

[Sports](#) 

Crutchfield playing against nation's best at BC

By Stephen Tobey

Wed Oct 24, 2007, 08:59 PM EDT

NEWTON -

Last Thursday, the Boston College women's soccer team showed it belonged on the same field as perennial national power North Carolina, taking the Tar Heels to double overtime before losing 1-0.

Throughout the season, BC freshman Natalie Crutchfield has also showed she belonged.

Crutchfield, who was the Dual County League MVP and an All-New England selection while playing for Acton-Boxborough Regional High School last year, has played in all 15 of the Eagles' games this fall, scoring one goal and four assists. Last Thursday, she did not start, but she played about 30 minutes of each half and started the first of the two 10-minute sudden-death periods.

"At first, I was a little nervous," said Crutchfield about Thursday's game against women's college soccer's most famous program. "But we all got psyched up and showed everyone how good we are."

After defeating North Carolina State, 4-0 on Sunday, BC stood at 9-3-3 (2-3-2 in the Atlantic Coast Conference). The Eagles entered Thursday's game with the Tar Heels ranked 14th in the country, while North Carolina (12-3, 6-1 ACC) was fourth.

"There is no doubt we prepared to win, we came prepared to win, not to lose by a close margin," said BC coach Alison Kulik.

"We came to win. Last year, we lost 3-1. This was a great game at this caliber."

In her first few months at BC, Crutchfield has been enjoying herself.

"It's a great school," she said. "At first, it took some time to get used to it. There have been a lot of new things to learn. The game is much quicker."

A member of two New England champion 4x200 meter relay teams at A-B, Crutchfield's own speed has allowed her to adapt to the college game.

"She's been one of our biggest surprises," Kulik said. "She was a little under the radar with recruiting, but her speed has helped a lot. There's fast and there's Natalie fast."

Crutchfield entered BC expecting to earn her playing time and having no preconceived notions about what she might do as a freshman.

"I wasn't expecting anything," she said. "There are so many great players here. Everyone has a clean slate. Everyone works hard."

Comments (1)

Laura Brock

2007-10-29T23:40:45

Saw Natalie play on Sunday at BC v. UVA. She played the entire game and scored the only goal with less than three minutes left off a beautiful setup by Gina Martino. And as usual she was modest and thrilled to see two of her former teammates there to root her on.

Leave a Comment:



Add Comment

IYP and SEO vendors: [SEO by eLocalListing](#), [Advertiser profiles](#), [Business directory by Planet Discover](#), [Zope Corp.](#)

