Red Bull Roller Coaster International Qualification • American Jake Ilardi takes the top position • Spain's Danny Leon wins Best Trick
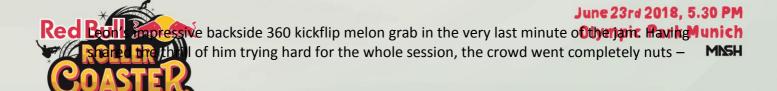
Red Bull Roller Coaster: Top 10 Move on to Finals!

Munich, June 22nd – What a way to kick off Munich Mash 2018: After yesterday's national qualifiers, Red Bull Roller Coaster went fully international with 18 skateboarders from all over the world competing in the semi-finals, ending the day with an epic Best Trick session. Unlike other skate competitions, the nearly 330-yard slopestyle course, designed to combine street, bowl and vert elements, challenged athletes to display a wide range of skill to move on to tomorrow's finals. Incredible skateboarding went down as all riders pushed themselves to go faster and higher under the watchful eyes of the cheerful crowd that lined the course near the Olympic Lake. After two intense heats with three runs for each skater, Jake Ilardi (US) took the pole position for tomorrow's finals, followed by Danny Leon (SPA) and Jamie Foy (US). The ten best riders advance to tomorrow's finals, ultimately determining the most versatile skateboarder in the world live on Red Bull TV at 5:30pm CEST here: redbull.tv/rollercoaster.

Jake Ilardi came out swinging, scoring the best run of the day in his first attempt. Winning the judges over with incredible pace, huge airtime and a stay-on run, he hit every single obstacle the course had to offer. "The course suited me well because I love to skate everything. I skated vert when I was younger, I've been skating street forever and I really like to go fast", says Ilardi. "I'll stick to the same runs but add a couple of more tricks – I've got a few more up my sleeve", he adds in anticipation of tomorrow's finals. 23-year-old Danny Leon from Madrid, Spain, had quite a good start as well: "I was so nervous before my first run – and I don't really know how, but it went perfect for me." Leon is also comfortable on his board on every terrain and was able to embrace the concept of Red Bull Roller Coaster: "It's so cool to skate street and transition in one line, I love that. I can skate street, but usually I skate more transition and I like to mix everything. And the course is so fast, you can get a lot of speed and go really high."

The day didn't just end with a second-place finish for Leon, he also managed to score Best Trick during the 45-minute jam session that followed the semi-finals. Beneath a perfectly blue sky, the Best Trick session allowed for the skaters to hype up the crowd with heavy bangers on the "Wipeout Watergap", the final boss of the track. Kevin Baekkel (NOR) blasted out huge backside 360 with his backpack on – Chad-Muska-style – while German starter Lenni Janssen won the Munich crowd's hearts with his signature tailgrab 360 shove-it and a spectacular nosegrab bigspin. Janssen was a top contender but was ultimately defeated by

Leon's impressive backside 360 kickflip melon grab in the very last minute of the jam. Having shared the thrill of him trying hard for the whole session, the crowd went completely nuts –

thus providing the perfect basis for tomorrow's finals, when Red Bull Roller Coaster will ultimately determine the most versatile skateboarder in the world. The event is free to attend, but for those unable to make it on-site, the finals will be broadcast live on Red Bull TV at 5:30pm CEST.

International Qualifier Results:

1. Jake Ilardi / USA   85.33
2. Danny Leon / SPA   83.33
3. Jamie Foy / USA   78.33
4. Alex Sorgente / USA   77.66
5. Vincent Milou / FRA   74.00
6. Curren Caples / USA   73.66
7. Zion Wright / USA   72.66
8. Pedro Barros / BRA   71.00
9. Kevin Baekkel / NOR   69.33
10. Fabiana Delfino / USA   44.33

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