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5TMSL Season 1 Dynasty Hockey Championship Recap:

Fighting Flamingoes 8, Johnny Hockey 7 (OT)

Flamingoes Outlast Relentless Johnny Hockey in Overtime to Win Historic Season 1 Title

In one of the most thrilling games the league has ever seen, the Fighting Flamingoes held off a dramatic late push from Johnny Hockey and clinched the first-ever 5TMSL Dynasty Hockey Cup with an 8–7 overtime victory. After watching a three-goal lead evaporate in the closing minutes of regulation, the Flamingoes regained their composure in sudden death, and sealed the title on a brilliant finish from Zaq Finkelman.

Midway through the third period, it looked like the Flamingoes had finally pulled away. After steady pressure in the offensive zone, Nachaliel Jacobs curled behind the net and tucked in a wraparound goal to give the Flamingoes a 7–4 lead.

But Johnny Hockey, like they had done all year, refused to go away.

The rally started with a textbook play between the Elefant brothers. Seth, from the corner, sent a perfectly placed pass to Shaya, who knocked the puck out of midair and into the net, cutting the lead to two and shifting the energy in the building.

Minutes later, Mordy Ostreicher gathered up a cleared puck, waited for his team to reset, and then ripped a shot from just beyond midcourt. It found its way through, and suddenly the Flamingoes' lead was down to one.

Still, with under 20 seconds remaining, the Flamingoes had possession and cleared the puck. It looked like they had done just enough. But Johnny Hockey's captain Dovi Taubenfeld took control.

He picked up the puck deep in his own zone, rushed up the court, made one sharp move, and from three-quarters of the way out, fired a blistering shot that rocketed into the top corner. Tie game. 7–7. Overtime.

Once again, Johnny Hockey had clawed back in a game they had every reason to lose.

Overtime was tense, physical, and worthy of a championship. Both teams had chances. Every possession mattered. And then, a faceoff popped loose. The puck kicked into space, and Zaq Finkelman didn't hesitate.

He picked it up in stride, charged into the zone, slipped past one defender, powered through another, and with Seth Elefant on his hip, flipped a backhand shot past Johnny Hockey's goalie, Yaakov Adler. The puck hit the back of the net.

The Fighting Flamingoes erupted. They had survived a furious Johnny Hockey comeback and emerged as the inaugural 5TMSL Dynasty Hockey Cup champions with an unforgettable 8–7 Overtime victory.

"We were the highest scoring team in the league for a reason," Finkelman said after the win. "Don't mess with the Flamingoes."

Johnny Hockey captain Dovi Taubenfeld, reflecting on the run, stayed optimistic. "This is family to me," he said. "We wish we could've finished the job, but next season we're gonna get it done."

5TMSL DYNASTY HOCKEY: SEASON 1 IN REVIEW

A Season of Statements, Surprises, and a Sudden Death Finish

From the opening faceoff to the final overtime goal, Season 1 of Dynasty Hockey delivered on every front. The league's inaugural campaign featured elite scoring, physical playoff battles, and a championship game that instantly entered local legend. With four teams built from scratch, every captain faced the pressure of forming a competitive identity - and some did it better than others.

Fighting Flamingoes: Built to Score, Built to Win

The Flamingoes started the year as a high-scoring experiment and ended it as champions. Powered by Zaq Finkelman's unmatched offensive output, the Flamingoes led the league in goals and never looked back. Akiva Boehm and Shua Behar added structure and toughness, while Nachaliel Jacobs delivered the late-game heroics that nearly sealed the title before overtime. Goaltender Michoel Kunstler held strong when it mattered, and Captain Ben Bryks proved he knew how to build a winning roster from Day One.

Johnny Hockey: Grit, Guts, and One Goal Away

No team embodied the heart of Dynasty Hockey like Johnny Hockey. They weren't the flashiest squad, but their physical style and relentless belief in each other nearly carried them to the Cup. Dovi Taubenfeld was everything you want in a captain - poised, clutch, and all-in. Mordy Ostreicher anchored the defense, and the Elefant brothers delivered key playoff goals. Their comeback in the championship - capped by Taubenfeld's 3/4 court snipe to force OT - was the stuff of legend. This team earned the league's respect.

Bruisers: Top Seed, Tough Exit

At 6-2, the Bruisers were the league's regular-season juggernaut. They had size, chemistry, and arguably the best goalie in the league in Michael Indig. Dovi Gordon's squad rolled through the early weeks behind Weinstock's scoring and Hirschman's defensive work. But their shocking semifinal loss to Johnny Hockey exposed some cracks - particularly in closing out tight games under pressure. For a team that looked dominant on paper, the early playoff exit will sting all offseason.

