

## RMLL 2023 Founders Cup Report

The 2023 Founders Cup tournament was hosted out west in Port Coquitlam BC. The games started on the Monday and each team played one game per day and how you finished the round robin portion of the tournament determined which game you were in on Saturday. The RMLL had 2 teams once again competing at the Founders Cup.

The following teams made up this year's tournament:

- Akwesasne Thunder – Ontario
- Onondaga Redhawks – First Nations
- Queen City Kings – Saskatchewan
- Edmonton Warriors – Alberta
- Victoria Shamrocks – British Columbia
- Port Coquitlam Saints – Host

The Queen City Kings had a rough time throughout the week as they were unable to find their scoring touch but gave the Shamrocks a very tough battle in the 5<sup>th</sup> place game on Saturday morning. They were by far the youngest team in the tournament with mostly 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year players but gained a ton of experience and will be back in this tournament, I am sure in the next year or two.

### Congratulations

- Jaxson Lenz – Founders Cup 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Allstar

The Warriors were strong right from their first game and continued that momentum throughout the week's games. The only bump they had was a 10-9 loss to Onondaga on day 4. They finished the round robin portion of the tournament in first place and that set up a rematch of their day 2 game against the Akwesasne Thunder who themselves started the week with 2 losses but won their next 3 games to finish tied for second place with the host team but got in due their victory over them in the round robin. In the Goal Medal game, the Warriors were down 4-1 after the 1<sup>st</sup> period but outscored the Thunder 5-0 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> period on route to giving long time team manager Tony Materi a Founders Cup Gold Medal!

### Congratulations

- Carson Wells – Founders Cup 1<sup>st</sup> Team Allstar & Top Goaltender Award
- Sebastian Simonson – Founders Cup 1<sup>st</sup> Team Allstar & Tournament Most Valuable Player
- Ben Royer – Founders Cup 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Allstar

Congratulations to the Manager Tony Materi, Head Coach Vay Diep, Assistant Coaches Owen Williams, Graedon Cornfield and Dean Casey on another successful season.

The only questionable ruling on what was a great week of lacrosse was the fact that the Port Coquitlam Saints were allowed to field a team comprised of players from their Junior A team. Out of the 20 players that were on their roster:

- 8 players had played 2 or 3 games at the Jr B1 level and the rest of the season in the Jr A division.
- 2 players never played a game at Jr B1 and every game in Jr A (regular season & Playoffs)

It was the second point that both RMLL teams argued and filed an official protest with the tournament director but was told the next day that he was overruled by an executive in BC Lacrosse. We asked that the protest be taken back to the winter meetings at Lacrosse Canada. It is my belief that a standard be set across the different provincial associations for the number of games a Jr B player can play at the Jr A level before they can no longer play in the Jr B division.

The success RMLL teams has had in the last 3 Founders Cup can not go unnoticed on the National level and I am excited for what the future has for our league.

Ian Stewart  
Jr B Tier 1 Commissioner