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Girls soccer team rolls into quarterfinals

By Stephen Tobey

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ACTON, MASS. -

The Acton-Boxborough girls soccer team had not shot a soccer ball in anger in 10 days before Monday's MIAA Division 1 North first-round game with Beverly.

Monday afternoon, the Colonials fired plenty of shots at the Panthers' goal and enough of them found their mark for the top-seeded team in the tournament to post a 5-0 victory.

A-B (18-0-1) hosts Andover in a sectional quarterfinal game Tuesday at Leary Field (6:30 p.m.). Beverly, the 16th seed, ended its season at 9-8-1.

"I was pleased to get this out of the way because we haven't played in a week and a half," said A-B coach Ru Sweeney. "Getting the early goal helped."

Sophomore Hayley Brock scored that early goal for the Colonials, just 24 seconds after the opening kickoff. A-B stayed in the Panthers' end for most of the first half and peppered goalie Hayley Lorge (24 saves total) with 16 shots. Beverly defender Meghan Chatellier prevented a goal with a defensive stop on Brock with 29:34 left in the half.

Brock capped off the half by scoring her second goal on a breakaway with 2 minutes left before intermission to make it 4-0. Lindsey Raymond and Tricia Giglio also scored for the Colonials in the first half.

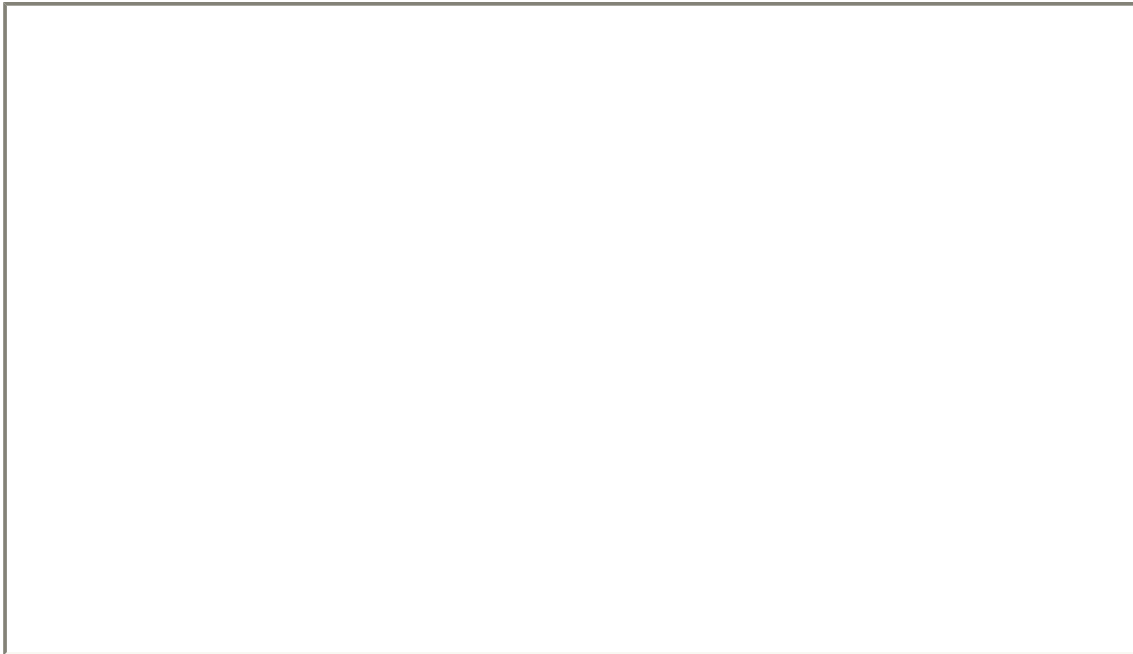
In the second half, A-B spent more time milking the clock and working the ball in from the wings. Jen Brogie capped off the scoring with a shot into the top right corner of the net with 23:58 remaining. One minute later, Kristen McGahan put the ball in the net after taking a centering pass from Cassie Wagner, but the play was ruled offsides.

The Panthers' best scoring opportunity came with five minutes left in the game when Katie Carlotto had a breakaway from midfield that A-B goalie Jessie Wiggins stopped. With 4:10 remaining Wiggins saved another shot from Daryl Powell.

"We tried to pack in midfield, but they were just at a different level," said Beverly coach Kristin Macdonald. "It was a great experience to play a team like that. This is the first time we've made the tournament in four years and if we had to bow out, it was good to bow out to a team like that."

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