



# SEPAK TAKRAW ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

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## 2005 CENTENNIAL CUP SEPAK TAKRAW CHAMPIONSHIPS Regina, SK, August 1 – 6, 2005



A tremendous “thank you” goes out to the **Department of Canadian Heritage** for their support through the Saskatchewan Centennial Grant that enabled Takraw Canada to host this very exciting event.

During the first three days, 8 Junior (under 21) Men’s and Women’s regus from ON & SK competed in a round robin style tournament, along with exhibition matches twice a day between Senior Men’s regus from Canada and Japan! Senior Men’s regus competed, as did International guest teams from USA and Japan, in another round robin tournament during the last three days. This added a great deal of excitement and inspiration to the event, and it gave the youth teams new goals to work towards as they observed live, close-up matches played at a more advanced level. There were also cultural performances each night to celebrate the diversity of Saskatchewan and Canada as a whole. A Lao-Thai food vendor was also set up throughout the event offering tantalizing delicacies.

**Junior Men:** It was Regina’s Decepticons that won Gold in a very exciting tie-break final match against Ontario’s St. Angela Merici, who took silver and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Regina regu, TKO from the Rainbow Youth Centre, went home with bronze. What made the final so exciting was that the Decepticons (18 & 19 year olds) sailed through the round robin without losing even a single set and were heavy favorites going into the final. St. Angela Merici, though talented 13 and 14 year olds, were definite underdogs. The Decepticons, after winning the first set 21-17, started

having major problems with consistency and lost the 2<sup>nd</sup> set 11-21 ... Ontario's regu also having made a wise substitution at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> set. In the tie break set the Decepticons came out strong early, but then again started having problems with consistency and Ontario was catching up fast. However, with the score 13-14, it was a bad serve by St. Angela Merici that sealed their fate, the Decepticons then winning 15-13. 'Hats off' to the young Ontario regu that came so close to creating a huge upset!

**Junior Women:** In the Junior Women's division, it was the semi-final between Ontario's Notre Dame and Regina's Crouching Dragon Spiking Tiger that proved to be the nail biter. After losing the first very close set 18-21, Ontario's girls came back extremely strong to win the 2<sup>nd</sup> set handily 21-8 and force the tie break. It looked like they were on top of their game, but they seemed to break under the pressure quickly in the tie break, losing 3-21, and settling for the bronze after being marginal favorites going into the finals. A great group with lots of spirit, we hope to see the Ontario regus back in 2006! Crouching Dragon Spiking Tiger then played a 2<sup>nd</sup> Regina regu, the Pink Panthers, in the final. It wasn't nearly as inspiring of a match as the semi-final, with the Pink Panthers taking gold after winning two straight sets 21-11 and 21-17.

**Senior Men (Canadian) & International Men:** In the Senior Men's division, Saskatchewan & Manitoba were represented (after ON dropped out) with 5 regus. Most of the matches were quite even, making it an exciting tournament ... but not without incidents. One of Saskatoon Lightning's players went down with a serious leg injury and could not continue to play, which weakened their chances in the finals, losing to Regina Riot, who took bronze. Winnipeg 1 went home with silver and Saskatoon Legends earned gold after the decisive 21-16, 21-12 victory over Winnipeg in the final.

**International Men:** Japan and USA played all the Canadian regus for fun, just exhibition games for them, but they also played against each other in a best of 5 match series to decide who would prevail in the international division. Due to the acrobatics of the spiking & blocking and the precision of the serving & setting, these matches were definitely huge crowd pleasers! It was USA that dominated, however, winning the series in 3 straight matches.

The only real disappointment in the whole event was the lower number of spectators that turned out compared to what was estimated there might be. The facility, though perfect for the event, was in a parking lot away from all the other Buffalo Days attractions, so people had to go out of their way to check it out ... and as we discovered, most people had had enough by the time they got through the other attractions to make the effort to go out of their way and see Sepak Takraw. Still, between the tournament and the outdoor events going on in Centennial Park, another area of the Exhibition Grounds, there were an estimated 4200 people who saw the sport. Altogether 15 regus took part in the tournaments, representing 3 Canadian provinces and 3 countries.

Of course an event like this does not take place without much work, preparation, volunteers and sponsorship support. **THANK YOU TO OUR 100 PLUS VOLUNTEERS AND ENTERTAINERS.**

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & PARTNERSHIPS FOR YOU IN-KIND AND CASH SUPPORT:**

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**Celebration of Cultures:**



**Junior Women's & Junior Men's Tournament:**



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