

Wave girls tie Bobcats on Senior Night

BY JASON TUREK AND LAURA MCCUSKER
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In a game featuring two evenly-matched teams, 90 minutes wasn't enough to see who would come out on top between Brookfield and New Milford as they played to a 1-1 tie on Senior Night in New Milford on Wednesday.

Both teams came into the contest with three wins on the season and the tie hurt both team's chances for making the state tournament. For New Milford coach Rich Reynolds,

New Milford 1
Brookfield 1

ScheduleB2



Photograph by Laurie Gaborini

The Wave's Meghan Miller (14) battles with the Bobcats' Lindsay Millar in Wednesday's Senior-Night game at New Milford.

In the second half, the Bobcats took the lead when Lauren Pope found Huttemann all alone in the New Milford zone and Huttemann beat Clark in the eighth minute.

Undaunted, the Wave applied pressure in the Brookfield zone and Megan Beecher got a pass in front of the goal from Micaela McCrain and shot the ball past Schueschner five minutes after Brookfield's goal to tie the game at one.

New Milford had a chance to take the lead five minutes later as Alison Bull got a shot in front of the goal, but Schueschner made a diving stop, one of six for her on the night.

With the game destined for overtime, the Wave made one final run. With three minutes to go, Beecher fed McCrain with a pass as she got past the Brookfield defense. McCrain

was able to get off a nice shot, but it hit the crossbar.

In overtime, both teams registered one shot on goal, but were unable to score.

Clark, playing in goal for injured starter Samantha Lurcott, made four saves. New Milford outshot the Bobcats 16-9 in the contest, but couldn't get the one goal to win the game.

"We had our chances, but we just couldn't capitalize," said Reynolds. "We did a better job finishing today and running to the ball. We need three wins to make it to states. That's what we're focusing on."

For the Bobcats, they will continue to play hard until the end of the season.

"We still have an outside chance at making states," said Jewett. "We're going to play hard until they tell us we can't go."

Previously, the Wave took a loss in the past week, but also tacked on another win. The loss came to a strong Luralton Hall team, who beat the Wave 3-0 on Monday, but last Friday New Milford got its third win of the year, edging New Fairfield, 1-0.

Last Friday's match was played in the pouring rain on the turf in New Fairfield. Though the Wave players got very wet, it was not for naught, as they made a second-half goal stand up for the win.

"We dominated defensively. In the first half, they only got the ball in our penalty box twice," said Reynolds. "We struggled through the rain and got the win. The girls played very well."

Allie Fitzpatrick scored the only goal, taking a pass from Michaela McCrain and putting the ball past Rebels keeper Laura Martins at the 60-minute mark. Martins finished with eight saves on 10 shots, while Lurcott had three saves on five shots.

The Wave knew facing Luralton Hall would be a tough assignment, as it came in with an 8-3 record. As it turned out, there was really only one player to follow, Corie Halasz, who scored all three goals, all unassisted, two in the first half, one in the second.

"Halasz beat our defense three times. All three times she had the ball played to her and she dribbled in about 30 yards, beating our defenders," said Reynolds. "Otherwise, we played a good defensive game."

Senior Halasz is gearing up for playing in college next year, as she has a full soccer scholarship to Boston University.

"We played good defense, and good offense. We just couldn't finish," said Reynolds. "We're improving, we build well to get scoring chances, we just need to finish."

Lurcott was credited with seven saves on 11 shots, while Crusaders keeper Kathy Flaherty had one save on five shots.

The Wave wraps up its season with three away games, at Stratford Monday, at Notre Dame Tuesday, and at Weston Wednesday.

the tie was a little disheartening.

"I'm a little disappointed because I wanted the team to win for the seniors," he said. "We played well and didn't give up. We did a lot of things tonight that we can build on for the end of the season."

For Brookfield, it played its third game in three days. Coach Mark Jewett couldn't have been prouder of the way his team performed.

"This game showed how much character the girls have," he said. "I did a lot of rotating to keep the girls fresh and they played hard the entire game."

Neither team could generate any offense from the outset as the first shot wasn't registered until the 10th minute. Brookfield (3-7-1) had a good chance in the 23rd minute when Joana Huttemann went after a loose ball in the goalie's box, but New Milford goalie Rachel Clark was able to knock the ball away at the last second.

New Milford (3-9-1) got a chance of its own just before halftime as Kelly Bradley got a direct kick from the right side of the goal. Brookfield goalie Sam Schueschner got a hand on the shot and ricocheted off the post.

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