Both brackets of the Boys U19 quarterfinals this Friday produced one big win, and one close one. In the first bracket, Highland beat West Shore United 57-0, while Cathedral edged Belmont Shore 12-7.

In the second round of games, defending national champions United needed everything they had to beat Naples 13-11. Naples led 8-5 before United scored to take a 10-8 lead. Naples replied with a late penalty, and then United hit one with two minutes to go.

Naples pressured in the final seconds, but United booted a clearance kick from their own in-goal. The ball reached touch and the game was over.

The United team were quick to congratulate Naples for an excellent performance, saying it was just bad luck for the Florida squad.

“Our team handled them physically,” said Naples Coach Steve Young. “We moved the ball down the field well. Obviously the players are all very disappointed. They would have liked to play in the stadium. But this team’s got a lot of character so we will rebound and come back to shoot for 5th.”

Meanwhile the Kansas City Junior Blues defeated Union County 31-5.

“They were the better side,” said Union County Mud Turtle Head Coach Stephen Edwards.

“The guys looked great,” added Blues Coach Brian O’Laughlan. “We were able to score a bunch of different ways and looked in good shape. We face United now and we know they’re a tough side.”

U19 Semis Matchups:
Highland v. Cathedral
KC Junior Blues v United

Consolation Semis:
West Shore United v. Belmont Shore
Naples v. Union County