

The Gilbert Delorme Cup concludes a record year for the NTHL!



More than 100 players participated at the 2nd edition of La Coupe Gilbert Delorme....

It was in front of former player Gilbert Delorme of the Montreal Canadian's and a panoply of politicians that table hockey resumed its nobility on April 14th. The organizers Jean-Claude Godon and Carlo Bossio managed to set up a Table Hockey event which drew a total of 101 players, including no less than 62 at the Carleco 5380. A prestigious event in a spectacular decorum and a sporty atmosphere.



The Official Finals Face off with Gilbert Delorme, Pat Cote and Carlo Bossio

For the NTHL it concludes the best season since the beginning of the association in 2005. We reached a total of 310 participants in the 8 tournaments of the season. Having such good results we must not cross our fingers, we must continue the Expansion of this magnificent game that has to face the fierce competition of parlor games where young people sit on their buttocks in front of a screen. Why not 350, or even 400 for 2018-2019?

On the side of the results, it is no surprise that the undisputed king of table hockey King Carlo Bossio has swept everything for a 14th consecutive title. Even more voracious than usual yesterday he lost just 1 game throughout the day, a defeat in match # 2 of the semifinal against André "Boston" Pigeon. In the end the eternal runner-up Pat "the phenomenon" Coté gave it all, but he lost in three games. Pat had won 3 series 4/7 against King Carlo this week in an exhibition series. But when the stakes are high the King gets up over the competition. Let's say he's a phenomenal talent, and if these qualities were in a marketable field he would be a millionaire.' In 3rd place Pigeon beat Angelo Follano, the latter almost reached the final, but he blew a 2-1 series against Pat Coté. The tireless Dave Krehling, beat Gabriel Saad and Vinny Cantania to capture 5th place. Vinny finishes 6th, while Julian Marinoff, a player in full progress finishes 7th after

having surprised the super star of table hockey Eric »Ricky boy« Larochelle in the first round, 3-1, Gabriel "The pharaoh" Saad obtains a respectable 8th place after having beaten with difficulty Jean-Marc "the priest" Therrien in 4 matches. For the priest this is his best result since his return to the game in 2016.



JC Godon, 3rd Andre Pigeon, 1st Carlo Bossio, 2nd Pat Cote, Gilbert Delorme

In the B division, the young Maxime Neault of Ste-Sophie defeated the veteran Francois (Mr. North-Stars) Bernier in the final, while David Bergeron, another player of the Ste-Sophie school won the bronze. Note that a school bus filled with 19 young players and 2 adults participated in the tournament. These young kids put a lot of color and enthusiasm at the events. It reminds us that even if the competition is fierce, that it is above all a game.



3rd David Bergeron, 1st Maxime Neault, 2nd François Bernier

In the C division (amateur) it's a very feminine victory, Ashley Perreault won the tournament ahead of Benoit Viau, while Normand Viau finishes 3rd. The Viau's are newcomers on the table hockey scene, we hope to see them again in the next tournaments. As for Ashley it's a well deserved first title, well done! Note that three other female representatives were playing in this section, Emilie Therien, a passionate who has progressed much in just one season of league and tournament, Jessica Holdcroft and finally my daughter Marilou Douville who had a good tournament, despite an injury to the hand.



3rd Mathieu Viau, 1st Ashley Perreault, 2nd Benoit Viau

In the juniors section Augustin won in front of Nathan, while Rafael finished 3rd. I saw some games in this section and I can assure you that there are stars in the lot.



3rd Rafael Morissette, 1st Augustine Champagne, 2nd Nathan Lessard

In the Gameroom section the legend Dan Martin, winner of several Guy Cups in the past, lost to the talented Junior Gélinas, a player who we should be seeing again on the NTHL circuit during the next tournaments.



Gameroom Winners

Finally, note that this big celebration of table hockey ended with a competition on PP2 the next day. This tournament was won by Sam "the slickster" in front of King Carlo while Dennis Doherty finished 3rd.



