balls and I guess I just put it in the back of the net,” Toczykowski said. “On the corner kick, it got flicked down by a forward, Griffen Creighton, and it was a scramble and it went down and I just dived for it. Luckily it went into the back of the net. . . . It was the greatest feeling of my life.”

The play started as C-C’s Sam Atwood lofted a corner kick toward the Palmer goal, and Creighton redirected it into the middle. A scramble ensued, and Toczykowski came up with the ball just as goalkeeper Steve Swiatlowski rushed out to challenge for Palmer (19-3-1). Toczykowski pushed the ball enough so Swiatlowski only got a small piece of it, and the ball rolled over the goal line as the C-C cheering section erupted.

“(Swiatlowski) came out to challenge and the ball was scrambling around,” said Palmer coach Carlos Batista. “They were fortunate to get to the ball before we did. It wasn’t the prettiest goal, but they all count, so it doesn’t really matter how they go in.”

The Patriots felt fortunate that the ball finally bounced in their favor, as Swiatlowski was putting on a clinic in the net. The Panthers senior finished with 13 saves, many of them tremendous opportunities as C-C spent most of the game in Palmer’s end.

“The reality is, we possess the ball well, and a lot of teams resort to sitting in a little bit,” said Patriots coach Ray Pavlik. “We’ve been in this situation before, even in the tournament. The message at halftime was just to relax. You’re controlling the game, putting pressure on. At some point, you just have to have patience and believe it was going to come.”



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Photo by Gretchen Ertl

IN HIS DUST: Concord-Carlisle's Sean Valley (right) controls the ball and pulls away from Palmer's Sam Atwood during the Patriots' 1-0 win in yesterday's Division 2 state final.

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