

FOUNDER'S CUP REPORT

To: RMLL Executive
ALA Executive
Glenn Tackaberry

From: Angus Jenkins
RMLL Chairman

The Founder's Cup was played in Port Coquitlam, B.C. from August 20th – 24th, 2003. The tournament featured the following teams representing their respective provincial associations:

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| Barrie Tornado | Ontario Lacrosse Association |
| Winnipeg Falcons | Manitoba Lacrosse Association |
| Regina Smash | Saskatchewan Lacrosse Association |
| Edmonton Warriors | Alberta Lacrosse Association |
| Calgary Jr. Mountaineers | Alberta Lacrosse Association |
| Prince George Posse | British Columbia Lacrosse Association/Alberta Lacrosse Association |
| Peninsula Falcons | British Columbia Lacrosse Association |
| Port Coquitlam Saints | British Columbia Lacrosse Association |
| Coquitlam Adanacs | British Columbia Lacrosse Association |
| Juan De Fuca | British Columbia Lacrosse Association |

The Road to the Founder's

The tournament was broken into two pools. Pool A had Edmonton grouped with the early favourites, the Barrie Tornado. Pool B had Alberta representatives the Calgary Jr. Mountaineers and the Prince George Posse. Prince George was effectively representing the interests of B.C. and Alberta as they played in the Alberta league for the whole summer but in the playoffs reverted back to the B.C. league. The reason for this was that the B.C. playoffs were held as a tournament while the Alberta playoffs were a series of games played over two weeks. Logistically, it would not have been possible to support a playoff between Prince George and either Calgary or Edmonton.

Opening Day

The first day of play at the Founder's featured an intense game between the Calgary Jr. Mountaineers and the Prince George Posse. Calgary had just come from an extremely hard fought provincial series against the Edmonton Warriors and in the end lost 11-10 to a determined Prince George squad. The Posse was still riding high following their B.C. Provincial title earned the weekend before in Coquitlam. On the other side of the pool the Edmonton Warriors showed signs of travel legs as they dropped their opening game to the Coquitlam Adanacs 13-11. The day finished with Prince George dropping their second game of the day 8-4 to host team Port Coquitlam.

The Seedings

Seedings were determined through win/loss records and in the end the Calgary Jr. Mountaineers became a victim of stats as they were reliant on a Prince George loss or tie to Peninsula after themselves having tied Peninsula 12-12. Edmonton was eliminated from gold medal contention following a 13-3 loss to Barrie which saw Edmonton's goalie's tested frequently. When the dust settled the following medal semifinal matchups were determined: 3rd place Calgary was pitted against 4th place Edmonton and 1st place Barrie was set to take on 2nd place Prince George.

Semifinals

The semifinals featured some of the best lacrosse the tournament had to offer. In a continuation of their very close provincial final the Edmonton Warriors beat the Calgary Jr. Mountaineers 7-4. On the other side the Barrie Tornado saw their gold medal chances slipping away as Prince George held the lead until the last minutes of play when Barrie was able to pull ahead and win the game 7-6.

Finals

The Edmonton Warriors now faced Juan De Fuca in the Tier 2 final. Edmonton's tough brand of RMLL lacrosse prevailed as they dug in to take the title with an 11-8 win. Prince George faced B.C. nemesis Port Coquitlam and avenged their earlier loss in the tournament by securing a 13-11 thrilling overtime win. Not surprisingly, the tournament was won by Barrie as they trounced Coquitlam 16-8 in the gold medal final.

Final Thoughts

Throughout the tournament it was evident that the RMLL teams, Calgary, Edmonton, and Prince George, played a brand of lacrosse that was too rough for their national counterparts. This type of lacrosse earned a lot of respect and also gained credibility for our league. The goaltending displayed by the RMLL teams was another extremely positive aspect of the level of lacrosse played in Alberta. As Chairman I was quite proud to be associated with these teams and the representation demonstrated by each.

Angus Jenkins
RMLL Chairman