

Melbourne Slalom Rookie Comp

Date: 29th December 2009

Location: Greaves Reserve, Dandenong, Vic

Sponsors: Bayside Blades & SEBA Australia

The competition consisted of a Trick Ladder, followed by a Battle competition.

Trick Ladder

The Trick Ladder had 13 skaters competing, trying to successfully complete the 19 tricks selected for the competition. Each skater is allowed to fail 1 trick, but is eliminated after the second fail. The first failed trick occurred rather early, and from one of the skaters with the highest hopes, Josh Bakotic. The first elimination occurred in round 6, the Nelson, and skaters quickly started dropping shortly after.

Tensions started to rise once we got down to the final five skaters, Josh Bakotic, Anthony Marr, Tiffany How, Robin Ren and Keven Ren, Keven being the only skater remaining at this point, to not have failed a trick. It is also important to note that with the exception of Josh, they are also members of team Freestyle Revolution. Tiffany dropped with the Double Crazy, and then Keven managed to make his first fail with Crazy, leaving the remaining four skaters with 1 attempt each. Josh, Anthony and Keven all then managed to fail the following trick, Back One Foot, While Robin alone managed to succeed.

Results

- 1st Robin Ren
- 2nd Keven Ren
- 3rd Anthony Marr
- 4th Josh Bakotic
- 5th Tiffany How
- 6th Natalie Ujuk
- 7th Richard Holgate
- 8th James O'Conner
- 9th Andrea Winzor
- 10th Jenny Logue
- 11th Moriko Yoshikawa
- 12th Richard Bakotic
- 13th Graham Rich

Battle Comp

The groups were formed based on the results of the Trick Ladder, with an additional two skaters. The battle consisted of four groups. Group 1 had Robin Ren (winner of the trick ladder), James O'Connor, Andrea Winzor and Graham Rich. Group 2 had Josh Bakotic, Tiffany How, Richard Bakotic and Neil Jesberg, Oh the joys of a Father-Son battle. Group 3 had Anthony Marr, Natalie Ujuk and Moriko Yoshikawa. And lastly, group four contained Keven Ren, Richard Holgate, Jenny Logue and Grant Giddus.

The first round was quite intense. Robin and James both manage to make it through to the Semi's from group one. Group 2 however was much more difficult to decide, Josh cleanly made it through thanks to some higher level technicals, however 2nd place was much more difficult to decide. Tiffany while fast and flower, was kicking cones, while Neil managed to skater very cleanly hitting only 1 or 2 cones between his 3 runs. It was however decided, that Tiffany would be advancing to the Semi Finals, after a lengthy discussion between the judges. Group 3 had Anthony and Natalie progress, while group 4 had Keven and Richard progressing through.

The Semi Final's were rather gruelling. The first semi final, consisting of Robin Ren, Josh Bakotic, Natalie Ujuk and Richard Holgate, proved to be quite a mix up. Robin manages to qualify for the final due to his very clean slalom, not hitting many cones, and displaying a large number of tricks well linked together. Also qualifies due to some very nicely done technical, but isn't as clean as Robin. Natalie and Richard although failing to qualify for the final, both qualify for the consolation battle.

The second Semi Final was a little more difficult to judge. Consisting of Keven Ren, Anthony Marr, James O'Conner and Tiffany How. Although the judges had a slight difficulty in deciding who qualified, Anthony and Keven were decided to go through to the final, leaving James and Tiffany for the consolation battle.

Consolation Final

The consolation final, consisting of James O'Connor, Richard Holgate, Natalie Ujuk and Tiffany How, proved to be a very close contest. James' skating was shown to be very strong and powerful and allowed him to gain 5th place overall. The other 3 placings from this group proved very difficult, and required much deliberation from the judges. Richard who had been cleanly landing all his tricks, and kicking very few cones, despite being very low level technically, was decided to have gained 6th place. Natalie and Tiffany however, both very smooth on there skates, and linking tricks very nicely, were both also hitting large amounts of cones. It was however decided that Tiffany, due to some two-wheel tricks, won 7th place ahead of Natalie. A well fought battle worthy of a semi final.

Final Battle

The final round lived up to its hype, and caused a lot of suspense, for the four skaters, the spectators, and even the judges!

A quick overview of the four skaters:

Josh Bakotic had clearly shown he had the highest technical level of any of the finalists, consisting of Swans and Wheelings.

Robin Ren, winner of the trick ladder, had shown in his previous rounds that he was a very clean and precise on his skates, and capable of doing some very nice flowy slalom.

Keven Ren, much like his younger brother Robin, had also displayed very flowy slalom.

Anthony Marr manages to fall somewhere between Josh and the Ren brothers, not quite as clean or fluid as Robin and Keven, and not quite as technical as Josh meant we were in for a real struggle.

Josh's first run was quite a display, good use of music, with an impressive use of stalls, and a couple of Toe-Toe tricks, however, his 2nd and 3rd runs mostly consisted of Swans and Heel Wheelings as opposed to the linking of tricks. Robin straight away kept using his flowy and stylish slalom that had gotten him to the final, also using some nice stalls, and even a very impressive Heel Toe spin that travelled down the line of cones. Keven, much like Robin, also showed his smooth skating, displaying a bit of wheeling, and even some Reverse Eagles. Anthony displayed some nice spins, both flat footed and Heel Toe, a Swan and some heel wheeling's, some on 80cm and some on 50cm cones.

The last trick phase of the final proved very interesting. Josh displaying a 5 cone Travelling Swan, however, hitting 2 cones proved to be the highlight of the last tricks. Robin displayed a nice Heel Wheeling on the 80cm line. Keven showed a Reverse Eagle to Toe Toe Reverse Eagle, however off cones, while Anthony showed some heel wheeling on the 50s, ironically enough, the exact same number of cones travelled, and kicked as Robins.

After much deliberation, the judges finally had their Results. 4th Place was Keven, 3rd place was Josh Bakotic, 2nd place was Anthony Marr, and 1st place was Robin Ren, winning both the trick ladder, and the battle.

Final Results

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