

Original Pool Amateur League (OPAL) "A Real 'GEM' in YOUR Community!"



Sept 23, 2013  
NLF2013-03

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**The OPAL GEM EXPRESS**



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**HIDDEN**  
(Except when in parenthesis)  
Somewhere in this Newsletter are "5" APA

# US Amateur Preliminary

## IT'S A WASHINGTON SWEEP!

### Membership numbers.

From the September 9th newsletter no one else has called in to utter the magic words and claim their prize. NOT ONE! This means there's a party of "3" for your viewing pleasure in this week's Loser's Corner for you to ridicule & laugh at.

From the Sep. 16th Newsletter guess how many people found their freaking number and called in? Well I'll tell you...NONE! NADA...ZILCH, AND ZIP! Guess what else? One of 'em that didn't call in is a referee's spouse so I'm going to have a lot of fun next week if that person doesn't wake up and call in.

There are exactly "5" old numbers out there plus the "5" new ones from this current week for a total of 10 numbers to be found. If you haven't checked over the last Newsletter get off your butts and go look.

**REMEMBER,** You have only until the publishing of the 2nd Newsletter following the one your number is in to call the league office with the magic words **"Gimme My Shirt"** Otherwise, it's off you go to the loser's corner where everyone can see you and laugh, giggle, snort, and snicker, tee hee, ha ha, because they know there'll be a shirt waiting for them seeing how you didn't get yours—Don't let it happen to you.

**BE AN OPAL WINNER -- FIND YOUR NUMBER**

time was allocated for food breaks, (Continued Page 2.)

The Cue Ball in Salem, owned by Jim Lebold, hosted the Western Regional US Amateur Preliminary on Saturday September 21st, with Merle as director. There were 74 entries representing multiple western regional states (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Nevada). and one entry from Vancouver Canada—primarily (21 women & 53 men) Participation was open to any amateur—regardless of Skill Level or league affiliation—who sent in their entry to APA Headquarters in St. Louis prior to the sign up window closing in June 15, 2013.

The format was double elimination—race to 7 for the men and a race to 5 for the women. The races usually required a combination of both 8-Ball and 9-Ball. The winner of the Lag received the choice of either breaking—or—naming the game to be played first. If the lag winner chose to break then the opponent got to choose either 9-Ball, or 8-Ball, to play first. On the other hand, if the lag winner chose the game then the opponent took the break first and it was winner break thereafter. For the Men, if 9-Ball was chosen to be played first then they had to play all eight 9-Ball games. (for the women it was 6 games of 9-Ball) If neither of the men had won 7 games (or the women 5 games) by the conclusion of the final game of 9-Ball the players automatically switched to 8-Ball until one or the other reached their needed game total.

If 8-Ball was the first game category chosen then the men had to play 5 games of 8 ball where as the women played three, then the switch to 9-Ball was made until one or the other reached the required number of games won. The competition began at following registration and the players meeting. From start to finished there wasn't a single sour grape, or altercation. Just lots of smiles and good sports.

The keen and fierce competition was pretty much continuous once we got underway



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fresh air, and smoke, breaks. Sportsmanship prevailed throughout the day and everyone win or lose obviously was enjoying the competition and having a good time. It was a very long day indeed. However, on the positive side all four of the Final matches—3 Men's and 1 Woman's Final—finished up just 30 minutes apart with the last bracket coming in at 2:50 AM By 3:15 all the forms were filled out, pictures taken, and the etched glass trophies were given out.

In the Men's division the 53 person board produced three individual preliminary champions. In the ladies 21 player bracket one winner was produced. In each of the men's finals it was a race to eleven with 13 games of 9-Ball and 8 Games of 8 ball possibly being played. The ladies final was a Race to 9 game wins and they possibly could play 11 racks of 9-Ball and 6 racks of 8-Ball.

In the Men's 3rd Tier defending 2010, 11, & 12 Champion **Criegh Dumo** from Bonney Lake Wa, and **Chris Rodriguez** from Spokane, Wa., found their way into the first finishing men's finals. **Criegh** went straight away to the finals match undefeated. He started his journey with a forfeit win over **Shawn Day** from Bothell, Wa., who was a "No Show." Next in round two he powered through **Grant Walstrom 7-3** from Beaverton. In the third round **Criegh 7-Zipped Travis Gutcher** from Lynnwood, Wa., off to one-loss side, and in the fourth round, he beat eventual 2nd Tier Champion **Lee Noble 7-5** to win the winner's point and await atop the final gate for his last opponent, and his chance to defend his U.S. Amateur Preliminary title for the fourth year in a row.

Meanwhile Spokane WA's **Chris Rodriguez** to the longest and toughest road to the finals possible. He began his journey by getting stomped at the starting gate 7-2 by **Lee Noble** from Redmond Wa. In the loser's side, **Chris** first drew a "Bye." In round three he went to work and defeated **James Lindsley 7-3** from Spokane. **Chris**, then smited Salem's **Richard Ohnstad 7-2**, and then showed the door to **William Wilson 7-3**. Next **Chris**, pulled the plug on **Donald Moden** of Henderson NV., 7-1 then went on to defeat Airway Height WA's **Mike Johnson 97209569** in a 7-6 double hill thriller to take eighth round. In the ninth round **Chris** defeated past champion **Scott Dzurik 7-4** from Yakima to enable himself to move into the finals against Bonney Lake's undefeated 2010, 11, & 12 preliminary champion **Criegh Dumo**.

