

INSIDE LACROSSE

Adrenaline Lacrosse Sin City Showdown Day 1 Recap

From Press Releases December 13th, 2010

Nestled in between the Sam Boyd Football Stadium and the Sun Rise Mountains, the Adrenaline Lacrosse Sin City Showdown kicked off on the UNLV Rebel's football practice fields this morning at 9 am. The 6 field spread features 29 teams across 3 divisions: Youth, Middle School, High School, and Elite. The Showdown is the second leg of the Adrenaline Tournament Series that commenced on November 12th with the Sun Devil Sizzler in Casa Grande, Arizona.
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The Tournament Series, which has been paired with the Notre Dame Irish Coaching Clinics, gives every attendee an opportunity to watch top notch lacrosse while learning along the way. Vendor Village features Warrior and Brine tents in which players are able to check out and purchase custom gear, as well as the South Swell Sports trailer featuring the new 2010 Adrenaline Lacrosse winter line.

Here is a breakdown of the teams in attendance this weekend:

Youth

- Utah Starz
- Silverfin (Los Angeles, Ca.)
- Burnaby Mountain (Vancouver, B.C.)
- ADRLN Rollers
- RC (San Diego, Ca.)

Middle School:

Brine Group 1

- Utah Starz Gold
- AZ Burn (Phoenix/Scottsdale, Az.)
- Las Vegas Vengeance
- LaxDawgs (San Diego, Ca.)

Brine Group 2:

- RC Silver (San Diego, Ca.)
- Silverfin (Los Angeles, Ca.)
- Burnaby Mountain (Vancouver, B.C.)
- Utah Starz Navy

High School:

South Swell Group 1

- Utah Starz
- Vegas Starz Silver
- Gaels LC (Bishop Gorman High School; Las Vegas, Nv.)
- Orangemen (Yorba Linda, Ca.)

South Swell Group 2:

- Vegas Starz Blue
- AZ Burn Orange (Phoenix/Scottsdale, Az.)
- Mavericks LC (Denver, Co.)
- LaxDawgs Royal (San Diego, Ca.)

Elite:

Adrenaline Group 1:

- LaxDawgs Brown (San Diego, Ca.)
- Silverfin (Los Angeles, Ca.)
- ADRLN Blue
- Golden State Titans (San Francisco, Ca.)

Adrenaline Group 2:

- Vegas Starz
- Colorado Wild (Denver, Co.)
- ADRLN Black
- AZ Burn Orange

Upon my arrival at the fields today, I was interested to see the LaxDawgs Brown squad of the Elite Division in action. The LD Brown squad, lead by Dan Meehan, beat Brady's Bunch to win the Championship at the Sun Devil Sizzler. Without Brady's Bunch in attendance at the Showdown, the Dawgs have been favored to come out on top this weekend. Living up to their reputation, the Dawgs finished 3 and 0 on the day with wins over L.A. based Silverfin, ADRLN Blue, and the Golden State Titans from Northern California. Meehan explains, "We were successful today because our defense was on point, our middies were horses between the lines, and our attackmen made the most of their opportunities."

On the other side of the Elite Division, Gary Campo's Vegas Starz went 2-0-1 on the day. In their first match up, the Vegas bunch duked it out with the Colorado Wild. An outstanding performance from the Colorado keeper stifled the offensive pressure from the Vegas squad. The two swapped goals throughout the duration of the game, which ultimately ended in a 6-6 tie. In their games versus the AZ Burn and team Adrenaline, the Vegas bunch emphasized the "team concept" and focused on the fundamentals to finish the day with two strong victories.

The Denver based Colorado Wild in the Elite Division finished the day 2-0-1. The Wild, which is comprised mainly of Chatfield, Wheatridge, and Fort Collins players, tied the Vegas Starz in their first game of the day 6-6 thanks to some outstanding goaltending by their keeper. In their final 2 games of the day, the Wild came out on top over both the AZ Burn and Team Adrenaline thanks to solid ball movement on the attacking end. The Wild's faceoff specialist was also instrumental in their victories by providing multiple fast break opportunities off the whistle.

In the High School Division, the Orangemen from Yorba Linda, California, finished 1-2 on the day. Comprised of El Dorado High School players, the Orange had trouble clearing the ball out their defensive end, providing opponents with multiple second chances on goal. Orangemen coach, Sean Mann, cited a lack of communication as one of the squad's main breakdowns. Mann explained that his team was ready to regroup and get back to basics for their Sunday games.

The Burnaby Mountain Selects out of Vancouver, British Columbia, brought both a Middle School and Youth team to the Tournament Series. Brent Hoskins and Jeff Cathrea, both Simon Fraser University Alums, founded the program in effort to give their players somewhere to play in the offseason. With a previously established box lacrosse league that dominates in the summer, Hoskins and Cathrea's program has provided their players with an on field option in the winter. Both teams cleaned up the first day of the event with the Youth Division team (U12) going 3-0, and the Middle School bunch (U13) going 2-1 on the day. The Burnaby teams, comprised mainly of athletes who began playing at the age of 5, relied on strong fundamentals and team cohesiveness in their success on day one.

The San Diego based RC Youth squad finished 2-1. In their first game versus Silverfin, a solid defensive effort by both teams kept the score low and aided in RC's 3-2 victory. The traditionally strong RC team had difficulty in their second game with the Vancouver based Burnaby squad. After jumping ahead early, Burnaby maintained possession of the ball and continued to add to their lead, ultimately topping RC 11-2.

The AZ Burn High School squad finished 1-2 on Saturday. The team came out hard; however, a general lack of experience across the board proved to be their main obstacle.