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A-B defeats St. John's again

By Stephen Tobey

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ACTON, MASS. -

One week after closing the regular season against St. John's Prep, the Acton-Boxborough boys soccer team defeated the Eagles for a second time, scoring a 2-0 victory in the first round of the MIAA Division 1 North tournament Sunday afternoon at Leary Field.

Acton-Boxborough (12-1-6) hosts Merrimack Valley Conference Large School champion Haverhill in a sectional quarterfinal on Tuesday (4 p.m.).

Last Sunday, the Colonials defeated St. John's, 3-2 in a non-league game.

"It's always a challenge to beat a team twice," said A-B coach David Baumritter. "It's a huge task. There's a lot of tradition on both sides and it's always a tight game."

The previous week's victory may have worked to the Colonials' advantage, however.

"It helped because we knew we could beat them," said A-B senior Jake Hart, who scored the Colonials' second goal. "They didn't know if they could beat us. We started off with an advantage."

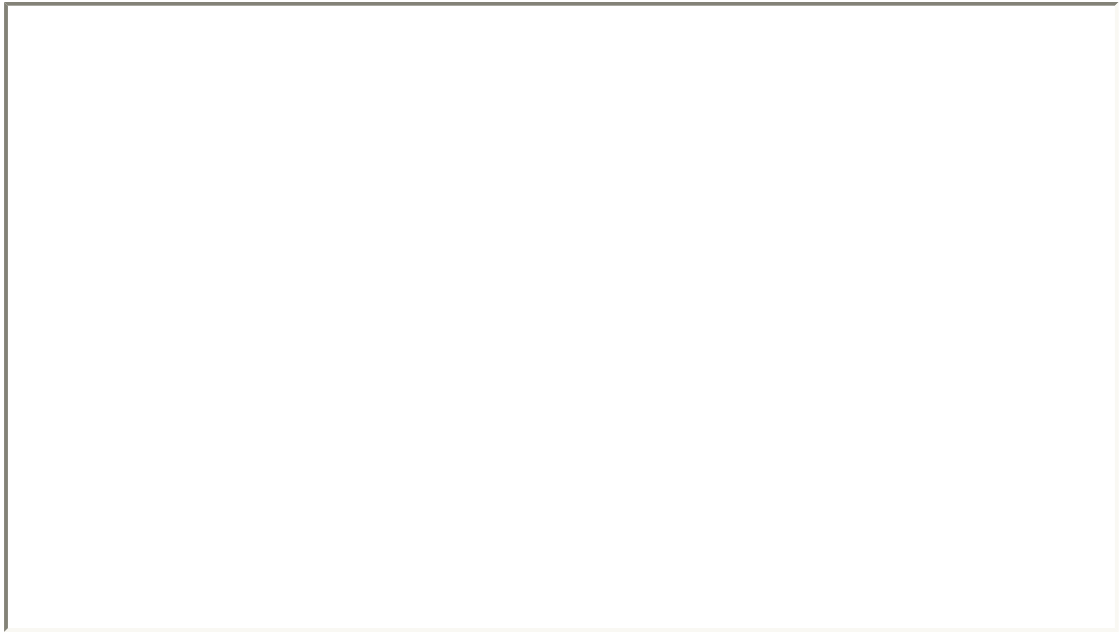
Hart also had a hand in A-B's first goal. In the 13th minute, Hart went in on a breakaway and was taken down from behind just inside the penalty area, leading to a penalty kick for the Colonials. Jay Hayward put the ball into the upper right corner of the net, giving A-B a 1-0 lead.

The game continued to be very physical in nature, with Colonials defender Dillon Meagher leaving the game twice in the first half after being shaken up on separate occasions. Meagher stayed in the game, however, and made two defensive stops in the second half, helping goalie D.J. Brock (five saves) earn the shutout.

Hart scored A-B's second goal with 15 minutes remaining on a breakaway.

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