ISSUES

October 27, 2017 | By Daniel Fedkenheuer

podium to collect their hook ups.

PHOTOS: AMY TORRES

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Collegiate Skate Tour - Astoria, Queens 2017 Recap

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In my previous ventures out to cover some of the events that the Collegiate Skate Tour puts on, I have been lucky to cover them from ground level to get up close and personal to the shredding. This time however, sidelined by injury, I was fortunate enough to have watched this contest go down from a

completely different vantage point: behind the judge's table. Alongside a couple Astoria locals, we got to experience this stop of the tour from a unparalled point of view that overlooked the sprawling waterside park. From this spot, we got the experience of watching guys like Helaman "Hela" Campos go from

signing up, to throwing crook nollie flips and absolutely ripping the course to retuning back to the

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Thank You Sally Ann Miller

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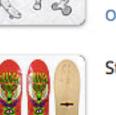
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In my first experience judging a skateboarding contest, I might argue to say I had the toughest job out

there in trying to make sure my papers would not fly away with the intense wind that descended on the

This year's stop of the Collegiate Skate Tour saw a bunch of new faces, along with a handful of familiar rippers who braved the rainy conditions last year. Bryant HS student, Brian Pascuaal seemed to use the wind to his advantage, flying around the course in his iconic durag. Meanwhile, internet-famous Humzea Deas showed up pulling clean front tailslide 270s to the tune of his name being called for the start of Heat 3. DC rider Derek Holmes also returned this year, making easy work of throwing back tailslides off the park's shootout ledge.

Lastly, coming back for more after his first place run last year, Andrew Valencia showed how familiar he was with the Astoria park by linking effortless lines together left and right. Perhaps most notably, Valencia even managed to hop to another board that got in his way, mid-grind. As if that weren't enough, Valencia finished by shutting down the the best trick contest with a massive ghetto bird on the centerpiece gap.



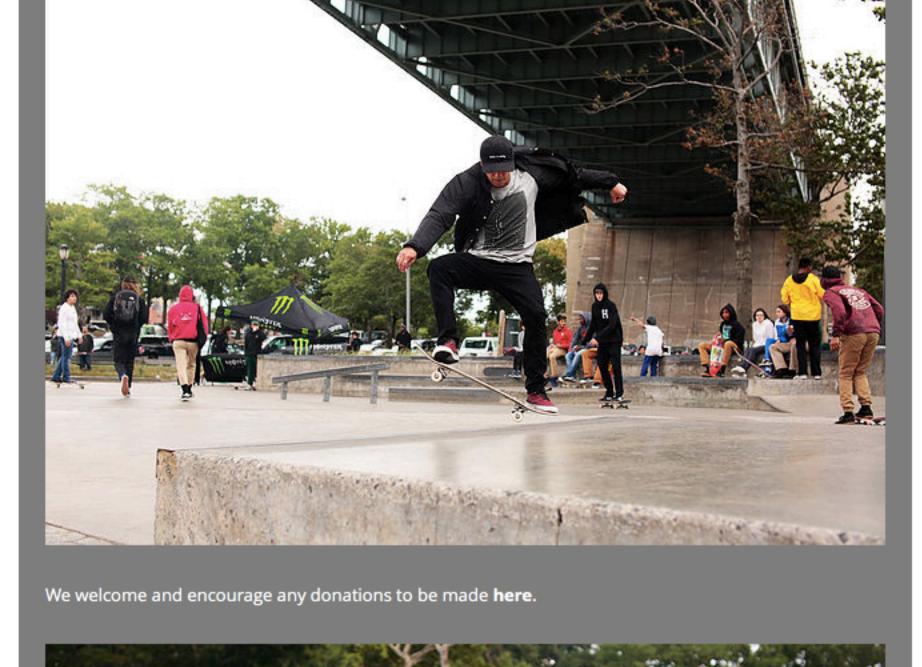
In the end, however, Heat 5's Nico Ramos stepped up and put down an amazing set of runs to not only advance from his heat but to make it through to the semifinal and final heats. From what we saw behind the judge's table, we had to give the win in the non-student division to him. From his blunt backside flips to his kickflip 50-50 body varials to his back 360 grabs off the platform gap, Ramos' tech showing had it all.

Unfortunately, the only hiccup on an otherwise easygoing contest was Joel Jones' unfortunate injury in the middle of Heat 4. After an absent-minded bicyclist wandered onto the course, Jones hit the concrete

and was rushed to the hospital to receive a handful of staples in his head.



thoughts. Since the event, a GoFundMe has been started to help cover some of the unexpected ambulance and hospital costs for Joel and his young family.







Check out the action that went down here:



in Queens."





