

A-B 2, WEYMOUTH 1

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Brock connects again

By David Benoit, Globe Correspondent | November 15, 2007

WEYMOUTH - Hayley Brock is having quite the postseason. The Acton-Boxboro sophomore tallied four goals and an assist in the Colonials' run through Division 1 North, including two game-winners. In yesterday's EMass final against Weymouth, she waited for overtime to get on the board, but it might have been her most impressive goal, giving A-B a 2-1 win.

With just under three minutes remaining in the first overtime, the Colonials were playing defensively, looking to force a second OT and turn the bitterly cold wind to their backs. Brock thought differently.

The sophomore forward stole the ball amid a cluster of Weymouth defenders at midfield, beating two of them down the middle of the field. She then sneaked the ball past goalkeeper Meg Dempsey and was immediately mobbed by teammates.

"I just saw the net and knew I had to take the opportunity," she said. "We knew we couldn't let this be our seniors' last game."

Brock's coach was as surprised as anyone that she scored when she did.

"Before the start of the overtime, I switched to a 4-5-1 to play defensively, and I thought if we could have gotten to the second overtime, we would have won," Ruairi Sweeney said. "That's Hayley - you can contain her but there is no stopping her."

Acton-Boxboro applied offensive pressure early. Ceci Jensen, Marie Margolius, and Brock all had chances in the first half but couldn't solve the Wildcat defense. Alex Murphy had Weymouth's best chance of the half but was rejected by A-B freshman goalie Jessie Wiggins. At halftime, the scoreboard was blank.

That didn't take long to change. Weymouth started with the ball in the second half, but Jensen stole it almost immediately, drove down the sideline, and drew a corner kick. Senior Lindsey Raymond lined it up and sent it out short to a waiting Tracy Potter. Freshman Kristen Gargiulo dug out Potter's cross and put it in the net in the 42d minute.

The lead didn't last long, as Weymouth (17-2-4) scored six minutes later, also off a corner. Sam Norton headed the ball at the near post and senior defender Jess Stuart finished the job with another header.

Weymouth controlled the ball for the rest of regulation but generated few shots. The Acton-Boxboro defense has allowed only five goals all year, and Sweeney credited it with keeping his team alive.

"We score a lot of goals, but there is no way we would be here without the back four," he said of Monica Jensen, Tricia Giglio, Amy Margolius, and Gargiulo. "I have the smartest group of soccer players on the planet, there is no question about it."

The Colonials improved to 22-0-1 heading into Saturday's state final against Shrewsbury in Westboro. ■