



The London Stonewall (top) won their second consecutive IGLFA title, held in Washington, DC in June.

London, Seattle take World Cup soccer titles

IGLFA WORLD CUP RESULTS

DIVISION 1

Gold: London Stonewall

Silver: United FC

Bronze: San Diego Sparks

4th Place: Federal Triangles Soccer Club Spin

DIVISION 2

Gold: Seattle Jet City Strikers

Silver: West Hollywood

Bronze: Sydney Rangers

4th Place: San Francisco Strikers Two

THE WASHINGTON DC SPORTS COMMUNITY HAS BEEN ON A ROLL for over a year now. Last summer it was host to the International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics Championships, and later this summer the city welcomes gay flag football teams for the Gay Superbowl IX. The most recent success for the community, however, was hosting 30 gay soccer teams from around the globe for the International Gay & Lesbian Football Association World Championships June 14-21.

The London Stonewall Lions defended their 2008 title in Division 1 by blanking the United FC team in the championship game, 1-0. In Division 2, the Seattle Jet City Strikers won their first title by defeating West Hollywood, 3-1.

For the hometown Federal Triangles of DC, the semi-finals were the best they would do — they fell short against United FC — but the satisfaction of producing a stellar week of competition and events was a victory in itself.

"I thought things went exceptionally well," said tournament director Jim Ensor, who added that the feedback they received indicated the players and teams in attendance were more than satisfied.

"Everything I heard from people was that it was one of the best — if not the best — IGLFA tournaments they've been to."

According to Ensor "good sportsmanship was the key" to this tournament from the beginning. Even with one player suffering a broken leg and a number of other injuries, he believes there were probably fewer cards handed out by referees in this World Cup than in any other year.

Despite only four women's teams participating in an exhibition, the World Cup organizers made a commitment to serving the needs of all players. That was the mindset from the beginning, said Ensor. The organizing committee ensured that all the necessary fields were close together, so teams and players (men and women) could play nearby and socialize together. With the start of the weeklong event coinciding with the DC Pride Festival, there were plenty of opportunities for players to party. And throughout the week, the Federal Triangles had planned other evening socials and ensured that all teams had Wednesday off to be tourists.

With all these championship events finding their way to DC, it's no wonder the city's gay sports community is bidding on a future Gay Games. Currently, they are in a battle with Boston and Cleveland for the rights to host the 2014 Games.

"I think the infrastructure is there," Ensor said of DC's ability to host these types of large-scale events. "Between the park, university systems and private health systems ... and the Metro and three airports, it's all here."

Nonetheless, he quickly pointed to the hard work and tenacity of the local community as a reason for the city becoming a major gay sports destination.

"The local gay sports clubs are so well organized. There's so much volunteer support in the city, it allows us to host and throw these big events."