

## 2011 Masters and 2011 Super 7 Series

### Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2011:

Through the mist and the rain the carefully placed bunkers loomed like an inflatable Stonehenge waiting for its champions to take the field and battle for pride, honour and bragging rights for this year's Masters and Super 7 Series.

The telltale signs of previous paintball battles lay strewn wherever the eye could see, slowly dissolving in the persistent rain and developing mud pits.

The start of play was delayed as organisers looked for a break in the weather as players took their time to chrone on. Spectators huddled wherever there was shelter and carefully placed footsteps to avoid tumbling. All however knew that any reprieve from the weather wouldn't come and that the mud would eventually take all into its cold embrace.

The first clash of the tournament was between Hostile Intentions and Apocalypse and by the first 2 minutes players were pinned down in opposing corners not giving an inch. By 6 minutes 30 the first point of the day was scored by Hostile Intentions. Was this an omen of things to come? By full time Hostile's mission was complete beating Apocalypse 3 - 1.

Game 2 of the day saw East Side Raw take on Apparition boasting US import Ryan Greenspan from Team Dynasty from San Diego. Apparition was taken down by East Side Raw 3 – 2.

The weather remained unchanged throughout the morning until approximately 11am when S.W.A.T. took the field for the second time of the day in Round 2 Game 4. The clouds parted and the sunshine enveloped the field and a heavenly choir could be heard as these paintball titans took their marks. Oh and Eastside Raw was there too! S.W.A.T. was victorious in this encounter 4 – 2 at full time when the clouds closed back in and the rain returned.

Skipping ahead to Round 3 Game 3 S.W.A.T. vs. Apparition where the exchanges were fierce. This game was marked by the last point of the game where an almost complete S.W.A.T. team charged the last remaining Apparition player who could do nothing but walk away to avoid the onslaught. Skott Marden from S.W.A.T. beat the buzzer mercilessly in what was obviously a satisfying win. Returning from the field Karl Simpson of S.W.A.T. was seen brandishing a bent marker between the grip frame and the CO2 tank. When asked what had happened Captain Mike Whybrew's single word answer was "Gravity".

As the day drew to a close on the Pro division field all were hoping that conditions would improve for day 2.

### Game Scores Day 1 (Rounds 1 - 4):

Round	Game	Home Team	Score	Away Team	Score
1	1	Hostile Intentions	3	Apocalypse	1
1	2	Eastside Raw	3	Apparition	2
1	3	Hustle	1	S.W.A.T.	4
1	4	Explicit	1	X-Fighters	4

2	1	Apparition	1	Hostile Intentions	4
2	2	Apocalypse	3	Explicit	3
2	3	X-Fighters	3	Hustle	3
2	4	S.W.A.T.	4	Eastside Raw	2
3	1	Explicit	3	Hostile Intentions	1
3	2	Hustle	0	Apocalypse	4
3	3	S.W.A.T.	4	Apparition	3
3	4	Eastside Raw	0	X-Fighters	4
4	1	Hostile Intentions	4	Hustle	2
4	2	Apparition	2	Explicit	3
4	3	Apocalypse	2	Eastside Raw	2
4	4	X-Fighters	1	S.W.A.T.	3

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2011:**

With only three rounds in the pro tournament remaining as play resumed, Day 2 revealed itself to be the polar opposite of day 1 with sunny, cloudless conditions. Mud however was still an ever constant presence both on and off the field. The games leading up to the finals were text-book in that there was plenty of action but no specific drama or highlights.....that is until Round 7 Game3. X-Fighters vs. Hostile Intentions.

Everyone already knew this was an important game. S.W.A.T. and Explicit had just played their last scheduled game for the tournament (Explicit won 3 – 2) and the result of this game meant the difference between equal 1<sup>st</sup> place with and 3<sup>rd</sup> for Hostile Intentions. After a hard fought battle from both sides Hostile were victorious 4 – 1.

This result meant a 3 way tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place between Explicit, S.W.A.T. and Hostile and it was down to Elimination Difference stats to decide between the three on who would play for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place and who would play X-Fighters for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place. With Elimination Difference deciding, the final places prior to the finals were as follows:-

- 1st. Hostile Intentions (E/D: 41)
- 2nd. S.W.A.T. (E/D: 26)
- 3rd. Explicit (E/D: 23)
- 4th. X-Fighters

After all 3 Rounds completed the final scoreboard for Day 2 was as follows:-

### **Game Scores Day 2 (Rounds 5 - 7):**

Round	Game	Home Team	Score	Away Team	Score
5	1	Hustle	1	Explicit	3
5	2	Eastside Raw	2	Hostile Intentions	4

5	3	X-Fighters	3	Apparition	3
5	4	S.W.A.T.	4	Apocalypse	2
6	1	Explicit	3	Eastside Raw	1
6	2	Apparition	4	Hustle	3
6	3	Hostile Intentions	2	S.W.A.T.	2
6	4	Apocalypse	0	X-Fighters	4
7	1	Eastside Raw	1	Hustle	3
7	2	S.W.A.T.	2	Explicit	3
7	3	X-Fighters	1	Hostile Intentions	4
7	4	Apocalypse	3	Apparition	4

If the crowd that gathered for finals thought that there couldn't be any more action on offer for the finals, they couldn't be further from the truth. These finals ended up being nail biters to the end.