Blizzards: The Great What-If

There were flashes of something real from the Blizzards - a few dominant shifts, moments of scoring brilliance from Chaim Zagelbaum, steady goaltending from Eli Jaroslawicz - but consistency was never there. They struggled to find cohesion and paid the price in the standings. Still, with talented pieces and Captain Uri Bryks learning the ropes fast, they're not far off. Whether they build around youth or experience next season will say a lot about their future.

The Bottom Line

Season 1 proved that Dynasty Hockey is a legit proving ground for players, captains, and rivalries. The storylines. The competition. And if Season 2 is anything like what we just witnessed, the league isn't just here to stay. 5TMSL Dynasty Hockey is just getting started. Stay tuned.

Mets in Freefall: A Season Slipping Away

A Promising Start Turned Sour

The New York Mets entered the summer as legitimate contenders, leading the NL East in early June. But since June 12, everything has unraveled. The Mets are 19–33 over that span, a stretch that would translate to a 103-loss season if projected over a full year. What once looked like a team with postseason ambitions now looks like a group barely clinging to relevance.

Latest Series Recap: Braves Punish the Mets

The Mets' most recent series against the Atlanta Braves encapsulated their struggles. Game 1 offered hope, Pete Alonso smashed his 253rd career homer to become the franchise's all-time home run leader, and the Mets won 13–5. But that spark quickly fizzled.

In Game 2, the Mets jumped out to a commanding 6–0 lead and looked poised to take control of the series. But then came a disastrous fourth inning, where the Braves erupted for nine runs, capped by a Michael Harris II grand slam that flipped the game on its head. New York's pitching completely unraveled, and the Mets collapsed in stunning fashion, ultimately losing 11–6. The finale was more competitive, with Kodai Senga delivering a strong outing, but the bullpen collapsed again. Ryan Helsley couldn't hold a 3–1 lead, and the Braves completed the comeback with a 4–3 win.

Offensive Inconsistency Plagues the Lineup

Juan Soto has been the lone model of consistency in the Mets' offense, continuing to produce in the heart of the order. But beyond him, the bats have gone cold. Francisco Lindor has provided elite defense and aggressive baserunning, extending the team's streak of consecutive successful steals to 36, but his bat has been underwhelming. Pete Alonso, despite his record-setting moment, has also been inconsistent at the plate. Scoring chances are being wasted, and late-inning clutch hits have been few and far between.

Pitching Depth a Growing Concern

The starting rotation has not held up its end of the bargain. Starters are failing to work deep into games, putting tremendous strain on an already unstable bullpen. Ryan Helsley was supposed to be a stabilizing force, but he's become part of the Mets' ongoing bullpen issues. Veterans like Sean Manaea and Frankie Montas have struggled with consistency, leaving the team scrambling to keep games close.

Playoff Picture Tightens

As of August 15, the Mets sit at 64–57. That record places them five games behind the Phillies in the NL East and just half a game ahead of the Reds for the final Wild Card spot. Their margin for error is shrinking, and the upcoming series against the Mariners, who have been hot of late, could be make-or-break.

Looking Ahead: Mariners and the Little League Classic

The Mets now host the Seattle Mariners for a pivotal three-game series, which includes Sunday's nationally televised Little League Classic in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The Mariners are playing inspired baseball,

while the Mets have been struggling mightily. The team needs to find answers quickly if it wants to remain in the playoff race.

The Mets entering a critical stretch with their backs against the wall. The combination of inconsistent offense, overworked pitching, and blown leads has left the fanbase frustrated and the clubhouse searching for answers. The next week may determine whether the Mets stay in the race, or become one of baseball's most disappointing stories of 2025.

Yankees Search for Stability in Crucial Stretch

A Team Stuck in Neutral

The New York Yankees are 64–57, third place in the AL East, and barely hanging on in the Wild Card race. Over their last 10 games, they've gone 4–6, and the feeling surrounding the team feels more uncertain than optimistic. They've shown flashes, but can't seem to maintain a winning streak for more than a game or two. The inconsistency has become the defining feature of their season.

Minnesota Series: Encouraging Start, Disappointing Finish

The three-game set against the Twins perfectly captured the Yankees' current identity. They opened with a 6–2 win behind a strong outing from rookie Will Warren, who delivered 6⅔ innings of one-run ball. Game 2 was even more convincing: Carlos Rodón threw seven dominant innings, Giancarlo Stanton had four hits, and Anthony Volpe crushed a three-run homer in a 9–1 victory. But any hope of a sweep was dashed in the finale. Minnesota's Joe Ryan shut down the lineup, and the Yankees dropped the game 4–1. What should have been a sweep turned into another missed opportunity.

