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LOS ANGELES WINS THE 1st EVER US NATIONAL FLOORBALL TITLE

SUMMARY

Innebandy LA takes the 1st US National Floorball Championship Title in a dramatic shootout win.

The US National floorball Championship tournament hosted by myself, Erik Larsson of floorballca.com, was played August 14-15, 2010 at The-Rinks in Huntington Beach, California. It was played in combination with the 3rd annual US Open Floorball Championship.

With great support from The USFbA, Calle Karlsson (USFba vice president), Vince Faso, The Fresno Floorball Club, Andrew Beyer, and all volunteers, this year's tournament was a great success.

Seven Elite teams, five Intermediate teams and four youth teams competed in the tournament, making this the biggest floorball event to date in California. The majority of the teams came from California but I was also honored to host a team from Colorado and two teams from Austin, Texas. All teams in each division played a full set of round robin games to determine play-off position.

US OPEN YOUTH DIVISION

Four teams competed in the US Open Youth Division. This division was designed for players to have fun and to learn the game of floorball at the same time. We had a talented group of young hockey players who had a great time.

The Youth Division tournament had great success in introducing floorball not only as its own sport but also as a great compliment to hockey in general. The credit goes to the coaches – especially Peter Torsson - and all the parents willing to try something new.

US OPEN INTERMEDIATE DIVISION

In the US Open Intermediate Division, I was blown away by the U19 Ice Hockey teams from the CA Heat Organization. Again all the credit goes to Peter Torsson who some years ago introduced Floorball to his hockey community as an off-ice training / conditioning tool.

This was the 3rd year Peter brought teams to the US Open – WOW they are getting good. With three teams from the Heat, one from Austin Texas and one from the The-Rinks in-line group, the stage was set for a great tournament.

In the end the CA Heat RED Team were the worthy US Open Champions by winning all games including a 7 – 0 victory over Austin in the Semi final and a 5 – 2 win in the Final over The-Rinks. In addition to their impressive victory in the tournament, the CA Heat RED had the No. 1 Goalie in Tucker May and the No. 1 Points maker in Connor McPherson. The bottom line is that they were a hard team to beat.

Also worthy of mention is the AUSTIN team. After having a tough time and losing all their round-robin games and facing elimination in the only quarter final, Austin had one last chance to show its best game. Austin took that chance by beating the CA Heat Yellow team 4-3 in a

shootout and captured the last semi-final spot. After losing to the CA Heat RED in the semifinal, Austin again regrouped and came up with a win over CA Heat Black to capture the Bronze in the US Open Intermediate Division.

US NATIONALS ELITE DIVISION

In the Elite Division, Colorado, Fresno and San Francisco did not make the playoffs, leaving San Diego, Innebandy LA, So.Cal UFC and Austin to fight for the Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals.

San Diego defeated Austin in the first semifinal, 6-0. LA overcame So.Cal UFC after the tournament's most intense and tight game by scoring the 3-2 winner with only seconds left in the game. After the tough loss, So. Cal UFC came back to beat Austin 5 – 2 to capture the Bronze.

The 1st ever US National Floorball Championship Final was a thriller between the tournament's 2 best teams, Innebandy LA and San Diego. With San Diego in 1st place and Innebandy LA in 2nd place after the round robin games and strong performances in the semifinals, both teams had proven to be worthy finalists. The final game was well played with strong performances from both teams and excellent goaltending. When San Diego put in the 2-2 equalizer with a couple of minutes left in the game the stage was set for a thriller.

San Diego then handed LA the opportunity of the game in the form of a penalty. LA pushed hard to score the winner with the man advantage but the score remained 2-2 at the end of regulation. With the penalty to San Diego carrying over into the 5 minute sudden-death overtime period, LA pressed on for the win. San Diego fought hard to stay alive and managed to stop LA from scoring on the power play. The game raged back and forth for the remainder of the sudden-death period without either team being able to score.

SHOOT OUT:

LA took charge in the shootout with 2 unanswered goals from Marcus Davidsson and Erik Nord. Although San Diego kept their hopes alive with a goal from Carl Persson in the 4th round, LA Innebandy's Christopher Bjelkstam could AND DID secure the win by scoring his team's 3rd shoot out goal.

Final note:

I would like to thank every single person, player, volunteer that showed up for this tournament. YOU ALL made the tournament the success it was, **THANK YOU!**

Hope you ALL come back! January 2011 MADNESS and August 2011 US OPEN.

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