

Chelsea Boys and Girls Club's 13-and-under boys dominate

By PETE LEGASBY

Just a day after their female counterparts dispatched their opponents with a resounding win over South

to earn a date in the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston Basketball League championship game, the Chelsea 13-and-under boys' team joined them with a resounding win over South Boston. The boys will host the winner of Wednesday's game between Roxbury and the Blue Hill Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester at the Chelsea Boys and Girls Club on Friday at 6:30 p.m. following the girls' championship game.

The 13-and-under boys' had reason to feel confident heading into Tuesday night's semifinal. After all, Chelsea had no trouble with South Boston in their first meeting and won by more than 30 points. As unimaginable as it may seem, Chelsea was even more dominant in the rematch, hitting on all cylinders from the get-go and cruising into the title game with a 61-13 victory.

The Chelsea Club got solid contributions from all of its players, but the scoring column was far from even with two players accounting for 42 of the team's 61 points.

Point guard Sean Quires exploded for 29 points, coming up with a handful of steals and defensive rebounds and then using his lightning speed to turn them into wide-open layup opportunities. Power forward Kevin Deleus also had a big scoring night, using his size to get points in the paint and also stepping out to utilize his great shooting touch to rack up 13 points.

The 13-and-under boys are coached by Yanir Rodriguez, a sophomore at UMass-Boston, who played at Chelsea High and has been a member of the Boys and Girls Club for more than 12 years. Rodriguez put his players in a 1-3-1 defensive scheme that created fits for South Boston all game long. The defense also ran a relentless half-court trap that led to countless turnovers and easy scoring opportunities.

"Defensively, they put a lot of pressure on the other team as soon as they brought it over half-court," said John Morjes, who coaches the girls 13-and-under team and was keeping score for the boys' win. "Plus, it's a very experienced team. The 12-and-under group has gone to the finals in the Northeast New England Area Program Council traveling league for the last two seasons. They've lost, but they've been there with a lot of members of this group."

Center Jeremy Arroyo also had a strong game in the semifinal against Southie with 6 points and several key rebounds. Malik Chappelle also scored 6 points and backup guards Robert Hinkey and Devin Ferguson combined to contribute 9 points off the bench. Not to be overlooked were the

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efforts of Sammy Mojica and Edward Hrtzany, who were both key cogs in the stifling Chelsea defense.

The 13-and-under boys are now 11-0 and can finish the season undefeated by winning the league championship on Friday. Meanwhile, the Chelsea Boys and Girls Club's 12-and-under boys' team will play host to East Boston tonight at 6:30 p.m. in the first round of the Northeast New England Area Program Council league playoffs.