

2016 Presidents' Cup Report
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RMLL Sr. B Commissioner

The 2016 Presidents' Cup was held August 28 – September 3, 2016 at the Leduc Recreation Complex (LRC) in Leduc, Alberta. It was hosted by the St. Albert Sr. B Miners.

For the 2nd consecutive year, there were 8 teams representing 7 Member Associations of the Canadian Lacrosse Association.

St. Albert Miners – ALA/RMLL (hosts)
Calgary Mountaineers – ALA/RMLL
Langley Warriors – BCLA/WCSLA
Saskatoon Brewers – SLA/PGLL
Brooklin Merchants – OLA
Kahnawake Mohawks - QLF/QSLL
Tyendinaga Thunderbirds – TNLL
Native Sons – CanAm

It's important to recognize the participation of a team from Saskatchewan in the championship this year. The last appearance by a Saskatchewan team at the Presidents' Cup was the Biggar Roadrunners in 1981. The Saskatoon SWAT have been playing in the RMLL Jr B division since 2007 and entered a Jr A team into the RMLL in 2016. To have an entry into the Presidents' Cup this year shows the success of their junior program and we hope to see them regularly in future Presidents' Cups.

Absent this year, after their appearance in 2015 in St. Catharines, Ont., was a team from Nova Scotia.

Facility

The LRC arena is an NHL surface and the ice surface had been installed. The organizing committee had installed a turf lacrosse floor over a turf underlay. For the lacrosse players, it was ideal, from both a playing aspect and a temperature aspect. For the fans, it made it a very cool week, both indoors and outdoors.

Dressing rooms were allocated at each game. Teams had to clean and vacate their dressing room for the next team. I'm unaware if there were any issues with the dressing rooms

The floor visibility was excellent on the north side and on the end zones. Additional seating had been placed at the east end. The seating on the south side was not as good, with some visibility issues due to the overhanging announcer's box. The seats on the south side also were narrower and had less leg room.

A large meeting room was provided at the beginning of the week for the coach meeting. As well, an exceptionally good room, with fully equipped kitchen, was provided across the main hall from the arena for use as the tournament office.

Tournament Operations

The volunteers did an exceptional job in all areas and are to be highly commended.

- Each team was given an assigned volunteer to assist with requirements and questions.
- The admission gate was very organized and secure. Tournament passes were photo identified, making it very difficult for passes to be transferred.
- Security was evident throughout the arena.
- The sales area for Presidents' Cup and Miners' wear was well set up and always staffed. A sales area was given for visiting teams to sell their team wear.
- An apparently successful beer garden was well controlled, supervised and designated to specific seating in the southwest end of the arena.
- Slash Lacrosse, from Red Deer, set up a very well stocked and visible pro shop.
- Transportation of teams seemed well coordinated with ground transfer of the teams to and from the hotel.
- The arena was very clean throughout the week. It was cleaned between games and well maintained.
- Volunteers were friendly and welcoming.

Tournament Format

The lacrosse was terrific all week. The teams played well disciplined lacrosse. To the best of my knowledge, there was only 1 incident requiring a discipline hearing.

With all of the good, there was also some shortcomings in the tournament format. Throughout the week, both the Ont. Sr B Commissioner and I fielded many concerns from the Canadian lacrosse community within the Sr B division.

- The tournament was not set up for all teams to meet each other in a round robin format. Therefore, a true ranking could not be established.
- In both pools, there were teams that played each other in their regular season divisional schedule. The Miners and the Mountaineers were in the same pool. The teams from Quebec and from FNLL both were concerned that they flew across the country to be in the same pool.
- Teams were not given enough advance notice of a date change in the tournament or the schedule. Adjustments to travel itineraries were costly for several teams.

The St. Albert Miners are the 2016 Presidents' Cup champions. They played an excellent gold medal game against Kahnawake Mohawks. Third place went to the Brooklin Merchants, who defeated the Native Sons.

The 2017 Presidents' Cup will be hosted by Six Nations.