

WORLD FREESTYLE ROUND-UP 2013

BY HIPPIE MIKE
PHOTOS: JIM GOODRICH

IT WAS ANOTHER CRAZY MAY LONG Weekend at the Cloverdale (BC) Rodeo with beautiful weather for all to enjoy, but the real action was inside the Cloverdale Curling Rink.

The top amateur and professional freestyle skateboarders from around the globe came together in Cloverdale to compete in the World Freestyle Round-Up. Hosted by Monty Little and Kevin Harris, and MC'd by AJ Kohn, Russ Howell and Kevin himself, it was sure to be a success.

The prelims took place on Friday night, May 17, with the semifinals on Saturday. Only 10 competitors from each division made it through to the finals on Sunday. Judging was a very difficult task, as there were 23 competitors in the pro category and all of them skated to their best ability. Legendary photographer Jim Goodrich was also on hand doing what he does best and capturing amazing still shots of the competitors in action.

It was a weekend full of legends, as most of these guys have been skating freestyle for 25-35 years. For example, six out of the 10 competitors that made it into the pro finals were in their 40s and have made careers out of doing freestyle skateboard demos and shows. This event had a true "family" feel. All the competitors were so excited to be in the same room with each other that the competition was more of a demo for the audience and less about who would be the champion. These guys just love the fact that they are accepted and promoted.

The amateurs rocked the house in the finals, and it was a close competition between the top four. Jacob Whitt took fourth place, representing the USA. White Rock, BC, local Andy Anderson styled his way into third place with multiple combination tricks that no one had ever seen before. The tough call was between Kaue Araujo from Brazil and Ryan Brynelson from North Delta, BC. Both had flawless runs and displayed confidence and super-stylish maneuvers that wowed the crowd and the other competitors. After lots of cal-



culations the judges decided that Brynelson, the local boy from North Delta and riding for Protest Skateboards, would maintain the first-place position that he held since Friday. Ryan had scored second place the previous year, so he was super stoked to now call himself the No. 1 amateur freestyle skateboarder in the world!

As for the professionals, it was a very competitive field. These guys come out of the gates with pure skill and lay down continuous lines throughout their entire runs, just like freestyle is supposed to be.

Third place went to the USA's Mike Osterman, who is one of the most consistent skateboarders you will ever watch. Celebrating his 20th birthday on the final day of the event, Mike proves that freestyle skateboarding is making a comeback and that the next generations are still picking it up. The boys from Japan were also there to make their mark, and newcomer Seya Nakano did just that by pulling through to a second-place finish. Seya did not hold professional sponsorship coming into the contest, but he entered the pro category in hopes of doing well and sparking some interest. He definitely proved his ability to throw down in competition.

For Osterman and Nakano to place in the top three of this contest was very inspiring for the originals who were part of the show. But when it came to first place at this event, the outcome was inevitable right from Day 1: Guenter Mokulys has been skating freestyle for decades, and when he's on his game he is almost untouchable. He dominated the entire weekend and proved himself to be the champ once again, winning his 10th world freestyle competition.

It was a weekend full of fun time, family-style interactions, best tricks and unbelievable skateboarding. With demos from Kilian Martin, AJ Kohn, Russ Howell and Kevin Harris, the crowd kept on coming, and at times there was no space left in the building. Nine different countries were represented by their top riders, and everyone went home with a smile. **CW**

For more on the event, including photos and video footage, check out protestskateboards.com.

WORLD ROUND-UP 2013 RESULTS

Amateur

1. Ryan Brynelson – Canada
2. Kaue Araujo – Brazil
3. Andy Anderson – Canada
4. Jacob Whitt – USA
5. Thomas Nascimento – Brazil

Professional

1. Guenter Mokulys – Germany
2. Seya Nakano – Japan
3. Mike Osterman – USA
4. Masahiro Fujii – Japan
5. Per Canguru – Brazil
6. Stefan "Lillis" Akesson – Sweden
7. Lucio Lima – Brazil
8. Rene Shigueto – Brazil
9. Jesse Whalen – USA
10. Albert Kuncz – Hungary/Slovakia