

King Carlo Rebounds in Montreal Competition Fast and Furious

Montreal, September 29, 2018: 16th Montreal Classic



King Carlo Bossio found redemption in his own backyard, by capturing his first NTHL title of this 2018-2019 season. After losing to Pat Cote in the semi-finals in Peterborough, in the season opener, and seeing Pat go on to win that event, Carlo defeated Pat in a hard-fought 5-game final in Montreal, thus leveling their season record at one tournament victory each.

But the Bossio-Cote final was not the only playoff series to go the limit: far from it. From the opening face-offs of the initial round-robin, the competition was fast and furious, eventually producing one major upset, another near-upset, and a handful of series prolonged to the max.

The major upset occurred in the round of 16, where 13th seed Sylvain Briand dismissed 4th seed Eric Larochelle in 4 stunning games (5-2, 1-6, 5-3, 8-7 OT). That marked the second tournament in a row in which Eric has fallen victim to an underdog, the first being to Julian Marinoff in last season's finale. On this day, 12th seed Julian also figured in a huge near-upset, losing game 5 to 5th seed Angelo Follano, after winning the first 2 games and seeing the next 2 go into overtime. Die-hard Angelo finally prevailed 2-7, 4-5

OT, 4-3 OT, 6-5 OT, 4-1. Vinny Catania, 6th seed, also needed 5 games to eliminate a determined Denis Giguere.

The quarter finals went more smoothly for the top seeds, as Pat (1) swept Sylvain (13), Carlo (3) swept Lou (7), and Angelo (5) swept Vinny (6). Andre (4) needed 4 games to knock off Michael (8).

From that point on, three of the four remaining series in the "A" playoffs would go the limit. Carlo stepped up his play to sweep Andre in one semi final. Meanwhile Angelo stuck with his "come from behind" strategy, losing the first 2 games to Pat before storming back to win the next 2, forcing game 5. Pat won a close one, 5-3, to advance against Carlo in the finals.

The final was a high-scoring affair. With a victory, Pat would have taken a 2-0 lead in tournament wins, but it was not to be. As we have seen so many times, Carlo came up with big goals when he needed them, eventually outlasting Pat 4-6, 6-5, 8-7, 1-6, 6-4.

In the best of 3 series for bronze, Angelo again fell behind, then won game 2, but lost the deciding game to Andre. The deeper you go in NTHL events, the harder it gets to come from behind.



"A" winners: Pat Cote (2), Carlo Bossio (1), Andre Pigeon (3)

The closely contended battles continued in the elimination rounds, with 3 of the 4 sudden-death games being decided by 1 goal. Vinny edged Lou 2-1 for 5th place, while surprising Sylvain beat Michael 3-2 in OT to nail 7th spot.

In the "B" finals, Sergio also needed 3 games to defeat Gabriel for gold, 3-7, 6-2, 7-3. Julian won bronze by filling the net against Chris, 8-1 and 13-6. The "C" playoffs were no less spirited, with Maurice sweeping Patrick for gold, while Ronald took bronze by default over Benel.



"B" winners: Gabriel Saad (2), Sergio Angelillo (1), Julian Marinoff (3)



"C" winners: Ronald Goupil (3), Maurice Viau (1), Patrick Loubert (2)

Thanks again to Carlo for organizing another great event at Elio's, and thanks to all who showed up to give their best on the board.

NTHL action resumes at the Monroe Classic II on October 27. Since Carlo will not be playing, top spot is up for grabs. For tournament info and registration, please contact marinoff@frontiernet.net

See you soon in Monroe, NY.