

Daily Newsletter



Mexico and the Netherlands enjoying the parade. Photo by Claire Baker.

Team USA Start Strong

With players from 21 countries making up 43 teams across 3 divisions paraded into the arena, (and not forgetting a look at future stars of ultimate from local schools), the stadium heard opening speeches from UKU and Tournament Director Simon Hill, Rob 'Nob' Rauch (WFDF President) and IOC representative Christian Wassmer. The 2015 World Ultimate Under 23 Championships began with Great Britain vs. USA in the first game of the Open division.

With Great Britain quickly falling 5-0 down, the team and crowd seemed filled with nerves as the opening game threatened to fizzle out the excitement and tension that had been growing to a peak all day. A confident USA were calmly shepherding GB onto the difficult downwind sideline, yet were holding the lion's share of the pitch when they had the disc. With the stands packed, nerves eased for spectators and players alike as the home team came alive and the game became more evenly matched. The crowd were well entertained with a high number of errors as one-handed drops and bobbled goals on both sides saw plenty of possession changes. The Brits soon started to smarten up, mounting a riotous comeback as the crowd saw plenty of foul calls, four first-pass turnovers in a row, and GB's Will Rowledge announcing himself on the international scene with goals, blocks and multiple skies. The atmosphere lifted,

and jolted the teams and the crowd into life. At 9-8 USA, GB found their hands on the disc in the upwind endzone, but like so many of the scores in this game they couldn't hold on as they turned over and missed the opportunity to draw even.

With USA now recovering some of their early game confidence, both teams battled but the Americans rose above with three of their own breaks to restore their lead. Dalton Smith lead the charge with defensive bids, and once again GB looked penned in as USA moved with ease. The final scoreline of 14-10 discloses neither the closeness of the middle section of the game nor the sheer number of crowd pleasing moments of the game, whether spectacular athletic plays or surprising drops, of which there were plenty of both.

With the first game done eyes turn to the many excitements that the week holds. With 8 debut U23 entries, the Netherlands, Denmark, Poland, Spain, (all OPN) South Africa, India (MIX) Phillipines (OPN and MIX) and Sweden (WMN), all step up to the challenge in this rapidly growing tournament.

By Josh Coxon Kelly, Charlie Blair and Sean Colfer

Today's Schedule

Monday

Pitch	1	2	3	4 / Arena	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Pitch
09:30 11:10			JPN v NZL Open	NED v DEN Open		PHI v BEL Open		MEX v ESP Open		USA v NZL Women				USA v TPE Mixed	IRL v GER Mixed	GBR v IND Mixed	09:30 11:10
11:30 13:10	USA v COL Open	CAN v POL Open			COL v GER Women		GER v SUI Open		JPN v SWE Women		GBR v AUS Women	AUS v IRL Open	AUS v PHI Mixed		JPN v RSA Mixed	CAN v COL Mixed	11:30 13:10
13:30 15:10		GBR v NED Open	NZL v SWE Open	ITA v MEX Open			AUT v PHI Open			CAN v NZL Women			GER v TPE Mixed	USA v IND Mixed			13:30 15:10
15:30 17:10	COL v GER Open		CAN v JPN Open	USA v JPN Women	IRL v GBR Mixed		IRL v BEL Open		AUS v SWE Women		GER v GBR Women	SUI v ESP Open		CAN v PHI Mixed	JPN v COL Mixed	AUS v RSA Mixed	15:30 17:10
17:30 19:10		SWE v POL Open			AUS v AUT Open			GER v ITA Open		CAN v COL Women							17:30 19:10



Photo by Christine Rushworth

Player Profile

Name: William Rowledge

Number: 11

Team: GB Open

Frisbee Idol: Sam Bowen

Sexiest kit at the tournament: GB

Worst punishment from your coach: Press-ups for wearing tank tops

If you weren't representing GB, you would want to play for: USA

Top tips for winning: BID!

Your sickest on pitch move: Skying the USA captain and throwing the hammer assist (he "doesn't throw hammers")

Useful Information

Wifi codes will be available tomorrow - go to the information reception desk for a code

Tickets for the party are available online - £8

Please remember to keep off the Watford training pitch!

The whole site is non-smoking, including the bushes

Bins are provided - help the site stay litter clean

The bus stop at Hertfordshire University has moved. Check online for full details



William Rowledge: GB Open