Dennis Doherty 3rd, Sam Anoussis 1st, Carlo Bossio 2nd

It was the last tournament of the 2017/2018 season. Next date is September 9 in Peterborough.

Story: Martin Douville

Translation: Carlo Bossio

Brossard Wins the Inaugural Monroe Classic!



Monroe, NY, March 24th, 2018: Inaugural Monroe Classic

The first edition of the Monroe Classic, organized by the living legend of table hockey Lou Marinoff, gets good press. The modest field of 16 participants was largely offset by great camaraderie, intense competition between players, and a most pleasant small town ambience.

It was a rare occasion, given the absence of King Carlo and other "big guns." That left the tournament wide open to a dozen contenders. The preliminary round-robin was dominated by the organizer Lou Marinoff, closely followed by Michel Décarie and Vinny Catania.

In the round of sixteen, Lou (1), Michel (2), Vinny (3) and Michael (5) easily reached the quarterfinals. Thierry Douville (6) likewise ousted Simon Décarie (11) in 3 consecutive games. The other three series gave rise to the most exciting action of this round. Gabriel Saad (4) sweated bullets to eliminate George Slater (13) in 5 games. In an all-American duel, Len Mecca (8) outlasted Bob D'Addario (9) in 5 games. And finally, in the more rocambolesque series of the day, Julian Marinoff (7) came back from a deficit of 0-2 against Martin Douville (10) to defeat him in 5 games. The highlight of this series occurred in game 4, while Martin was leading 6-3 with 1 minute and 15 seconds remaining, before seeing Julian explode with 4 consecutive goals. It was a most unexpected comeback, but Julian "The Terminator" was only warming up.

In the quarterfinals Julian continued his dream journey by dismissing super veteran Michel "La Machine" Décarie—in 3 consecutive games after dropping the first one! In a classic duel, Thierry defeated Vinny in 4 games. Michael Brossard, for his part, put down his compatriot Gabriel Saad in 4 hard-fought games. Finally Lou defeated veteran Len Mecca in three consecutive games, after Len had taken early 2-0 leads in each game.

The two semifinals pitted Michael Brossard (5) against Thierry Douville (6), and a "family feud" father-son duel between Julian and Lou. Michael won by the skin of his teeth in 5 games against

Thierry, after coming back from a deficit of 1-2 in games. Meanwhile Julian caused an uproar by beating his Dad in 4 games, after losing game #1 in overtime and trailing 2-4 in the last minute game #3, which he won with yet another explosion of goals.

So we were treated to a surprising finale between Julian and Michael. As foreseeable, their series went the limit of 5 games, Michael finally won his first NTHL event (and second career tournament, his first being the Rosemont open in 2013). His victory marked a well-deserved success for this ultra-aggressive veteran, who always gives 100 percent at the table. As for Julian, this was an exceptional tournament. In his run to the finals, "the Terminator" beat three top-10 NTHL players in a row (Martin, Michel, Lou), and came within 1 game of beating a fourth (Michael). After several B Division medals in recent years, Julian got his first A Division podium. Congratulations to both finalists!



Tournament Winners: Julian Marinoff (2), Michael Brossard (1), Lou Marinoff (3)

In the series for 3rd place, Lou Marinoff scored the winning goal with 4 seconds left on the clock in the deciding game, snatching the bronze from Thierry Douville. Thierry also had a very respectable tournament, despite a disappointing ending for this fierce young competitor!

Seasoned veteran Len Mecca had an impressive tournament as well, finishing 5th after beating Michel (8th) and Gabriel (6th) in the elimination round. Vinny had to settle for 7th place, a disappointment for this New Yorker who was aiming at nothing less than 1st place.

Finally, in the B Division, Martin Douville (9th) outgunned a game Bob D'Addario (10th), while up-and-coming George Slater defeated Simon Décarie for the bronze.



