

Illinois Indoor Guts Frisbee Open

The Boomtown Saints marched into Plainfield, Illinois over the weekend of April 4-5 and won a second straight Illinois Indoor Guts Frisbee Open. Ridin' High, featuring tournament MVP Bill Gagnon, played a long road of comeback Guts to reach the finals, only to fall to the Saints by 21-16 and a nail-biting 21-19 to wrap up the 2009 event.

Boomtown's firepower was led by Ryan Scott whose blistering backhand was good for repeated points. However, an impenetrable defense was the key to the Saint's victory. Too many of Ridin' High's best shots in the final match were either bagged outright or tipped at the line, upped several times, and then cradled by Ryan. The other defensive standouts included team captain Mark Banghart as well as Danny Banghart, Jeff Banghart, Joe O'Connor and Greg Ferrini. Special mention goes to Danny Banghart. His shot variety and quick hands on "D" were good for third place in the MVP selection. The bad news for the rest of the field? With the caliber of play seen in Illinois, Boomtown is going to be tough to beat this season.



In one of the weekend's toughest campaigns, Ridin' High fought its way to the finals after being dropped into the loser's bracket by way of a 2 games to 1 loss to Boomtown in Sunday's first set. In loser's bracket play Ridin' High defeated Plactose Intolerant 21-13, and then took care of the Appleton Assassins 21-14 to reach the loser's bracket finals. That match pitted Ridin' High against Blame the Dog (BTD). Early in the game Bill Gagnon earned his MVP award by simply taking over for Ridin' High. His pinpoint scoring and a flurry of catches hastened BTD's departure. Dumps

and foot faults in the late game stages helped lead to Blame the Dog's demise as Ridin' High pulled away to a 21-12 decision and a place in the finals.

BTD themselves fell just a game short of the finals, losing a two-out-of-three match against Boomtown in the last contest among undefeated teams. Their next loss against Ridin' High left them in third place overall, just a notch ahead of the up-and-coming Appleton Assassins. Other teams, in order of finish, included Plactose Intolerant tied with Triple D for fifth and Victorious Secret and UFO tied in seventh.



Blame the Dog



Above: Joe Welch, Dave Brown, Mike Colden, Ron Blau
Roger Ohman, Luke Colden
Below: Will Sirrine, Dave Bolyard, Dave O'Malley, Nick Jackson
Bill Dexhimer, Brian Vander Maazen

Boontown Saints



Above: Jeff Banghart, Mark Banghart, Danny Banghart, Joe O'Connor
Greg Ferrini, Ryan Scott
Below: Bill Watt, Dan Leach, Dan Thornton, Steve Taylor
Frank Logosh, Bill Gagnon

Plactose Intolerant



Appleton Assassins



Above: Adam Swanson, Sam Wallace, Alex Tews, John Luebke
Tobias Martaco, Shane Mattingly, Josh Tews
Below: John Fish, Scott Kinsel, Larry Scott, P J Samuelson
Paul Swartz, Tim Meyer

Ridin' High



Triple D



Above: Dave Meyer, Marty Devitt, Dave Trauger, Brian Tews
Tom Matuzak, Bruce Richardson
Below: Vinson Buman, Malachi Wallander, Phil Davila, Dan Stybel
Michael Toll, Tim Trauger, Charles Schmitz

