

KNAPP IS “COMEBACK KID” - EARNS FIRST N.W.S.T. TITLE

For the first time since 2007, the Northwest Senior Tour returned to Gresham's Mt. Hood Lanes on Sunday, December 16, for the Coor's Light Invitational. A field of 38 bowlers was hoping to start the holiday season early with a N.W.S.T. singles title as their gift.

Washington bowlers led the way in the early rounds of competition, holding onto 7 of the 12 qualifying berths. Bellevue's Jeff Knapp opened with a 279 game on his way to a four-game total of 1010, topping all competitors with a 252 per game average.

Right-hander Mike Karch earned round four scoring honors with a game of 279, securing second place with a 998 total, good for a 249 per game average. Tacoma's Larry Borghi sat in third with a 992 total.

Mitch Vernon continued the Evergreen state's dominance, holding down fourth place with a four-game total of 972 and a 243 per game average. Right-hander Bob Reed, Sr. of Weed, California, opened the tournament with a 278 game on his way to a fifth-place total of 960. Left-hander Tom Anderson, the reigning N.W.S.T. Player of the Year, rounded out the top six, totaling 939 for a 234 average per game.

In round five of qualifying, Jeff Knapp duplicated his opening round effort, posting another 279 for a 1289 total. The right-hander's blistering 257 per game average established a 64 pin lead over Mike Karch, sitting in second place with a pinfall of 1225, a 245 per game average.

Right-handers Mitch Vernon and Larry Borghi traded places, with Vernon taking over third place at +217 for a 243 per game average. Borghi trailed by just 14 pins with a 1203 total and a per game average of 240.

Reed and Anderson held onto their positions in the top six. Reed remained in fifth at 1188, a 237 average, with Anderson holding steady in sixth place at 1178, good for a 235 per game pace.

Oregon bowlers were in possession of four of the remaining berths to the finals, with Oregon City's Mike Polinsky leading the way in seventh place. His 232 per game average and 1163 total were 17 pins better than Eugene's Dennis Powell, sitting in eighth at 1146.

Astoria's Jon Gustafson led all super seniors, his 1127 total and 225 per game average positioned him in tenth. Right-hander Lori Eskew of Hillsboro led the women's contingent in the field, her total of 1111 and 222 per game average placing her in eleventh. Vancouver's Dean Hebner established the cut line target for those in contention, holding onto twelfth with 1102 in total pins for a 220 average per game.

Entering the sixth and final game of qualifying, 15 bowlers were within 50 pins of the final berth into match play. However, the potential for dramatic movement did not materialize, as only 2 competitors made a significant jump up the leader board to qualify for the finals.

Jeff Knapp claimed the honor of leading qualifier despite struggling through a 195 game. His 1484 total and 247 average placed him 32 pins ahead of Mike Karch, in second place with a 242 average and a 1452 total.

Larry Borghi and Mitch Vernon were the only other bowlers to crack through the 1400 ceiling, with Borghi shooting a final game of 222 to qualify third at 1425, a 237 per game average. Vernon's 193 dropped him back to fourth, averaging 235 for a total pinfall of 1410.

Right-hander Mike Polinsky was the highest qualifier among Oregon bowlers, earning the fifth seed with a solid 235 game and a 1398 total. Tom Anderson remained in sixth place for the third consecutive round, finishing with a 1396 total and a 232 average.

California right-hander Bob Reed, Sr. fell two spots to the seventh seed. His 1394 in pinfall and 232 per game average was 43 pins better than Oregon southpaw Dennis Powell, sitting in eighth at 1351.

Jon Gustafson was the highest qualifying super senior. The Oregon right-hander claimed the ninth seed with 1341 in total pins, good for a 223 per game average.

Oregon right-handers Jon Tang and Johnny More turned in the most impressive performances of round six. Tang's clutch 279 game, high for the round, catapulted him from seventeenth to tenth, posting a solid 1339 total. More, the second super senior to qualify, nearly matched Tang's effort, firing a game of 277 to move from eighteenth to capture the eleventh seed with a 1334 pinfall.

Despite a final game of 191, Vancouver's Steve Michaliszyn earned the twelfth and final berth to match play, averaging 222 for a 1333 total. An outstanding 276 in his final game enabled P.B.A. hall-of-famer Ernie Schlegel to claim the super senior-plus check, finishing in fourteenth place with a 216 per game average and 1297 in total pins.

Round one of match play opened with qualifying leader Jeff Knapp defeating Steve Michaliszyn, 219-197. Despite the win, Knapp dropped to third as Mike Karch vaulted into first place, shooting the tournament's high game in defeating Clackamas right-hander Johnny More, 290-223.

Washington right-hander Larrt Borghi improved his position, striking on eleven of twelve shots to register a 279-223 victory over Portland's Jon Tang. Borghi moved into second by one pin over Knapp.

