

Bill Heintz

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Subject: FW:Sports Article

The first weekend of competition in the Idaho State USBC Bowling Championships is now history, and the scores of the first weekend bode well for lots of high scores.

Six near-perfect scores and a 789 series were at the top of the list of individual efforts. Bowlers that struck in 11 frames in one game were: Shon Bywater (Mini-Cassia); Kevin Grupa (Mt. Home); Hank Boomershine (Hailey); Justin Studer (Mini-Cassia); Andrew Kinney (Idaho Falls); and Mike Sagers (Hailey). Sagers is the one that used his high game of 289 to fashion the 789 series, and unfortunately for him, it occurred in the Team Event.

The three main events of the Tournament are Team (five person), Doubles and Singles, and even though each event is split into two divisions based on the bowlers' average, all the scores include the bowler's handicap. The bowlers also have the option of entering a Handicap All Events and/or a Scratch All Events competition for prize money. The total prize fund for the Tournament exceeds \$40,000.

The Drilling Room from the Wood River Assn. leads the A Division of the Team Event with a total score of 3509. The Mini-Cassia Bowling Assn. #1 team finds themselves a distant second at 3427. Two teams from Southeast Idaho are separated by only one pin in the B Division. The Shurtleff Construction team from Caribou county leads with a 3521 followed by Tripp Upholstery (Malad City) at 3520.

Bowlers from those same two teams also turned in the top three scores in the B Division-Doubles. The Malad City team of Darren Tripp and Scott Blaisdell lead with a 1501 score followed by the Caribou County teams of Bruce Murray/Jerry Shurtleff (1474) and Brandon Langedyke/Donald Weeks (1468). A duo from the host Mini-Cassia Assn., Larry Iwakiri & Jonny Amen, top the leader board of the A Division-Doubles with a 1446 total. Cody Hicks and Jason Moon from Buhl are in second with 1434.

Terry Smith (Idaho Falls) posted a 765 to lead the A Division-Singles with Justin Studer (Mini-Cassia) close behind at 757. The Mini-Cassia Assn. Manager, Dave Huntington, picked the last squad of the weekend to shoot a 762 and surge ahead of two of the Caribou County bowlers mentioned earlier in the B Division-Singles. Bruce Murray is in second with a 743 and Donald Weeks had a 728.

The All Events, which is a total of the bowlers' scores in the nine games from the other three events, finds many of the same names listed above. Jonny Amen does lead the Handicap Division with a 2276, but the next four spots are occupied by the SE Idaho bowlers: Darren Tripp (2272); Bruce Murray (2247); Scott Blaisdell (2187); and Donald Weeks (2179).

Bob Harvey, from Boise, was extremely consistent at a high level and leads the Scratch Division - All Events with a 2096. He started off with a 695 in the Doubles and 701 in the Singles on Saturday and then he came back on Sunday to post a 700 in the Team Event. Hank Boomershine (2020), Justin Studer (2019), and Kevin Grupa (2014) were the only other bowlers to break the 2000 mark.

A Special Event was held for the first time in conjunction with the State Tournament. A High 5 Team Tournament brought together the highest-average bowlers from 15 bowling centers across Idaho. The teams were split into two divisions and they bowled fifteen games of Baker-format competition. The host Snake River Bowl team (Bob Bywater, Rick Hieb, Tyson Hirsch, Steve Studer, Brad Holm) prevailed over the Sunset Bowl team from Ontario, OR (Willie Hollis, Tim Biggs, Ridg Medford, Shawn Thomson, Larry Sather) in the A Division. Following them were: Magic Bowl (Twin Falls); Skyline Lanes (Id. Falls); Tough Guy Lanes (Pocatello); Bowladrome (Twin Falls); Nampa Bowl; and Caldwell Bowl. The Freedom Lanes team from Mt. Home narrowly defeated the Bowl-ero team from Idaho Falls to win the B Division. On the winning team were Randal Werschky, Al Witrosky, Jim Schipani, Kevin Grupa, and John Bitrick. Bowling on the second-place team were Bruce Watts, Randy Landon, Terry Smith, Larry Wasson, and Ken Brown. Other teams entered in the B Division were: Pine Bowl (Pocatello); Mt. Sun Lanes (Bellevue); Sunset Bowl (Buhl); Mt. View Lanes (Shoshone); Pinecrest Lanes (Idaho Falls); and Lancer Lanes (Clarkston, WA).

A complete listing of the State Tournament standings can be found on the State Association's website, www.idahostatebowling.org <<http://www.idahostatebowling.org/>> .

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