B-Division Winners: George Slater (3), Martin Douville (1), Bob D'Addario (2)



Round-robin action: fast and furious

Thank you, Lou, for organizing this inaugural Monroe Classic tournament. We look forward to seeing everyone at the last tournament of this NTHL season, on April 14th, in Longueil.

*Story by Martin Douville
Translated by Lou Marinoff*

Larochelle 3 Minutes from Mission Impossible! Carlo Clinches 12th Straight



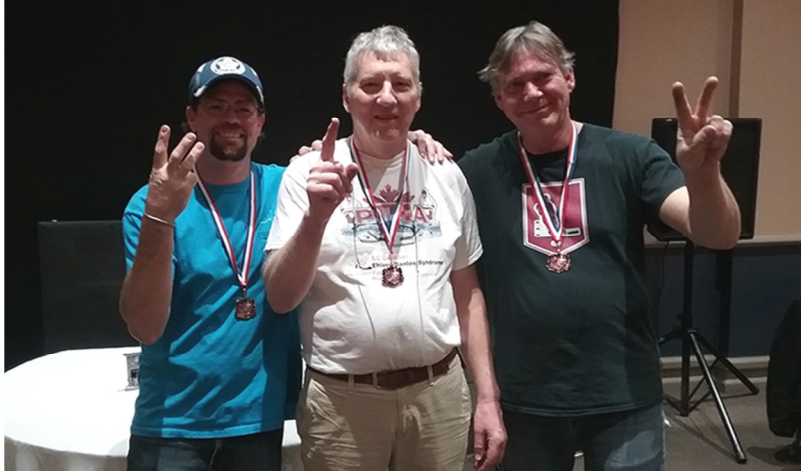
Montreal, February 24, 2018

The first-ever tournament held at the reception hall of the Elios restaurant was a great success for the organizer Carlo Bossio. After the test of different formulas, that of a first round without referees with sections of approximately 16 players is the best! The round is fast and far outweighs the inconvenience of playing without a referee. It allowed time for a hearty Italian lunch, and early finish to the tournament by 6:00 p.m.

Altogether, 31 players from Quebec, Ontario, and New York clashed at the tables. In Division C, the Ontarians dominated. Bill Holdcroft defeated Sid Kloosterman in the C finals, while the medal sweep was completed by Josh Kloosterman, who defeated Jean Lavallée for bronze..

This section was incentivized in the first three positions as Michel Goupil, Jean-Marc Therrien and Sid Kloosterman got chances to qualify for the Elite 16 section in best of 3 "suicide" series against players who ranked 13 to 15 in the prelims. Michel Goupil surprised Simon Decarie by beating him in two games, both decided by one goal. Jean Marc "the priest" Therrien did the same by defeating Josh, while Julian Marinoff retained his place in the elite by relegating Bill Holdcroft.

The preliminaries led to a round of 16 with Bossio, Larochelle and Pigeon easily reaching the quarterfinals by respectively defeating Mr. Goupil, JM Therrien and Bruce Turner. Angelo Follano had to sweat to defeat Martin Douville in 4 tight games. Michel Décarie did not have it easy against Thierry Douville either, likewise beating him in 4 games. It was the 4th consecutive tournament confrontation between these two players, to Thierry's the great displeasure! Michael "la Classe" Brossard had to tap deep into his resources to defeat Julian Marinoff in 5 games, for the second straight tournament. Gabriel Saad defeated a tiring Sergio Angellilo, who had enjoyed an exceptional first round of 9-5-2. Finally, the all-American series between Lou Marinoff and Vinny Catania was not a nail-biter as anticipated, Lou winning in 3 consecutive games.



**Ontarians sweep C-Division:
Josh Kloosterman (3), Bill Holdcroft (1), Sid Kloosterman (2)**

That set the scene for the A and B quarterfinals. The B final once again pitted Thierry "the Husky" Douville against Vinny Catania. Vinny, who had lost his last two series against Thierry in Rosemont (2018) and Detroit (2017), won in two games: 7-6 in overtime and 11-5. In the bronze medal series Bruce Turner defeated Jean-Marc "the Cure" Therrien 4-0. These two players, by finishing 11th and 12th, enjoyed their best performances to date on the NTHL circuit.



