

Brunson contributes to victory in gold-medal game

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Stevenson High School senior Jalen Brunson (far left) was on Team USA that went 5-0 and won the FIBA Americas-sanctioned under-18 basketball tournament in Colorado Springs. | FIBA PHOTO ORG XMIT:

Stevenson High School senior Jalen Brunson was a significant contributor on Team USA that went 5-0 and won the gold medal in the FIBA Americas-sanctioned under-18 basketball championships that wrapped up recently in Colorado Springs.

Team USA beat Uruguay, Mexico, Argentina, the Dominican Republic and Canada by a combined total of 279 points (average margin of victory of 56 points), so the competition wasn't much.

Here's how Brunson did in each game.

Team USA's roster included what was deemed to be the 12 best under-18 players in the country. The list included three 7-footers, and Billy Donovan, the coach of the Florida Gators college basketball team, was the team's coach.

■ Def. Uruguay 156-58. Brunson was 3-of-5 from the field, 4-of-4 from the foul line, and had 11 points and 13 assists in 25 minutes (40-minute games).

■ Def. Mexico 100-46. Brunson was 5-of-7 shooting and finished with 11 points in 25 minutes.

■ Def. Argentina 118-64. Brunson was 7-of-11 shooting and finished with 16 points and six assists in 23 minutes.

■ Def. Dominican Republic 90-56. Brunson was 1-of-6 from the field, but 8-of-12 from the foul line and finished with 10 points in 20 minutes.

■ Def. Canada 113-79. Brunson was 4-of-10 shooting and finished with 12 points and six assists in 18 minutes.

USA men's teams are now 48-2 in the under-18 Junior World Championship qualifiers and have won gold in 1990, 1994, 1998, 2006, 2010 and 2012, while capturing silver in 2008 and bronze in 2002.

Some of the top players to have suited up for the USA include Carmelo Anthony (2002); Michael Beasley (2006); Chris Bosh (2002); Grant Hill (1990); Andre Iguodala (2002); Kyrie Irving (2010); Stephon Marbury (1994); Mike Miller (1998); Quentin Richardson (1998); Austin Rivers (2010); Kyle Singler (2006); Marcus Smart (2012); and Kemba Walker (2008).

With the win, the team now plays next summer in the under-19 world championships.

Brunson has led Stevenson High to second- and third-place finishes in the last two IHSA state tournaments.

The Patriots are favored to finish first or second in next March's state playoffs.



