

Brock 'n' roll: A-B gets goals, crown



Flanked by fellow seniors Lindsey Raymond (left) and Charlotte Davis, Monica Jensen hoists A-B's North trophy. (ELLEN HARASIMOWICZ/FOR THE GLOBE)

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ACTON - Sooner or later the Acton-Boxboro girls' soccer team knew it would score. For more than a half yesterday it kept almost relentless pressure on the Winchester defense, and had come up empty. Then the Colonials found their sophomore star, and Hayley Brock carried them to a 2-0 win and a Division 1 North title.

With the Colonials up against a zone defense and Brock facing double coverage, the aggressive sophomore broke the tie in the 51st minute and added an insurance goal in the 62d to give A-B (21-0-1) the title.

Acton-Boxboro will play South winner Weymouth in the EMass final tomorrow.

Midway through a physical first half, Brock was whistled off the field with a yellow card for pushing in the back. Coach Ruairi Sweeney told his forward to stay calm.

"She just has to fight through and she did that," he said. "A goal will go a long way in making that easier."

Brock responded in the second half, collecting a long pass from senior Courtney Findlen and beating a double team to score with a furious kick. Findlen, who'd been playing with an injured shoulder, sent a stinging kick to the person the Colonials felt would be the most likely to beat Winchester's star keeper Michelle Troisi. Brock didn't let them down, and the previously stoic A-B bench erupted in celebration.

"I felt with about 10 minutes left in the first half that we would score," said Sweeney. "I knew we had to break through that wall and we would be OK. I thought if we got one we would get two."

Sweeney's thoughts turned prophetic 11 minutes later. Junior Jen Brogie collected a pass from Findlen in the far right corner and sent a low cross to Brock, who was waiting at the near post. The sophomore again put the ball home and A-B had a 2-0 lead with 18 minutes left.

"Jen made a nice cross to me and I just generate the plays," an elated Brock said.

The lead was insurmountable for Winchester, which generated little offense as it

focused on containing Brock.

"That No. 11 is a special player and she is a model for any forward out there tonight," Winchester coach Chris Scanlon said of Brock. "She was just relentless."

At the trophy presentation, Sweeney stood back and told officials to hand the trophy to his five seniors - Findlen, Lindsey Raymond, Tracy Potter, Monica Jensen, and Charlotte Davis.

"It's your trophy; it's yours," he said to the celebrating girls. "This one is for you."