

2008 Ironman Tournament A Success

The 2008 Ironman brought out some new faces and colours with the Ferocious Flamingos making their debut! Five teams competed in Round Robin Play & Playoffs, taking just under four hours in length to complete.

As always the games started out very fast with a lot of energy being spent in the beginning leaving little in the tank for when the play-offs rolled around.

Top two teams after round robin play were the Interracial Magic and Team Fleury. Rounding out the bottom three were the Cougar Hunters, Team Piplee and Ferocious Flamingos.

The play-offs started with an upset as the Cougar Hunters defeated the Interracial Magic. The other match-up saw Team Piplee vs. Team Fleury with the boys from Fleury coming out on top.

This set the stage for the Finals between Team Fleury & the Cougar Hunters where the game would change leads numerous times before heading to a shoot-out where Bowler would prove to be the hero on this day. Congrats to the Cougar Hunters team of Todd Bowler, Jesse Romano, Kevin Murphy and late fill in Brock Murray this years Ironman Champions!

The consolation round gave the Flamingos another kick at the can but Team Piplee led by Bobby Lee was too strong. Big shout out to the Flamingos for a great tourney and even better team jerseys!

The consolation final saw Interracial Magic vs. Team Piplee. The two teams placed a friendly little bet on the game adding some excitement that would lead to a shootout. In the end Team Piplee would be the 2008 Ironman Consolation Champions!

Other honourable mentions go to the top forward as voted on by the team captains Todd Bowler & Top Goalie went to Aaron Hill.

Taking home the wheels and bearings from the raffle draw was Shawn Osborne of the Ferocious Flamingos.

Last but certainly not the least a big thank-you to all the players especially the goaltenders that make this tourney a great success each year!



Mudhogs Capture Gold

The Mudhogs returned to the favoured tournament locale, the Joe Dumars Fieldhouse, for another tournament over the weekend of March 28-30, 2008. This tournament was for the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Regional, in which a victory would qualify the team to participate in the 2008 AAU Championships held later in the year. The team had some familiar faces, and a few new names on the sheet added to the mix.

Friday night started with a game against a talented group of players called Lightning. It was a well played game, with both teams very evenly matched. Too evenly matched in fact, as the game ended as it began, in a tie. Well, one point on the board is better than a zero, which has happened on the first night a number of times in the past.

Saturday morning the guys learned that one of the teams had dropped out, which gave 3 of the 5 teams in the division a free 2 points, putting the 'Hogs in a tie for fourth right off the hop. There were two games scheduled for Saturday night, against MPH and Can Am Stars, and if needed a third game would be played between the 4th and 5th place teams, as a play in for the semi-finals Sunday morning.

The team played their first game against MPH, a group of youngsters, some of whom actually were brought to the rink by their parents. It wasn't the team's best showing of the tournament, and the final result showed that with a 6-3 loss. That meant that the team would be playing in the 3rd game later that night, as they had slipped to a record of 0-1-1, and with a win would still only make 4th place.

The next two games were both against Can Am Stars. The first game resulted in a mercy-rule win mid way through the second half, with a final score of 10-2. Then it was a 40 minute break for a game to be played, and then back onto the rink for a second game against Can Am Stars, and a second mercy-rule win, this time a score of 11-3. This meant that the team had made it to the semi finals, where they would face the top team, Lightning, for a chance to play in the finals.

Sunday morning brought the early game, 9:20, for the semi-final. It was a chance to redeem themselves, and show that the team was better than they had played on Friday night in the tie. The game went back and forth through the first half, and at half time there was still no advantage given, with the teams deadlocked at 2-2. It was nearly 10 minutes into the 2nd half before a team scored – unfortunately for the Mudhogs it was Lightning that took the 3-2 lead. However, the Mudhogs didn't fall into the common trap of trying too hard and playing not to lose. Instead they continued to press, and 3 minutes later Brock Murray tied it up at 3-3. Shortly after that Mike Read put the team ahead 4-3 with 30 seconds to go. It looked like overtime would be avoided, however the team had to play hard the last 30 seconds to do so. Lightning fought hard, pulling their goalie for the extra man, however the Mudhogs held on for the win and a place in the finals.

