

Alma knocks Tawas Area boys soccer out of playoffs 2-0 in wet regional semifinal

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Alma High School senior Nicolas Camargo, right, tries to dribble the ball past Tawas defender Corey Chamberlin during the Boys Soccer Semifinal at Freeland High School. - (Theophil Syslo | The Saginaw News)



Alma High School senior Nicolas Camargo, right, tries to dribble the ball past Tawas defender Corey Chamberlin during the Boys Soccer Semifinal at Freeland High School. - (Theophil Syslo | The Saginaw News)



Alma High School senior Nick Stone receives a hug from teammate Nicolas Camargo after Stone scored a goal in the first half putting Alma ahead 1-0 during the Boys Soccer Semifinal at Freeland High School against Tawas High School. Stone's goal ended up being the game winner. - (Theophil Syslo | The Saginaw News)

FREELAND — The Tawas Area boys may have earned its 12th district title in 16 years last Friday but a regional crown wasn't in the cards for 2011.

The Braves were eliminated from state soccer playoffs Tuesday by a soggy 2-0 defeat at the hands of Alma, a team hot off its first-ever district title.

“We were playing good against them but we couldn't create any offense,” Tawas coach Ken Cook said. “We were in the game but we made a couple defensive errors that they capitalized on and unfortunately that was all it took.”

Shutting off Tawas' offense, specifically its forwards, was a goal of Alma's heading into the game. When they combined it with better possession of the ball it became a winning combination for the Panthers.

“I'm so proud of the kids,” Alma coach Nick O'Neill said. “They executed our game plan perfectly.”

Jacob Adams and Nick Stone each had one goal for the Panthers. Nicholas Camargo and Chase Ramirez added assists while Travis Butcher was in goal for the goal and had one save as Alma's defense shut down Tawas.

“I thought we played pretty good,” Adams said after the victory. “We could have controlled it more in the field but in the end we won so it's all good.”

Although they were shut out Tawas was in contention for most of the game. The Braves only trailed 1-0 for much of the second half before Alma put it away with a late goal. Zack Boensch was in the net and had 10 saves for Tawas.

“We didn't play our best,” Tawas player Dylan Decker said. “It wasn't our game to lose.”

Alma advances to Saturday's regional final where they are scheduled to face the winner of the second regional semi between Bad Axe and Elk Rapids, a game that was delayed from Tuesday night to Thursday by lightning as conditions rapidly worsened once after the conclusion of the first game. The finals were originally to take place Thursday but moved to Saturday because of that weather delay.