

## 2007 SWEDEN BOX LACROSSE INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The third annual Sweden Box Lacrosse tournament took place on Saturday and Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> in Stockholm, Sweden. The first year as an international tournament, the Sweden Box Lacrosse Invitational had teams from **Finland (Turku)**, **Germany (BLax)**, **Holland (Ballerup & Gladaxe)**, **Norway (Oslo)**, **USA (Rebels)** and **Sweden (Skoghall, Sunbyberg, Nordia, Soderkoping and FoC)**. The tournament had a two-division structure with a guarantee of four games for all participating teams. **Hans “Rolle” Johnson** was the organizer and the primary reason for the tournament’s success.



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The facility was a state of the art hockey arena with a sport court floor, along with regulation box goals, which were made specifically for the tournament. The concession stand and

[Hans “Rolle” Johnson and son](#) lunch area, that overlooked the playing field, was fully prepared to serve all of the players and fans. Rolle also went the extra mile by flying in officials, **Martin Ensey & Ted Polinsky** from Baltimore, Maryland. The visiting teams had various accommodations including hotels, hostels, boats, cars and some even camped out at the arena in tents. Many teams brought their own fan base. The Finish Turku team had one of the most spirited and colorful group of fans at the tournament.



Turku Fans

The games started early Saturday morning with match-ups between Division 2 teams, which included Sundbyberg, Oslo, Nordia, Skoghall Pirates, Gladaxe, and Soderkoping. By the end of the day Oslo and Sundbyberg were the top teams in their



Pavel AKA  
Johnny Knoxville

division. On Sunday it was the local Sundbyberg team that took home the Division 2 trophy.

In the Division 1 bracket, the games on Saturday started out with defending champions FoC vs. BLax. This game was a very physical and hard fought game with FoC coming out on top. The

other match up was host team Nordia A vs. Rebels. This was the first tournament Rebel had participated in since the 2005 incident at the HBA cup in Prague, where Rebel was a 3X tournament champion. Rebels came out the victor and it looked to be a head on collision with FoC and Rebels in the championship.

One of the most exciting games, that had everything you could imagine, was the game between Turku vs. Ballerup on Sunday. The game was so competitive that one player from each team had broken a hand and had to be rushed to the hospital. The crowds noise was so loud it was hard to hear the referee's whistle. Turku came out of the game with a victory and the fifth-place spot.

Sunday had two other great semi-final games that matched up local Stockholm rivals FoC vs. Nordia A. This game went down to the wire with FoC scoring the game-winning goal in the last minute to put them in the championship.

The Rebels match up against the BLax team was a lopsided battle due to the Rebels fire power, but **Marten Schnitzler** (German National Team member) from the BLax made it interesting by scoring three goals. The Championship game was set: Rebels against FoC. It was a great game with action on both ends of the floor. The Rebel goalie, **Ginny Capicchioni**, earned tournament MVP by only giving up five goals in the championship game and averaging 4.6 goals per game against her for the tournament.



[Ginny Capicchioni Tournament MVP](#)

With the Rebels offense scoring an average of 14 goals per game they were a very tough team to beat. FoC had the National Team Players like **John Sagrelius, Magnus Hall and Magnus Franzen**, but it just was not enough to match up with the Rebel team. As the Rebels hoisted the trophy, the atmosphere was buzzing about the growth of box lacrosse in Europe.



[Team Rebel Wear 2007 Tournament Champions](#)

Many of the Rebel players have had a major influence on lacrosse development through out Europe. **Joe Ondracek & Pavel Dosly**, both Czech national players, were both major components to the Rebel team's success on and off the floor. Pavel was considered to be one of the most valuable Czech players in the World Indoor Championship.

**Risto Worthington**, a Rebel player, had his own following. Being a Finish National player and coaching the Turku team in the tournament, he received many cheers from the Turku lady fans.

**Mike Lynch**, the token Canadian who was an Irish National team member in the Box World Championships, only lost an amazing two faces-offs the entire tournament.

**Dave Sturiano** has been everywhere promoting the game of lacrosse, as a past Welsh National player and a member of the USA World indoor Team was a major asset to the Rebel Team.

Another USA World Indoor Team member, **Bill Curtis**, helped in the scoring column tallying 5 goals in the final and has been involved in the development of European Lacrosse since 1995.



[Curtis, Worthington, Lynch, Mayus, Dosly & Ondracek](#)

[Devlin in Leather](#)



[Wasik and Mayus](#)

**Andrew Wasik** and **Marcus Mayus** were the New York scoring tandem, with hidden ball tricks and flashy high stepping from the left side were unstoppable. Rounding out the Rebel Team were the speedy ground ball kings **Coleman Devlin** and

**Scott Prestridge**.



Both of these players are veteran Rebel team members, who have been around the world promoting Box Lacrosse with the Rebel Wear team for many years.

Team Rebel Wear has been involved in European Lacrosse since 1996, coaching clinics and camps, helping club teams organize and run tournaments in addition to playing in international events.

The Rebel Team feels this tournament has many new possibilities for the growth of box lacrosse in developing areas. There have already been reports that many of the European countries that participated in World Indoor championship this spring are considering sending teams to this event next year.

Downtown Stockholm Sweden

Many thanks to Rolle Johnson and all of the organizers that made it possible, along with the participating teams and fans that traveled near and far to make it such a memorable event.

