

ENOLA, PA - On Sunday May 3rd, Harrisburg Area Roller Derby's Nuclear Knockouts faced off against Montreal Roller Derby's New Skids On The Block at Olympic Skating Center in Enola, PA. History was made as this was the first ever WFTDA-sanctioned international roller derby bout. In a bout full of fast action and fierce competition, the Nuclear Knockouts skated away with a 184-75 victory.

The bout opened up with the Knockouts delivering two single pass shutouts to Montreal, and picked up an early lead. In the third jam, Harrisburg's Mother Trucker was sent to the box for a cutting track major, which opened the door for Montreal's Georgia W. Tush to pick up 10 unanswered points for her team, now putting them at a 1 point lead. The following jam saw Montreal's Smack Daddy earn lead jammer, and as she struggled to break through Harrisburg's tight defense, Mother Trucker returned to the track. Smack Daddy was pulled for a tripping major, and both jammers earned 2 points in the affair. Penalties began to mount for the Montreal girls, leaving them with a short pack. In the fifth frame, Harrisburg's Holden Grudges burst onto the scene, and landed a 15-0 wallop on Montreal's Romeo. Harrisburg powerhouse Nash Villain followed up with a searing 18-4 jam over Montreal's Beater Pan Tease. The following 9-4 win by H.A.R.D.'s Rainbows Revenge was all that was needed for the Knockouts to establish a firm 33 point lead. The skating was fast, and the hits were hard. Montreal's skaters were solid and powerful. Their jammers full of determination. But, Harrisburg's pack work was tight and impenetrable, which made for a very exciting game. Harrisburg had a three jam stint of single pass shutouts, and were slowly building on their already strong lead. The amazing skill of Montreal's skaters and super solid walling of the Harrisburg blockers kept the scoring low for the majority of the period, with the Knockouts building up on small wins. Until, in the seventeenth jam, Montreal's jammer, Romeo, was sent to the box on an elbows major, and Harrisburg's Nash Villain racked up 14 uncontested points, before she herself was pulled for a major cutting track penalty. With Villain in the box, Montreal's Smack Daddy grabbed two unopposed points in the final jam of the period, but it did little to make much of a dent into the large gap in the score, leaving the Knockouts with a mighty 101-33 lead at the end of the period.

The second period proved to be even more intense, although H.A.R.D. continued to incrementally add to their lead. Penalties got the best of the New Skids in the third jam, and Harrisburg's Skate Edge, making the evening's first appearance as a jammer, belted out an energetic 9-2 win over Georgia W. Tush. At this point in the game, minor penalties began to take their toll on the Knockouts. It is interesting to note that in the first period, only one Harrisburg skater served time in the box for having picked up four minors, and by the 22nd jam of the game, the rest of the Knockouts began to serve time in the box for their fourth minors. This continued to keep scoring low for the Knockouts. In the sixth jam, with the box full of skaters, Beater Pan Tease snatched 9 unopposed points for Montreal, as Harrisburg jammer Skate Edge was sent to the box for a cutting track major. The jam ended jammerless, when Beater was pulled for a major back block. The next jam was scoreless for both teams. The battle was fierce, and the hard-hitting action was unparalleled. Montreal's Lil Mama was ejected for having earned five trips to the box by the seventh jam. In the eighth frame, Harrisburg's Queen Of Pain made her way through the violent pack, and brought home an outstanding 15-0 win over Beater Pan Tease. In jam ten, Beater Pan Tease shot off of the line and earned lead jammer status. She started off on a nice run, and ended up on the bottom of a sudden brutal pileup. The jam was called when she didn't get up. She was eventually able to get up on her own power, but she did not return to the game. She did, however, end up with a 3-2 win over opponent Nash Villain. Harrisburg continued their assault with three more single pass shutouts over Montreal. In their final glory, Montreal's Georgia W. Tush belted out a nice 10-0 shutout over Skate Edge, who soon after returning from the box, was pulled for another major back block. In the final jam, Nash Villain closed the door with an 11-4 smash on Georgia W. Tush, putting the final score at 184-75. A 109-point win for the Knockouts. I find it ironic that in Harrisburg's final bout under the 3.1 rule set, this was the closest bout I have seen to the good old fast paced, heavy hitting 2.1-style roller derby - a true classic and a real crowd pleaser.

Also skating for Harrisburg were Renegade raven, Dosa Badazz, Bela Lowblowski, Jane Wrastle, NastyNiss and Detra Mental. Montreal's skaters included Bone Machine, Boxcar Bethy, Jess Bandit, Lady J, Lyn-dah Kicks, No Holds Bard, Rae Volver and Trash `N Smash.

The highest scoring jam was made by Harrisburg's Nash Villain, who scored 18 points in a single jam. For Montreal, it was Georgia W. Tush, who scored 10 points in a jam - twice. Harrisburg's Nash Villain scored the most points in the bout, having scored 82 points, which was 45% of her team's total. Georgia W. Tush scored the most points for Montreal with 38 points, being 51% of her team's total. The highest scoring jammer was again, Nash Villain, who scored 82 points in 12 jams, giving her an average of 6.83 points per jam. For Montreal, it was Georgia W. Tush, who scored 38 points in 11 jams, giving her an average of 3.45 points per jam. The Nuclear Knockouts averaged 4.97 points per jam throughout the game, and the New Skids On The Block averaged 2.03 points per jam. Harrisburg's Nash Villain had the highest jammer point differential, scoring 82 points with 23 points scored against her, giving her a differential of +59. For Montreal, it was Smack Daddy, who scored 7 points, and had 9 points scored against her, for a differential of -2. Harrisburg's Queen Of Pain led the game in lead jammer status, earning lead in 6 of her 8 jams, being 75% of her jams. For Montreal, it was Smack Daddy, who earned lead in 3 of her 5 jams, being 60% of her jams. The Nuclear Knockouts earned lead jammer in 24 of the bouts 37 jams, being 65% of the game. The New Skids On The Block earned lead jammer in 10 of the 37 jams, being 27% of the game. The referees called 192 penalties. The Nuclear Knockouts were awarded 52 minors and 22 majors, for a total of 74 penalties. The New Skids On The Block were awarded 86 minors and 30 majors, for a total of 116 penalties. The penalty princess was Montreals Lil Mama, who picked up 16 minors and 4 majors, for a total of 20 penalties. For Harrisburg, it was Bela Lowblowski, who picked up 13 minors and 1 major, for a total of 14 penalties. Cutting track was the most commonly called penalty for both teams, being 26% of the penalties called on the Knockouts and 36% of the penalties called on Montreal. Back blocking was the second most commonly called penalty, again, for both teams.

Matt DeCapitator