In the end, newcomer to the scene, **Chris Rodriguez** fought valiantly but he proved to be no match for the determination of **Criegh Dumo** who ended up defeating **Chris 11-5** to claim 2013 as his fourth US Amateur preliminary title in a row. **Criegh** also claimed the bragging rights to being the first preliminary champion to fill out the winner's packet forms and get his picture taken with big chief wooden feather.

In the Second Men's Tier Bracket, past champion **Richard Fearr** from Yakima, hopped, skipped, and jumped his all the way to the finals undefeated. **Richard** started his journey with a "No Show" win over OPAL's **Bader Hamieh**. Next he drew yet a second winner's side "Bye" because Spokane's **Mike Hamm** didn't show up. In round 3, finally he had an opponent. **Richard** quickly upended Henderson Nevada's **Donald Moden 7-2**, then had to face fellow Yakima pal **Scott Dzurik**. The match went to double hill but **Richard** pulled out the 7-6 win to send **Scott** flying over to the one-loss side while **Mr. Fearr** made himself a cushion to sit on at the winner's point to see who would be eventually emerging from the pack to take him on in the finals...

Meanwhile, starting out on the 3rd bracket was **John Boldman** a newcomer from Arlington (Continued on Pg. 3.)



**CRIEGH DUMO**



**LEE NOBLE**

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(Cont. from Pg. 3) Wa. **John** started out by knocking **Vincent Romano 7-2** from Woodinville Wa., straight over to the one-loss side. In the second round **John** crippled OPAL player **Toby Dittrich** from Portland. In the 3rd round **John** got his butt kicked 7-2 by past champion **Lee Noble** who slammed him into the loser's side wall. With his head still ringing, **John** finally woke up and found himself fighting for his life at double hill against Tigard Oregon's **Mark Swetzof**. Somehow he pulled it off beating Mark in the case game to win the match 7-6. Next, **John** regrouped and took out Beaverton Oregon's **Martin Wragg 7-4**, then **Travis Babcock** from Spokane 7-5 to take the first tier winner's point and cross over to take on the awaiting **Richard Fearr** in the 2nd tier finals. **John** was told that he had nothing to fear but "**Fearr**" himself!

In the second tier race to 11 finals, **Richard & John** both seesawed back 'n forth to until about the halfway point, but then **John** started pulling away from the past champion and went on to eventually defeat him 11-7 and leave him empty-handed, and on the road back to Yakima. **John Boldman**, from Arlington Wa., quickly claimed the bragging rights to being the second preliminary champion to fill out the winner's packet forms and get his picture taken with big chief wooden feather.

In the first Men's Tier, Tocomo Wa.'s **Frank Rocha**, and **Lee Noble** from Redmond Wa., made it to the finals. **Frank** started his journey in the first tier with a win over Yakima Wa.'s **Josh Anderson 7-5**. Next he defeated **Matt VanWinkle** from Spokane Wa., 7-3, and in the next round he took out Lynnwood WA's **Thomas Mott 7-5**. For the 1st tier winner's point it was **Frank** against Spokane's **Travis Babcock** who he defeated 7-5 to send **Travis** on to explore over in the one-loss side while he got to relax and perch himself on the 1st tier winner's point and await to see who would eventually be coming to take his potential title away.

Meanwhile, **Lee Noble** from Redmond Wa., had began his journey from the 3rd tier bracket. **Lee** clobbered eventual 3rd Tier runner-up **Chris Rodriguez 7-2** from Spokane, then wrung out **Martin Wragg 7-3** from Beaverton Oregon, splattered eventual finalist **John Boldman 7-2** against the loser's side wall, only to get his own butt handed to him 7-5 by Bonney Lake's **Criegh Dumo** who took the winner's point while sending **Lee** off to find solace in the one-loss side. **Lee** rebounded quickly by wiping out Yakima WA's **Josh Anderson 7-5** and traverse to the Tier 1 finals against past champion **Frank Rocha**.

In the race to 11 finals both **Frank** and **Lee** knew well the other's skill as both have participated and won in this event multiple times over the previous years. Now it was on the line the winner would be going on to Florida and the US Amateur Championship, and the loser would be headed home. **Lee Noble** from Redmond Wa., dominated the match from the start and eventually defeated **Frank 11-4** to claim the bragging rights to being the third men's preliminary champion to fill out the winner's packet forms and get his picture taken with big chief wooden feather.

