

Champions crowned in 86th Greater Calumet tournament

An 18-year-old Calumet College bowler walked away with the Actual Singles championship when he bowled the last squad of the 86th annual Greater Calumet Area USBC Bowling Association Championships at Stardust Bowl III in Dyer.

Brett Wagner, who bowled for Lake Central during his high school years, recorded games of 285, 253 and 279 for his 817 series.

Wagner went around Lan Oak Lanes bowler Mark Hansen, who rolled a 777 series on Feb. 14, the first day of the tournament. Also topping Hansen, but not enough to take the top prize, was another Cal College bowler, Kevin Zatorski, of Hammond, who rolled a 794 while Wagner was recording his series.

Zatorski added a little drama of his own to the tournament on the last day as he claimed the Actual All-Events title with a 2,231, nipping Timm Sieber, of St. John, by two pins.

The accolades for Calumet College continued in the Team Actual event at Lynwood Lanes in Lynwood, Ill., with that team claiming that title with two clutch strikes by anchorman John Verbich, of Griffith, in the 10th frame of the final game. The team, led by longtime PBA pro Eugene McCune, of Munster, with a 760, consisted of Calumet College head coach Mike Kubacki, of Griffith (725), Chris Cundiff, of Portage (701) and Verbich (734).

In the Team Pins Over Average division, the Olympia Lanes No. 4 team claimed the top prize with a Plus 139 effort. Team members included James Raschke, Harold Raschke, Julio Santiago and Jeremy Turley.

James Raschke, 24, of Hammond, rolled his first 800 series, an 801, in the Doubles Pins Over Average event to power his team, which included Turley, to that division's championship at Plus 195. Raschke, a 205-average bowler, also claimed the Pins Over Average All-Events prize with a Plus 312 effort.

In the Doubles Actual division, Stardust III bowlers Jerry Brann and Eric Martin teamed up for 786 and 752 series, respectively, for a 1,538 total to win that division by 40 pins, the widest margin of victory in any division this year. Brann, who recently turned 50, included a 300 game in his 786 series. Finishing second were Dick Hunt and Jim Helmecy with a 1,498. Helmecy added a 300 game in his series.

In Singles Pins Over Average, Olympia Lanes bowler Marshall Wesley, coming in with a 181-average, rolled a 668 series to take the championship with a Plus 125 score. Wesley also claimed second place in the Pins Over Average All-Events division with Plus 296.

Bowlers recorded 17 award scores during the tournament including four 800s (Sieber, 836; Wagner, 817; Jeff Snuffer, 804; and Raschke, 801), nine 300s (Brann, Helmecy, Zatorski, Curt Jensen, John Riffle, Gregg Schmied, Dusty Payne and Rick Woloszyn), and four 11-in-a-row awards (Mike Kozy, 299; Mike Ferro, 299; Mike Svilar, 296; and Kevin Mikalouski, 290).