

DISH FROM THE PITCH



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IRISH PUB WINS! Ninjas Snatch the MHC Championship



by Jason Kirkpatrick

photo credit: Kerry Leonard

For those of us whose seasons were over, the final day at the pitch served as a closure of sorts. With no team schedule to worry about we were free to eat, drink and bend the ear of our comrades as we reflected on the summer that so quickly passed us by. Captains complimented the dedication of their players, rookies collected advice from teammates, and some of the youth players relished the idea of playing with the adults next season. But for the Irish Pub Ninjas and the All Tool Sales Legion, this day was the culmination of what had been a phenomenal season for both teams. After a sensational summer of closely contested battles and eerily similar win-loss records one team was going to walk away champions and neither team was going to make it easy.

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photo credit: Kerry Leonard

The Irish Pub squad set the tone early in the game as they'd done all season and came up with a point in quick fashion. The Ninjas were passing up the lines well as Brian Lynch cleared to Teddy Ruetz who lobbed it up to Ryan Schubert and then to Tony Gaar for the Pub goal. On the defensive side, the Pub team was getting right in the middle of All Tool's puck-outs and preventing them from putting together plays, and tensions were already mounting at this early point in the game as the Legion seemed frustrated at their lack of early scoring.

Working close to the sidelines, Gavin Mantyh had some great clears at defense for All Tool and kept the sliothar out of the dangerous clasps of the Ninja forwards. Once they had control of the sliothar Brian Christ and Steven Schmid worked together to transition the All Tool midfield into attack mode in an attempt to get on the board. The Legion began to generate some scoring opportunities in response, but shots were sailing wide and nobody seemed to be able to penetrate deep into the Ninja defense due to the coordinated movement orchestrated by Brian Lynch and Brian Dake for Irish Pub. At the first water break the scoreboard showed six unanswered points for the Irish Pub and though the Legion didn't look worried, they knew they had to strike soon.

The All Tool captains led the renewed charge to try and take the fight to the Ninjas but the Irish Pub defensive was still not having any of it, and after a scrum formed perilously close to the Ninja's goal Justin "Pinball" McCauley bounded through the pack to kick the sliothar clear of the assault. After Pub captain Tony Gaar put one through the uprights on a free, the Ninjas swarmed and intercepted yet another Legion puck-out and forced it back to the net where the sliothar trickled past the goal line for three. The Pub pressure was relentless with Liam Raasch really stepping up with some great blocks on Legion captain Paul "Tebow" Steinbrecher at midfield, and Ninjas Anna Dombroski and Naomi Gaar working the box together to create plays up front. Their efforts led to an Irish Pub goal late in the half. Ronnie Hansen and Christopher Frans showed some great hustle in their efforts to get the Legion back on the offensive, but as the halftime whistle blew the Legion, without scoring, found themselves looking at a dominating Irish Pub lead of 3-5 (14).



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After a passionate halftime huddle the All Tool Legion took to the pitch knowing that a comeback at this point of the playoffs would be difficult to say the least. The Irish Pub squad picked up the offensive attack right where they left off, but All Tool was ready to rally in an all-or-nothing fight to the end and took charge. Nick "Tater" Ruetz maneuvered through the Pub defenders and blasted a sliothar to the back of the net for an All Tool goal. Not wasting any time, Ryan Brown pulled off a great steal from Ninja Teddy Ruetz which led to a Legion point courtesy of Tebow.

The Ninjas began to rely on short puck-outs to halfback Ryan Schubert who found the likes of Logan Kittle to avoid the Legion midfielders. Once again on the attack, Ninja Tony Gaar pointed on the run and his co-captain Tim Dombroski was able to sink a goal for the Irish Pub. All Tool in turn changed their strategy hoping to show Pub a line-up that would slow them down as Schmid switched to defense and Ryan Brown moved up to midfield. Austin Geisler had several great defensive stands as the momentum shifted toward All Tool, allowing Tebow to launch a long high ball from midfield that dropped steeply into the goal to give the Legion a much needed three points. All Tool continued to bring the pressure, and the layers of Ninja defenders were not making it easy, but eventually Thomas Stoecker found some open pitch and tallied up another point for the Legion. Soon after, Ronnie Hansen had a beautiful solo downfield for an All Tool goal aided by the play of teammate Ann Weber. Tebow would point again as well for the Legion to close the gap at the final water break to just six points.