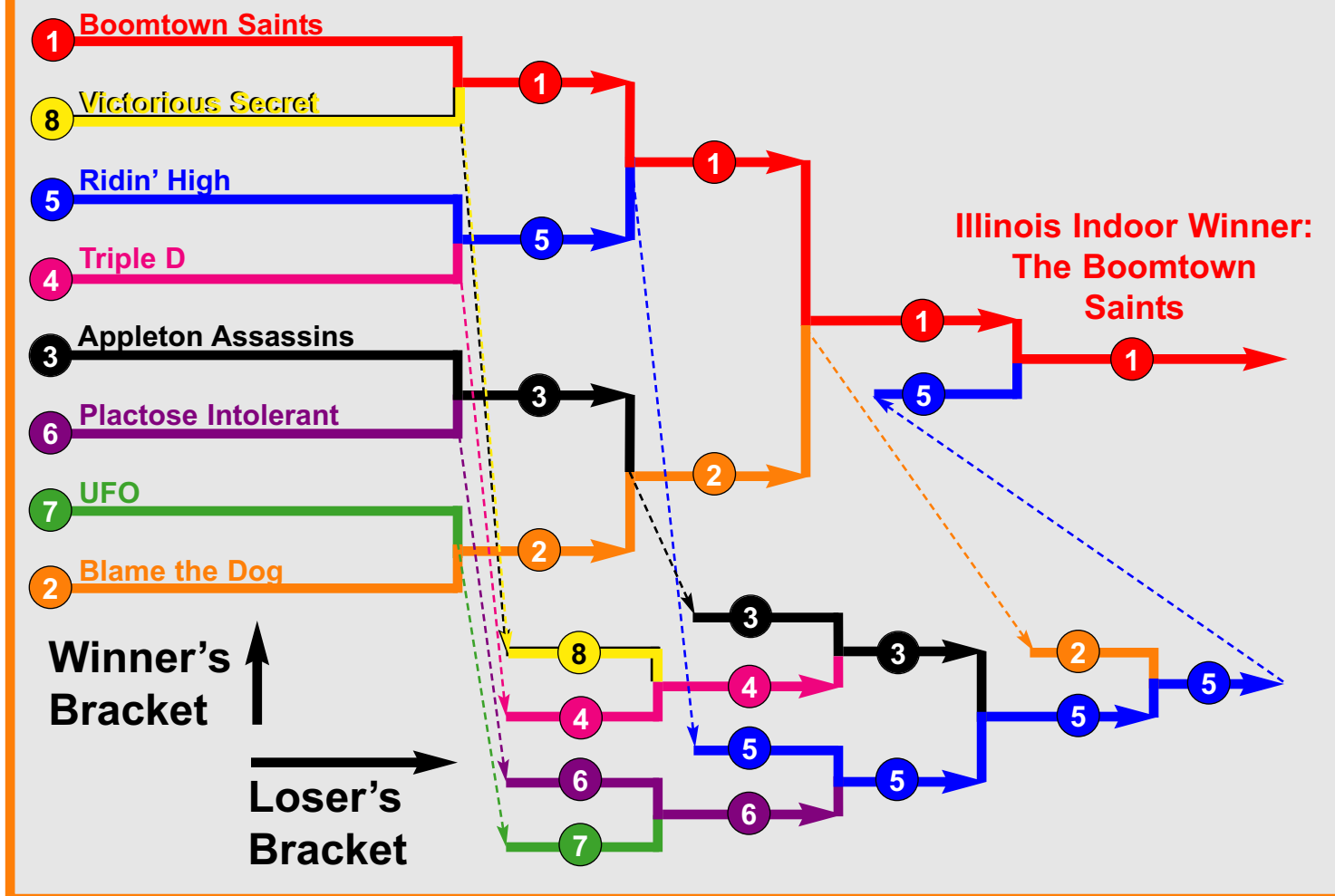
UFO



Victorious Secret



Bracketology: The Path To The Finals



Play-by-Play

The eight-team, five-man tournament began on Saturday with round-robin play within two four-team pools. Teams played a single game with each of the other teams in their pool. This established the ranking within each pool before a final game against the counterpart team from the opposite pool (1 vs. 1, 2 vs. 2, etc.) to determine seeding for bracket play.

Boomtown earned top seed after going 4-0, Blame the Dog was 3-1 (#2), the Appleton Assassins were 3-1 (#3), Triple D went 2-2 (#4), Ridin' High was 2-2 (#5), Plactose Intolerant was 1-3 (#6), UFO finished 1-3 (#7) and Victorious Secret was 0-4 (#8). Seeding for initial tournament play is shown above.

The first round of bracket games was played late Saturday afternoon. Boomtown defeated

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Victorious Secret in two games. BTD took care of UFO in two games straight, the Assassins topped Plactose Intolerant, also in two, and Ridin' High sent Triple D to the loser's bracket two games to one.

On Sunday, in the winner's bracket semi-final, Boomtown defeated Ridin' High in two out of three while BTD swept the Assassins. The two unbeaten teams then faced off with Boomtown prevailing in a tough best-of-three match against BTD.

Sunday's first loser's bracket games saw Plactose Intolerant defeat UFO 21-12. Victorious Secret fell to Triple D 21-10 who were then knocked out by the Assassins 21-18. The other match saw Ridin' High beat Plactose Intolerant before facing, and beating, the Assassins. The final loser's bracket game put Ridin' High against Blame the Dog. Ridin' High's victory sent them to the finals against Boomtown where the Saints took home the overall trophy.

Spotlight on the Appleton Assassins

Calling the Appleton Assassins the surprise team of this year's Illinois Indoor Guts Frisbee Open suggests that you haven't been paying attention. This is the group that threw a scare into more than one "grownup" team at last year's IFT, not to mention their spirited play in the Wisconsin Guts Championship in 2008. Never mind the fact that most of them aren't even eligible for a driver's license!

The Assassins finished fourth in Illinois and played solid Guts both days. What does solid Guts mean? Ask Ridin' High, a surprise victim of the Assassins in pool play. Then add wins

over UFO and Triple D. In fact, their only pool play loss was to Blame the Dog, a team that was fortunate to squeak by with a 22-20 victory. In tournament games the young Assassins beat Plactose Intolerant, then Triple D, before ultimately falling to Ridin' High.

The team features captain Josh Tews along with Sam Wallace, Adam Swanson, John Luebke, Alex Tews, Tobias Martaco and Shane Mattingly. If you've seen the Assassins play, you've seen

the future of Guts. And if you haven't faced them yet, here's a bit of sage advice from Ryan Scott,

"Don't take 'em lightly!"



Bill Gagnon: Tournament MVP

Somebody always steps up. And in Illinois, nobody did it quite like Bill Gagnon with his play for Ridin' High. As his team fought its way through the loser's bracket after an early setback, Bill's play kept the heat on every opponent. In the final one-and-done match-up in the comeback bracket Bill flat out took charge with the kind of catching that destroys an opponent's momentum. Add the points scored with his wicked two-finger and you get a performance that put Ridin' High in the tournament finals. Want icing on that cake? How about watching Bill bag Ryan Scott? Twice. Well done Mr. Gagnon. And hats off to MVP runner-up Ryan Scott and third place vote-getter Danny Banghart.



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