

MIKE KARCH REPEATS AS N.W.S.T. PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The Northwest Senior Tour announced its individual awards for the 2013-14 season. Five bowlers were recognized for their accomplishments over the twelve-event schedule.

Washington's Mike Karch became the first bowler in the past six seasons to earn back-to-back Player of the Year honors, edging Tim Myers by 420 points. Though Karch failed to capture a tournament title, he displayed a consistent level of excellence. The Edgewood right-hander competed in 11 of 12 events, making 10 consecutive finals after failing to make the cut in his first tournament of the year. Karch just missed a title with a runner-up finish in December's Molalla Senior Open, then concluded the year with a trio of third-place finishes, highlighted by his Tour Championship performance. Karch averaged 225 for 114 games bowled.

Tim Myers dominated the title count, collecting 4 championships that included a string of wins in April and May. The Milwaukie right-hander captured the singles crown at Molalla for his first victory of the year, then added another individual title at Olympia's Westside Lanes. Myers then posted victories at the Bi-Mart 90+ Swiss Doubles event and the Milwaukie Swiss Trio for a three-tournament winning streak, tying the record set by Hall-of-Famers Walt Lundgren (2000-01) and Frank Dietz, Jr. (2007-08). Myers season average was 225 for 103 games bowled.

Like Myers, Trent Zabelle earned all-star status for the third consecutive year. The Portland bowler competed in all 12 events on the schedule, qualifying for 5 match play finals. Zabelle claimed back-to-back victories early in the year, winning his third career singles title in Astoria, then paired with Evan Nash to capture the Hammer Open Doubles championship. He also collected a second-place finish with partner Craig Tuholski at the Bi-Mart Swiss Doubles. The Oregon right-hander ended his 100-game season with a 216 average.

Washington's Mitch Vernon merited all-star status for the first time in his N.W.S.T. career, competing near the top of the leader board throughout the 11 tournaments he entered. The Olympia right-hander qualified for an impressive 8 finals, highlighted by 4 fourth-place finishes, including the Tour Championship. Vernon bowled in 106 games, averaging 219 in the process.

Rookie Ron Martinson filled the fifth and final spot on the N.W.S.T. all-star squad, earning the award in his first year on tour. The Beaverton right-hander made 5 match-play finals out of 10 tournaments entered, highlighted by second-place finishes in Astoria and Hazel Dell. Martinson concluded his season with a fifth-place showing in the Tour Championship. The Oregonian tied Karch and Myers for second place in the race for high season average, averaging 225 for 95 games bowled. Eugene's Mike Ewing won the scoring title with a 230 average for 78 tournament games.

Oregon's Steve Kiss finished the season as the tour's top super senior. The right-hander competed in 11 events, most notable being his win at the Linn Lanes Senior Classic for his fifth career title. Kiss made 3 other match-play finals, collecting a third-place check in Astoria and a sixth-place finish at the Tour Championship. The Clackamas bowler averaged 219 over 92 games.

Walt Lundgren, the career leader in titles with 21, settled in twelfth to lead all super senior-plus competitors. The Oregonian bowled in 10 events, highlighted by an outstanding second-place finish at the Senior Masters, followed by a third-place showing in Olympia. The Albany right-hander ended his season with a 212 average for 90 games bowled.