



# FINALS

## RECAP



		1ST	2ND	3RD	
Game M-FINALS-PLY Playoff  9:00 PM Dec 22, 2024 <a href="#">VIEW BOX SCORE</a>	<b>Monarchs</b> (9 - 7 - 0) MASTERS	2	0	0	<b>2</b>
	<b>Threshers</b> (11 - 5 - 0) MASTERS	0	3	0	<b>3</b>

### Threshers Rally to Defend Master's Cup Title with Gritty Comeback Victory

In a dramatic showdown worthy of the season's crescendo, the Threshers overcame a two-goal deficit to defeat the Monarchs 3-2 and successfully defend their Master's Cup title. The victory solidifies the Threshers' reputation as a dynasty in the making, led by the incomparable Eric Johnson, who continued his league dominance with a pivotal performance that sparked his team's rally. The matchup featured three periods of intense, gritty hockey, culminating in a comeback for the ages.

The Monarchs appeared poised to dethrone the reigning champions early on, with Dan McKinney & Dan Buckingham lighting the lamp twice in the first period. Assisted by Jason Standish and Rian Kearney, McKinney & Bucky's precision and quick releases gave the Monarchs a commanding 2-0 lead. Goaltender Mark Utera made several key saves to preserve the advantage, and it seemed the Monarchs' defensive scheme might stymie the Threshers' usually high-octane offense.

But the Threshers, known for their resilience, came out swinging in the second period. Eric Johnson ignited the comeback at the 10:49 mark, weaving through defenders and netting a clutch goal off a slick feed from Brian Morgan. That tally shifted the momentum firmly in favor of the Threshers. A power-play goal from John Russell tied the game shortly thereafter, with Kevin Cinquegrano providing the setup. Duncan Morrissey then delivered the game-winner with a sharp one-timer, assisted by Greg Cincotta, completing the turnaround before the second period ended.

The third period was a defensive masterclass, with Joe Burke standing tall between the pipes for the Threshers. Burke, who faced 11 shots in total, denied every attempt in the final frame and cemented his legacy as a clutch performer in high-stakes games. Despite late pushes from the Monarchs, the Threshers' blue line shut down any hopes of an equalizer. The physicality ratcheted up as tensions boiled over, with both teams trading penalties, but the Threshers never wavered.

For the Monarchs, it was a heartbreaking end to an otherwise stellar campaign, while the Threshers reveled in the glory of back-to-back championships. Johnson's leadership and poise once again proved the difference, and his name now resonates alongside the league's all-time greats. With their Master's Cup victory, the Threshers have etched their place in the annals of the sport, proving that champions aren't just born—they're forged in the fires of adversity.



		1ST	2ND	3RD	
Game C-FINALS-PLY Playoff  7:40 PM Dec 22, 2024 <a href="#">VIEW BOX SCORE</a>	<b>Longhorns</b> (10 - 5 - 1) CLASSICS	3	0	2	<b>5</b>
	<b>Hawks</b> (10 - 6 - 0) CLASSICS	2	0	1	<b>3</b>

## Longhorns Stampede Past Hawks Amid Storylines Worthy of a Hollywood Script

The Longhorns roared to a 5-3 victory over the Hawks in a game packed with drama on and off the ice. This wasn't just about the action on the scoreboard; it was a showdown of compelling narratives. Chief among them was the triumphant return of captain John "Hollywood" Currie, who overcame a midseason injury to rejoin the Longhorns and add flair to their offense. His dazzling play may not have made it onto the score sheet, but his presence set the tone for a Longhorns team determined to prove they belong in the finals.

The game also featured a battle sure to spice up future holiday dinners—a rare matchup between father-in-law Mike Zucarelli and son-in-law Tom Doucette. Both players played pivotal roles in their respective team efforts, with Zucarelli registering two key assists for the Longhorns and Doucette tallying a late goal for the Hawks. While the family bragging rights might be a sore spot come Christmas, their competitive spirit added another layer of intensity to an already electric playoff atmosphere.

Despite the compelling subplots, the spotlight often turned to Hawks goaltender Barry Kaiser. The division's top netminder once again demonstrated his prowess, making 15 saves, several of them spectacular. However, even Kaiser couldn't withstand the relentless pressure of the Longhorns, who managed to capitalize on key opportunities, including a game-winning goal from Bob Sideropoulos early in the third period. Kaiser's Herculean efforts kept the Hawks in the game, but the offensive support wasn't enough to match the Longhorns' balanced attack.

The Hawks' Shawn Malloy and Chuck Kilfoye kept things interesting with early goals, combining for three points in the first period. But the Longhorns' Ed Mortell and Scott Varley spearheaded a counterattack, each contributing multiple points to outpace the Hawks. A late goal from Doucette trimmed the deficit to 5-3, but time ran out before the Hawks could mount a full comeback.

This game had everything: star power, familial rivalries, elite goaltending, and high-stakes drama. With the win, the Longhorns march into the next season, buoyed by a deep lineup and the spark of Hollywood Currie's

return. For the Hawks, it's a bittersweet ending to a promising season. They'll have plenty to reflect on, including Kaiser's brilliance, but for now, it's the Longhorns who ride off victorious, leaving fans eager for what comes next.