

Furious George thrashes Ottawa Wax

West Coast wave swamps competition at Canadian ultimate championships

Darren Desaulniers
The Ottawa Citizen

The Ottawa Wax gave everything it had yesterday in the open final of the Canadian ultimate championships, but it wasn't enough.

The defending world champion, Furious George from Vancouver reclaimed the Canadian title it had held from 1995 to 1997 with a 19-6 win against the Wax yesterday in Manotick Station.

The win allows Furious George a chance to defend its world title in Germany next August. "I think we're definitely ripe to defend," Furious George captain Jeff Cruickshank said. "I think we'll have to look out for the usual suspects, the 'States and the Swedes, but, if we play something like (in the nationals) we'll be all right. We'll give it a run for two in a row."

There has been a constant element within the Vancouver team over the years, which Cruickshank says is the reason for its success. "Motivation, hard work and a good system were the keys for us," he said. "We've had the same offensive and defensive systems in place and mostly the same players for the last three or four years." Wax players did what they wanted to do against Furious George, but they weren't sharp enough. "We stuck to our game plan and our cutters got open, but we just missed them," captain Fadi Ayoub said. "Obviously, they're the world champions, so you have to be sharp with everything, and some of the time we weren't. That's when we turned (the disc) over and they were able to capitalize."

In the national women's final, the Vancouver Prime played a tough, determined game and defeated the Stella of Ottawa 17-8. "The score certainly didn't reflect the intensity of the game," Stella player-coach Tanis Lugsdin said. "There were a lot of long, hard-fought points, and Prime just came out on top."

Stella played yesterday's final without two of its top players: Lugsdin, who was recovering from a concussion; and Hali Gernon, who broke her nose during an earlier match in the championship.

One Ottawa-area squad did hold off the West Coast wave. The combined Tetris626 team from Ottawa and North Bay defeated the Vancouver Seamless 17-8 in the junior final, also earning a trip to Germany next year. "It's a rush," Tetris626 player Richard Waldolf said. "It's a really nice feeling knowing that we get to go to Germany. Also the pride of knowing you're the best junior team in Canada."

Two division titles were settled on Saturday. In the masters bracket, the Old Nads et al from Toronto (sic - North Bay) beat Smell my Mule of Ottawa 15-10. In the co-ed final, the Winnipeg Kaos won 17-9 against the Toronto Thrive.

The weekend tournament marked a crowning achievement for the Ottawa-Carleton Ultimate Association, which bought the land in Manotick Station and brought the nationals to the community south of Ottawa. "The people of Manotick have been phenomenal," tournament organizer Jack Webb said. "One of our concerns was

having an event this large in a small quiet community, but they've been bending over backwards in any way they can."



Paul Latour, The Ottawa Citizen / Vancouver team Furious George and Ottawa Wax, in white, cheer each other after the Canadian ultimate championship game yesterday. Furious George won 19-6.

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