

680 Water Polo - Review of the Speedo Cup Adventure



We flew out together from SFO to Detroit on Thursday, Nov. 6th.

Friday's Action: Our first game was against a very tough opponent, Glendale-CA. We were down 3 to 1 early in the first quarter, but we stormed back to take control of the game and finished on top 13 to 7. Our 2nd game was against home team, Ann Arbor. Both teams had a lot of fun in this game especially since it was being played at 9pm. We ended up winning 20 to 3.

Saturday's Action: After winning our bracket (D), we entered Saturday having to play San Diego and Orange County from bracket A. In our first game against San Diego, both teams came out strong and the score was 680 - 2 San Diego - 1 after the first quarter. The 680 defense and counter picked up from there and ended up pulling away with a final score of 10 to 2. With the win, we were automatically in the semi-finals. In our 2nd game, we met Orange County for the first time of the tournament. Unfortunately, the OC counter proved very effective against 680, OC 10 - 680 3.

Sundays' Action: Due to our loss vs. OC, we came in as the 2nd seed from our bracket and we faced a very familiar opponent, Lamorinda, who had done an excellent job of winning their side of the bracket and coming into the semis as the #1 seed on their side of the bracket. Both teams came out strong and the game was well played on both sides. We took a 5 to 1 lead half way through the 2nd, but Lamorinda came back and made it a

very exciting game to the end. With very solid defense and ball control offense in the 4th, we were able to prevail 8 to 6 and move into the finals vs. OC again. We were very excited to make the finals and get a second chance vs. OC. Before the game, both finalists' teams were announced to the packed natatorium and the mood was electric. We came out tough, but a couple of turnovers led to some quick goals by OC. We battled them the whole way, but we came up a little short in a 10 to 2 loss. We were very proud to represent the Pacific Zone and bring home Silver Medals. We are also very proud of the fact that 2 NorCal Teams (680 and Lamorinda) finished in the top 4 at the National Speedo Cup. It says a lot about the Pacific Zone and the great improvement our Zone has made over the years at the age group level.



Some of the non-water polo highlights of the trip:

1. A snowball fight on Sunday Night at the hotel
2. Pinball Pete's
3. A tour of the campus by one of our former players
4. The general camaraderie of being together
5. And of course, bringing home the Silver Medals.

All in all, the 08 Speedo Cup was an excellent experience for all of our players, parents, and coaches both in and out of the pool. The University of Michigan and the town of Ann Arbor are a very beautiful and fun place to visit.