

Manitoba U16 thought they had claimed a first ever medal at the U16 tournaments today but were denied with a strange ruling on goal differential.

Going in thinking we needed to beat Alberta by two clear goals Manitoba set about its task very well and took the game to an Alberta side lacking confidence. Early chances fell to Dylan Carreiro and Ryan Ramjiawan but good last ditch tackles and some good saves saw it stay 0-0 until the 25 minute mark before Dylan Carreiro cut inside and unleashed a powerful drive into the bottom corner from 12 yards out.

Moses Danto and Ali Musse had chances and Christopher Scott hit two wayward efforts from long range as Manitoba continued to look dangerous. Right at the end of the first half Alberta had its first real shot and luckily for Manitoba it cannoned off the post and out as the last act of the half.

Within ten minutes of the restart Manitoba got the second goal we had been craving as Carreiro again found space this time cutting in from the right and driving home his and Manitoba's second on 45 minutes. Alberta changed its formation and three of its four defenders as it tried to stem the tide but Manitoba now looked increasingly dangerous on the counter attack with Carreiro blasting off the post denying him his hat trick. A misread free-kick from Alberta deceived Josh Partaker in goal but Andrew Guzzi was on hand to clear off the line as Manitoba started to get nervy with ten minutes left and then after a dubious corner kick decision Manitoba let Alberta back into it as a goal mouth scramble saw the ball poked home from 5 yards.

Alberta tried to pump long balls into the Manitoba end for the last 5 minutes and Moses Danto squandered two or three counter attacks as we failed to finish off the opposition but in the 69th minute with the fourth official indicating three additional minutes Alberta got a corner and pushed everyone including their GK forward. It was to prove very costly as the resulting counter attack saw Chris Scott feed Carreiro and he squeezed the ball home from 25 yards as slow as any goal could be scored to spark scenes of great celebration.

The final whistle blew and Manitoba were celebrating their third consecutive medal at a National All Stars after previously never having won medals.

As the teams lined up for the medal celebrations confusion reigned as the BC squad reviewed parts of the CSA ie breaker rules that seemed to suggest after the three way tie where head to head is eliminated it should go to goal differential. Of course this was good for Manitoba as we were one goal differential above BC and 8 above Alberta. Also having the best goals for of the three teams which would normally be the third tie breaker we continued to believe we had the medal and were being congratulated on what popular opinion thought was a richly deserved third place finish having gone very close against the top two provinces in the early days.

As the medaling was announced however to much jubilation from BC U16's Manitoba was announced as fourth – with the reason given in the head to head of all three teams our goal differential was not as good as BC's- even though in the overall 4 games of the top pool MB was superior.

So to much disappointment and dejection it seems the normal FIFA rulings and tie breakers were not followed and the local organizing committee had set up a different format for goal differential than any other tournament we know of and Manitoba undeservedly took fourth.

On the positive side Dylan Carreiro was awarded the golden boot with 5 goals and has been selected for the National team camp in Laval starting today until August 1st.