



Little Caesars Midget Major U18 Press Release

Little Caesars U18 Weather the Storm and Win the Beantown Classic

Things didn't start out to good for the Little Caesars Midget Major U18 Hockey Team on their way to the Beantown Classic in Boston as 60mph winds and rain forced the team to spend five hours at Metro Airport on Wednesday night as Boston Logan Airport was backed up. By the time the team got to Boston the reserved vans for the team weren't available, so a scramble at 1:00 AM started to round up transportation to get them from the airport to their hotel 30 miles away. The team finally made it to the hotel at about 2:00AM.

Things drastically improved the next day when hockey started. The Midget Major Detroit Team was playing out of the Junior/U18 Division with 44 teams and many of them having 19 and 20 year old players. The Caesars U18 Club started out against NH Avalanche and rolled to a 7-1 victory. The second game placed them against the Boston Junior Bruins Elite, a Junior Team with six 1994 players and fourteen 1995 players. The Bruins took down Caesars 3-1, with an empty net goal, on a number of penalties which included Caesars fighting off a 5 on 3 disadvantage for four minutes. The U18 Club responded back taking down Ulysee Prep 19AAA 7-2 and advancing to the playoff round of the sweet sixteen. The Little Caesars Club again stepped it up as they went down 2-0 on two perfect shots by the Michigan Hockey Advancement Team. Not to be discouraged the club turned it up a notch and pulled out a slim 3-2 victory while holding the MI Advance Team to six total shots on net.

The Quarter Finals placed the Little Caesars Club against a rematch with the Boston Junior Bruins Elite club, which had an 8-1 record playing in the USPHL Junior Elite League. This time around The Little Caesars Club didn't allow officiating to effect the outcome and were all over the Bruins, shutting them out 4-0 and outshooting them 28 to 13. Coach Bill Ciraulo was really pleased by the effort the boys put in and explained their accomplishment by saying "it's tough going against the home team and especially when their team is comprised of 19 and 20 year old junior players and we are made up of 16, 17 and 18 year olds, but they boys really stepped it up". Caesars kept rolling against the older teams while playing an end to end battle with the Boston Junior Bruins U19 club in the semifinals and holding on for a 1-0 victory. The Detroit Club got its third straight Boston team in the finals with the Boston Advantage. By this time the Caesars Club was clicking on all cylinders and from the drop of the puck took it to the Advantage rolling to a 5-1 victory while outshooting them 34-7 for the game.

Coach Ciraulo was really pleased by a complete team effort, especially against the older Junior players. As the team closed out the tough seven game championship in four days the sun was shining bright in Boston and those few hours of difficulty don't seem like that much of a big deal now to Midget Major U18 Team.