Anna Dombroski kicked in a beautiful goal for the Irish Pub as the final fifteen minutes began, showing the Legion that the Ninjas were not going to let up. But the Legion answered back when a passionate play by Ryan Brown netted an All Tool goal after he rebounded his own first attempt. The back and forth continued with a pair of Pub points, but All Tool was really hitting their stride. A string of points from Jesse Hieb and Steve Schmid flew through the uprights and soon the Legion found themselves only four points behind the Ninjas, and everyone on the sidelines was on the edge of their seats in anticipation. A silence came over the crowd as conversations halted, worried that they may miss some of the action. Were we about to witness one of the greatest comebacks in club history? That question was answered soon enough though as Teddy Ruetz put up a point followed by a goal from Ninja Liam Raasch to secure the win for the Irish Pub Ninjas at a final Championship score of Irish Pub 6-8 (26) to All Tool 4-7 (19).



photo credit: Kerry Leonard

Duckert Award Winners



Jesse Rapkin



Jenni Hofschulte

JT Flood

(unable to attend)



Bronze Bas Award Winners



Brian Dake
Cory Johnson
Aislinn Leonard
Meghan Neuenschwander
Nick Ruetz
Caroline Vanevenhoven



Thank You and Farewell to Coaches Dan Toomey and Patrick Minster



We appreciate all of your hard work and 10 years of commitment to the youth league.
As you retire from coaching, we wish you good luck
in all of your future endeavors.
To scores of players you'll always be Coach Toomey and Coach Minster!

Camogie Girls Clash for Cleveland

by Jack Harrold

The final day of the Milwaukee Hurling Club's season is often a mixed bag of emotions. On one hand, it is always thrilling to watch the championship game, yet bittersweet for those not playing. But, just because the Club's season is over hurling isn't. With the North American County Boards (NACBs) and the 2013 Aer Lingus International Hurling Festival right around the corner, the pressure is on for our traveling teams to finalize their preparation for these tournaments.

As we all know, hurling and its sister - camogie - are team sports. While the MHC is a co-ed organization, it can be difficult for our ladies to gain valuable team-building time together. Championship Sunday, though, is a special time when we get to see what exactly our ladies are capable of.

Though the field was shortened in deference to the 7 vs. 7 format, the MHC Camogie squad played as fiercely as if it was the tournament day itself. Divided into teams of blue and orange, the play quickly got underway. Mid-fielder Aislinn "The Beast" Leonard was, as always, a beast on the field for the orange squad - quickly transitioning play from defense to offense with seeming ease. Devin Olson of the blue squad had the unenviable task of matching up against Leonard, and performed quite well, getting open for her teammates' passes.

In goal for the Blues was Michelle Veralas; whose blocks were incredible. Only the sheer amount of shots taken at her allowed anything by. Her defender, Trish Borzon was equally impressive attempting to juggle two Orange full-forwards (Cecelia Nieves and Ellen Burmeister) and stepping up when Leonard drove down to the box. On the other end of the field, Cory Johnson tended to the net with rookie Laura Allen and Amy Hoss providing help at full-back. The trio did an amazing job switching marks and clearing the sliothar out for their midfielders to transition things. Allen, in particular, had an amazing defensive play



photo credit: Kerry Leonard

towards the end of the game and she was able to get the ball in hand and stick pass to Leonard with perfect precision that belied her short time in the sport. Karen Seeliger (last name as it isn't Fink any more) and Kathleen Moloney slung shots on Johnson when they got their opportunities.

As the cool morning air abated for the heat of the day, the crowd of spectators began to grow. Though most people were coming to see the Alumni and Championship game later that day, they were extremely impressed with the Camogie scrimmage. "Now this is something to whet the appetite!" exclaimed Eamonn O'Neil, Theater Co-ordinator for Irish Fest, "These ladies must be the best kept secret in town!"

In the end, the Orange team had built a solid lead, but the real winners were all of the ladies that participated in the scrimmage. The Camogie team rarely gets the recognition that the Men's Traveling Team receives, but they proved that morning that they are just as committed to all things Hurling (and Camogie) as their male counterparts. Best of luck to our ladies as they head down to Cleveland for the national tournament this coming up weekend!

Travel Team Prepares for Battle in Cleveland and Ireland



by Christopher Patrick

photo credit: Kerry Leonard

Following the women's Camogie match, the men's travelling team took to the field for a scrimmage before their games in Ohio next week. With the guys splitting into two teams of green and blue jerseys, the match got off to a quick start as the men in blue took control of the sliothar as Ryan Koppa scored the opening goal. After more points scored by blue, the green team's full back line got into their groove and stepped up the defense, with Pat Barry making an amazing block from inside the box. Both goalies ended up battling the brutal wind - which knocked over a number of tents throughout the day - to place their puck outs. As the half continued on, Kevin Harrington riled the players shouting "Let's keep the hustle going! Step it up!" After some amazing passes, Brian Marsolek scored the point to end the half, however it wasn't enough to make up for the blue's impressive scoring throughout the first half.

The second half started with the green team pushing to make up ground, as Caleb Hunnicutt and Dan McAullife scored points back to back. Despite this being a scrimmage, blue midfielder Vinny Moloney managed to break two sticks the match. After an impromptu defensive illustration from Dave Olsen - which was loud enough for all of the sidelines to hear - the green team continued to push on as Tony Johnson scored an impressive goal off of a ground hurl and then followed it up immediately with another goal. All in all it was a great showcase of some of the amazing talent we have in the club - best of luck in Ohio and beyond!

