

Semi-Final Drama



Team Australia rush the field. Photo by Deepthi Indukuri

Bluebottle Surprise

The story of the day has to be all American teams making the finals in their respective divisions. Great Britain pushed USA in the open semi-final to 15-12, and the home team will be gutted not to have made more of their matchup given another early deficit of 5-1. With a turning point of the game at 10-8, GB had the disc to score and stay within one, but USA took control after getting to 11-8. Apart from the slow early points, Britain represented with pride as they completed stunning plays both vertically and horizontally to the end of the game. Rollo Sax Dixon and Declan Cartwright were particularly powerful on defense as this GB team showed that whilst they couldn't get the better of the Americans this time, they more than matched them physically. USA held their cool even at close scorelines, and looked as professional as ever. Going into the final, they face a Canadian side that was firing on all cylinders as they breezed past Japan 16-9 in the other semi-final.

Unlike yesterday however the best games didn't come from the Open division. The Japanese Women beat Canada 13-10, after Canada had brought the game back to 10-10 from a 6-2 deficit. In a game with wild swings of momentum, Japan had clearly adapted from the previous matchup between these teams, and were able to string three straight points together to come out on top. The tense final stage of this game saw excellent tight handler play from both offense and defence of both teams, and a deserved winner in Japan who hold the seed, but take the win in what remains an upset against a strong Canadian side. Australia ran close with USA in the opening points of their semi-final, but conceded six consecutive points after 3-3 to go down 9-3 at half. Both teams had top talent on display, but USA confirmed themselves as some of the best athletes and most skilled players of the tournament as they completed yet another clean victory, winning 17-7 on their way to the final. The champagne victory of the day however goes to Australia Mixed, who beat Canada in sudden death after taking and only just holding an early lead against a side that had beaten them 17-9 in pool play. Having only just squeezed into the knockout stages, the cheers from this shock win spread far outside the showpitch as the Bluebottles won Australia their first Under 23 finals berth since the Women's gold in 2010.

Great Britain Mixed came back from yesterday's traumatic exit from the top four with an emphatic comeback against Chinese Taipei to provide one of the most exciting games of the day. Down 12-8, the mixed squad completed one of the tournament's

longer comebacks to win 13-12. Joe Wynder's two layout blocks to prevent goals (including what would have been Taipei's winning point) and huck for the win were overshadowed only by this team's spirit as they rallied together once again for the sudden death win. Going on to beat South Africa, Great Britain took fifth to end their tumultuous tournament on a high.

With Canada having taken a commanding victory over Germany for bronze with a 16-9 victory this evening, five medal games remain. Great Britain and Japan Open meet in a rematch of the 5v6 game in Toronto, but this time play for a bronze medal. The 2013 matchup saw a 17-16 comeback win for Great Britain, and results from this tournament as well as the high stakes suggest this game could be just as exciting. The biggest home crowd yet will be out in full support. In the women's division Australia and Canada will be battling hard to bring home a second piece of silverware for their country.

Three American teams, one Canadian, one Australian, and one Japanese team make up the finals. Apart from a half lost to Great Britain in pool play (which was answered by 9 straight points and the victory), the USA Mixed squad have been unscathed so far. Australia reached the top four on points difference, but will seriously approach the Americans with the intent of an upset. Their unrelentingly aggressive style can be high risk, but equally difficult to overcome when it clicks and whilst USA will be prepared, no team will escape the nerves that come with finals day. Canada Open have featured in every Under 23 final, but haven't yet beat USA who won their debut in 2013. With Canada being one of the only top teams to not have played USA so far, both teams will be salivating at the opportunity to crown themselves winners of what has been a fantastically close Open division. The USA Women have already enjoyed a victory over their final matchup earlier in pool play, but Japan have shown that they can learn from earlier losses. After USA beat Japan 16-14 in the Toronto final, the stage is set for a fantastic day of finals.

By Josh Coxon Kelly

Finals Day Schedule

Bronze Medal Games

9:30 Japan v Great Britain [Open] Pitch 10
9:30 Canada v Australia [Women's] Pitch 12

Finals - Arena

11:00 USA v Australia [Mixed]
13:30 USA v Japan [Women's]
16:00 USA v Canada [Open]



Photo by Deepthi Indukuri

Useful Information

- Please can all teams use toilets rather than trees and bushes around the site!
- Players must have their accreditation to get in the grandstand tomorrow
- No glass bottles on site

Player Profile

Name: Levin Sommer
Age: 22

Team: Swiss under 23 Open and Bern Panthers

Sickest thing you've done: I've had a couple of layout Ds, they were pretty cool

Best Ultimate achievement: We've won the National championships twice in a row with my mixed team

Sexiest kit at the tournament: The Swiss of course. Otherwise the Colombian shirts are cool

Pump up tune: Wrecking Ball by Miley Cyrus - for sure

If you had to play for another team who would it be: Spain. They seem like a bunch of nice guys

Best thing about the UK so far: I like that it was sunny on Thursday

Frisbee idol: Our player Eric Schaer, who is injured and isn't here in London

Anything else: I want to say hi to my mom, "Hi Mom," and hi to my dad, "Hi Dad"



Levin Sommer. Photo by Claire Baker