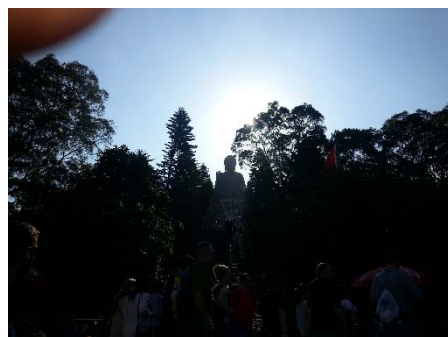


TEAM USA WINS GOLD AT HONG KONG TOURNAMENT CLASSIC

Team USA won the gold medal at the Hong Kong Asian Cup Classic. The tournament began on Nov. 26 and lasted until Nov. 30 when the medal games were played.

Team USA arrived in Hong Kong on Sat. Nov.22 & Sun. Nov. 23 and immediately began taking in the city and experiencing the Hong Kong flavor. The first day the team went to the street markets where everything sold was a discount, a bartering discount for fake copy items such as Rolex watches, fake jewelry etc. but the team had fun negotiating with these masters of the bidding process.

After a team dinner, the time change and jet lag were taking its toll, we called it a night. On Monday the team took the trip to the Buddha by way of the sky tram along a 20 minute ride over the hills and river taking in a beautiful view of Hong Kong & Hong Kong Island. The amount of construction going on in Hong Kong was overwhelming, apartment towers 40 floors high, 5,000 people living in the complex or more was amazing how they place all these people, it makes you appreciate what we have here in the USA. Once reaching the Buddha and climbing the stairs to the top, you get to appreciate this wonder, its construction and what it means to the people of China.



That night the team was treated to a boat ride to Lemme Island where we feasted on a 7 course authentic seafood dinner at the Rainbow Seafood Restaurant, the staff was ready to feed everyone, players, parents, families that came along. This

was an outstanding meal and was a highlight of the trip and then we took the



boat back to Hong Kong and walk around taking in the sights.

On Wednesday, was a rest day until we started the tournament that afternoon.

Team USA was the first off for the tournament and we face the returning champion of the tournament ZINGHAT from Beijing and we started out slow, and before we knew it, it was 3-0 at the end of the first period. After some changes in our play and some strict advice Team USA came back and scored 3 goals to tie it up and then it was a back and forth game. But at the end we lost 5-4. Nate Somerville, assisted by Katie Fischer scored the first & Chuck Baldwin scored 3 assisted by David Baldwin. Goal tenders this game were Carl Weedman & Chase Cortez. Goal tending was handled by Carl Weedman & our 15 year old Chase Cortez.

The second game that day was different. We played XPAT. We learned how they play and made some line changes and came out at the drop of the puck the Baldwin Brothers, Chuck & David Baldwin became scoring machines and scored 3 each, Jack Mali scored 1, Goals were assisted by Nate Somerville, Jack Mali & the Baldwin's. Goal tenders this game were Chase Cortez & Carl Weedman. Team USA wins 7-3. We stayed with our net minders and they were determined to make up for game one, Chase Cortez was outstanding between the pipes and rock solid Carl Weedman closed the game down for the win.

On Thursday, the third game we face another team from Sweden and we stayed with our game plan and continue to move forward scoring 6 goals & giving up 2 and getting more proficient with our shots and back checking. Everyone was

starting to get in their groove and the level of play kept rising to where the others teams were now having trouble defending their net. Katie Fischer & Kayla De Vault teamed up to become an offensive duo as well as showing the other teams that women can play this game. Melanie Moore presence out on the court and her defensive minded forward strengthened our back check to allow players to move in and out. This game, Chuck Baldwin scored 2, David Baldwin scored 1, Adam Steel scored 1, Jack Mali scored 1 & Nate Somerville scored 1. Team USA wins 6-2. Goal tenders were Chase Cortez & Carl Weedman.

Our Second game against HONG KONG was different since we played them the day before and they changed up their lines to hopefully to revenge the 7-23 loss but TEAM USA dug in again and handed the XPATS another defeat 6-3. The shots were a lot closer this game 18-17 and we had to change up our lines a little to combat the rush that the XPATS were throwing at us. Everyone contributed in this game. Our 14 year old forward Dan Walton doubled up 2 assists this game along with David Baldwin & Jack Mali. Goals scored by Chuck Baldwin -2, David Baldwin -1, Nate Somerville-1, Jack mali-1. Goal tending today was completed by Chase Cortez.