**B-Division winners:
Bruce Turner (3), Vinny Catania (1), Thierry Douville (2)**

In the A quarterfinals, a depleted Gabriel Saad faced Eric "Ricky Boy" Larochelle, who easily won in 3 consecutive games. Gabriel ultimately finished in a respectable 7th place, his best ever result. King Carlo not surprisingly ceded one quarterfinal game to Lou, who had also beaten him in the round robin, but prevailed in 4 games to make the semis, while Lou finished 6th overall. Angelo "the Assassin" Follano finally defeated his nemesis Andre "Boston" Pigeon in 4 games, and Andre had to settle for 5th overall. In the last quarterfinal Michael "la Classe" Brossard almost upset Michel "la Machine" Decarie, but the latter finally won with difficulty in 5 games. Brossard, completely drained of energy, ended up in 8th place.

In the semifinals, Decarie was helpless against Bossio, who "as usual" on this day ceded one game, but he easily won the series 3-1. The other semifinal, however, was highly dramatic, with Larochelle winning in overtime of the deciding game against Follano. Angleo then crushed a demoralized Michel Décarie for the bronze.



Finals action, "Mission Impossible": Larochelle (left) versus Bossio (right)

The grand finale, against all odds, featured an inspired competition. Displaying dazzling form, Larochelle won the second and fourth games, extending the series to the limit. In the final game Larochelle quickly put pressure on King Carlo, taking leads of 2-0, 3-2 and then 4-3, with 3 minutes left on the clock. The King had to dig deeply into his resources, but champions find a way to win, and so he did. His right winger scored three consecutive picos, propelling Carlo to an insurmountable 8-5 lead with time winding down. Ricky Boy finally ran out of answers, and Bossio triumphed 9-6 for his 12th consecutive tournament victory. Defeating the King remains mission impossible.



**A-Division winners:
Angelo Follano (3), Carlo Bossio (1), Eric Larochelle (2)**

Honorable mentions go to Eric Larochelle for his great performance on the day, to Sergio Angelillo for his magnificent result in the first round, and finally to Bruce Turner for his 3rd place (11th overall) in the Elite B.



Great Food All Day. Special Thanks To Frank From Elio's Pizzeria....



Andre "The Wall" Parenteau "King" Carlo Bossio Lou "The Living Legend" Marinoff

The next tournament will be held in Monroe, New York, on March 24. The tournament is organized by Lou Marinoff and will have strong representation from the New York Table Hockey League. Already several players from Quebec have confirmed their intention to compete (Michael, Martin, Thierry, Michel, Simon, Gabriel, Julian, Ashley, and possibly the Joubert father and son), so join this tournament which promises to be very exciting!

*story by Martin Douville
translated into English by Lou Marinoff*

11 FOR KING CARLO !

Absolutely nothing stops King Carlo Bossio, who has won an 11th consecutive tournament! This was also the 1st event of the new year, and he lost only 1 game all day. Aces were wild in Rosemont. Carlo put on a breathtaking performance of 27 wins and a single loss, this coming in the preliminary round at the hands of super veteran Michel "the machine" Decarie. With the near-retirement of his brother Gino we do not really foresee the day when the domination of the King will fade. The crown princes Coté, Pigeon and Anoussis seem to have arrived at the height of their development, and they are each beaten in turn in tournament finals. This time it was the "Slickter" (Sam) who lost to the King, a very honorable fight, but without any real suspense. André Boston Pigeon finished third by beating Pat the Phenomene Coté for bronze.