Tom Anderson continued the sizzling scoring pace, climbing into title contention with a 268-200 defeat of Bob Reed. The Bonney Lake southpaw took over fourth place with the win.

Dennis Powell completed round one's strike barrage, solidifying his fifth place position with a 279-231 victory over fellow Oregonian Mike Polinsky. In spite of the loss, Polinsky remained in sixth place.

In the final game of round one, Astoria's Jon Gustafson defeated Olympia's Mitch Vernon, 236-213. Gustafson moved into eighth with the win, while Vernon fell from fourth to seventh.

Round two saw Mike Karch expand his lead to 78 pins with a 244-194 defeat of Larry Borghi. Tom Anderson rose to second place by defeating qualifying leader Jeff Knapp, 244-197. Knapp remained in third place but fell farther behind, trailing the leader by 116 pins.

Dennis Powell squared off against Mike Polinsky in a rematch of their first round contest. Their duel went to the final frame before Polinsky prevailed, 229-223. With the win, Polinsky moved into fifth place by a mere 5 pins over Powell.

In another rematch of first round contests, Jon Gustafson made it two-in-a-row over Mitch Vernon, 228-206. Gustafson continued his steady climb up the leader board, now sitting in seventh place. With the loss, Vernon dropped one spot to eighth.

Other round two matches saw Jon Tang defeat Bob Reed, Sr. in a low-scoring match, 197-184. Tang improved to ninth with the win, while Reed fell to eleventh.

Steve Michaliszyn topped Johnny More in an interstate rivalry, 224-206. The victory advanced the Washington right-hander to tenth, with More falling back to twelfth.

Mike Karch opened round three looking to build an insurmountable lead, but in a duel of Puget Sound bowlers, lefty Tom Anderson edged Karch, 245-224. The victory moved Anderson within 27 pins of Karch, setting up a final round rematch between the top two in the standings.

Jeff Knapp kept his faint title hopes alive, posting a pressure-packed 238-231 win over Larry Borghi. Knapp remained in third place but closed his distance from first place to 62 pins. Despite the narrow loss, Borghi held onto fourth.

With Washington bowlers securing the top four places in the standings, Oregon finalists fought back to claim the next four positions. Mike Polinsky and Dennis Powell faced off for the third consecutive time, with Polinsky winning the rubber match, 235-224. The Milwaukie Bowl right-hander moved into fifth place with the win, while Powell slipped back to seventh.

Super senior Jon Gustafson continued his undefeated march through the finals, climbing into sixth place with a 224-199 victory over Mitch Vernon. Johnny More, the super senior finalist, coasted to a 235-190 win over Bob Reed, Sr. to advance to eighth.

Closing out round three, Sunset Bowl's Jon Tang outlasted Steve Michaliszyn, 188-175. The low-scoring match caused Tang to drop one spot to tenth. Michaliszyn fell to twelfth.

Dramatic finishes have been the norm throughout this N.W.S.T. season, and this final round would be no different. Leader Mike Karch and Tom Anderson struggled to create any momentum. Their strike-challenged match gave Jeff Knapp a chance to play the Christmas grinch and he took full advantage.

Anderson struck on his first ball in the tenth to lock up his match, but his next ball proved to be his undoing. Leaving the 3-5-6, Anderson picked off only the 5-pin, giving him a 212-194 victory over Karch.

Finishing before Anderson, Knapp proved unflappable in the face of the strike-or-else pressure, producing two clutch four-baggers to rout Larry Borghi, 258-180. Knapp's come-from-behind effort enabled the Bellevue right-hander to capture his first N.W.S.T. championship by a single pin over Anderson.

Runner-up Tom Anderson led all finalists in scoring with a four-game series of 969. The Washington left-hander was also one of only two bowlers to go through match play undefeated.

With his loss to Anderson, Mike Karch finished in third place. His outstanding 954 series in match play left him only 20 pins behind the tournament winner. Jon Gustafson's 236-216 win over Mike Polinsky earned the Lower Columbia Bowl super senior an undefeated match play record and an impressive fourth place finish. Polinsky, a N.W.S.T. rookie, held onto his fifth place position.

Larry Borghi's loss dropped him to sixth place in the standings while Dennis Powell remained in seventh place, despite a 225-208 defeat at the hands of Johnny More. Jon Tang climbed to eighth with a 255-196 win over Mitch Vernon. Tang's big game caused More to fall to ninth and Vernon to eleventh.

The tournament concluded with California right-hander Bob Reed, Sr., defeating Steve Michaliszyn, 231-220. Reed improved to a tenth-place finish, while Michaliszyn remained in twelfth.

The Northwest Senior Tour would like to thank Mt. Hood Lanes, manager Doug Greenlee, and his entire staff for their hard work and hospitality in hosting this event. A special thank you to Coor's Light and Chuck Fick III of General Distributors for their generous sponsorship of this tournament.

