

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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*