

## **WINTER OLYMPICS**

or....Vancouver its oval, focus and floor - related to Floorball

As many visitors now come to Vancouver for the Olympic games - one of the first things they spot as the aircraft approaches might be the "Olympic Oval". This is the Most beautiful indoor sports facility in North America, its full name is The Richmond Olympic Oval. I has been designed by the inspiration from a herons wing and as a tribute to the Salish First Nation, the native people from this area.

The Oval is located along the Fraser River - a river that might soon be filled with something very familiar to us in Wisconsin. It will be filled with cranberries to form the shape of the Olympic rings.

In 2009 this impressive building, that we will see so much from in media in the coming weeks, was the host for the Canadian National Floorball Championships.

But it does not stop here. The oval and its management have been a fantastic partner facility to the British Columbia Floorball Federation.

"We are extremely excited to be playing Floorball at the Oval. This is undoubtedly the finest facility in Canada to showcase our Sport," says Greg Beaudin, President, BC Floorball. As he tells us they have been arranging Floorball drop-in programs and a kids summer camp at this world class Olympic venue.

He continues "To date we have been conducting Floorball demos for thousands of people here at the Oval. And many of our players have for their first time held a Floorball stick in their hand in this splendid environment under the beautiful wooden beams that supports the spacious ceiling".

The Oval spokesperson Aran Kay adds

"I tried Floorball for the first time recently and I couldn't believe the pace of the game or the speed of the shots, I especially loved the hockey atmosphere created by

the mini-boards that surround the field of play. It's a lot of fun and a fantastic workout.”

The Oval has further embraced floorball as their only form of hockey allowed. This is a feather in the cap for Floorball, as the Oval are sensitive about their hardwood floor and they will only allow Floorball sticks because they do not damage the floor, other hockey sticks are simply forbidden. Just the way it is supposed to be in other ways.

This issue seems to come up time after time here in North America. Floor Hockey is played at some places and it seems like it have a tendency to be too tough on almost any kind of a gym Floor. Then as the Floorballers show up the responsible party thinks that Floorball sticks must damage the floor too? The Floorballers inherit a problem from the other group with big wooden sticks.

You must wonder - is it not an issue in Europe too? The answer is that Floor Hockey does not hardly exist over there - therefore no problem. According to other sources it might to further be the case that even basketball is more damaging to a gym Floor as compared to Floorball...

It is wonderful that the intelligent people responsible at the Oval knows what is good and bad for their valuable state of the art Olympic Floor.

Lets now just embrace the Olympic movement and enjoy hours of good entertainment from the Oval.