

Des Moines prevails

Des Moines beat the heat and the opposition on the University of Windsor athletic field at the weekend to capture the championship in the fourth annual Windsor-Detroit international invitational rugby tournament.

But the classy mid-westerners had their hands full before taking a 6-0 decision over Pittsburgh in the final game for the gleaming Oktoberfest Cup.

Des Moines achieved victory with a try and conversion with three or four minutes left in regulation time and tournament officials with their noses into the rule book to determine overtime procedures.

In semi-final play, Des Moines had blanked Blackthorn, Penn. 7-0 while Pittsburgh was deflating Michigan State 18-0. As tournament runner-up, Pittsburgh received the Ann Travis Memorial Cup. In the playoff for third spot, Michigan State stopped Blackthorn 4-0.

The tournament, which attracted 24 entries, was divided into four sections with the top club in each division following preliminary play ad ancing to semi-finals.

Second-place teams in each division qualified for consolation action. In that round, Notre Dame University blitzed Windsor Borderers 22-6 in the final after blanking Indianapolis Reds 12-0 in a semi-final test. In the other bracket, Borderers clipped Buffalo 3-0.

Notre Dame was awarded the Firemen's Cup for its consolation title, with Elyria, Ohio receiving the Albert Lawn Memorial Cup as the tournament's most sportsmanlike team.

Borderers placed sixth over-all, their best showing ever in the tournament which has grown to be the second-largest in North America. DetroitRugby Club, tournament co-hosts, finished 12th.

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