On Friday against Sweden, we decided to change things up a little and replaced our young goalie Chase Cortez with a seasoned goalie Sarah Calabria to team with Carl Weedman to anchor our ongoing win streak and to not lose ground that we gained. Were to face off again against an older, stronger Swiss team who needed a win badly to stay in the medal rounds. This game became all speed & skill. The Euros are always great competitors and they threw everything they had at us to win but our goal tenders kept the net hard to hit but the Swiss managed to score 4 goals and TEAM USA had to play catch up to score 4 goals to tie the game. Tie game 4-4. David Baldwin scored 2 & Jack Mali scored 2, assist were by Chuck Baldwin, Adam Steele, & Nate Somerville.

Friday evening, in our final prelim round we faced the returning champs and the team we lost to in the opener, China from Beijing. Pre-game discussion was they got us the first not the second and TEAM USA answered the call and came out skating, they couldn't keep up with our speed and the team handled them, back

and forth, up & down and when the moment was right, we scored, not once or twice 4 times and giving up only 1 goal. Carl Weedman took care of the goal tending this game and our forward and Defense kept the shots down. Chuck Baldwin found his stick this game after a lack luster previous game and scored the hat trick along with Jack Mali for an insurance goal. We moved Katie Fischer back to Defense with Charlie Friend, John Wilshire to close the door on the net and they stepped up to allow our scorers to their job. Melanie Moore & Kayla DE Vault who were able to give support to the lines and in the end we redeemed ourselves with the win against the defending champions.

Saturday, Semi Final round and were facing HONG KONG, this was not the time to be nice to our host and we took the game to them. With Sarah Calabria in net along with Carl Weedman they were able to hold the Hong Kong team to 4 goals while they couldn't stop TEAM USA from scoring 6 Chuck Baldwin -3, David Baldwin -2 & Melanie Moore scored 1 on a pass from Adam Steel to setup a beautiful wrist shot into the net. Kayla DE Vault, John Wilshire, Charlie Friend all assisted in the goals scored. TEAM USA WINS 6-4 and on to the GOLD MEDAL GAME.

After the semifinal we played an exhibition game against the Men's Australian team for fun and we traded goalies while Chase Cortez defended the net for TEAM USA. We had fun for everyone and the crowd also enjoyed the really fun play by everyone.

Sunday, Gold Medal day, everyone slept in and we had a team lunch before heading to the arena. Emotions were high because we were facing the Defending Champs again with a split 1-1 win between us and the Gold Medal on the line TEAM USA together as a team decided to go for the medal and do what it takes to win. Carl Weedman & Sarah Calabria were handling the net and the rest of the team was focusing on the win. At the drop of the puck, China came at us hard and the game again became a back & forth, up & down game. Chuck Baldwin stepped up his game to score 3 assisted by Nate Somerville, David Baldwin & Jack Mali. David Baldwin not to be undone by his brother scored two goals assisted by Nate

Sommerville & Chuck Baldwin and Melanie Moore assisted by Adam Steel scored the closing goal to a 6-4 win by TEAM USA to WIN the GOLD MEDAL.

Everyone played in this game and contributed to the team win and the joyous celebration that followed. All the visiting delegations wanted to take pictures with the new champs Team USA and of course we obliged. Players traded momentums with each other and created a new friendship other countries from the Far East. Not only was this trip about Inline Hockey, it was about unknown players getting together under one banner, putting their talents together on the line and showing that TEAM USA can play anywhere on the talent that we have. The sightseeing was fantastic from the “the GREAT BUDDAH” to the Cuisine that Hong Kong offers. This was a great opportunity and I am proud to have been a part of it. I want to thank Jeff Weedman, my assistant coach and friend for his hospitality in Hong Kong, his sightseeing planning and his advice on the bench.



TEAM USA PLAYERS-HONG KONG ASIAN CUP-2014

Chuck Baldwin, David Baldwin, Sarah Calabria, Kayla De Vault, Katie Fischer, Charlie Friend, Jack Mali, Melanie Moore, Nate Sommerville, Adam Steele, Dan Walton, John Wilshire, Chase Cortez, Carl Weedman