



## **2014-15: NTHL's First Season**

### **Carlo Bossio Wins First World Cup**

### **Classic Table Hockey Bigger and Better than Ever**

**Summer 2015:** The National Table Hockey League completed its inaugural season this 2014-2015, with a record number of eight hotly-contested events. "King Carlo" played in six of them, winning five and enshrining his name on the first-ever NTHL Classic World Cup.

Carlo had dominated HTQ, Hockey sur Table Quebec, for seven consecutive years. Pat Cote won the HTQ's inaugural Quebec Cup in 2006-07, but then King Carlo took over and owned it for seven straight seasons: 2007-08 through 2013-14. The competition was ferocious, and virtually all the top-10 positions changed hands every season, except for overall #1. Nobody could dethrone the King.

During eight years of HTQ competition, Carlo played in a total of 35 sanctioned tournaments, winning 23 of them, for a remarkable winning percentage of .657 -- almost 2 of every 3 events he entered. Putting that in perspective, consider the winning percentages of the other players who dominated the HTQ standings and monopolized the medals. Martin Labelle played only 3 seasons, winning 2 of his 11 HTQ events, for a winning percentage of .18. Gino Bossio won 5 of 30 HTQ tournaments in which he played, for a .16 percentage, third-best overall. Dany Leclerc won 2 HTQ events in 23 attempts; while Pat Cote, a phenomenal talent, won only 2 of 31 HTQ events. Sam Anoussis, a ferocious player, won 1 HTQ event in 28 attempts.

The combined tournament wins of these elite players chasing Carlo's shadow in HTQ play -- Gino, Martin, Pat, Dany, Sam -- amounted to only 12 tournament victories overall in 123 total

attempts; while the King won a staggering 23 HTQ victories in only 35 attempts. Carlo is simply the greatest Coleco champion of all time, distinguishing himself among a field of champions.

Put this in perspective: Roger Federer is the dominant men's singles tennis player of our era, with a record 17 major tournament wins to his credit. During his best 10 seasons (2003-2012), Roger won his 17 titles in 40 attempts. During Carlo's best 9 seasons (8 HTQ and 1 NTHL), he has won 28 titles in 41 attempts. That's an unbelievable feat.



**Carlo Wins in Montreal, September 2014**

In the process, the HTQ also grew, both in numbers of events as well as players. In 2006-07 there were only 3 tournaments; by 2013-14, that number had grown to 7. More than this, each big-city tournament -- Chicago, Montreal, New York, Toronto, Quebec, Detroit -- has its own table hockey history and tradition. In its last season, 2013-14, the HTQ instituted an "under-18" division for youth. The tournament was hosted by the local school in Ste. Sophie, which has a keen table hockey club. The under-18s are flourishing in the NTHL.



**NTHL's Under-18 Division: Girls and Boys in Action**

Hockey sur Table Quebec shed its skin in July 2014, and the National Table Hockey League was born. The NTHL's website, built by Julian Marinoff, carries current and past standings, plus the archives of all HTQ events, and more. Visit [www.nthl.ca](http://www.nthl.ca) for details.

The NTHL's 2014-15 season debuted where the HTQ had left off. Carlo added three consecutive victories -- Montreal, New York, Toronto -- to the five in a row that he had rattled off to wrap up the 2013-14 season, an unprecedented 8 victories in 8 appearances. The King finally took a night off in Rosemont 2015, the NTHL's newest event hosted by Martin Douville. Pat Cote won that, relieving a drought that had lasted since Quebec 2013.

