

Munich Alpine Cup August 2007

Thank you and congratulations to all who participated in the 3rd Bavarian Open Touch Rugby Tournament held in Munich on the weekend.

Results

Vienna came 5th out of 8 teams (lost 2, won 2), and many Vienna players helped Colonge get to 3rd place - so that is a result we should all be proud of!

Vienna 2, Munich-A 3

Vienna 10, Prague 3 (They lost 4 points coz they only had 2 girls)

Vienna 2, Frankfurt 5

Vienna 6, Munich-B 2

(I'm pretty sure of these scores....might have a few tries missing somewhere..)

It should be noted that the 2 teams we lost against were the 2 teams in the Tournament final (1st and 2nd place), so we had a pretty hard pool to play in.

Viennas first game was against the eventual Tournament winners, Munich-A, when we only lost by one point - they got an easy try when some of us stopped playing when they heard the half-time hooter, when we should have stopped playing only when the referee blew his whistle and a Munich player just kept running through everyone and scored. I thought that was our best game because of the way we surprised the best team of the Tournament and did most of the basics correctly. We actually had them under pressure and defending for much of the game. Our subbing was really great and so was our driving striaght up the field and to the sub box...well done! Doing these 2 fundamentals at a Tournament so well is something you can be proud of, considering many of you are new to Touch. Doug scored an awesome diving try I think (and we have a photo of it which I'll put on the website soon).

Next game was against Prague, who were penalised 4 points because they could not field a full team of 3 girls on the field at all times. They were quick these guys, but often offside and we outscored them a few times by playing quick ball against them. Esther scored a try in this game - first Austrian girl in history to score a try in a Touch Rugby Tournament :)

Next up was Frankfurt, who had 8 players in the German National teams and they were damn good. Unfortunately in this game our defence was quite terrible and we lost our mojo a bit, so they ripped us apart with thier 'scooping" and fast play. However, the best try of the Vienna games was made right as the half-time hooter went, when the ball was passed between I think every player in the Vienna team, reaching Tracy, who caught a difficult pass, then looped a pass over to Matty who scored in the corner...awesome.

Viennas last game was playoff for 5th /6th place against Munich-B. We basically just ran around these guys as thier defence was terrible. Johannes got 2 excellent tries I think in this game...we have a picture of him smiling as he is sprinting to the line for his first try...And Christian was so close to scoring a try....

Colonge Team:

Special mention goes to Tracy, Eva, Deni, Marco, Hans, Roland, Thomas (Step), Mark the Kiwi (and Roman I think..) for playing for Colonge and a few other teams (did I leave anyone out?). The Colonge team had some of the best players in the Tournament (Dave the Sth African from Colonge got player of the Tournament) and with the help of some of our Vienna players, they came 3rd. In fact Dave thanked the Vienna players and actually gave the 3rd place Trophy to (Eva I think) as a thank-you gesture. This showed a great spirit from both you Vienna players and from the Colonge team and underscores the good sportsmanship and spirit in which Touch Rugby should be played. I promised everyone that they would get at least one game for Vienna, and most of you did. However Roland, Marco and Thomas(Step) played all their games for Colonge and when given the option to play for Vienna, they chose to play with Colonge, so on thanks again for showing great sportsmanship.

We were the 2nd biggest team there (22 players) and we got a special thanks from the Tournament organisers for sharing our players, we did so more than anyone else, and we helped the Tournament to be a success by doing so.

I hope those Vienna players who played for Colonge can teach us what they learnt by playing with that team. I think everybody had at least 3 games (I played 3 games), and some of you I know played 5! For the next Munich based Tournament I hope we can send 2 Vienna teams! (and yes in 2008 we will have a Tournament in Vienna)...

Vienna Player of the Tournament:

Well Doug was again a try-scoring machine, Rose had all the other teams asking who she was coz she was so good, Esther was also great and scored, but I would like to give it to the Vienna girls for being so numerous and playing so well (and according to the after-match drinking Jury and Deni - for being also the best looking girls in the Tournament ;-)

Special Thanks:

Deni: For being the Jury delegate (i.e. guy who nominates Vienna team members for the drinking games)

Thomas (Step): For giving us a full numbered uniform (Shirts, Shorts, socks) to play in on the morning of the Tournament (because ours had not been delivered yet) - that was a big effort mate, huge thanks. It made our team photos look good too!

Matt: For being Team Captain

All the Drivers: Marco, Dan, Matt, Renee, Marek for driving us all there and back.

Micheal: For warm-ups and downs.

One thing of note is that we were commented on by Tournament organisers and a few others, that we had a lot of Austrians in our team. If you met the other teams, many of them were made up mainly of ex-pats (English, Kiwis, Aussies, Sth Africans etc etc), so

that something all you Austrian team members should be proud of.

Organisation:

Thanks to all for helping me by being co-operative and not complaining too much. Only 2 people were a pain in the .com and this was over food and accomodation, so thankfully it didnt affect our games. Next time I will be definately asking for volunteers to help me organise everything so things run smoother. But all in all it went OK I think and nobody got lost, injured or too sober.

Referees:

The reffing of our games was OK. However, there was a lot of talking back to the referee and we can work on this. We can also learn to play to the whistle - meaning dont stop until you hear the whistle blown. We will try to teach this at training. I reffed 3 games and I made a few errors as I am inexperienced but I completely ignored arguments and complaints by the teams, as instructed in the refs meeting at the start of the day. Talking back to the Ref gets you absolutely nowhere. Referees are in great shortage, please if anybody wants to try it, let me know. Austria needs to provide referees to be able to participate in more Tournaments in the future.

Be proud of Esther:

As some of you heard, our own Esther Mandl is representing Austria in a Mainland Europe mixed Touch team over 3 September weekends in Paris, Scotland and Brussels in an all-expenses (flights/hotels uniforms etc) paid Tournament against Northern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere Ex-Pat Touch Rugby teams. This is a big deal because it is the first time real money is being put into Touch Rugby development in Europe. So the sport is growing in this part of the world and you are all part of it. Sascha was also chosen but unfortunately could not attend due to his injury.

Lessons from the Tournament Games:

Subbing and Driving is going OK, lets keep it up until it is automatic. These are basics that NEED to be in place first. Our defence is still not sliding/driftng. People are still turning around when retreating on defence, you must run backwards.... remember the Frankfurt game? We need to learn how to attack a good defensive team when close to the try line. We know how to attack a bad defensive team - just run around them like we did to Munich B, and like Frankfurt did to us. We will learn dump and scooting and practice more wrapping and switch passes.