The N.W.S.T. will inaugurate the new year on Sunday, January 20, with the Vancouver U.S.A. Open at Husted's Hazel Dell Lanes. In addition, the bowling center will host our second 650 Swiss Trio event of the season on Saturday, January 19.

NORTHWEST SENIOR TOUR



Gresham, OR
December 16, 2013

QUALIFYING

POS	TOTAL	+/-	NAME	LANE	1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	1484	284	Knapp, Jeff	22C	279	232	247	252	279	195	
2	1452	252	Karch, Mike	20D	226	234	259	279	227	227	
3	1425	225	Borghini, Larry	18D	268	243	234	247	211	222	
4	1410	210	Vernon, Mitch	16C	247	269	234	222	245	193	
5	1398	198	Polinsky, Mike	09A	233	269	175	248	238	235	
6	1396	196	Anderson, Tom	24D	269	216	235	219	239	218	
7	1394	194	Reed, Bob	10D	278	226	247	209	228	206	
8	1351	151	Powell, Dennis	13B	247	247	217	176	259	205	
9	1341	141	Gustafson, Jon SS	20C	235	237	231	225	199	214	
10	1339	139	Tang, Jon	22D	172	206	226	198	258	279	
11	1334	134	More, Johnny SS	12D	194	236	202	224	201	277	
12	1333	133	Michaliszyn, Steve	14D	228	247	248	214	205	191	MATCH
13	1320	120	Eskew, Lori	16D	246	203	279	187	196	209	
14	1297	97	Schlegel, Ernie SS+	06D	226	188	210	184	213	276	SS+
15	1292	92	Hebner, Dean	06C	227	219	248	213	195	190	
16	1282	82	Sanders, Bill	10C	235	238	184	196	225	204	
17	1279	79	Zabelle, Trent	21A	235	223	196	191	209	225	
18	1277	77	Bills, Jim	17A	215	223	190	183	241	225	
19	1275	75	Nogle, Mike	12C	235	233	181	215	167	244	
20	1268	68	Myers, Tim	17B	221	257	189	194	160	247	
21	1265	65	McNelly, Bill SS	14C	266	193	224	192	196	194	
22	1258	58	Starnes, Bill SS+	09B	181	208	213	225	206	225	
23	1249	49	Fantini, John SS+	21B	191	169	244	225	236	184	
24	1248	48	Barber, Mike	19B	211	241	203	236	161	196	
25	1247	47	Pierce, Tim	24C	178	203	161	189	258	258	
26	1246	46	Lorimor, Stan	05A	237	194	236	183	229	167	
27	1237	37	Porter, Bob	23B	225	200	178	217	213	204	
28	1233	33	Ferguson, Tony	15B	214	245	230	181	180	183	
29	1223	23	Lavin, Norm	13A	227	179	213	177	243	184	
30	1220	20	Korth, Bob SS+	23A	182	252	195	187	200	204	
31	1207	7	Gallagher, Tim SS	08D	161	188	213	185	208	252	
32	1197	3	Muzzy, Jeff	15A	188	202	205	205	233	164	
33	1178	22	Ford, Steve SS	18C	201	178	259	186	185	169	
34	1140	60	Humphrys, Tom SS	08C	225	170	159	168	190	228	
35	1084	116	Johnson, Terry	05B	222	174	168	213	167	140	
36	1064	136	Grenon, Larry SS+	19A	190	171	149	167	204	183	
37	1053	147	Sturdevant, Bob SS	11A	172	167	186	155	159	214	
38	831	369	Dean, Nancy	07A	134	151	139	130	133	144	



FINAL RESULTS
December 16, 2012

Bowler		QUALIFYING	FINALS	BONUS	TOTAL	PRIZE	
1	Jeff Knapp	Bellevue, WA	1484	912	90	2486	\$650
2	Tom Anderson	Bonney Lake, WA	1396	969	120	2485	\$500
3	Mike Karch	Edgewood, WA	1452	954	60	2466	\$400
4	Jon Gustafson SS	Astoria, OR	1341	926	120	2387	\$350
5	Mike Polinsky	Oregon City, OR	1398	911	60	2369	\$300
6	Larry Borghi	Tacoma, WA	1425	884	30	2339	\$275
7	Dennis Powell	Eugene, OR	1351	934	30	2315	\$250
8	Jon Tang	Portland, OR	1339	871	90	2300	\$230
9	Johnny More SS	Portland, OR	1334	889	60	2283	\$210
10	Bob Reed	Weed, CA	1394	805	30	2229	\$200
11	Mitch Vernon	Olympia, WA	1410	814	0	2224	\$190
12	Steve Michaliszyn	Vancouver, WA	1333	816	30	2179	\$180
Super Senior + Cash							
	Ernie Schlegel	Vancouver, WA	1297				\$100

SS: 60-67

SS+: 68+

