

By [Daniel Hager](#) | 3rd April 2012

## April Fools Tournament



### Grand Island Advances to Semi-Finals of Hamburg April Fools Tournament

In their first action of the season the Grand Island Vikings advanced all the way to the semi-final round of the April Fools Tournament at the Nike Site in Hamburg, NY over the weekend.

The Vikings began with a hard-hitting 0-0 tie against Hamburg before a disappointing loss to School Without Walls in the second round of match play. One bright spot in the loss came on a nice run to the corner for a try by junior Mitch Fachko, the first of his young career. But, in game number three against Penfield the Vikings offense began to click led by 8-man Mitch Lariviere and fullback Deep Singh.

Singh opened the scoring with a beautiful 70-meter scamper down the near sidelines before cutting in front of the opposing fullback and scoring in the far corner of the tryzone. Lariviere made it a 10-0 score with a heads-up play off the scrum down. Seeing a major gap on the Penfield defense, Lariviere took advantage on the 8-man pick, scoring from 30-meters out, untouched.

On Sunday the Vikings began the playoff round as the 5th seed in the gold division. And in a rematch against fourth seeded Hamburg, the Vikings refused to back down.

Strong tackling and quick scoring proved to be the difference in the 15-0 win for the Vikings. Defense led to offense with Lariviere giving the Vikings a 5-0 advantage after punishing tackles pushed the Hamburg offense back towards their own try line. Brent Fred then made it 10-0 before the end of the first half when he picked off a pass and returned it 50-meters for the score. The try was the first for Fred in his second year with the club.

The hard hits continued into the second half with Joe Gunther and Manraj Grewal firing up from the flanker position and Glenn Skelly taking care of business at center. After three or four different players came close to punching in another try, Lariviere put in his third try of the tournament to lead the Vikings in scoring.

The win set up a semi-final matchup against Canisius High School in what would be the

muddiest match of the tournament. Canisius took advantage of some holes in the Grand Island defense, moving on to the finals with a 14-5 win. The Vikings lone try came when Canisius tried to clear their zone and Singh made them pay. The fullback took the outside corner with some quick feet and the defense never had a chance. The momentum shifted in favor of the Vikings but it was too little too late.

Overall a great weekend for Grand Island Rugby