

## PC EASTERN POLO CUP 2008 - Feedback

Last weekend, April 12-13<sup>th</sup>, the PC Canoe Polo Club was host to the 2<sup>nd</sup> PC Eastern Polo Cup. Three teams were representing our club with JC, Julie and Dan as captains.

### PC Chiefs

JC Pothier  
Pat Newman  
Mike Archambault  
Fred Maréchal  
Cullen Thiessen

### PC Chicks

Julie Laterreur  
Mélanie Leroux  
Kristy Franks  
Stephanie C-G  
Jennyfer Favreau  
Myriam Gervais  
Sarah Quart (Tor.)

### PC Sharks

Dan Romano  
Alexandre Market  
Sean Blaine  
Mike Chown  
Nick Lea (Ott.)  
Andy Rowland (Ott.)

In total 12 teams participated in the event making it one of the three biggest annual canoe-polo events in Canada; the National Championships and the Cup of the North (Edm) being the other two. Participating teams were:

PC Chiefs (Qc)  
Edmonton (AB, SK)  
Sudbury (On)  
Mississauga (On)

PC Chicks (Qc)  
USA W (Texas, NY)  
NY Beavers (NY)  
Boston 1 (Ma)

PC Sharks (Qc)  
CAN W (BC, On, AB)  
NY Liberty (NY)  
Boston 2 (Ma)

Some teams like Boston, NY or Edmonton had players currently on their respective national teams and it should also be mentioned that the CAN W and USA W teams are the ones that will be playing at the 2008 Canoe Polo World Championships in Edmonton.

Three rounds, making a total 42 games, were played. Round 1 was a round robin of three groups of 4 teams (18 games) where the PC Chiefs came out first and PC Sharks second in their group, just beating the USA W in *Goal difference*.

Round 2 (12 games) was regrouping teams of equal strength in four groups of three teams. Again PC Chiefs came out first by winning the *Goal difference* by 2 points over Edmonton. PC Sharks gave a really good fight against Boston 1 but in the end lost 2:3 and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in their category. PC Chicks had a really nice run leading against Sudbury but got scored 53 seconds before the end of the game for a 5:4 loss. They also came 3<sup>rd</sup> in their division.

Last were the playoffs composed of three Series games, four Mini Finals and four Grand Finals. The PC Sharks played two good games against NY Beavers and USA W but eventually lost them and finished in 8<sup>th</sup> place. PC Chicks played against Mississauga once more but couldn't hold them off like the first time and came in 12<sup>th</sup> place.

Finally, the PC Chiefs played the Grand Final 1 against Edmonton for first place. The first period was marked by one goal only from the Edmonton players thus taking the lead. Thirty seconds in the second half, Pat scored to tie it, but this quickly turned as

Edmonton scored two goals in the next 2 minutes giving them a comfortable lead of 3:1. Both team played aggressively without any change in the score for most of the second half. Near the end, the Chiefs started to push forward (man on man strategy) as Edmonton was trying to kill the time by holding the ball back. A missed pass let JC paddle trough an opening with the ball and scored the second PC goal at 58 seconds from the end. Starting from the next face-off, PC played continuous man on man and used a rebound on their goal to get the ball to Fred who scored the 3<sup>rd</sup> goal to tie the score at **3 seconds** from the end of the game!

The game went in to overtime with a 3 minute Golden goal period (first goal wins). The period was marked by many turnovers and missed shots on both side but ended up with Fred getting a breakaway with the ball and scoring the wining goal for the PC Chiefs 15 seconds from the end of the period (picture below).

For the first time, the PC Club with only local players won a major canoe-polo event. Here is the full ranking for the 12 teams:

<u>Ranking</u>	<u>GP</u>	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Draws</u>	<u>Losses</u>	<u>Goals for</u>	<u>Goals against</u>
<b>1 PC Chiefs</b>	6	5	1	0	38	9
2 Edmonton	7	5	1	1	40	13
3 NY Liberty	7	3	1	3	26	23
4 CAN W	7	4	2	1	32	15
5 Boston 1	7	4	0	3	26	25
6 NY Beavers	7	2	2	3	16	28
7 USA W	9	4	3	2	26	17
<b>8 PC Sharks</b>	7	1	1	5	16	26
9 Boston 2	7	2	3	2	17	9
10 Mississauga	7	3	0	4	18	29
11 Sudbury	7	2	0	5	11	43
<b>12 PC Chicks</b>	6	0	0	6	8	35



PC Chiefs (white) winning goal against Edmonton (red) in the Final.