



A-B puts finishing touch on an undefeated season

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WESTBORO -- Not a bad autumn at all.

The Acton-Boxboro High girls soccer team yesterday completed the finest season in the history of the program, edging Shrewsbury, 1-0, to snag its first-ever State Division 1 championship at the neutral Westboro High field.

Girls soccer

Junior forward Ceci Jensen's unassisted goal, with 5 minutes left in the first half, was all the Colonials needed to put the finishing touches on their first undefeated season (23-0-1) which also included Dual County League and Division 1 North Sectional titles and a school single-season record for victories.

Third-year head coach Ruairi Sweeney's crew also had the added pressure of being nationally ranked all season -- as high as second in the country and currently No. 3.

This was the second state final appearance for A-B girls soccer, which also played and lost to Marlboro in 1988.

"We faced (Shrewsbury) in our last pre-season game in September," said Sweeney. "They were down 4 key players and we handled them easily. They were all

back today and it was a different game

"It was what you look for in a state final -- everything that was expected from two teams battling it out at this level."

Jensen's game-winning goal, her 10th tally of the season, came from a scramble when she slammed home the rebound of her own original shot after the ball bounced off the Shrewsbury keeper.

Colonials' freshman goalie Jessie Wiggins made 10 saves for the team's school-record 19th shutout in 24 games.

A-B allowed only 5 goals all season and in its 6-0 tourney run yielded just 2 goals while scoring 15.

"It was another clean sheet (shutout) which means another excellent game from our defenders in the back and center-midfielders," said Sweeney.

The coach lauded the play of outside fullbacks Monica Jensen and Amy Margolius, sweepers Tricia Giglio and Kristen Gargiulo, and senior center-midfielders Courtney Findlen and Lindsey Raymond.

A-B opponents should also take heed of the fact there are only 5 seniors, 3 of whom start, on this year's roster.

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