**Moving over** to the women's bracket where there were 21 hungry for glory ladies who were fighting for just the one slot. Former champion **Suzanne Smith** of Puyallup, Washington and 2012 runner-up **Olga Azarova** from Seattle Washington were the two ladies who ended up in the Finals. **Suzanne** went undefeated to the finals. She began her journey with a 5-3 win over **Adrienne Beach** from Mountlake Terrace, Wa., In the second round **Suzanne** plucked the feathers off of Spokane's **Lisa Byrd** in a 5-1 defeat to the one-loss side. In the third round she continued her domination by about facing Seattle's **Olga Azarova 5-3**, to the one loss side as well. Next, **Suzanne** took the magnum out of Salem's **Traci Magnussen 5-2** to claim her perch on the winner's point to wait and see who would be emerging back for the finals.

As for **Olga Azarova** she had began her journey by clobbering **Kimberly Miller 5-1** from Yakima Wa. Then, in round 2 she blasted **Jennifer Johnson** from Airway Heights Wa., 5-2 to knock her off into the one-loss side. Next, in round 3 is when **Olga** was handed her own ticket to the backside by **Suzanne**. Landing in the backside, **Olga** found herself facing once again—**Kimberly Miller** who she had sent to the backside in round one. This time (Continued on Pg. 4.)



**JOHN BOLDMAN**



**SUZANNE SMITH**

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*(Continued from Pg. 3)* **Kimberly** —who was just coming off from 4 straight match wins—wasn't about to lose to **Olga 5-1** again. This time **Kimberly** bettered herself with a **5-2** defeat. **Olga** was focused and on a roll. After **Kimberly**, **Olga** was up against the mighty **Missy Crossen** from Canby, Oregon. **Missy** bit the dust **5-2**, but the match was much closer then the score indicated. Next up was the play for the backside point and to see who would be traversing back to the front side race to 9 finals. The only thing standing in **Olga's** way now was Salem Oregon's pride— **Traci Magnussen**. **Olga** steamrolled out of the gate and in 5 straight win's accumulating a **5-0** victory. **Traci** was done. **Olga**, on the other hand, was mind set on revenge and to avenge herself to the race to 9 Finals match against **Suzanne Smith**. Well that didn't happen. It was a close match through Six games of 8-Ball, but that's where the closeness stopped. After that **Suzanne Smith** from Puyallop, WA., put the pedal to the metal, taking 6 out of the next 7 straight games of 9-Ball to win the match **9-4** and claim the bragging rights to being the ladies 2013 U.S. Amateur Women's NW Preliminary Champion with the honor of filling out the winner's packet forms and then get her picture taken in the majestically laminated sliver-less arms of big chief wooden feather.

**Criegh Dumo, Lee Noble, John Boldman, and Suzanne Smith** will be traveling east to compete in the US Amateur in Tampa Florida November 6-10 We wish them all the best of success, and a fun trip.

We wish to extend a very special thank you, in appreciation to **Jim Lebold & Aaron Probst** of The Cue Ball in Salem, for being such gracious hosts, and allowing us the use of the clean, and well maintained Cue Ball location as the site for this year's 2013 US Amateur Western Region Preliminary. Also special praise and thanks go to referee **Larry Hande** for giving up his time and energy to officiate the majority of this event. We received many positive player comments on how nice the room was and the fact that the tables were all in immaculate shape and played absolutely fabulous. The whole long day and extended night experience, was both exciting and fun as a direct result of the fine condition and quality of the 4 & 1/2 by 9 foot Brunswick tables.

**THE SQUEEZER** ( Submitted by: Jeff Clohessy )



A local bar was so sure that its bartender was the strongest man around that they offered a standing \$1000 bet. The bartender would squeeze a lemon until all the juice ran into a glass, and hand the lemon to a patron. Anyone who could squeeze one more drop of juice out would win the money pot.

Many people had tried time & time again— Strongmen, Body Builders, etc., but nobody could do it.

One day, this scrawny little fellow came into the bar, wearing thick glasses and a polyester suit, and said in a small voice, "I'd like to try the bet." After the laughter had died down, the bartender said, "OK"; grabbed the lemon; and squeezed away. Then he handed the wrinkled remains of the rind to the little fellow. But the crowd's laughter turned to total silence... as the man clenched his little fist around the lemon... and six drops fell into the glass.

As the crowd cheered, the bartender paid the \$1000, and asked the little man: "What do you do for a living? Are you a lumberjack, a weight-lifter, or what?"

The little fellow quietly replied: "No, I just work for the Tax Department ..."

**THE LOSER'S CORNER**

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The 3 people listed below are September 9th newsletter losers. If you happen to see any of these people let 'em have it LOUD & CLEAR—your best razzing and ridicule. and don't forget to give 'em the old "L" sign,—AND be sure and thank 'em for leaving a shirt in the box just for you!

- 1—**CYNTHIA FENDALL** (97209542) who plays for Back Alley's "Outback In The Alley" in the Mt. St. Helens Double Jeopardy division.
- 2—**DIANE RAMIREZ** (97214147) who plays for Scotty's "Milk Was A Bad Choice" in the Sunset division.
- 3—**BRIAN WANLESS** (97202163) who plays for Jo Saloon's "Stix & Chixs" in the Willamette D. J. division.

If you don't want to be caught here for everyone to see, then look carefully to see if your number isn't hidden somewhere. **REMEMBER**, it is possible for your number to come up at anytime. Therefore, pay attention to detail, **READ THE NEWSLETTER..!**

