

Under 12 boys soccer team makes history with regional win

They're going to State!

The Key Biscayne A.C. Milan Under 12 boys soccer team won the Regional Cup championship and will be participating in the Florida State Championship, a first for an island Under 12 team.

The team, coached by Mirco

Gubellini, overcame an early one-point deficit against a very strong Pinecrest Premier team after a goal by striker Tomas Garcia-Morillo off a free kick from left back Joey Tolgyesi late in the game to tie and force the match into overtime.

After two scoreless overtime periods, during which Key Biscayne withstood an aggressive and relentless attack from Pinecrest, the match went into penalty kicks. Key Biscayne prevailed 3-2 with the help of Leonel Montero, Miguel

Gonzalez and Marcelo Immediato-Scuotto, and thanks in no small part to the efforts of goalkeeper Esteban Sapenitzky.

The Region A Cup, played over the past three weekends, saw Key Biscayne face off against formidable opponents.

They defeated Team Boca 2-1, with goals by Garcia-Morillo and Alfredo Rodas. They then took on Miami Lakes in a 4-0 win, with three goals by Danny Rodriguez and one from Leo

See SOCCER p.5

Montero.

Coral Gables was next on the Under 12s radar. The Key players won 3_2 with a goal from Montero and two from Garcia Morillo.

They also defeated Weston Premier 3_1 with goals from Garcia Morillo, Montero and goalkeeper Sapenitzky.

During the regular season, the team played in Division 1 of the South Florida United Youth Soccer Association scoring a record-setting 39 points in 14 games with an overall record of 13 wins and 1 loss, finishing 7 points ahead of the second place team Pinecrest Premier. The team also tied with Pinecrest Premier for the league's lowest goals against average, allowing only 0.8571 goals per game.

The Key Biscayne Milan Under 12 Boys will be representing Region A, South Florida in the State Championship which will be played the weekend of March 28-29 in Merritt Island against the winners of the other three Regions. The overall winner will be the 2008/2009 Boys U12 Florida State Champions.

"I'm really happy for this wonderful victory, considering that we beat in the final one of the best teams of Miami," said Key Biscayne Milan Academy Technical Director: Mirco Gubellini. "This shows one more time the great level of these kids who have been playing an incredible season and now are going to play the state's cup final.

For a team photo see page 25.

SPORTS

and outdoors

Under 12 boys soccer No. 2 in the state



Photo courtesy Lorena Garcia-Morillo

2ND IN STATE

The Under 12 boys soccer team placed second in the state during a championship game Sunday. Lining up before the game were, from left, Leo Montero, Tommy Garcia-Morillo, Esteban Sapetnizky, Marcello Immediato Scutto, Sergio Alvarez, Dany Rodriguez, Fito Rodas, Miguel Gonzalez and Joey Tolgyesy. Not playing because of injuries were Pablo Mejia and Fausto Rivero-Aguirre.

So close they could feel it; so far they couldn't touch it.

That was the result for the Under 12 Boys soccer team that represented Key Biscayne in the President's Cup in Merritt Island over the weekend.

Despite injuries to Pablo Mejia and Fausto Rivero-Aguirre, Key Biscayne had an impressive outing against Bayside '96 White in the semifinal match, pulling out a 7-1 victory.

The scoring started with a brilliant effort by Tommy Garcia-Morillo, who scored an additional goal as the game progressed.

Danny Rodriguez scored three goals, followed by goals from Joseph Tolgyesy and Leonel Montero.

On Sunday, despite taking an early lead on a goal by Joseph Tolgyesy in the Championship game against Krase Academy, Key Biscayne conceded three late goals to a very strong team from Region B. Congratulations to all the players, their families and coaches Juan "Pichi" Acosta and Mirco Gubellini.