

The Semi-final Round (Day 6, Thursday, Aug.11) began with the 2 girls' games.

In the first, #2 ranked USA took on #3 ranked BRA. The underdogs from BRA jumped out to a 3 -1 lead at the end of the first period, all on natural goals. In the second period, U SA cut the deficit to one goal and BRA took a 5-4 lead into the second half. In the 3rd quarter, the roles were reversed and, scoring 3 unanswered goals, USA ended the quarter with a 7 -5 lead. Each team scored 3 times in the final period and the game ended with a score of 10-8 in favour of USA. Mirella Coutinho scored 4 goals for the losing BRA team while Devin Grab and Haley Wan each scored 3 times for USA. [Referees: Cote (COL), Hackshaw (TRI)]

The second semi-final saw #1 ranked CAN play #4 PUR. CAN took a slim 2-1 lead into the 2nd quarter but there were to be no upsets here as the more experienced CAN team took control of the game in the second period to take a lead at the half of 8 -1. The score at the end of 3 periods was CAN 11, PUR3 and the game ended with CAN defeating PUR by a score of 15 -5. PUR was led with 3 goals from Francis Raquel Del Valle while Samantha Banks and Gurprecht Sohi led CAN, also with 3 goals. [Referees: Alonso (DOM), Smith (TRI)].

This set the table for the medal games on Friday: #1 CAN playing #2 USA for gold and #3 BRA playing #4 PUR for the bronze.

The men's session began with a game between #6 PUR and #7 PER. The winner would get a chance to play #5 CAN on Saturday, with Saturday's winner filling the last qualifying spot from the Americas for the next Junior World Championships in Australia in December 2012. The favoured team, PUR, got off to a good start taking a 2-1 lead at the end of the first quarter. They extended their lead to 4 -1 by half time. PUR scored 2 goals in the 3rd period before PER notched their second and the third quarter ended PUR 6, PER 2. Another 7 goals were scored in the 4th quarter and PER continued to try to recover but the game ended PUR 10, PER 5. Elerick Curet, Ian Solano and Fernando Zaya s each scored twice for PUR while Bruce Espinoza contributed 2 to the losing PER cause. [Referees: Florestano (BRA), Navarro (USA)].

In the first semi-final, #2 COL took on #3 USA. USA took a 3 -0 lead at the end of the first quarter and looked to be on their way to avenging their round robin defeat at the hands of COL. The lead was 5 -2 at halftime and USA extended it to 7 -2 at the end of the 3rd quarter. Playing a very defensive style, USA protected its lead and the game ended without any scoring during that last 9 ½ minutes. The strategic controlled offensive game with a concentration on defence allowed USA to defeat COL and reverse the round robin game. COL could not get its 'power centre forward' game going. Ben Hallock scored twice for USA while Juan Hernandez and Glicerio Vergara scored the only COL goals. [Referees: Del Valle (PUR), Painchaud (CAN)]

The second semi-final had #1 BRA playing the surprising #4 team from TRI. TRI led 2 -1 with 6 minutes gone in the first period but at quarter time the score was tied 2-2. BRA pulled away in the second quarter, outscoring TRI 5-1. The stronger BRA team extended the lead to 11 -3 after 3 quarters winning the game, and a match against USA, by a score of 13 -5. In contrast to the preceding game, both teams continued to play their styles, BRA swimming and passing based and TRI possession and control based with a concentration on defence, and tried to score until the end. Russell Ferreira scored 2 times for TRI

while Gustavo Guinaraes led BRA, as he had all tournament, with 6 goals. [Referees: Castillo (PUR), Murray (CAN)].

The results set up the games for Friday, the final day of competition. #5 CAN will play the host #6 PUR team for the final berth for next year's World Championships. BRA and USA will play for the gold and COL and TRI will battle for bronze.