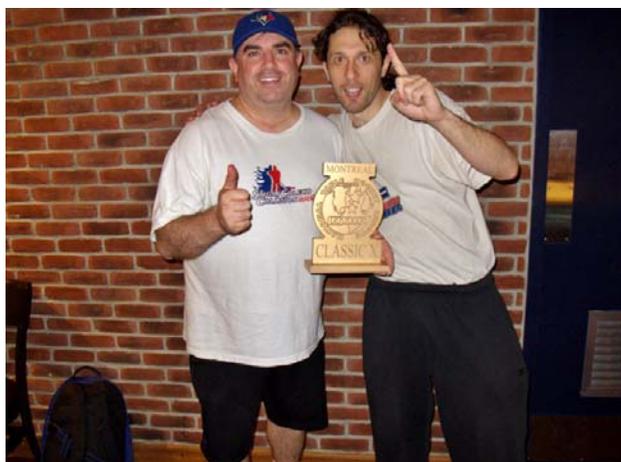
Carlo, however, soon recovered his winning ways, securing the 2015 titles in Quebec and St Sophie, thus clinching the NTHL's first World Cup. If he goes on to win seven World Cups in a row, to match his seven consecutive Quebec Cups, the NTHL may have to morph again!



**NTHL's 2014-15 Season Finale: Ste Sophie, Quebec**

Even so, one of the great satisfactions of table hockey is having those five "perfect" minutes, when you can contend with the best, and nobody can stop you. Every table hockey player has experienced this, and whenever it happens it truly makes their day. In Ste Sophie, in April 2015, Chris George had his five "perfect" minutes against none other than Carlo himself, in the opening round-robin.

Chris is a spirited and frequent player on the circuit, often relegated to battling it out for C or B honors. But years of seasoning have lifted his game, and on this day he tied Carlo 6-6. Everything Chris tried went in, along with a few things he didn't try! Carlo simply couldn't stop him. No matter how many crowns the King goes on to claim, Chris George will always have the satisfaction of knowing that, for those five "perfect" minutes, he was just as great as the greatest! This one of table hockey's most valuable and democratic gifts: All players strive for it, and most receive it, sooner or later.



**Chris George Wins a Trophy**

Meanwhile, as Carlo monopolizes the gold, Pat Cote, Sam Anoussis, and Gino Bossio seemingly have a lock on the silver and bronze at the big events. That in itself is an achievement, as lots of good players are hungry to take them down.

The other two NTHL titles in 2014-15 -- Chicago and Detroit -- went to Dave Kraehling, who defeated yours truly in final series that both went the limit. Dave had a big year, but he climbed to only sixth place overall. Why? Because five other guys -- Carlo, Sam, Pat, Gino, and Andre Pigeon -- had even bigger years, winning where the competition was toughest, in terms of the number of top-5 players in the house. Congrats to Andre for making the top-5; no easy feat.

In addition to the expanded calendar of events, several other factors contributed to a successful first season for the NTHL. They include the increased participation of women, children, as well as father-son pairs. The more participation we see from these groups, the more secure the future of table hockey will be.



**NTHL Fathers & Sons: Marinoffs, Brassards, Decaries, Douvilles**

Among the women, Diane Tarsitano has really improved. She has risen to 25th overall, and could battle into the top 20. The NTHL's under-18 division is also getting stronger. It is dominated, not coincidentally, by Thierry Douville (son of Martin) and Simon Decarie (son of Michel): two sons of talented fathers, who may soon enough make dents in the adult ranks.

Last, but absolutely not least, the recent proliferation of John Fayolle's "SOHO" board into leagues and NTHL tournaments is a true game-changer. These finely-crafted boards, labors of love several years in development, are simply state-of-the-art. The SOHO board elevates classic table hockey to new levels of precision, power, speed, and touch, as everyone fortunate enough to play on one knows.



**John Fayolle (left) and Vinny Catania (right),  
Breaking in Lou's SOHO Board**



**Carlo and Sam Face Off on a SOHO**

The NYCTHA Classic league plays exclusively on SOHOs, and the NTHL is seeing more and more of them. Congrats and thanks to John Fayolle for bringing the best board yet onto the scene!



**New York City Table Hockey Association's Classic League  
Plays Exclusively on SOHOs**

The NTHL's second season is underway, the Chicago event having unfolded in July. Now it's on to Montreal in September. Come join the action. Classic table hockey is bigger and better than ever!



**Camaraderie in New York City, November 2014  
Classic Table Hockey is Bigger and Better Than Ever!**



**founded 2014**

**Follow the action at [www.nthl.ca](http://www.nthl.ca)**