

## **Presidents' Cup 2015 Report**

Presidents' Cup 2015 was hosted by the St. Catherine's Saints and was a well organized week. From my observations, there was very little that appeared askew.

The RMLL representative team was the Rockyview Knights. A disappointing first game, a 14-4 loss to Six Nations, put them in a catch up position in their pool. But, they gained ground and finished in a 3 way tie for first in the pool by the end of the pool round robin. However, the loss and two overtime victories against Nanaimo and Snake Island were not enough points in the tie breaker to overtake Six Nations or Snake Island. The Knights' position heading into the crossover games was 3<sup>rd</sup> in their pool. However, the Presidents' Cup was still within reach, as the top 3 teams from each pool advanced.

An excellent game was played in the pool crossover between Onondaga and the Knights. After being down 6-1, the Knights came back and it became a back and forth affair, until the last few minutes. Onondaga came up with 3 very fast goals late in the third period and the Knights couldn't overcome. Onondaga advanced to the semi-final, but not by much.

Playing Snake Island on Friday was a sad game, as many of the Snake Island team did not show up. This left them extremely disadvantaged and the Knights had an easy 17-4 victory for 5<sup>th</sup> place.

The semi-final games were exciting games, with Six Nations victorious over Onondaga and Capital Region (Ottawa) victorious over host St. Catherines. In the Cap. Region/ St. Catherines game, the teams were tied for most of the game. Late in the 3<sup>rd</sup> period, the Axemen pulled ahead to defend a 1 goal lead. With 5 seconds left on the clock, St. Catherines scored to tie it. Not satisfied with a tie, the Axemen put the winner in with 1.4 secs. left on the clock. Wonderful finish to a great game and a true lesson that the game isn't over until the final buzzer sounds. Bronze winner was St. Catherines over Onondaga and Six Nations hoisted the Presidents' Cup for 2015, after a great game with the Capital Region Axemen.

The venue was the Jack Gatecliff Arena and is a good ol' lacrosse barn in style, complete with flip down wooden bench seating. The arena temperature was extremely hot and humid and by Tuesday, the organizing committee had positioned many large floor fans around the perimeter. This helped tremendously in air movement. The frigid air conditioning in the mezzanine lobby provided welcome relief as the outside temperature soared higher as the week progressed.

Several discipline hearings were held, with a match penalty and 2 gross misconducts being assessed throughout the week. The match was called for a player mocking the referee with gestures and then not leaving the floor. I believe the discipline was 2 games. The first gross misconduct occurred in a very close semi final game and saw a player arguing with the referee after the final buzzer. He went too far and threatened a referee with bodily harm. As this player had a previous history of similar disturbance at another Presidents' Cup, he received a suspension until Dec 31, 2016 and a \$500 fine. The 2<sup>nd</sup> gross misconduct was an action that was quite astonishing. There was an altercation on the floor, resulting in several roughing calls. Without being seen, one of the players picked up his opponent's glove off the floor and went to the bench, as if he was removed from the game. He went into the dressing room hallway and cut the glove up. By the time the player had informed the referee that his glove was missing, the glove was in pieces and thrown onto the floor. This offending player received 5 games and must replace the gloves to a maximum of \$300.

Respectfully submitted,

Shauna Sterpam

RMLL Senior B Commissioner