#### Finals Game 1: Explicit vs. X-Fighters:

In a hard fought match both Explicit and X-Fighters finished up on 3 points apiece by full time. Being a finals match this meant that a shoot-out was needed to break the deadlock. Representing their teams for the shoot-out were Johnny Robba for X-Fighters and the US import Bobby Aviles for Explicit. With so much riding on this exchange both players were cautious, hunkered down and not willing to risk exposure from the get-go. The silence was intense and the crowd breathless as this stand-off seemed last forever until suddenly both players went on the offensive in unison and took each other out simultaneously. Another shoot-out!!

Next up in the shoot-out to decide the game was Matt Friedrich for Explicit and Jeff Looker for X-Fighters. In what seemed like a blink of an eye when compared to the first shoot-out Matt Friedrich out maneuvered and took out his opponent which decided the match.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and last game of the finals pitted S.W.A.T. against Hostile Intentions for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place of the tournament. Considering the calibre of skills that these two teams had demonstrated over the tournament as well as the whole 2011 Super 7's Series anyone would have been forgiven for thinking that could be the tightest match of all. Unfortunately for S.W.A.T. this wasn't to be.

From a statistical perspective the game was all Hostile. They struck with 2 relatively quick points which then turned into 3 by about the 6 minute mark (the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> points with 5 players still left on the field with S.W.A.T. totally eliminated). S.W.A.T. started to mount a comeback around the 7 – 8 minute mark (Hostile 3 – 1) but the gap was too big to overcome and frustration started setting in. To make matters worse S.W.A.T. player Alex Orr who was coaching at the time was ordered from the field for encroaching on the sideline. Hostile then scored again late in the game cementing the scores at 4 – 1 in favour of Hostile.

From a spectator perspective both teams played hard, strong paintball but unfortunately for S.W.A.T. this was not reflected by the scores in the end.

**2011 Masters Finals Scores:**

	<b>Home Team</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Away Team</b>	<b>Score</b>
Final for 3rd & 4th	X-Fighters	3	Explicit	4
Final for 1st & 2nd	S.W.A.T.	1	Hostile Intentions	4

**2011 Super 7's Players Party:**

The Super 7's Series End of Year Players Party commenced with an opening address from Michael Whybrew thanking the referees, marshals and players for their involvement and for making the year's series a success.

Going straight into the awards the 2011 State of Origin Championship winners were announced. This was a small competition that was played on the Friday prior to the Master where Queensland, Victoria, Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales were represented. And the winners of the 2011 State of Origin Championship were.....The ACT Porn Stars!!

Next a special mention of thanks was offered for all the sponsors associated with the Series:-

Action Paintball	Paintballshop.com	Eclipse	Killer Paintball
Paintball Assassin	Derder	AustraliaPaintball.com	Paintball Pete's
Dye	Sly	JT	Empire

The following international players and teams were then thanked for their dedication to paintball in attending the event:-

Ryan Greenspan (San Diego)	Bobby Aviles (Los Angeles)	Devin Stutz (Taiwan)
Nicky T (Manchester, UK)	Team Kamikaze Factory (NZ)	Team Clown Monkeys (NZ)

Announced next were the results of the 2011 Master Tournament:-

<b><u>Amateur:</u></b>	<b><u>Semi Pro:</u></b>	<b><u>Pro:</u></b>
1 <sup>st</sup> : Uprising B	1 <sup>st</sup> : Thundercats	1 <sup>st</sup> : Hostile Intentions
2 <sup>nd</sup> : Relentless	2 <sup>nd</sup> : Clown Monkeys	2 <sup>nd</sup> : S.W.A.T.
3 <sup>rd</sup> : Misfitz	3 <sup>rd</sup> : Uprising A	3 <sup>rd</sup> : Explicit

Next the 2011 Super 7 Series Player of the Year awards was announced:-

<b><u>Amateur Player of the Year:</u></b>	<b><u>Semi Pro Player of the Year:</u></b>	<b><u>Pro Player of the Year:</u></b>
Peter Small – Misfitz	Guy Manton – Thundercats	Neil Rappenburg – Hostile