Star Power Struggling

Aaron Judge has looked off since returning from injury. He's hit just .211 since returning with no extra-base hits yet. Max Fried, acquired to anchor the rotation, has posted an ERA close to 6.00 in recent weeks. If the Yankees are going to make a serious postseason push, both will need to regain their form and perform at the level they're capable of playing at.

Offense One-Dimensional, Bullpen Unreliable

The Yankees' offense has become home-run or bust. Since the All-Star break, they rank near the bottom of the league in batting average and OPS. Stringing together hits or manufacturing runs has been a major struggle. And while the bullpen was thought to have received a trade deadline boost with Devin Williams and Camilo Doval, the results haven't followed. Leads are slipping away late, and Boone simply doesn't have a dependable arm in the pen right now.

Cardinals Series Is No Throwaway

This weekend's matchup with the Cardinals is critical. St. Louis isn't a top-tier opponent, but that's exactly what makes this series so dangerous. Anything short of taking two out of three will raise more questions than it answers. The Yankees need to prove they can beat the teams they're supposed to beat.

The margin for error is gone. With six weeks left in the season, the Yankees don't just need to win, they need to find an identity. If not, their October dreams may disappear before the calendar even turns.

To Block or Not to Block: An Insight into a Defender's Role in Hockey

Asher Toledano, Bruisers – 5TMSL Dynasty Men's Hockey Player

The ball skitters toward the corner on your goalie's stick side. You chase it down, cup it with your stick, and snap it out of the zone. An opposing forward bats it down, corrals it at the half line, and winds up for a slapper. You tense. In a heartbeat, the question hits: Do you block or let your goalie see it?

The positions in hockey generally have clearly defined responsibilities. Oversimplified, the goaltender keeps eyes on the ball, stopping everything he can see and positioning for what he can't. The forward forechecks, backchecks, passes, and shoots when the opportunity arises (or sometimes when it doesn't). And the defenseman is there to mitigate any oncoming attack as well as provide support for their offense. While these roles each have their own nuances, the defenseman's position is (in my biased opinion) particularly complex. Nowhere is this more evident than when staring down an opposing player winding up for a mid-to-deep range shot.

At first glance, sacrificing your body to block the shot feels like the obvious choice (if it doesn't, maybe switch positions). Inside your own defensive zone, this is often the right call due to the limited reaction time the goaltender has, even with a clear view. But the farther the shooter is from the net, the more complicated the decision becomes. From the attacking team's own zone, for instance, the best play is usually to avoid blocking your goalie's vision, stay ready for a rebound or miss, and resist the temptation to wave your stick in the shooting lane and risk an unlucky deflection.

Perhaps the correct way to interact with these shots can be found in the preferences of one's goaltender, given that they are the last line of defense and thus central to the dilemma. When asked for his thoughts on the issue, goaltender Michael Kunstler of the Fighting Flamingos pointed out that "as much as it is a priority to let the goalie see, I guarantee he will be thankful for you blocking that ball." This, however, assumes that you block the shot as intended.

These aren't absolute truths, but they're useful tools for navigating your decision-making. As a defenseman, the art is in reading the situation, be it distance, angles, traffic, or the shooter's skill, and making the call in a split second. Sometimes the right play is eating the puck. Sometimes it's trusting your goalie. The challenge is knowing which is which.

Fundamentals would agree with this sentiment, telling us we need to pressure the oncoming attack and stifle the opposition. It would, on its face, seem ludicrous to posit that one should stand idly by as an attack unfolds simply because they fear the possibility of altering the game against their team's favor. Although no absolute answer is available to us, it seems that the correct mindset to have is to do the very thing you showed up for: make the play.

Sports Trivia

NBA

- 1 - Which active NBA player has the highest career regular-season win percentage among those who have played at least 10 seasons (including playoffs)?
- 2 - Who is the only NBA player to hit a game-winning shot as time expired in an NBA Finals game?
- 3 - Which team was Jalen Brunson drafted by?
- 4 - Which NBA team has the most championships outside of the Boston Celtics and Los Angeles Lakers?
- 5 - Which NBA coach has the most career playoff wins?

NFL

- 1 - Who is the only quarterback, other than Tom Brady, to have won Super Bowls with two different teams?
- 2 - Which NFL tight end has the most Super Bowl wins?
- 3 - Which active NFL player has the most career receiving yards?
- 4 - Who holds the record for the most career non-offensive Td's?
- 5 - Which NFL team drafted Drew Brees?

