

POST'S
GUIDE
to the
PAN AM
GAMES



SOCCER

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

BY ERIC KOREEN, NATIONAL POST

Venue

CIBC Hamilton Pan Am Soccer Stadium (or Tim Hortons Field the rest of the time, home of the CFL's Hamilton Tiger-Cats)

Venue acronym

HAM

Landmark status

High

This site was formerly home to Ivor Wynne Stadium, the Tiger-Cats rickety old home until 2012. The press box had a great view of the city's factories. Rest in peace.

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Schedule

July 11-19 Women's round-robin matches

July 12-21 Men's round-robin matches

July 22 Women's semifinals

July 23 Men's semifinals

July 24 Women's bronze-medal game

July 25 Men's bronze-medal game; women's gold-medal game

July 26 Men's gold-medal game

[See the full competition schedule at the Pan Am website](#)

Transit Options

Go Transit runs a Hamilton QEW express service that will take you into Hamilton, while the Hamilton 3 bus (Cannon) will take you to the venue, via the Hamilton Go station.

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For exact directions, try:

Triplinx.ca

[TTC trip planner](#)

How It Works

The most popular sport in the world, soccer is best known for players, save for the goalkeeper, not being able to use their hands — unless they are accepting a bribe.

The women's competition is open to any age player, although Canada is sending a young team — only four players were on the Women's World Cup squad. The men's rosters are limited to players under the age of 23, the same rule as the men's Olympic tournament.

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Teams Competing

Women

Group A Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Colombia

Group B Canada, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador

Men

Group A Canada, Peru, Panama, Brazil

Group B Paraguay, Uruguay, Trinidad and Tobago, Mexico.

Canada's rosters

Women

Goalkeepers

Stephanie Labbé, Stony Plain, Alta.; Kailen Sheridan, Whitby, Ont.

Defenders

Kadeisha Buchanan, Brampton, Ont.; Kinley McNicholl,

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Oakville, Ont.; Victoria Pickett, Barrie, Ont.; Rebecca Quinn, Toronto; Chelsea Stewart, Highland Ranch, Colo.; Shelina Zadorsky, London, Ont.

Midfielders

Emma Fletcher, Victoria; Jessie Fleming, London, Ont.; Sarah Kinzner, Calgary; Ashley Lawrence, Toronto; Danica Wu, Edmonton

Forwards

Janine Beckie, Littlejohn, Colo.; Gabrielle Carle, Lévis, Que.; Nkem Ezurike, Halifax; Marie Levasseur, Stoneham, Que.; Nichelle Prince, Ajax, Ont.

Men

Goalkeepers

Maxime Crépeau, Candiac, Que.; Ricky Gomes, Kitchener, Ont.

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Defenders

Kevon Black, Brampton, Ont.;
Adam Bouchard, Oakville, Ont.;
Alex Comsia, North Vancouver,
B.C.; Jackson Farmer, Edmonton;
Jonathan Grant, Pickering, Ont.;
Manjrekar James, North York,
Ont.

Midfielders

Kevin Aleman, Brampton, Ont.;
Manuel Aparicio, Toronto; Louis
Béland-Goyette, Montréal;
Jérémy Gagnon-Laparé, Sher-
brooke, Que.; Chris Manella,
Toronto

Forwards

Molham Babouli, Mississauga,
Ont.; Hanson Boakai, Edmonton;
Caleb Clarke, Richmond, B.C.;
Raheem Edwards, Toronto; Ben
Fisk, Vancouver

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Ashley Lawrence at the 2015
Women's World Cup

Tournament Format

Round robin within your group, and the top two finishers advance to the semifinals. The winners of those matches compete for gold.

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Results from 2011

Men

1. Mexico; 2. Argentina;
3. Uruguay

Women

1. Canada; 2. Brazil; 3. Mexico

Why it's worth watching

Perhaps you are a Toronto-area citizen who really would have loved to see high-level international soccer this year, only for the FIFA Women's World Cup to be held in every major Canadian region except for the Greater Toronto Area because of the city's Pan Am commitment. Well, this is your next best bet, the no-name knockoff of the brand name goods.

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Competition outlook

For the Canadian women's team, Kadeisha Buchanan, Jessie Fleming, Ashley Lawrence and Stephanie Labbé, members of the World Cup team, are on the squad. Assuming other nations send younger teams because of the World Cup, expect Canada, Brazil and Mexico to be strong, based on the last women's Under-20 World Cup.

The men's event is hampered somewhat by the timing of the CONCACAF Gold Cup, which runs concurrently. Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil are the favourites in the men's competition.

Photo:

Nicholas Kamm/AFP/Getty Images
