

Kenny Dubois Surfaces on the NTHL Circuit, Wins Monroe Classic II

Monroe, NY, October 27, 2018

The NTHL's third leg of its 2018-19 tour was played this past Saturday in beautiful Monroe New York. Twelve players made their way to do battle from places as far south as New Jersey, stretching upwards as far north as Montreal. Although some top talent was not able to make the trip, this tournament proved that it's sometimes more about quality than quantity. King Carlo Bossio was not in the house, but Pat "Le Phenomen" Cote was. Pat previously won the first leg of the season in Peterborough before dropping the second leg in five games to Bossio in Montreal last month. Those two so far this year are neck and neck at the top. Last year's Monroe champ Michael Brossard came back to defend his title. NYTHL champion Lou "The Legend" Marinoff, who did a wonderful job hosting the tournament, came to play and came to win. The biggest surprise may have been the arrival of one of the best all-around table hockey players in the world: Kenny Dubois. His willingness to master just about every board known to man along with the fact that he has competed at the highest levels on all of them make him a special talent. The artistry and style that Kenny plays with make him fun to watch but extremely difficult to play. With other top talent on hand it figured to be a hard fought and intriguing tournament. At day's end, it exceeded expectations. Let's review the day.



Tournament host Lou "The Legend" Marinoff earned his nickname by dominating the Coleco 5380 circuit throughout the late 1970s to mid-1980s. After a lengthy retirement he came back to become a consistent NTHL top-ten player, despite being currently 67 years young. Notwithstanding his age and the lack of nearby talent to practice with, Marinoff is still able to compete at the sport's highest level. The best player that New York has had to offer for over a decade once again proved that the last thing to age on a man is his heart. With twelve players on hand each player played 11 games in a single round robin. At its end the highest seed would play the lowest, and so on and so forth. The six winners would move on to the A bracket and the six losers would form the B bracket. Each bracket would have its top two seeds get first round byes with the three versus six seed and four versus five seeds squaring off in a best of five series. The winners would move on to the semis to meet the top two seeds with each round having the highest remaining seed play the lowest. The aforementioned Legend captured first place after round robin play by posting a 10-0-1 record, the only blemish on his scorecard being a tie against his son Julian. Lou and Pat Cote both had identical 9-0-1 records when, by coincidence, they met in their very last game of round robin play. Lou emerged victorious against Pat (3-1) as he did against Kenny Dubois (6-2). So Pat Cote and Kenny Dubois finished with identical 9-1-1 records. Their tie-break had to be decided by goal differential as the two fought to a 4-4 draw in their round robin game. Cote with his day high of +47 snagged the second seed, with Kenny earning third. Julian Marinoff, who is becoming quite a player in his own right, took the fourth seed with a 7-3-1 record. Last year's Champ Michael Brossard took fifth seed at 6-4-1, while Vinny Catania finished a point behind Brossard at 5-4-2. Len Mecca took seventh at 4-7 while Anthony Sciacca finished at 3-8 in eighth place. Because Sciacca beat Moussa Chermiti head to head he earned the higher seed. Ashley Perreault may have been the biggest surprise as she edged out Bob D'Addario for the 10 seed. Larry Durham finished last as the round robin came to a close.

The round of 12 had very few surprises and went chalk. First seed Lou Marinoff finally did drop a game on the day to 12 seeded Larry Durham, but defeated him three games to one. Second seed Pat Cote crushed Bob D'Addario, sweeping him in three by a combined score of 23-6. Third seed Kenny Dubois swept past Ashley Perreault, while fourth seed Julian Marinoff Swept past Moussa Chermiti winning 6-1, 4-3 in OT and 5-3. Fifth seed Michael Brossard swept Anthony Sciacca but all games were close: 2-1, 3-1 and 5-3 in favor of Brossard. Finally sixth Vinny Catania defeated Len Mecca by scores of 5-2, 8-1 and 3-2 to sweep that series. All six winners moved on to the Group A bracket. The rest went to the B bracket.

