

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 of game #3, which he won 5-4 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
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