

Forced into a second-half deficit with their title dreams slipping away, Team Pup n Suds grabbed control of their own destiny by putting on a clinic of near-perfection in the second half to rally to defeat Visors & Violations 16-14 to capture the Wichita Ultimate Summer League championship on Thursday at High Park in Derby.

Pup n Suds scored on 11 of their 16 second-half possessions, completing 93 of 98 passes for a pristine 95-percent accuracy mark that helped overturn a 8-5 halftime deficit.

It was a match that deserved to its billing as the championship, as Pup n Suds and Visors & Violations left little doubt they were the two best teams playing on the final day of league play. Neither side led by more than three goals the entire match, which featured six ties and two lead changes.

The first half was dominated by Visors & Violations, an impressive feat considering it fell in a 2-0 deficit and started the game with three straight empty possessions. But they stormed back by scoring on eight of its next 11 drives to stake claim to a 8-5 halftime lead. Visors & Violations had success when it was able to strike quickly, scoring six times on possessions that had 5 passes or less.

But in the second half Pup n Suds was able to eliminate the quick-strike scores and that drastically altered the game. After converting 67% of its quick drives in the first half, Visors & Violations failed 5 of 7 times in the second half for a 29% success rate.

The first 10 possessions of the second half were nearly perfect for Pup n Suds, as it scored on eight of them and rallied back to take a 14-12 advantage by taking advantage of careless mistakes by Visors & Violations and capitalizing on short fields.

Pup n Suds broke a 12-all tie with an exquisite display of teamwork and patience, stringing together 16 straight passes to march down the field and score when Alek Bergen found Malachi Lingg open for a short toss into the end zone.

Then Tim Dinh broke the game open when he spotted Luke Wisner streaking down the field with his mark beaten. The huck was on target with pace and led Wisner straight into the end zone, a perfect strike from the team captain for the 14-12 lead that Visors & Violations would quickly erase.

Not only would Visors & Violations tie the score at 14, but it produced three straight stops on defense and marched down the field was a foot away from taking a 15-14 lead.

After calling a timeout and designing a play, Visors & Violations came out with a lateral throw to the middle of the field and quickly attempted to switch the field with a break to the other

corner of the end zone. But Pup n Suds' defender Malachi Lingg read the break and his diving stop was the momentum-swinging play of the game.

Pup n Suds quickly built onto the momentum when Luke Wisner connected on a huck that took Tim Dinh to the brink of the end zone, where he was able to find Grant Schneider for the score and 15-14 lead.

A throwaway on the next possession spelled the end of Visors & Violations, as Pup n Suds took the turnover and quickly move down the field. The winning score actually came on a deflection, as Schneider overshot his intended target but Dinh was able to get a hand on the disc while heavily guarded to slow it down.

That's when Jacob Pfeifer came sprinting from across the end zone to snag the flailing frisbee out of the air for the championship-winning catch. The emotion was clear when Pfeifer slammed down the disc to celebrate a title season featured 8 wins and just 2 losses.

Pup n Suds excelled when it strung together a high number of passes, as it scored at a 77% clip (10 of 13 times) when it completed at least six passes and just 38% of the time (6 of 16 times) when it didn't. Another telling statistic is that Pup n Suds averaged 7.6 passes completed on its 16 scoring drives and just 3.2 the 13 times it didn't score.

Visors & Violations tended to chase the deep throws, which led to a 7-6 advantage in the huck category but also allowed Pup n Suds completed 28 more passes (163-135) and a higher percentage (92.6% to 90.0%) of its passes.

It was a true all-star performance from Dinh, who was involved in 94 of 176 of his team's plays, or a little over half of Pup n Suds' production. He completed a game-high 51 passes with 93% accuracy, caught a game-high 39 passes, added a goal, and had five assists. Combined with his defensive marking, it was a total performance.

Another standout performance came from Wisner, who scored three times, dished out three assists, and had two hucks completed to set up eventual goals. He was second to Dinh in passes caught (30) and passes completed (29 of 31 for 94%), and found his mark on 3 of 4 hucks.

Pfeifer led the championship match with five scoring grabs, including four in the decisive second half. Not only did he have the game-winning catch and the most scores on the winning side, but he completed all 13 of his passes and came up with a vital knockdown on defense with Pup n Suds clinging to a 12-11 lead.

Wang proved to be a crucial cog as an additional handler to Dinh and Wisner, as he found his mark on 22 of his 23 passes and completed all four of his attempts in the end zone to finish with four assists and a score.

Lingg came through with 19 catches, including a score, and completed 18 of his 19 throws. But his biggest moment came at the end of the thrilling match on defense, when he batted away a throw that could have put Visors & Violations ahead by a score on match point.

Schneider dished out three assists, scored once, and completed two crucial hucks. Alek Bergen turned in an excellent performance, as 3 of his 5 catches went for scores and he dished out an assist with just two passes for an efficient performance in the title game. His older brother, Kale, came through with a solid defensive effort and a 11-for-13 passing performance.

Jordan Alonzo, key all season with her ability to handle, scored a goal in the title game and completed 5 of 6 passes. Natalie Weber was important coming off the bench and relieving Alonzo with top-notch defense.

Andrew Loucks, who was named the Most Improved Player later on, came on to catch two passes, and Zach Fischer was able to provide Pup n Suds a defensive spark.