The Grand Champions

Sam Anoussis (2), Carlo Bossio (1), Andre Pigeon (3), Martin Douville (organizer)

Before arriving at this super-pro foursome there was a lot of action on the playing field. The round of 16 featured many of the strongest players in North America. No real surprises in this round, and no upsets. In addition to the top 4 aces Eric "Ricky Boy" Larochelle got his pass into the quarter-finals by defeating Martin "The rage quitter" Douville in three consecutive games. Michael "the class" Brossard had to draw from the bottom of his reserves to take the tough Julian Marinoff to the limit of 5 games. Ditto for the father Lou "The living legend" Marinoff, who came back from a deficit of 2-1 in his series against the solid Michel Goupil, and finally "the machine" Decarie dismissed the young hopeful Thierry "the husky" Douville in three consecutive games. Then "the machine" met André Pigeon in a classic confrontation. These two long-time rivals met for the 8th or 9th time in NTHL tournament playoffs, in addition to their annual showdown in the LHTR finals, and this time "Boston" Pigeon won in 5 hotly-contested games. The other exciting quarter-final against Larochelle went into overtime in Game 5, and it was Pat who prevailed. Positions 5, 6, 7, and 8 on the day were decided, as usual, by single elimination games, and were ultimately occupied by Lou, Michael, Michel and Eric in that order.

In the Expert B Division, which pits the losers of the round of 16 against each other, it was this humble writer (Martin Douville) who won after defeating first Gabriel Saad, then his own son Thierry, and finally Julian Marinoff in 3 very exciting matches. Bruce Turner of Ontario -- one of

Canada's top Stiga players who bravely confronted this talented Coleco field -- took 3rd place, beating Thierry for bronze.



Expert B: Julian Marinoff (2), Martin Douville (1), Bruce Turner (3)

The Intermediate division (Expert B) included no fewer than 21 players. Jean-Marc "the priest" Therrien eventually confronted the surprising Ronald "Hawks" Goupil who played a great tournament, beating two strong players Patrick Joubert and Bob D'Addario to face "the priest" in the finals. Bernie Kunzler, another Stiga champion from Ontario, was making a comeback on Coleco, and he did well by taking 3rd place. The last 4 players of the preliminary round found themselves in the Beginner's division, their departure point for an amicable competition won by Esteban Rodriguez ahead of rookie Eric King (silver) and Emilie Therrien (bronze).



Débutant: Eric King (2), Esteban Rodriguez (1) Emilie Therrien (3)

Finally, in the division reserved for Gameroom players, Alain Beaupré narrowly defeated Gameroom doyen Mr. Claude Laflamme, 73 years old, a proud supporter of the defunct Quebec Nordiques.



The Gameroom Winners

The next NTHL tournament will take place on February 24, in Montreal's Ellios Restaurant.

Story by Martin Douville, translated by Lou Marinoff

Record breaking 66 participants in Ste-Sophie.

November 11th 2017



The tournament of Ste-Sophie celebrated its fifth edition with a record of 66 players divided into no less than 6 categories including three reserved for children and young people under the age of 16 years old.

In the under 16 category it was impossible for your devoted servant to note all the exploits, but two glittering performances captured the attention of the many spectators. First in the Kids A category, youngster David Bergeron won the tournament with two overtime wins over Esteban Rodriguez of the LHTR in Montreal. Then Marc Antoine Pari was no less spectacular coming within 3 minutes of causing one of the biggest surprises in the history of the NTHL. Indeed after having qualified in the A division he was three minutes away of eliminating the super veteran Michel "the machine" Décarie, bowing to the limit of 5 games and this after taking the lead 2-1 in the decisive match.



Kids Winners A Esteban Rodriguez (2) David Bergeron (1) Augustin Champagne (3)

On the Adult side, in the B division, Patrick Joubert of Montreal defeated Guillaume Pitre of Chateauguay in three consecutive close contests while Shawn Murray took 3rd place. This is a double for Joubert because his son Olivier Joubert also won the title in under 16 C. Note that in under 16 B it is Nathan Lessard who escaped with the title.



