

Still the King Carlo Reigns in 2015-16 as Contenders Rise



King Carlo Bossio at Ste Sophie School: In a Class by Himself

The National Table Hockey League completed another frenetic season, as 2015-16 saw eight sanctioned events unfold. Six different players emerged as tournament winners, but King Carlo dominated by winning three of them, while the other winners managed one each. This was enough to keep the crown on Carlo's head for yet another year, amazingly his ninth in succession. The finalists were as follows:

Chicago 2015: Lou Marinoff over Jim Rzonca
Montreal 2015: Gino Bossio over Carlo Bossio
New York 2015: Carlo Bossio over Sam Anoussis
Toronto 2015: Carlo Bossio over Pat Côté
Rosemont 2016: Carlo Bossio over André Pigeon
Detroit 2016: Dave Kraehling over Lou Marinoff
Quebec City 2016: Pat Côté over Eric Larochelle
Ste Sophie 2016: Sam Anoussis over Carlo Bossio

Sam Anoussis had a great year, finishing ahead of everyone except the King. This season also featured first-time appearances in finals by André Pigeon, whose strong play has elevated him to fourth overall (displacing Pat), and by Eric Larochelle, who climbed to seventh overall. The top ten were rounded out by Martin Douville, who showed consistent improvement, and by Michel Decarie, who was hot-and-cold, but hot enough to nail tenth spot when all was said and done.

The contenders hardly end there. Francois Côté and Michael Brossard are knocking at the door, while Burt Brassard slipped to thirteenth but is too talented to remain there for long. As well, Vinny Catania and John Fayolle have both tasted top-ten spots this season, and are hungry for more. In addition, the NTHL's under-18 division is growing, with a fierce rivalry between Thierry Douville and Simon Decarie at the top. See the NTHL final standings for complete results.



NTHL action from New York. It was fast and furious all season long.

NTHL players and events are also being featured in a new documentary film, by Derek Williams and Brian Gard of Visual Rhodes Inc., based in Oakville, Ontario. Their movie looks like the biggest and best-yet treatment of table hockey -- past, present, future. The real star is our beloved Coleco #5380 board, and all its new incarnations. Derek and Brian will still be shooting into next season, with editing and post-production to follow. We all look forward immensely to seeing their finished product on the silver screen. It's going to be incredible: just like our sport!

Thanks to all the organizers (especially!), and to the referees, players, and fans for supporting another fantastic season. Will King Carlo make it ten in a row next year? Or is he starting to look vulnerable? Time will tell. Stay tuned.



Derek Williams (right) takes on Vinny Catania (left). Derek's film will be as great as our sport.