**Pack your bags and get
ready to represent the
MHC in Cleveland!**



August 30 - September 1st, 2013

YAY HURLING!!

Alumni Descend Upon Brown Deer Park



photo credit: Kerry Leonard

Sunday last at Brown Deer Park, saw the second homecoming for former players. An air of nostalgia coupled with competition was on the menu as they fielded the first roll in. Alumni Art Montes and Dave Morrow came to play and reminded everyone on the sidelines that they were not the ones to mess with on the field. It's always great to see past MHCers come back to the pitch. No matter where you are in life, the MHC will welcome you back with open arms. Chris Carter, who has been on the field a lot this season filming for his documentary, finally got to grab a stick and join in. Along with these former players and newbies, several current MHC players like Scrappy, Alec Fortier, Rob McCommons, and Ryan Mosur helped to fill the line outs.

The teams were scoring points and goals left and right leaving them within 7 points of each other at the end of the match. The Alumni game, full of laughs and smiles, was a great way to end the season and share some time with our old and new friends.





U7s Leave it All On the Pitch



by Aislinn Leonard

photo credit: Kerry Leonard

It's hard to believe another hurling season has flown by and this Sunday was the last U7 game for quite a few players because they will be moving into the U11s next season. It's a big change from U7 to U11 because the kids can start playing the ball in the air, but the coaches are confident that the players moving up are all very skilled and will excel moving up to play with the bigger kids.

With one final showdown to finish out the 2013 season, the U7s left all of their fight out on the pitch. Christian Griffin at keeper made saves a hockey goalie could only dream of as he dove for the ball sacrificing his body at every chance he got. Clara McKee, Alia Witt, and Antoinette Brilz proved they're prepared to step up to a bigger field by launching rocket shots down the line. When marking each other the battles were heated and sticks were flying, only until the whistle blew and then you could hear them giggling and chatting together. The U7s have done a wonderful job this year and the coaches wish them luck next year!

U11s: Hurling Warriors



photo credit: Kerry Leonard

Graduation Day for the U15s



photo credit: Aislinn Leonard

From left to right: August Hoernke, Patrick Sanders, Evan Schissler, Erik Norlock, Ted Sanders, Drew Dickens, Frank Corrao, and Siân Whitney

Watch out adult league players!
These U15 terrors will be on your heels for the 2014 season.



photo credit: Ellen Burmeister

Tattoo - Guess Who!

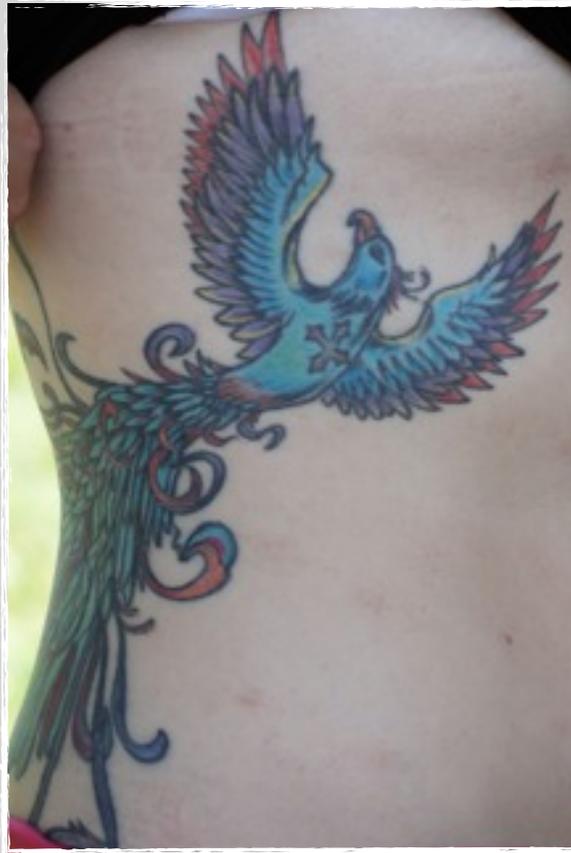


photo credit: Aislinn Leonard

Guess who belongs to this tattoo! We have a lot of ink in the club and this game will be a fun way to put it on display and get to know a few of your fellow club teammates. Check below to find out who this is!

*Last week's tattoo belongs to **Meghan Neuenschwander!***

We're on Instagram!



Follow us:
[@milwaukee_hurling](https://www.instagram.com/milwaukee_hurling)
or hashtag your pictures
with **#MHC2013** and
maybe you'll see your
picture in the Dish!



This week's tattoo belongs to camogie player Laura Allen

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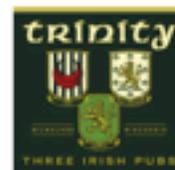
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