Adults B Guillaume Pitre (2) Patrick Joubert (1) Kids C Dylan B (3) Olivier L (1) Dylan 2



Adults C S Montreuil (2) M Neault(1) Mr John (3) Kids B M Beudet (3) N Lessard (1) N Pepin (2)

The big section limited to 12 players plus 4 qualified was of such firepower that no rest was allowed. Just ask the phenomenon Pat Coté who lost 3 of his first 4 games! The tournament gave rise to several surprises. After a 1/8 finals without major tragedy, the 1/4 finals gave rise to an unusual shock of titans at such an early stage between stars Coté and Anoussis. Sam won this clash of titans in overtime at the 5th and decisive game. Another breathtaking duel between veterans Follano and Decarie was also played. Removed from his emotions of the previous series the machine won in 4 games and in overtime please! In the other two quarters, Michael Brossard won the first match against King Carlo before honorably losing the next three. Then Martin Douville (me!) Offered a strong resistance against No. 3 André Pigeon losing 3 games to 1.

In the semifinals Michel Decarie showed an unusual strength of character coming from behind to win the 3-4-5 games after losing the first two against Andre (said Boston!) Pigeon. He reached the final of a NTHL tournament for the first time in his career. The rest of the tournament is unquestionably all King Carlo who easily beat Sam in the semi's and Michel in the finals only losing two games one in each series record breaking 9th consecutive tournament title. By doing this he broke his previous record of 8 set in 2014. For third place André Pigeon gets another podium thanks to a win over Sam. Finally for positions 5 to 8 Martin Douville took advantage of a drop in motivation of Pat Coté to sign a rare victory at his expense, while Michael Brossard on his side disposed of Angelo Follano. Brossard won the game for 5th place 8-7 in overtime.



A Champions Michel Decarie (2) Carlo Bossio (1) Andre Pigeon (3)

With these results, we discover that behind the invincible King Carlo, the cards are brewing more and more with the emergence of two players by the name of Angelo Follano and Michel Decarie, not to mention the surprising results of the hard worker Michael "the class »Brossard.



There was no shortage of action inl St-Sophie! (Photo Sam Anoussis)

Next tournament, the St-Adèle Open 2nd edition on December 9th.

Story by: Martin Douville

Photos: Caroline Boutet

Translation by: Carlo Bossio

**Carlo Wins Eight in a Row
Bossio Unbeatable in Brossard**

Brossard, Quebec

October 14, 2017



Twenty-five intrepid players turned up at the Bell Center, to contest the honors at the NTHL's second event of the 2017-18 season. Hockey was in the air, as players and pucks flew around the ice rinks at ground level. Up on the mezzanine, it was table hockey, and the action was even more intense.

The day began with a brutal 24-game round-robin, as everyone played everyone with hardly a pause. Several action-packed hours later, the top 16 would make the A-division, with the 8 losers of that first playoff round then demoted to B. Meanwhile the bottom 9 players vied for hardware in C. As often happens, Pat "le phenomen" Cote dominated the round-robin, claiming top playoff seed. He was followed by amazing Andre Pigeon, with Carlo cruising in third place. Angelo Follano nailed fourth, while Sam Anoussis rounded out the top five. Burt Brassard's strong performance gave him sixth, and Vinny Catania continued to impress in seventh. Yours truly managed eighth, followed by a game Julian Marinoff in ninth, while Michel Decarie clung to tenth.

These contenders, however, would not all survive the round of 16. While the top 5 seeds sailed through, Burt (6) came up against a determined Michael Brossard (11). Their series went the full five games, and Michael stunned Burt 4-2 in the decider. Yet another upset was in the making, as Vinny (7) fell to Michel (10) in 4 games. Inevitably, those two series changed the complexion of the quarter finals, re-arranging the anticipated matchups.

