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Colonials kick it up a notch

By Stephen Tobey

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ACTON, MASS. -

Though it's doubtful anyone on the Acton-Boxborough boys soccer team sees it that way, last season's early exit from the MIAA Division 1 North tournament may have been a blessing in disguise for this year's squad.

Without the hype and the pressure that goes with defending a sectional title and winning the state title that narrowly eluded the 2004 and 2005 teams, this fall's Colonials have been able to learn, grow, win games and another Dual County League title.

After Sunday's non-league 3-2 victory over St. John's Prep, A-B wrapped up the regular season at 11-1-6.

"We have 12 seniors but a lot of them didn't play much last year," said A-B coach David Baumritter. "We were a little under the radar. We handled that really well. It's been important that the guys step up and carry on the tradition. They exceeded my expectations so far."

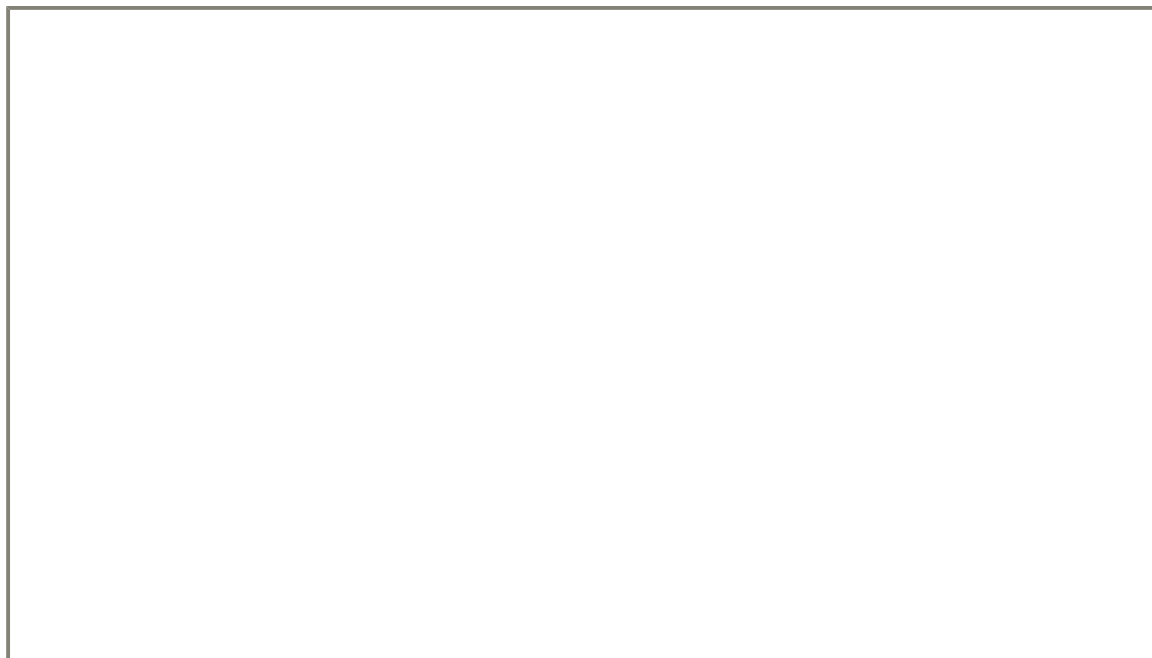
The Colonials quickly gained the upper hand, scoring two goals in the first 11 minutes. Jay Hayward scored two minutes into the game off a corner kick and with 29:18 left in the half, Jake Hart added a goal.

The Eagles scored with 25:45 left in the half, but with 2:15 left before intermission, Hart scored again off a throw-in from Will Edmonds to make it 3-1.

In the second half, A-B held a 5-4 edge in shots. St. John's pulled within a goal with 12:41 left, but could not notch the tying goal.

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