

Liahla Mavani reports

Match 1: Tomo Endo (JPN) vs Macéo Levy (FRN)

The first match of the tournament at the MAA started off with a thrilling five-setter match of the young Frenchman and crowd favourite, Macéo Levy, and Tomo Endo, who recently returned to the tour from a serious running injury. Before the match started, tournament organizer and Canadian National Team Coach, Yvon Provençal, remarked that “this might be the best match of the night.” Provençal was indeed correct.

The first game started strong with Endo dominating the court. A nervous Levy seemed to start slow, going down 11-5. However, Levy came back, still falling short and losing the second game 13-11. The second game was filled with some exciting dives from Endo, he finished the last point with a questionable stroke ball. It seems Levy stepped it up in game three and Endo started to slow down. Levy dominated the third game with a decisive win and continued the same momentum into the fourth.

The fifth and final game was a nail-biter. The first couple of points went back and forth, Levy took the lead, but Endo didn't give up and pulled out a gritty win in five. He finished the match on a cheeky boast, winning 11-9 in the fifth.

Speaking to Endo after his match, he says this is his first PSA match back in Canada since the pandemic when he stopped playing due to the lockdown in Japan. Endo had an incredible battle against Levy, after returning from an injury in October of 2022 where he broke five bones.

Incredible battle overall!

Match 2: Joseph White (AUS) vs Mohamed Nabil (EGY)

White and Nabil's match was another entertaining five-setter. The Australian (who shares the same name and racquet as the McGill Men's Co-Captain, Joseph White) was being coached by home-town favourite David Baillargeon. White was matched up against the talented Egyptian, Nabil, who is based in New York.

As Nabil served the first point of the match, he and his opponent Joseph White went on to have an impressive first rally which showcased both their endurance and stamina. After that first rally, we knew this would be an entertaining match. The first game started with some long rallies, but there was a tense tone on court. Nabil took the first game, which finished on a dramatic and contested stroke against White.

In the second and third games, the match started to get a bit more heated. There was some more than-needed physical contact between the two players, showing their intensity and spirited nature. White was up 10-7 in the second and Nabil had a dramatic tumble winning the point, 8-10. However, White prevails, taking the second game 11-7. White took the third game but wasn't able to continue his momentum through to the fourth where Nabil took the match to five games. In the fifth game, there was a tense

atmosphere, with more blocking coming from Nabil and a couple of arguments with the referee. All of this aside, White was able to regain momentum and pull off the win in five.

Match 3: Cory McCartney (CAN) vs Sanjay Jeeva (MYS)

The Canadian Cory McCartney matched-up against the Malaysian-Lefty, Sanjay Jeeva in the first round. McCartney got in the event as reserve after a few players pulled out a few days ago. No matter the last-minute performance, McCartney had a solid match against Jeeva.

In the first and second games, Jeeva dominated as he forced McCartney into some errors. Jeeva wasn't able to keep this momentum going in the third game with too many errors in the front court. McCartney taking it 11-7.

McCartney started off the fourth with some deadly kills and great retrieving. However, Jeeva was able to regain control of the match, and had some great fakes, with Jeeva ending off the game 11-6 on a deadly nick.

Match 4: Christopher Gordon (USA) vs Ondrej Vorlíček (Czech Republic)

This match was another five-game thriller, with the familiar American player, Gordon, matching up against the Czech, Vorlíček. Gordon went out strong in the first couple of rallies, dominating the game with clean lines. Vorlíček was having trouble gaining control of the rally and had a hard time against Gordon's retrieval. Gordon took a 2-1 lead

In the fourth and fifth games, Vorlíček stepped up his game, as Gordon started to make more errors, and his legs began to slow down. Vorlíček jumped on this opportunity, powered through these final games, staying in control, and decisively taking the match in five.

Vorlíček was ecstatic after his big win against Gordon, he remarked that he has been training a lot in the last couple of months. He said that it has been hard to fully consider himself a professional player, as he is a full-time student, studying in Prague.