

= 2008 NCAA Division I Men 's Lacrosse Championship =

The 2008 NCAA Division I Men 's Lacrosse Tournament was held from May 10 through May 26 , 2008 . This was the 38th annual Division I NCAA Men 's Lacrosse Championship tournament . Sixteen NCAA Division I college men 's lacrosse teams met after having played their way through a regular season , and for some , a conference tournament .

The first round of the single @-@ elimination tournament was played on May 10 and May 11 at the home field of the top @-@ seeded team . The quarterfinals were held on May 17 and May 18 on two separate neutral fields : the Navy @-@ Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis , Maryland , and Schoellkopf Field in Ithaca , New York . The tournament culminated with the semifinals and finals held on Memorial Day weekend at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough , Massachusetts . The championship weekend , which included the Division II and Division III championships , was hosted by Harvard University and the Eastern College Athletic Conference . The championship was won by Syracuse University , beating Johns Hopkins University 13 ? 10 , in front of a title game record crowd of 48 @ , @ 970 fans .

= = Qualifying teams = =

The Division I NCAA Men ? s Lacrosse Committee was responsible for selecting the teams that competed in the championship tournament . The qualifying teams , along with the seeding for each team in the tournament , were announced on Sunday , May 4 , 2008 . Seven conferences received automatic bids to the tournament for its top team . The remaining nine teams were selected as " at large " bids by the committee .

Five conferences held a conference tournament championship to award the conferences ' bid . Canisius earned an automatic bid by winning the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference ( MAAC ) championship . This marks the first time that Canisius College has gained entry to the National Championship tournament . Colgate earned an automatic bid by winning its first @-@ ever Patriot League championship . Hofstra earned an automatic bid by winning Colonial Athletic Association ( CAA ) championship , Notre Dame earned an automatic bid by winning Great Western Lacrosse League ( GWLL ) championship , and UMBC earned an automatic bid by winning America East Conference championship .

Two conferences award their bids based on regular season conference records . Loyola earned an automatic bid by winning the Eastern College Athletic Conference ( ECAC ) championship with a 6 ? 1 conference record . The Ivy League 's automatic bid was awarded to Cornell . Cornell and Brown had identical conference records , but due to a victory by Cornell in head to head competition earlier in the season the tiebreaker was given to Cornell .

The Atlantic Coast Conference ( ACC ) conference tournament champion was Duke . However , the ACC does not receive an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament because a conference must have at least six members competing ( for 2 years ) in order to be awarded an automatic bid .

The following teams were awarded at @-@ large bids by the NCAA Selection Committee : Duke ( ACC ) , Virginia ( ACC ) , Syracuse ( Independent ) , North Carolina ( ACC ) , Johns Hopkins ( Independent ) , Maryland ( ACC ) , Denver ( GWLL ) , Navy ( Patriot ) , and Ohio State ( GWLL ) .

= = Tournament bracket = =

\* = Overtime

= = Game summaries = =

= = = First Round = = =

The first round of the 2008 championship tournament saw upsets , an overtime game , and the

NCAA career points record broken .

Unseeded Ohio State bested # 8 Cornell 15 ? 7 . The opening goal of this game was scored by Ohio State goaltender Stefan Schroder , who ran the length of the field to put one past the Big Red netminder . Navy upset # 4 seeded North Carolina in Chapel Hill with a final score of 8 ? 7 on the strong play of the Midshipmen defense and the four goal effort of Tim Paul , who was honored with Nike Player of the Week honors . Notre Dame , who was hosting its first NCAA Tournament game , topped Colgate in a contest that was settled in overtime . In a victory over Loyola , Duke 's Matt Danowski broke the NCAA career points record , eclipsing Joe Vasta 's mark . Syracuse ended Canisius 's first ever appearance in the tournament early with a 20 ? 3 victory . Johns Hopkins was led by Paul Rabil 's four goals in a 10 ? 4 win over Hofstra . Virginia 's Garrett Billings third goal of the game with 6 : 50 left in the game sealed the Cavaliers win over UMBC . Maryland beat GWLL 's Denver 10 ? 7 .

= = = Quarterfinals = = =

The quarterfinals were held at two separate locations the weekend of May 17 and May 18 . On Saturday , 17 @, @ 017 people attended the quarterfinals at Navy @-@ Marine Corps Memorial Stadium . This set an attendance record for most number of people to attend the quarterfinal round of the lacrosse championships . Fans in attendance saw Johns Hopkins defeat Navy 10 ? 4 . Navy was held without a goal for both the second and third quarters . The other game played in Annapolis was Maryland versus Virginia , which went into overtime . Ben Rubeor scored the game @-@ winning goal in the extra period to send the Cavaliers to the semifinals .