MLB

- 1 - Who is the only MLB player to hit 700 home runs and steal 300 bases in a career?
- 2 - Who is the only MLB player to have 10 consecutive 200+ hit seasons?
- 3 - Which Hall of Fame shortstop hit 431 career home runs, the most at that position?
- 4 - Who is the only Yankees pitcher to throw a perfect game in the 21st century, doing so against the Oakland A's in 2023?
- 5 - Why did Babe Ruth wear number 3, and Lou Gehrig number 4?

NHL

- 1 - Which goalie posted a 10-game win streak for the Boston Bruins during their historic 2022-23 regular season?
- 2 - Who is the longest-tenured active captain in the NHL
- 3 - Who scored the overtime goal in Game 7 of the 2023 Eastern Conference Final to send the Panthers to the Stanley Cup Final?
- 4 - Which player broke Wayne Gretzky's all-time NHL goals record by scoring his 895th career goal in April 2025?
- 5 - Who led the NHL in points during the 2024-25 regular season, earning the Art Ross Trophy?

Death Question (Hardest question of the Week)

In Game 1 of the 2018 NBA Finals, which player missed the crucial free throw that would have given their team the lead, and which player then dribbled out the clock mistakenly thinking their team was ahead? (Need both for correct answer)

Answers

NBA

- 1 - Kawhi Leonard (71.0%)
- 2 - Michael Jordan (Game 1, 1997 NBA Finals)
- 3 - Dallas Mavericks
- 4 - Golden State Warriors (7 championships)
- 5 - Phil Jackson (229 wins)

NFL

- 1 - Peyton Manning (with Denver and Indianapolis)
- 2 - Rob Gronkowski (4 Td's)
- 3 - Deandre Hopkins (D-Hop has 12965, Mike Evans has 12,684)
- 4 - Devin Hester (20 – 14 punt return Td's, 5 kickoff return Td's, 1 missed field goal return td)
- 5 - SD Chargers

MLB

- 1 - Barry Bonds
- 2 - Ichiro Suzuki
- 3 - Cal Ripken Jr.
- 4 - Domingo German
- 5 - The Yankees gave numbers based on their batting order; Babe Ruth batted third and wore 3, Lou Gehrig batted fourth and wore 4.

NHL

- 1 - Adin Hill
- 2 - Sidney Crosby (18 seasons)
- 3 - Patrick Cane
- 4 - Connor Bedard
- 5 - Chris Driedger

Death Question

George Hill missed the free throw, J.R. Smith dribbled the clock out.

This week's parsha is called עקב, which literally means "heel." The word "heel" reminds us of something we step on without thinking.

Rashi, quoting the Midrash, says that some Mitzvos get treated the same way. People think they're not a big deal, so they step right over them like they don't matter. It's easy to say, "Whatever, it's not such a serious mitzvah." But the Torah is warning us: don't fall into that mindset.

The Mishnah in Pirkei Avos tells us to treat "small" Mitzvos just as seriously as the big ones, because we don't really know which ones are worth more in Hashem's eyes. Something that looks small to us might be huge up there.

The Torah itself proves this. Two very different Mitzvos; honoring your parents and sending away a mother bird, both come with the same reward: a long life. One is hard and takes real effort. The other takes a few seconds. So why the same reward? Because it's not about how hard something feels. It's about whether we're doing what Hashem asked.

Doing mitzvos isn't about what we get out of them. It's about strengthening our connection to Hashem. Every time we do even the simplest mitzvah, we're building that connection.

So what does the heel teach us? It reminds us not to be cold or disconnected. The heel is the part of the body that doesn't feel much. But we're supposed to feel. We're supposed to care about what's right, even when it's easy to ignore.

Bottom line: if it's a mitzvah, it matters. There's no such thing as "just a small one" when it comes from Hashem.

Good Shabbos

5TMSL FALL 2025 SEASON HYPE: Our Playoff Format

In 5TMSL, the playoffs start before the opening whistle - with a decision that could change everything.

Here's how it works: the lower seed gets to knock one sport off the board. Then, from the remaining three, the higher seed chooses which sport will be played. It's an edge for the higher seed, but it comes with pressure. One decision could define the game - or the season.

All week long, expect nonstop speculation. "There's no way they take off flag football, right?" "If they don't pick basketball with that lineup, I'll be stunned." "They've got the best goalie in the league - how could they not go hockey?" And once the pick is announced, the conversations just heat up more. Parents, players, coaches - everyone's got an opinion.

Pick right, and you give your team the best shot at advancing to the next round. Pick wrong, and well... expect some second-guessing.

It's the perfect mix of strategy, drama, and fun, and it's what makes the 5TMSL playoff experience unlike any other league. Can you outplay the other team? Maybe. But first, can you pick the right sport to lead your team to the W?