

ConcordPatch

SPORTS

C-C Boys Soccer Win Division 2 North Final

Soccer team defeats Winchester in a dramatic OT win.

By **John Waller** November 15, 2010

All Concord-Carlisle's Mikey O'Brien needed was a second chance.

After striking the crossbar on a close-range shot near the end of regulation, the junior forward put home the game winner on a fast break less than two minutes into overtime, as No. 2 [Concord-Carlisle](http://concord.patch.com/listings/concord-carlisle-regional-high-school) (<http://concord.patch.com/listings/concord-carlisle-regional-high-school>) (19-1-1) beat previously undefeated, No. 1 Winchester (19-1-2) 2-1 Sunday to claim the [Division 2 North](http://miaa.statebrackets.com/tmenu.cfm?tid=1925) (<http://miaa.statebrackets.com/tmenu.cfm?tid=1925>) title.

"I was feeling really bad after that first one," O'Brien said from Manning Field in Lynn, "but to be able to make it up to my teammates, felt really, really good."

Concord-Carlisle coach Ray Pavlik said O'Brien is a big-game player.

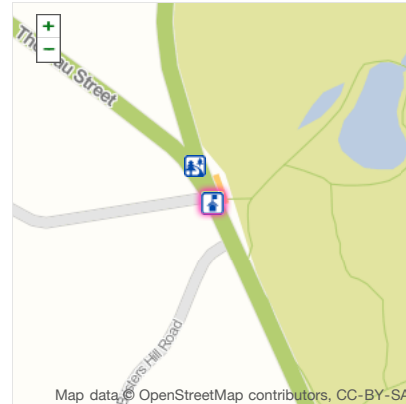
"When he gets into that right position, he's going to take advantage," he said. "He wants the ball in that time."

Senior Griffen Creighton got the assist on the deciding play.

The defending Division 2 state champions, Concord-Carlisle faces South sectional winner Canton (17-0-4) in the [state semifinals](http://miaa.statebrackets.com/tmenu.cfm?tid=1959) (<http://miaa.statebrackets.com/tmenu.cfm?tid=1959>) at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Veterans Stadium in Quincy.



PHOTOS (5)



Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, CC-BY-SA

Winchester struck first on Sunday.

Junior striker Conor Calnan challenged Concord-Carlisle keeper Cam McGrory for a loose ball, and Calnan's teammate, center midfielder Ryan Connolly, was there to knock in the rebound about eight minutes into the game.

With strong play from defenders Ben Bratt, Lubomir Svetiev and Dan Boulanger, Winchester maintained its 1-0 lead through halftime. At one point, early in the second half, Bratt sprinted back to save a ball that had gotten past goalie Andrew Shediac.

"Superman, he's superman," Winchester coach Paul Austin said to himself in disbelief after the play.

"He was the best player on the field, bar none," he added later.

With 30 minutes remaining in the game, O'Brien found a cutting Alex Puchrik for the equalizer.

The game was physical and intense from start to finish, as both teams brought large and boisterous student sections.

Puchrik put pressure on Winchester's defense, as teammates Aaron Nickelsberg and Gregoire Fauchet played well in midfield. Bryan Wholihan, Chris Walker-Jacks and Bennet Simonton made up Concord-Carlisle's backline.

For Winchester, senior Ben Davis contributed up front with Calnan, while Kevin DeSa assisted Connolly in midfield.

After the game, both coaches tipped their hats.

"Neither team would be here if they weren't really good," Austin said.

SEE NEXT IN SPORTS

Sports Week in Review, Nov. 7 - Nov. 13



Cambridge Trust Company

How do you measure your bank?

Open a Cambridge Trust Relationship Account for easy access to your banker and the latest bestseller.

Get a Free Amazon Kindle.®

LEARN HOW

The advertisement features a dark red header with the Cambridge Trust Company logo. Below the header, the text asks 'How do you measure your bank?' and promotes opening a 'Cambridge Trust Relationship Account' for easy access to a banker and the latest bestseller. A small image of an Amazon Kindle is shown to the right. At the bottom, there is a blue button that says 'LEARN HOW' and the text 'Get a Free Amazon Kindle.®'.

Advertise

Advertise on Patch and reach potential customers in your backyard and beyond. Click here for more information.

Volunteer

If you want to help local causes, or your cause needs local help, your next click should be right here.

Contribute

- + Send us news tips
- + Put an event on the calendar
- + Announce something to everyone