The 2011 Super 7 Series Dream Team is as follows:-

- |                              |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Neil Rappenburg - Hostile | 2. Ben Simpson – S.W.A.T.    | 3. Karl Simpson - S.W.A.T. |
| 4. Damien Enever - Hostile   | 5. Matt Friedrich - Explicit | 6. Skott Marden - S.W.A.T. |

7. Nick Bancroft - Hostile      8. Johnny Robba – X-Fighters      9. Ringo Ng - S.W.A.T.  
10. Peter Adams - Apocalypse

The 2011 Tolson Dimovski Memorial Award for Outstanding Contribution to Australian Paintball was awarded to Skott Marden from S.W.A.T. for his tireless efforts in attending clinics in his own time assisting new players and teams and promoting the sport.

Lastly the 2011 Super 7 Series titles across all divisions with accumulated points for all competitions throughout the year were awarded to:-

**Amateur Series Champions:**  
Uprising B – 114 Points

**Semi Pro Series Champions:**  
Thundercats – 108 Points

**Pro Series Champions:**  
S.W.A.T. – 116 Points

Congratulations to Hostile Intentions as winners of the 2011 Masters, congratulations to S.W.A.T. for the 2011 Super 7 Series win, congratulation to The ACT Porn Stars for their State of Origin win and congratulation to all the individual winners.

Player Profile:

**Name:** Ryan Greenspan

Team: San Diego Dynasty (aka Team Dynasty)

**Number:** 18

**Position:** Mid

**Born:** February 15, 1982 in Sebastopol, CA

**Live:** San Diego, CA

At the end of the tournament Ryan Greenspan took the time for a few questions after his stint with Apparition.

Super 7 Series (S7S): Thanks for taking the time to talk with us today.

Ryan Greenspan (RG): Yeah absolutely.

S7S: Have you been out to Australia before?

RG: Ah yeah, this is probably, I can't even count how many times, maybe 15 times? I've been coming out here since 2005 probably, maybe 2004.

S7S: From your viewpoint how has the sport progressed since you first came to Australia?

RG: It's come in leaps and bounds since I first came here. From the first time we were essentially hiding out and it was really difficult to play, mind you it's still pretty tough for teams to get formed in terms of the regulations and rules here (in Australia) and is under the spotlight, but it's definitely advancing.

S7S: So how would you say the sport here in Australia compares with the US?

RG: Well there's definitely a lot of drive and a lot of people want to play out here. It's just that it's super expensive to play and a little more difficult with all the rules and regulations. In the US, you know, as long as you're 18 you can go in and buy a paintball gun and you can play paintball from the age of 10.

S7S: With you and a couple of your countrymen over here playing for local teams in the Super 7 Series, would you say that there is a lot of networking going on within the sport internationally where you have opportunities to play in other countries?

RG: Yeah to a certain extent. I mean most continents that play tend to exist in their own little realm, but there's also the fact that most of the main paintball manufacturers are in the US and the game originated there so people tend to look to the US for new and upcoming stuff. I play two leagues in the US, one in Europe which is 4 events each so that's 12 and I play another 4 events in South America and every year once the season is done I come out here, I'll be here for a month, I play in the Masters every year and then tour around and do events.

S7S: So this is your full time job?

RG: This is my full time job yeah.

S7S: And that's possible through sponsors, prize money....?

RG: Sponsors and, I mean I definitely work hard on clinics, I think I have 7 cities to visit on this trip in the next month from coast to coast from here (Sydney) to Perth, Brisbane and Melbourne. So I'll be going to be jumping around from place to place, but yeah it's my full time job.

S7S: So how did it come to be that you were playing with Apparition in the Masters?

RG: Ah you know what? We just kinda just stumble across each other. I was supposed to baby play with another team, but we weren't sure on the communication, and I was travelling a lot and it was hard to get hold of each other. I actually bought my ticket 2 weeks ago and it was like whoever wanted me at that point had me, so Apparition jumped on and said we'd love it if you could come out help us out. It was fun we had a good time.

S7S: Is this type of situation where import players from other countries are "baby playing" for local teams becoming more and more common?

RG: Actually, you know what? Over here last year there was maybe 7 US pro players, this year it's just Bobby (Aviles – L.A. Infamous), Devin Stutz (Nexus) and I, so there is just the 3 of us guesting on teams this year. So it's gone down a little bit and you know the costs associated with getting someone like Bobby out here on a full plane ticket just for the weekend. So the team is banking a lot on the pro players and stuff like that.

S7S: Thanks again for your time Ryan we really appreciate it.

RG: My pleasure.