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Spartans win North Atlantic Conference Championship, earn first trip to NCAA's.

Castleton, VT-Castleton State College won the North Atlantic Conference Championship and earned their first automatic qualifier to the NCAA Division III national tournament by defeating U. Maine-Farmington on Saturday afternoon 2-1. Both teams entered the final game by way of two shut-out wins in the early rounds of the tournament.

Courtney Wilday (Broadalbin, NY) scored in the 11th minute of play when she headed in a perfectly placed **Stefanie Reuter (Manchester, CT)** corner kick to give the top seeded Spartans a lead they would never relinquish. **Casey FitzGerald (Bantam, CT)** fired a left-footed shot just inside the near post in the 32nd minute to give Castleton a little breathing room. That lasted less than 30 seconds as the #2 Beavers scored off an **Olivia Irons (York, ME)** penalty kick to bring the game within 1 goal. The game would end at 2-1 but was not without opportunity and some very intense play. With 41 minutes left in the game **Casey Wedge (Bristol, VT)** unleashed a barrage of point blank shots at the goal which resulted in 3 consecutive team saves and finally a fantastic save by Farmington keeper, **Melissa Demerchant (Presque Isle, ME)**. Demerchant finished the afternoon with 8 saves. The Beavers also had plenty of chances in the second half but the efforts of tournament MVP, **Erin Huckabee (Marlborough, CT)** and the rest of the Castleton defense turned them away time and again. **Kim Allen (Newtown, CT)** also came up with some nifty saves to hold onto the lead, finishing the game with 7 stops.

All-Tournament Selections:

Farmington-

Jodie Welch, JR, Forward, Wells, ME
Molly Hagstrom, SR, Back, New Sharon, ME
Amanda Byrn, FR, Back, Winslow, ME

Castleton-

Erin Huckabee (MVP), SR, Back, Marlborough, CT
Kim Allen, SO, Keeper, Newtown, CT
Casey FitzGerald, JR, Mid, Bantam, CT
Stefanie Reuter, SO, Mid, Manchester, CT
Amy Yandow, SR, Forward, Vergennes, VT

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