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Winchester High School boys soccer: Sachems fall to Concord-Carlisle, 2-1, in Div. 2 North sectional final

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GateHouse News Service

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Lynn, Mass. — Less than two minutes into overtime, Concord-Carlisle's Mikey O'Brien made a move and dribbled to the net with great speed.

As it turns out, his shot was also quite accurate.

O'Brien blasted a shot into the back of the Winchester High net, breaking a 1-1 tie, giving the Patriots a 2-1 victory during Sunday's afternoon's Division 2 North final championship at Manning Field in Lynn.

The heartbreaking defeat was Winchester's first of the season (19-1-2).

"It's a great accomplishment to go this far," said Austin. "Once you get to this level it's anybody's game. "We have a couple of kids banged up, but injuries are part of the game. Both of these teams went out and played a high level. It was an intense game tonight."

The Sachems jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the ninth minute of the contest, as Conor Calnan put in a shot, with the assist going to Ban Davis.

That score held up until the 49th minute, when C-C finally answered. O'Brien dished to teammate Alex Puchrik, who scored to make it 1-1.

Austin said that had two calls gone his team's way, things might have been different.

"On Concord's first goal I felt like a trip could have been called, and on the second it looked like there was a handball," said the coach. "It's the hard part of the game, and it hard to let up goals like that. It's par for the course, I guess. It happens at all levels."

As they have done all season, Winchester defenders Ben Bratt, Dan Boulanger and Lubo Svetiev all played at a high level.

"This is a tough one, but there's nothing you can do," said Austin. "Our kids have played with class all season long. This is a great team, and we've received great support."

Concord is currently 19-1-1.

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I'm a Sachem supporter but it's shameful that Coach Austin can't gracefully accept defeat and feels the need to question BOTH goals in the media on top of attributing the loss to injuries. This late into the season, all teams are dealing with injuries and it's worth noting that the Winchester goal was also questionable. The fact is, Winchester and Concord-Carlisle had great teams this year and the game was won in a 'golden goal' situation. The kids may have played with class this season but Coach Austin's comments discredit that. Winchester certainly didn't show much class when losing to Concord-Carlisle in the 2006 tourney and Paul doesn't show much here. Poor sportsmanship is learned and the apple doesn't fall from from the tree. This was an opportunity for a teachable moment and Coach Austin completely missed it and took the often-traveled

route of falling back on lame excuses and blaming the officials.

BostonBest

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Not only do Coach Austin's comments to the media lack class; they are also wrong. The camera doesn't lie: the defender clearly goes down AFTER the shot on the first C-C goal, and on the second, the ball clearly is off the C-C player's chest to set up the assist. <http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=10150319529775442&ref=mf>

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