

Canada Reclaims World Cup Bronze

by Joanne Stanga, June 28, 2009

The 2009 World Cup marked a changing of the guard as the International Federation of Women's Lacrosse Associations (IFWLA) wrapped up its 37 year old organization, and the Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL), the new joint organization overseeing both men's and women's lacrosse globally, took over the running of international lacrosse events.

To mark its first official event, a record number sixteen competing nations took part in the 10 day FIL World Cup hosted by the Czech Lacrosse Association in Prague. While the weather wreaked havoc in week two forcing games to be moved from grass to artificial turf, perhaps the strange coexistence of sun and rain in the same sky was a good omen. Nature is one of the most important factors in the aboriginal life of Native Americans - the creators of our game. The earth nourished them, the air gave them breath, and the sun and rain encouraged life. Maybe both were needed to bring out the best in the teams.



Mandy Friend scoring one of 5 goals in the Bronze medal game.

Canada's first half lead proved insurmountable. On their feet for the last few minutes, Canadian fans enjoyed a loud and proud final countdown as the girls brought it home. Not since 1982 has Canada stepped onto the World Cup podium when they won bronze at the very first IFWLA World Cup.

Dana Dobbie was near perfect on the draw, and earned player of the match for the second time in the tournament.

The USA vs Australia gold medal final was a barn-burner as the USA attempted to regain the crown that the Aussies had captured in 2005. The half time score was 3-3, indicative of extremely strong defense from both teams. In the second half time, the USA came out with renewed energy, and added 4 quick goals. The Australians were not without opportunities having a significant number of scoring chances. Always in the battle, with 4.18 to go the Aussies had reduced the lead to 2, and by the 2 minute mark, the margin was 1, with the crowd encouraging the Aussies to score again. But in the end, US held on to capture their 6th World title.

2009 WORLD CUP FINAL STANDINGS

GOLD/SILVER: USA 8 vs Australia 7
BRONZE - 4th: **Canada 14** vs England 9
5th - 6th: Ireland 12 vs Wales 7
7th - 8th: Japan 11 vs Scotland 7
9th - 10th: Czech Republic 15 vs Germany 5
11th - 12th: Haudenosaunee 18 vs New Zealand 6
13th - 14th: Netherlands 14 vs Austria 3
15th - 16th: Denmark 17 vs South Korea 3

For Canada, the 2009 World Cup will be remembered for a number of groundbreaking achievements from posting a winning record of 4-3; the first victories over England in 20 years, an extremely close semi-final against the Aussies, and the bronze victory.

The medal games were held at the Synot Tip Arena, the home stadium for the SK Slavia Praha football club. Less than a year old, it was a great venue, and with it's red seats in the background, perfect for the bronze medal game with the red and white of England and Canada engulfing both sides of the stadium.

Canada got to goal early and often, up 6-0 midway through the first half. Mandy Friend came roaring out of the gate in the mix off the draw, transitioning with the ball on attack and driving to goal. She had already put away the hat trick before England managed their first. Mandy was Canada's top point-getter in the game with 5 goals and an assist.

Within the first 10 minutes of the game, there was evidence that it was not England's day, managing only two shots, the first one off a post, and the second shot at point blank, seen all the way by Canada netminder, Kalley Greer. Kalley's play was second to none, with numerous key saves preventing any kind of momentum for England.

England closed out the half with three straight goals, leaving Canada up 9-4.

The second half was closer with both sides scoring 5, but



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Round Robin (Pool A) - Results

| Game # | Date | Time | Home | Away | Final Score (1st / 2nd) |
|-----------------------|--------|-------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 2 | Jun-18 | 11:30 | Australia | Canada | 16 : 11 (10:4, 6:7) |
| 6 | Jun-18 | 17:30 | USA | England | 17 : 8 (6:6, 11:2) |
| 8 | Jun-19 | 11:30 | Australia | Japan | 24 : 6 (11:2, 13:4) |
| 10 | Jun-19 | 14:30 | USA | Canada | 11 : 4 (3:4, 8:0) |
| 14 | Jun-20 | 11:30 | England | Canada | 9 : 10 (6:4, 3:6) |
| 16 | Jun-20 | 14:30 | USA | Japan | 26 : 12 (16:7, 10:5) |
| 20 | Jun-21 | 11:30 | Australia | England | 15 : 4 (5:3, 10:1) |
| 22 | Jun-21 | 14:30 | Canada | Japan | 23 : 12 (12:5, 11:7) |
| 28 | Jun-22 | 13:30 | England | Japan | 20 : 3 (16:0, 4:3) |
| 30 | Jun-22 | 16:30 | Australia | USA | 9 : 10 (9:4, 0:6) |
| Quarter Finals | | | | | |
| 33 | Jun-24 | 9:00 | Canada | Wales | 10 : 6 (4:4, 6:2) |
| 35 | Jun-24 | 11:45 | Australia | Scotland | 17 : 4 (11:2, 6:2) |
| 37 | Jun-24 | 14:30 | USA | Ireland | 22 : 5 (15:4, 7:1) |
| 39 | Jun-24 | 17:15 | England | Japan | 19 : 12 (10:8, 9:4) |
| Semi Finals | | | | | |
| 45 | Jun-25 | 14:30 | USA | England | 20 : 3 (15:2, 5:1) |
| 47 | Jun-25 | 17:15 | Australia | Canada | 12 : 10 (8:5, 4:5) |
| Medal Games | | | | | |
| 55 | Jun-27 | 10:30 | Canada | England | 14 : 9 (9:4, 5:5) BRONZE |
| 56 | Jun-27 | 15:00 | USA | Australia | 8 : 7 (3:3, 5:4) GOLD |

2009 WORLD TEAM

Attack:

Jen Adams (Australia)
Lindsey Munday (USA)
Hannah Nielsen (Australia)

Midfield:

Sarah Albrecht (USA)
Dana Dobbie (Canada)
Kristen Kjellmann (USA)
Stacey Morlang (Australia)
Laura Warren (Wales)

Defense:

Amber Falcone (USA)
Sarah Forbes (Australia)
Regina Oliver (USA)

Goalkeeper:

Sue McSolvin (Australia)

For complete results from all Pools:

<http://www.lacrosseworldcup2009.com/index.php/en/home/world-cup-games.html>

Check out the Team Canada website for the full World Cup Blog (www.teamcanadawomenslacrosse.com).