The quarterfinals in both brackets were set. In the A—with #1 seed Lou Marinoff and #2 seed Pat Cote on byes—#3 seed Kenny Dubois faced off against #6 seed Vinny Catania. In a well-played series, Dubois took a close game one 4-3. Game two was also a one-goal affair until late, with Dubois adding an insurance goal to take the contest by a 5-3 score. Dubois then took game three by jumping out to a 6-1 lead then cruising to a 6-3 victory and a series sweep. Because Dubois was a higher seed than both Julian Marinoff or Mike Brossard it ensured the

matchup everyone wanted to see against Pat Cote, with the exception that it would be one round earlier than anticipated. One half of the semi final was set. The other would be determined during a rematch of last year's Monroe final, with #4 seed Julian Marinoff verses #5 seed Michael Brossard to determine who would meet #1 seed Lou Marinoff. Julian exploded out of the gate in game one defeating Brossard by a mercy score of 8-1. Defending Monroe champ Brossard returned the favor, tying the series with an 8-2 victory. Recent history has shown that Julian usually gets stronger as they day goes on, and so was the case in this series as Julian won game three 7-3 to take a 2-1 series lead. Julian avenged last year's loss by closing out the series with a 5-3 victory, to secure a match versus his father in the semis.



Julian Marinoff (left) defeats Michael Brossard (right) for spot in semis

Julian wasn't the only one who had to exorcise demons. Lou Marinoff was eliminated in last year's semi final by his son, which ended Lou's dream of winning the very first NTHL tournament that he would host. Making matters worse, it was in his hometown and Julian had never previously beaten his father in a series. But as he demonstrated in New York this past year, and many times before, Lou once again proved that unless you drive a stake through his heart he will always keep coming back. In another well-played series Lou was able to exact revenge by sweeping his son in three close games by scores of 3-1, 4-3 and 2-1, securing his spot in the final. Who he would meet would be determined by a series that everyone had wanted to see for a long time: second seed Pat Cote versus third seed Kenny Dubois. The series started with a lot of great goaltending and defensive play, as the two participants felt each other out and peppered each other with shots. It took almost half a game until Kenny broke through with a goal. Seconds later Pat tied it. Dubois retook the lead with 1:20 left and held on for a 2-1 victory. Pat opened game two with one of his patented loose puck goals 50 seconds in. Once again goals were at a premium, as each player set up many great opportunities only to be turned away by spectacular defensive play. Dubois tied it then Cote jumped ahead again. Pat's one-goal lead

held up until 1:08 when Dubois tied it with a right wing off the boards in the net bank shot. A flurry in the game's final minute produced no goals and the game headed to overtime. It took Kenny Dubois 50 seconds to take a stranglehold on the series, when he again used a bank shot from the right wing off the boards, but this time banging in the rebound off the initial shot with his center. Cote, who is perfectly capable, would now need three in a row. In a must-win for Pat he responded by quickly opening the scoring in game three. Dubois immediately came back to tie, but two goals in three seconds by Pat put him up 3-1. The two exchanged goals, then it was Dubois stringing together back-to-back goals, and the game was tied with 1:46 remaining. Cote scored a left wing pico with 1:08 left to play, then kept the pressure on my possessing the puck most of the last minute to secure the 6-5 victory and cut Kenny's lead down to two games to one. Game four began, but before you could even wrap your thoughts around the possibility of a Cote win to tie the series, the affair was settled quickly. Dubois scored just two seconds in and again on his next two shots, jumping out to a 3-0 lead on three shots. This took just seventeen seconds to accomplish. The lead then ballooned to 5-0 after just over a minute and—as great as Pat Cote is—this was a hole not even he would be able to dig out of. Dubois outscored him 4-3 the rest of the way as he went on to a 9-3 game four win, thus winning the series in four and clinching his berth in the final.

