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SPORTS

C-C Boys' Soccer Fans Have Much to Cheer About

Crowd sparks No. 2 Patriots to 4-2 victory over No. 7 Salem in North D-2 Quarterfinals.

By **Jon Pelland** November 11, 2010

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The chants of "Olé, Olé, Olé," could be heard trailing off down the dirt path that leads from Doug White Memorial Field down to Concord-Carlisle High School – just the Patriot faithful celebrating another tournament victory for their boys' soccer team.

C-C's fans had much to cheer about on Wednesday afternoon, as the No. 2 Patriots ousted No. 7 Salem High School 4-2 in the Quarterfinals of the MIAA North Division 2 sectional tournament.

Next up for the defending D-2 champion Patriots is a trip to Friday's sectional semifinals at Acton-Boxborough High School. C-C will take on either No. 14 Melrose or No. 6 North Andover, who played a late Quarterfinal game on Wednesday night.

Jammed not five feet from the sideline, the crowd was in full throat the entire game, giving the already favored Patriots (17-1-1) and extra boost.

"We've put together some quality teams on the field for a couple of years here and people are rallying around the program," C-C coach Ray Pavlik said of his team's following. "It's an advantage playing here. And not just here, that same group travels to away games.

"Really, it makes a difference. When you're tired and you're down in the second half, that noise from your friends it helps you to carry on."

In fact, the crowd was so one-sided, not a sound was made when Salem (13-7-0) finally got on the scoreboard in the 77th minute. The silence was so extreme that Witches coach Mike Collins couldn't help but make a joke.

"Have you ever heard a more silent cheer?" Collins quipped after Salem's Daniel Collins rocketed a shot past Patriots' backup goalkeeper Steven Van Sieten.

"This is a tournament atmosphere," Collins added. "And, hey, they have the perfect setting for it. Nothing profane, all good sportsmanship. Lots of rah-rah and hooting and hollering."

Of course, the same couldn't be said of when the home team scored. Never was the crowd louder than with each time the Patriots added to their lead.

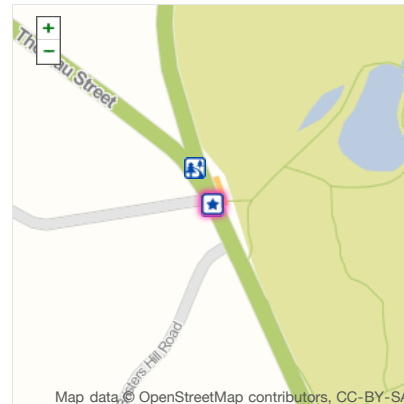
It began in the first half with sophomore Mikey O'Brien's third goal in two tournament games. He opened the scoring by redirecting a pass from junior teammate Ethan Atwood in front of the Salem net.

The crowd got even louder when Concord-Carlisle took complete control in the 50th minute. What started as a nice save by a Salem defender to prevent an own goal, ended with Patriots sophomore Gregoire Fauchet banging home the rebound.

Fauchet was in the right place at the right time as the Salem defender's deflection found him in the middle of the 18-yard box. Witches keeper Danny McCarthy was stuck at the other side of the net.

"We are up against competition here, where if you even make a hint of a mental mistake, they make you pay dearly," Collins said, "and they did four times. Nothing spectacular, but fundamentally sound."

C-C again extended its lead off a rebound in the 53rd minute. The Patriots' initial try on a corner kick



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PHOTOS (6)



was headed out of danger, but once again a CCHS player was in perfect position. Senior captain Seth Bird settled the ball and ripped a shot to make it 3-0 Patriots.

Perhaps the loudest cheer of the night was reserved for C-C senior Kyle Burlamachi, who scored the Patriots' final goal. Burlamachi missed nearly the entire regular season with a concussion suffered in the Patriots' opener.

He returned for the Quarterfinal matchup and got to hear the crowd chant his name when he scored in the 69th minute.

Salem got on the board with Daniel Collins' goal off a corner kick, and the Witches added a second goal when senior captain Edwin Demoya scored during the second half stoppage time.

"I thought we played well and really executed our game plan well," Pavlik said. "We knew that Demoya was a really good player up top, so we needed to contain him. Beyond that we just wanted to keep the ball moving. Possess a little bit and see if we could wear them down a little bit. I think we did that toward the end of the first and going into the second half."

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