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Tie fits girls soccer team

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CONCORD - Anytime Concord-Carlisle and Bedford High play each other it's typically competitive.

This year, with the Dual County League split into large and small school divisions and with both schools' girls soccer teams sporting unbeaten records within the small school division, Monday's matchup had a little more at stake than usual.

When the final whistle blew, the game finished in a scoreless tie. The Buccaneers held on to first place in the division at 2-0-1, while C-C was 1-0-3.

"I'll take it right now," said Bedford coach Dave Wilson. "I'm very proud of the way our girls played. It was probably 80-20 [in terms of scoring opportunities for us. Their goalie [Emily Beinecke] made some great saves. They didn't quit either."

Beinecke made 12 saves for the Patriots and one stop that freshman Jamie Potter made when Beinecke was drawn out of net helped preserve the point for C-C.

With about 13 minutes left to play, during a flurry in front of the Patriots' goal, Bedford's Colleen Strachan placed a high shot on an empty net. Potter stopped it with her head right before it crossed the line.

"We definitely dodged a few bullets," said C-C coach Nancy Slocum.

Gabby Bard also placed a shot on net during the flurry.

Bedford goalie Olga Chambers-Maher finished with 11 saves, including one off a free kick from just outside the penalty area six minutes into the game.

Friday evening, the Patriots took on two-time defending DCL champion Acton-Boxborough and dropped a 5-0 decision.

With Lydia Slocum marking this year's DCL scoring leader Hayley Brock and Charlotte Rafferty and Maddy Tillotson guarding two-time league scoring leader Cassie Wagner, the Patriots held A-B to two goals in the first half, one on a penalty kick from Brock.

"It was unfortunate that we had the penalty kick called against us in the first four minutes," coach Slocum said. "That took the wind out of our sails a bit, but I was proud of the way the girls regrouped and battled against a very skillful and tough A-B team."

The National Soccer Coaches Association of America currently has the Colonials ranked second in the country. Last year, A-B made it to the MIAA Division 1 North semifinals before losing to Winchester on penalty kicks. C-C is the last DCL team to defeat the Colonials, upsetting them, 1-0 in their first meeting last year.

Katrina Ellis-Ferrara and Ema Woodward managed to get some scoring opportunities against A-B.

Last Wednesday, C-C lost to Newton South, 2-1.