

# GL Claims Victory In Mud Cup Amid Allegations of Weather Tampering

BY DAN RATHERBY SURFING

After a hard fought campaign, the fall 2004 Mud Cup ended in controversy on Friday after the event was cancelled at the last minute due to bad weather. Heavy rains swamped the Kensington park venue, apparently in response to fervent prayers for divine intervention by one of the teams. Under Federal Recreation Commission rules, games must be abandoned in the event of hurricanes, earthquakes, tidal waves, or small puddles of water on the field.

“The risk of injury was too great if we had allowed the game to proceed,” said new DTM coach Kaspar von Braun. “Especially injury to DTM’s pride.”

Von Braun took over the top position at the DTM Dynamos earlier this year after the previous couch, Grand Ayatollah Nader Haghighipour, resigned amid charges of misappropriation of campaign shin pads.

Jake Maule, head of the GL Pistons, declined to comment in detail, saying only that he was waiting for von Braun to call and concede before GL could declare victory. Other members of the GL squad were more forthright. Speaking on condition of anonymity, one prominent GL staffer said that although the game did not take place, it was “inconceivable” that DTM could have won. When pressed further, Dr Steele added “We would have piston them.”

The 2004 result will come as a shock to some pundits who had predicted a very different outcome. “Going in to this, we were confident that GL would win handsomely,” said Carnegie president Richard Meserve. “So confident in fact that we bet a sizable fraction of the endowment on the result.” At the time of writing it was unclear whether the money would be returned.

The biannual Mud Cup between DTM and GL was established in 1996 as a humane way to resolve interdepartmental rivalries. Prior to Mud Cup, disputes were often settled in a more medieval manner by refusing to explain jargon during seminars or making hot dogs twice in one week at lunch club.

“We’ve come a long way since then,” said Carnegie historian and bookworm Shaun Hardy. “These days, it’s not unusual to see people from GL sitting through ten or even fifteen minutes of a DTM seminar before leaving.”

However, Mud Cup has become increasingly bitter and partisan in recent years. This summer’s contest was the closest in living memory, with the result being decided by a mere ten goals. Allegations of fraud and intimidation were rife on both sides, leading some at DTM to question whether the game was fair. “I was just standing there with the ball and he took it away from me,” said seasoned veteran Barry McKernan, denouncing GL’s heavy-handed tactics.

Others noted that the unusual design of the pitch may have influenced the outcome. “I meant to put the ball in one goal, but I accidentally put it in another,” said one distraught first-time DTM player.

Against this backdrop, the fall 2004 campaign was bound to be a hard fought affair. Some saw it as a chance to right previous wrongs, while others viewed it as a way to cement GL’s dominance for a generation. Sadly, Friday’s result is likely to please no one, leading to the prospect that we will have to do it all over again in six months time.