



Adewumni's late goal puts No. 2 CBC in championship game

By Joe Lyons | jlyons@post-dispatch.com | Posted: Friday, November 16, 2012 9:30 pm

BLUE SPRINGS • It was the game you would expect in a semifinal match featuring a pair of Missouri soccer powerhouses.

In Class 3 action Friday evening at Blue Springs South High, CBC started strong, withstood everything thrown at it by Rockhurst and finally delivered the knockout blow with just under nine minutes to play in a 1-0 Cadet victory.

The game-winning sequence began deep in CBC territory with the Cadets' Chris McArthur coming up with a stop on the Hawklets' Ethan Kemp.

"That No. 4 (Kemp) was giving us fits all day," CBC coach Terry Michler said. "If Chris doesn't make that play, the goal doesn't happen."

But McArthur did make the stop, allowing senior captain Xhovani Dokaj to start moving the ball forward. He spotted fellow senior L.J. Adewumni making a run into the midfield.

"I figured if I checked back toward the ball, maybe the defender would go with me," Adewumni said. "When he followed me, it gave me a chance to break off my run and head back up the field."

Dokaj read his teammate's run perfectly, playing the ball over the top into space for the speedy Adewumni, who won the race to the loose ball and eventually scored the breakaway goal.

"As soon as I played the ball, I knew we had the lead," Dokaj said. "L.J.'s been playing great lately; when he gets a chance like that, we know he's going to put it away."

The goal -- the 15th and biggest of the season for Adewumni -- earned the Cadets (No. 2 in the STLhighschoolsports.com large-schools rankings) a spot in the Class 3 title match at 4 p.m. Saturday. CBC (24-5-1) will face No. 1 Chaminade (25-2-2).

Chaminade got by Rock Bridge 2-1 in overtime in the late game Friday.

Rockhurst (19-10-1) and Rock Bridge (21-8-1) will meet for third place Saturday at 10 a.m. at Blue Springs South.

CBC, which defeated Rockhurst 2-1 in overtime in Jefferson City on Oct. 13, played some good possession soccer early, but the Hawklets came on strong in the first half, mostly on long-range throws from Robert Kelly.

"Neither team had a lot of great chances, but those throws and corners created some dangerous situations and half-chances," Michler said. "Rockhurst played their game, and at times we played ours. It was a game with a lot of ebb and flow. Both teams came at each other with everything they had, and our guys dug deep and just kept battling."

Rockhurst finished strong, applying all sorts of late pressure. But CBC held on.

"Those last few minutes took forever," Adewumni said.

Dokaj added: "We knew Rockhurst would throw everything they could at us. But we were ready for it. We defended like crazy and did everything we needed to."

The defensive effort resulted in the 13th shutout of the season for Nathan Griffin, who made several key grabs on balls flighted into the box by Rockhurst.

"On one late cross, he came down with it with eight Rockhurst guys around him," Dokaj said. "That's why we call him 'Nate the Great.'"

Michler added: "In every one of our playoff wins this season, Nate has come up with huge for us late in the game."