

# Chelsea girls win championship

By PETE LEGASEY

Most teams must wait — at the very least — a full year to get a shot at a second championship if they happen to be fortunate enough to even win a first. That kind of patience is not required if you play basketball for the 13-and-under girls team at the Chelsea Boys and Girls Club.

The Chelsea club clinched the 13-and-under title for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston Basketball League last Friday. Three short nights later, they earned a spot in the title game for the Northeast New England Area Program Council by winning their semifinal game against the Billerica Boys & Girls Club.

Unlike their 31-18 dismantling of Charlestown to seal the BGCBBL crown, Monday's game against Billerica was up for grabs until the final minutes.

Chelsea picked up where they left off in the first half, dashing out of the gate to a 13-2 lead, thanks in large part to point guard Madeline Vielmann, who ran the Chelsea offense with authority all season. Vielmann used her phenomenal athleticism and dead-on passing to create scoring opportunities for her teammates, particularly Danielle Martin and twin sister Melissa, who led the Chelsea club with seven and six points, respectively.

But Billerica was able to regroup at the break and turned the tables on Chelsea in the second half. The shots weren't falling for Chelsea, and Billerica gradually crept back into the game, getting within one point with under 30 seconds to play before a breakaway lay-up by Vielmann all but closed the book on the 22-19 victory.

Just as vital as the play of Vielmann and the Martin twins was that of Lindsey Fuentes, who was an absolute sniper on defense and looted the Billerica offense for eight steals.

The performance of the defense was also a major factor in Chelsea's win over Charlestown in Friday's BGCBBL final. Just as they would on Monday, the 13-and-under girls held their opponent to less than 20 points for the entire game.

Vielmann, Fuentes, Marsha Mars, Anissa Santiago, Yalissa Pierce and the Martin sisters were all key cogs in a stifling, 1-3-1 defensive zone that confused Charlestown all afternoon. Vielmann led the offense with 11 points, while Danielle Martin and Lindsay Fuentes each pitched in with eight points.

Including the playoffs, the CBGC 13-and-under girls have played 18 games this season between the BGCBBL and the NENEAPC. They have yet to be beaten by anybody. The team, which also includes Mimi Febles, Lisandro Lau, Samantha Falcon, Joanna Ventura, Chayenne Cumba and Jhiana Beniford, will play against the John N. Barry Boys and Girls Club of Newton at UMass-Boston this Saturday at 10:30 a.m. for the NENEAPC league title.

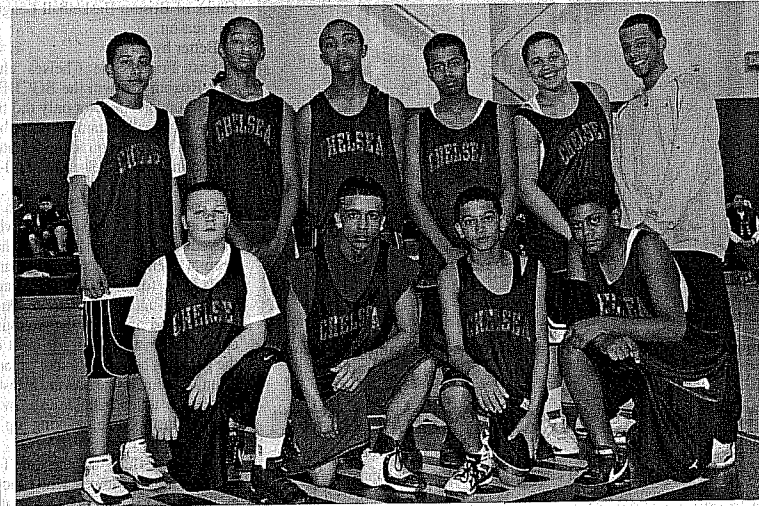
"We played Newton in the finals last season and we're expecting another great match," said John Montes, who coaches the team with Bruce Harrison. "We lost six players to high school at the end of last year. We were underdogs for most of the season and we've beaten a lot of good teams. Even though we're the top seed, Newton is a very good team. It's going to be one tough match."

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BGCBBL coronation, the girls sewed up their BGCBBL ladies crown with a 31-18 over Charlestown.

"Friday night was a special night

winning those two championships," said Montes. "Both teams deserve so much credit not only for winning their respective championships, but also for going undefeated in both

leagues. Chelsea High has a lot to look forward with a lot of these kids growing up [and beginning high school] next season."