Pat (1) and yours truly (8) had expected to play one another in the quarters, and so we contrived to referee each others' opening series, to do some mutual scouting. That went for naught, as the two upsets vaulted me from 8th to 6th remaining seed. My reward? I got to face Carlo in the quarters. While I have a better record against him than most in overall round-robin play, I have never beaten him in a Coleco playoff series. First time for everything, right? Maybe, but not on this day. Our first two games were hotly contested, and both were decided by one goal in favor of the King: 5-4, and 8-7 overtime. I ran out of gas in game three (2-7), so Carlo moved on to the semis. Meanwhile Pat

defeated Michael in four, and Andre likewise took down Michel in four, while Angelo dispatched a sub-par Sam in three straight games.

The semis saw Carlo face his sternest test of the day, as a determined Andre extended the King to a deciding game after leveling the series in a stunning 9-7 game four shoot-out. But once again Carlo found a way to win, getting ahead and staying ahead to take game five 6-4. Meanwhile Pat had dismissed Angelo in four games, setting up yet another Bossio-Cote final. As we have seen many a time, Pat came in like a lion but went out like a lamb, losing to Carlo in three straight games, the only close one being the third, which went to overtime (5-4). And with that, Carlo claimed his eighth consecutive NTHL tournament win, equaling an unbelievable record he himself set back in 2014. Andre defeated Angelo in two straight to take 3rd place honors on the day.



Champions: Pat Cote (2), Carlo Bossio (1), Andre Pigeon (3)

The B division semis (best of three games) saw Burt Brassard take down Gabriel Saad in two straight, while much-improved Julian Marinoff defeated Vinny Catania -- New York's finest -- in three. Julian then pushed Burt to game three of the B finals. Veteran Burt outlasted him 4-2 to win the B division, while Vinny took third spot over Gabriel.



B-winners: Julian Marinoff (2), Burt Brassard (1), Vinny Catania (3)

However, Julian's trip to the B finals gave him 10th place overall on the day, marking the second time that the Marinoff father-son duo both had top-10 finishes in an NTHL event.

The action was no less furious in the C division. Bill Holdcroft of Peterborough defeated two Quebecers -- Guillaume Pitre in the semis, and Thierry Douville in the finals -- to take top C honors back to Ontario. It is never easy taking hardware out of Quebec, so congrats to Vinny (in B) and Bill (in C).



C-winners: Thierry Douville (2), Bill Holdcroft (1), Guillaume Pitre (3)

NTHL action shifts to Ste-Sophie in November, where Carlo will have a chance to eclipse his own unbelievable mark of 8 tournament wins in a row. Since no-one is able to compete effectively against him, Carlo is obliged to compete against himself, and he seems up to the challenge. Rarely is any sport dominated to this extent by any one player. There is only one way to end King Carlo's record reign: step up, and take him down. Easier said than done, but plenty of players would like to do it. See you in Ste Sophie, where time will tell.



NTHL action resumes in Ste Sophie on November 11

story by Lou Marinoff
photos by Carlo Bossio

Carlo and Sam Claim Double-Header as NTHL Season Opens in Peterborough
September 8-9, 2017, Peterborough, Ontario



The National Table Hockey League's 2017-18 season got off to a rollicking start in Peterborough, Ontario, with a Friday evening Coleco tournament on September 8, followed by a Saturday PP2 tournament on September 9. When all the dust and pucks had settled, the big winners were "King" Carlo Bossio on Coleco, and surprising "Slickster" Sam Anoussis on PP2. Around two dozen Coleco players turned up on the Friday evening, including some of the best from Ontario, Quebec, and New York. Along with the veteran adults, a number of spirited youths and children took to the rods. A likeness of Don Cherry showed up as well, and the action left him speechless (for a change). He gave the event a resounding thumb's up. Following a massive round-robin, the round of 16 produced no upsets, but did result in the first (and hopefully the last) medical emergency of the season.

Michael Brossard came down with a sudden episode of global amnesia -- he forgot everything except how to play table hockey (at least he remembered the most important thing!), and couldn't recall winning his last few games. He also had no idea where he was, or how he got there.