The finals matched the Mudhogs with MPH, the only team that had beaten them this tournament. Just over a minute in MPH popped a quick one, and the Mudhogs were quickly down 1-0. The team continued to press, and were rewarded on the power play, tying the game at 1s. MPH regained the lead at the 11 minute mark of the first half, and the Mudhogs made the decision that it was time to play. The team came back from that deficit, scoring 3 goals in the last 4 minutes of the half to take a 4-2 lead.

The second period started as the first ended, with the Mudhogs adding to their lead about 6 minutes in. MPH would not give up though, and came back with 2 quick ones to cut the score to 5-4. It was time for the Mudhogs to see what was left in the tank. Again, rather than playing not to lose, the team continued pressing, and at the 10 minute mark regained the two goal cushion. It was short lived however, as MPH's top player sniped a shot from the corner that beat Aaron Hill over the stick side and brought the game back to a one goal game. Never giving up, the team bore down, realizing that they were so close to breaking the championship-less streak that had been plaguing them for a few tournaments now. In the last minute of the 2nd half, Mike Read demonstrated some nice dangling, and beat the MPH tender to regain a two goal lead, and practically cement the win for the Mudhogs. The countdown began, and when the buzzer sounded, the Mudhogs were AAU Bronze Division Champions with a 7-5 win.

Congratulations to all the members of the team : Brad Boakes, Todd Bowler, Curtis Brown, Aaron Hill, Brock Murray, Aaron Plant, Mike Read, and Duke Rupert.



Mudhogs Prepare for the Tour Cup

After a few years off from two teams headlining the annual Tour Cup in Detroit the Mudhogs saw an opportunity to unveil their new 30+ team and begin a new era in Canning Mudhogs Roller Hockey.

Rolling into Detroit this coming November 28th-30th will be two teams representing the Mudhogs.

"It's very exciting for all of us", says team Director and player for the 30+ team Brock Murray. " Not only is it an opportunity to take two teams to play in this competitive tournament, it also marks the beginning of a new era for the Canning Mudhogs Organization. I am very happy to be a part of something as unique and traditional as this organization. I look forward to lacing them up at the end of the month for yet another roller hockey tourney!"

The Mudhogs will also be taking an Adult team that has some new faces in the mix this year. Kevin Lee, Phil Reed, and Kyle Chaney are all donning the Mudhog sweater for their first tournament. Not to forget those new faces to the 30+ squad Robb Lee, Darryl Tabor, and Darryl Dempsey who are looking forward to the opportunity to compete against some roller hockey players that play all year round.

Both teams will get their games underway on Friday November 28th and wrap up the tourney on the 30th. Check the [Michigan Roller Hockey Association](#) website to follow both teams progress during the weekend.



10th Annual Xmas Eve Cup

Good friends, a few beers and a lot of hockey is what best describes the Mudhogs Annual X-mas Eve Cup. It started out as a pickup ball hockey game to pass the time on Christmas Eve. Who would have thought hanging outside in the freezing cold with a hockey stick in one hand and a cold beer in the other would be so much fun. But wait a minute lets rethink that after all we are all Canadian and it just makes sense.

It is with great pride that we are celebrating the 10th Annual X-Mas Eve Cup. This year the action gets underway at 12 noon, please make note of the early start. With the 10th year being celebrated we will be adding a few more details to the festivities this year. On Tuesday evening December 23rd I would like to extend an invitation to all players past and present to attend an Open House to usher in the next days events. Location to be announced.

X-Mas Eve Cup Line-up looks as follows:

11:30 – Team Selection gets underway. Please arrive on time to ensure you are placed on a team.

11:40 – Toast to 10 years of good friends and Mudhog hockey.

11:50 – Group Picture

12 noon – Ceremonial Face-off followed by first round robin game.

Directly following tournament is the trophy presentation and then food and refreshments next door.

Special note from Xmas Eve Coordinator, Brock Murray:

“Hey Guys,

I am very excited to let you all know that Walter Gretzky and Bob Coyne will be attending the 10th Annual X-Mas Eve Cup for the pre-game festivities and the ball drop. I would imagine that they will likely stick around for some of the games too!

Please all plan to arrive no later than 11:30 if possible. If you see that as a problem please let me know.

On another note, we are designing a special commemorative jersey for the event. If you would like to order a jersey the cost will be \$25 dollars. It is a practice jersey that will have the commemorative logo on the front.

Talk to you all soon.

Brock”