Two masters met on this Saturday afternoon met to determine this year's Monroe championship: one old, one new. It's the way table hockey should be. Great competitors with drastically different styles colliding to see which, and who, prevails. A great day was capped by a great series. Anyone who thought Lou Marinoff would go quietly into the night, happy to have made the finals, would soon learn that he wasn't simply happy to be there: he was there to win. The Legend struck three times, with his patented wing to center tip and two loose puck goals in the series opener for a 3-0 lead. He then took a 5-2 lead into the final 1:10. Dubois struck for two quick goals to pull to within one, but fell short by a 5-4 score. Game two opened with two tension-filled minutes of scoreless play. Dubois opened the scoring with 3 minutes left. He scored again a few seconds after and again a little later for a 3-0 lead. Dubois held strongly, winning the game 5-1 and tying the series at one apiece. Marinoff jumped out to a 2-0 lead in pivotal game three; however five consecutive goals by Dubois propelled him to a 5-3 victory and one game from the title. With momentum clearly on the side of Dubois, most if not all thought the series was over, pretty much everyone except for Lou Marinoff. Dubois opened the scoring in game four but Lou tied it and took the lead with three goals. Lou had a 5-2 advantage with 1:40 left. Two quick goals by Dubois made it 5-4. Lou then took a timeout to break the momentum and it worked, as he scored the next two goals and, with some great goaltending, won game four 7-5 and tied the series. It all came down to game five; one game for the title. Kenny opened the scoring just a second in with a well timed tip off the faceoff. Lou tied it 37 seconds later. Marinoff upped the stakes by scoring twice more for a 3-1 lead. Kenny struck back, scoring on a beautiful center deke shot to draw within one. He then scored a right defense to left wing to center goal to knot the game up. Dubois wasn't done as he scored just seconds later on another center spin deke to take a 4-3 lead. Kenny then started to pull away when he

scored a quick goal with a center tip off the faceoff, and then a left wing to center low tip goal for a 6-3 lead. Unfortunately he wasn't done as his right wing burst quickly out of the corner with a quick pass to the center for a tip in and a 7-3 lead. Marinoff finally broke up the 6 consecutive goals with one of his own when he intercepted a pass with his left defense and shot it into an open net to draw within 7-4. Lou would get one more, but it was too little, too late, because only 5 seconds remained. Lou never stopped fighting, but in the end Kenny Dubois was your new Monroe champion.

Pat Cote streamed the series live on his Facebook page, and you can watch four games here:

Game #1: <https://www.facebook.com/patphenomen/videos/944201502438018/>

Game #3: <https://www.facebook.com/patphenomen/videos/333564514087277/>

Game #4: <https://www.facebook.com/patphenomen/videos/394328467772668/>

Game #5: <https://www.facebook.com/patphenomen/videos/967519126768588/>

Lou Marinoff improved on last year's third place finish by making the finals and taking second. Third seed Pat Cote took on fourth seed Julian Marinoff for third place in a best of three series. Julian won game one in a 4-2 thriller. Pat then regrouped and punished Julian, defeating him by a 7-0 mercy score to tie the series. Pat then won and took third by defeating Julian 6-4. Fifth seed Mike Brossard took on sixth seed Vinny Catania in a one game elimination for 5th place. Catania defeated the prior year's champ by a 5-2 score to take 5th.



Group A winners: Pat Cote (3), Kenny Dubois (1), Lou Marinoff (2)

Group A Results: 1. Kenny Dubois 2. Lou Marinoff 3. Pat Cote 4. Julian Marinoff
5. Vinny Catania 6. Mike Brossard

In the B playoffs, Len Mecca and Anthony Sciacca had byes. Ninth seed Moussa Chermiti swept past Larry Durham in three games by scores of 3-1, 4-3 and 7-4. Tenth seed Ashley Perreault continued her fine play when she took on eleventh seed Bob D'Addario by pushing him in game one, but losing 4-3 in overtime. Bob then swept past her by winning 3-0 and 4-1 in games two and three. The B semis were set. Seventh seed Len Mecca took on NYTHL rival eleventh seed Bob D'Addario. Len opened the series with a 5-3 win. He then lost game two 5-4 and game three 3-2. On the brink of elimination, Len responded with a 7-0 mercy win to tie the series, then went on to win game five by a score of 5-4, thus completing the comeback. His opponent was decided when ninth^h seed Moussa Chermiti defeated eighth seed Anthony Sciacca in four games. Moussa won game one 3-0 then lost game two 5-1. Chermiti closed out the series with a 3-2 game three victory and an 8-4 game four triumph. The B final featured seventh Len Mecca versus ninth seed Moussa Chermiti. Len opened the series with a 6-5 victory. Moussa, known for his tough box defense, then used it to perfection, winning the next three games 5-3, 4-1 and 5-3 to take the B title. Bob D'Addario defeated Anthony Sciacca in a best of three, 6-1 and 3-2. to take third in the B.



Group B winners: Len Mecca (2), Moussa Chermiti (1), Bob D'Addario (3)

Group B Results (overall placement): 7. Moussa Chermiti 8. Len Mecca 9. Bob D'Addario
10. Anthony Sciacca 11. Ashley Perreault 12. Larry Durham

Story by Vinny Catania