Peterborough being more memorable than that, an ambulance was called, and Mike was rushed to the hospital. John Fayolle displayed great sportsmanship, and friendship, in forfeiting his round of 16 series to accompany a disoriented Mike. Fortunately, Mike recovered swiftly and fully, and was back on the rods next day. He remembers everything except the amnesia.

There were no further upsets that evening, on or off the table. Top seeds Sam (#1), Carlo (#2), and Andre (#3) swept their way into the semis, joined by Dave (#5) who also swept Vinny (#4). In the semi-finals, Sam avenged last year's loss to Dave with a 3-game sweep, while Carlo similarly swept Andre. In the finals, Sam and Carlo then went toe-to-toe in a thrilling 5-game series, with Carlo prevailing 6-3, 5-4, 9-10, 3-4, and 6-4 in the deciding game. Dave outlasted Andre for the bronze, their best of 3 also going the limit. Burt Brassard (5th), Vinny Catania (6th), yours truly (7th), and Mark Sokolski (8th) rounded out the top 8.

This victory marked Carlo's seventh NTHL tournament win in a row, one shy of his record of eight in a row, which he set back in 2014. He can tie this amazing mark with a victory in Montreal in October.



Coleco winners: Sam Anoussis (2), Carlo Bossio (1), Dave Kraehling (3)

The younger players were very impressive as well, in skills and sportsmanship alike. The Coleco B Division was won by Matthew Sokolski, the young son of PP2 champion Mark, and a budding talent in his own right. Jake Ellis placed second in B, while Bailey Walsh took third.



Coleco B Division winners: Jake Ellis (2), Matthew Sokolski (1), Bailey Walsh (3).

The next day was devoted to Power Play II (PP2), a favored board in Ontario, with a strong Peterborough hometown contingent featuring Mark Sokolski and Sid Kloosterman, among other PP2 aficionados.

But this day belonged to Sam Anoussis, who stunned the crowd by reaching the finals and defeating PP2 favorite Sokolski in a five-game thriller. Carlo and Sam had actually finished 1-2 after the opening round robin, ahead of all the resident experts. Carlo won his first playoff series followed by game #1 against Bill Holdcroft, but Bill fought back and gamely dismissed the King with a pair of 3-2 victories -- avenging Carlo's sweep the night before on Coleco. Well done Bill! It's not easy beating Carlo on any board whatsoever.

Sam, however, was not to be denied. He reached the finals against the favorite Mark, and proceeded to win game #1 in overtime, 5-4, after blowing a 4-0 lead. Mark took game #2 by a 2-0 count, and led 2-0 in game #3, until Sam rallied and ultimately prevailed 5-4. Hats off to Sam, for making the finals in both events and winning the PP2 title.

The PP2 B division was won by Paul Oliveira (1), Matthew Sokolski (2), and Shirley Aguinaldo (3). In the PP2 C division, the winners were Maddison Doherty (1), Deacon Walsh (2), and Xander Robar (3). Congrats to all!

Special awards were given out as well: Matthew Sokolski deservedly received the Matt Benincasa Memorial Award for Most Promising Young Player, while Bailey Walsh was chosen by James O'Hagan to be the first recipient of the Dylan O'Hagan Memorial Sportsmanship Award.



left: event organizer Sid Kloosterman presents Matt Benincasa Memorial Award to Matthew Sokolski. right: James O'Hagan presents Dylan O'Hagan Memorial Sportsmanship Award to Bailey Walsh.

A BIG THANKS to Sid and Maggie Kloosterman, and their entire clan, for organizing two days of top-notch table hockey in Peterborough, and for providing seemingly endless rounds of delicious food to ravenous players.

The big winner of the weekend was the ILC Canadian Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome Foundation, which received all proceeds from both events.

The NTHL's 2017-18 season continues in Montreal on October 14. The action will be fast and furious -- see you at the table!

story: Lou Marinoff photos: Sid Kloosterman