On Sunday , at Cornell 's Schoellkopf Field , Syracuse defeated Notre Dame 11 ? 9 on the play of midfielder Dan Hardy who recorded four points , including three goals and the game winning score . Also , Duke routed Ohio State 21 ? 10 on the offensive efforts of Zack Greer who recorded a career @-@ high eleven points on six goals and five assists .

= = = Final Four = = =

On Saturday , May 24 , 48 @, @ 224 fans were spectators for the 2008 Division I Final Four doubleheader held at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough , Massachusetts . The first game featured Syracuse versus Virginia , and the second was a rematch of last year 's championship game between Johns Hopkins and Duke .

= = = = Syracuse vs. Virginia = = = =

In the first game of the Final Four doubleheader , Syracuse defeated Virginia 12 ? 11 in a double overtime thriller .

Virginia commanded the first half of the contest due in part to extra @-@ man opportunities resulting from penalties by Syracuse . In the second quarter , the Cavaliers went on a run of five unanswered goals and entered half @-@ time with a 6 ? 3 lead , and the game 's momentum . The game remained in Virginia 's favor through the third quarter , prior to the Orange fourth quarter comeback .

Syracuse 's Mike Leveille scored five goals , including a goal with 3 : 00 remaining in the game to send the game into overtime , and the eventual game @-@ winner in the second overtime period to propel the Orange into the Championship game . Syracuse 's come @-@ from @-@ behind victory included scoring six of the final eight goals of the contest .

Syracuse 's Junior midfielder Matt Abbott , known more for his groundball and clearing game , tallied three goals in the second half for his first career hat trick to spark to second half rally . Extra possessions earned by face @-@ off specialist Danny Brennan , including both opportunities in the overtime periods and 70 % total for the game , helped the Orange stage the comeback . While , Syracuse goalkeeper John Galloway settled down in the second half and made a number game saving stops as regulation time expired .

Virginia scoring was led by Danny Glading with three goals and one assist , while Garret Billings scored two goals . Ben Rubeor , a Tewaaraton Trophy finalist , was held to one point on an assist .

== = Johns Hopkins vs. Duke == = =

Johns Hopkins defeated Duke 10 ? 9 in the second game of the Final Four doubleheader . The heavily favored Duke team , who had beaten the Blue Jays earlier in the season 17 ? 6 , were handed only their second loss of the season .

Hopkins controlled the deliberate tempo of the game , and held a 4 ? 2 lead going into halftime . After scoring first after halftime , Hopkins saw Duke pull even with three goals in 45 seconds during the third quarter , including back @-@ to @-@ back goals just 7 seconds apart .

In fourth quarter , the speed of the game accelerated as Duke began to push offensively . Johns Hopkins goaltender Michael Gvozden was up to the task . He recorded 7 of his 17 saves in the fourth quarter , including one as time expired to seal the victory .

Hopkins was led by Senior Kevin Huntley who netted four goals in the contest .

== = Championship : Syracuse vs. Johns Hopkins == =

On Memorial Day , Monday May 26 , Syracuse defeated Johns Hopkins in the national championship game 13 ? 10 in front of 48 @,@ 970 fans at Gillette Stadium . This game set the attendance record for the NCAA lacrosse championship game and for any NCAA outdoor championship . This marks the 10th victory in a national championship game for the Syracuse program . This is John Desko 's , Syracuse 's Head coach , fourth championship in his ten @-@ year career at Syracuse .

The Orange were led by midfielder Dan Hardy with a team @-@ high three goals , fifth @-@ year Senior face @-@ off specialist Danny Brennan who scored his first career goal , and attackman Mike Leveille , the tournament 's Most Outstanding Player honoree and 2008 Tewaaraton Trophy winner , who recorded three points on one goal and two assists .

Syracuse goalkeeper John Galloway became the first true freshman goaltender in NCAA history to record 16 wins in one season , and just the fourth to win an NCAA title .

Johns Hopkins ' Paul Rabil played an outstanding game leading his team with career @-@ high six goals and one assist in the losing effort . In addition , Blue Jay netminder Michael Gvozden made 20 saves , the most saves in a Championship game since Maryland 's Brian Dougherty in 1995 .

== Record by conference ==