

numbers.

From the September 12th newsletter not one single sorry soul has called in uttering the magic words to claim their prize. NOT ONE! This means there's going to be a humiliating party of "5" for your viewing pleasure in this week's Loser's Corner for you to ridicule & laugh at. Surely you're going to know at least one of these loser shirt people...

From the Sep. 19th Newsletter much to our surprise as we just saw a couple of these people ourselves. Anyway, it's the same old story not a single one of those suckers managed to find their hidden number and call in as well. That means there still 5 little orphan shirt's remaining (plus the 5 new one's from t his week) for a total of 10 — still out there just waiting to be found. So, 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 <u>2nd</u> <u>Newsletter following the one your</u> <u>number is in</u> 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.

BE AN OPAL WINNER -- FIND YOUR NUMBERI

scoresheets were handed out and (Continued Page 2.)

The Cue Ball in Salem, owned by Jim Lebold, hosted the Western Regional US Amateur Preliminary on Saturday September 24th, with Merle as director. There were 54 entries representing multiple western regional states (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California, and Nevada). (17 women & 37 men) Participation was open to any amateur—-<u>regardless of Skill</u> <u>Level or league affiliation</u>—who sent in their entry to APA Headquarters in St. Louis prior to the sign up window closing in June 15, 2016.

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 category of games 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 immediately following registration and the 10:00 AM players meeting. Everybody got along well, and the equipment was in steller playing condition thanks to Jim & his staff.

The competition was both keen and fierce in addition to being pretty

much continuous while making allowances for food, smoking, fresh air, and Bathroom breaks whenever needed.

Rod Bair assisted in getting everything started, and Larry Hande along with Glen Shoup officiated the event. The continued Page 2



Page 2. NLF972162-94 OPAL: "A real 'GEM' in YOUR Community!"

S. AMATEUR (Continued from Pg. 1) the competition underway by 10:15. 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. On the positive side all three of the Men's race to 11 final matches were all underway by 9:30 PM— The 1st and 3rd Tier's finished at 11: 18 PM, and the 2nd tier finished at 11:35. The ladies however, had fallen way behind and were not even able to get their race to 9 final started until 11::40. and it didn't get over and finished until 10 minutes till 2 AM—almost a full hour after closing time. Chip the Cue Ball night manager was gracious enough to let the ladies play out their race past closing. By 2:00 AM they had grabbed their etched glass trophy plaques, gotten their pictures taken with big chief wooden feather, filled out their paperwork, and were out the door.

In the Men's division the split level tournament board bracketed three individual preliminary champions. The ladies tournament bracket board was designed to produce one winner. 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 Third Men's Tier, *Francisco Silva*, from Selah Wa, and past champion *Lee Noble* from Sammamish Wa, ended up in the finals. *Francisco* had started his journey with a first round "Bye" and then went undefeated to the finals by taking down Salem's *Chris Abbott*, then Seattle's *Patrick Wheeler*, 2014's runner up *Martin Wragg* from Beaverton and perch himself on the point to wait and see who his final opponent would be.

Meanwhile *Lee Noble* had embarked on his journey from the 1st tier. He started with a "No Show" match in the first round, but got upended in the 2nd round by *Larry Draper* from Salem , Oregon. who sent *Lee* flying off to the backside of the 3rd Tier. Fortunately for *Lee*, his first two matches were won by *forfeit* due to opponent "No Shows" However, in the next round he walloped *Jonathan Mesa II* from Salem 7-3. Next *Lee* took on *Mark McElwain* from Seattle and took him down 7-4. to meet Salem's *Larry Draper* who had hurled *Lee* to the backside in the 2nd round of play. The match was tight and went all the way to double hill, but this time *Lee* snarfed up the case game for the win sending a disappointed *Larry Draper* down the road to home. While Lee flew back across the bracket to the finals against Francisco from Selah Wa. The finals was a see-saw match all the way and ended up going the full distance to double hill. *Silva*, however, managed to capture the case game win to end the match and claim the Victory.

The First Tier finished exactly to the very minute as the third Tier. **Scott Barnard** from Newberg Oregon began his day with a "Bye" in the very first round. In round two action **Scott** upended **John Mason** from Sammamish Wa. 7-3. Then he took down Kirkland Washington's **Andrew Pillinger** 7-5. Next **Scott** Booted Salem's **Larry Draper** up into Tier 3 to perch himself up on the Tier 1's Winner's point and take a nap while he waited to see who would be emerging from the dark side at him.

Meanwhile **Scott Carroll** from Redmond Washington had began his migration through the tournament charts on Tier 3. Starting out of the gate **Scott Moden** out of Henderson Nevada, but he didn't show up so he was awarded the match

by forfeit. In Round two **Scott** came up against **Andy Frazier III** from Dallas Oregon. The match was much closer then the 7-4 score **Scott** managed to rack up indicated, but none-the-less **Scott** moved forward. Then he hit a **Martin Wragg** wall which found himself being hurled over into the Tier 1 backside where he got a chance to regroup due to another "No Show" opponent. In the next round **Scott** came up against **Jeff Ost** from Fircrest Washington. **Scott** went right to work and took him to the cleaners 7-3 to show him the door and the road to home.. Next, on a roll, **Scott** did the very same 7-3 defeat to Happy Valley's **Brian Vance** who headed out the door to home while **Scott** migrated on across the board to the 1st Tier Race to 11 finals for the rest of the men's marbles to the US Amateur in Florida.

It was guaranteed that *Scott w*ould win because in the finals it was *Scott Barnard* who had been perched up on the winner's point for what seemed like hours waiting for *Scott Carroll* to emerge and show himself. As predicted *Scott* did win and it was a very close contest clear through to the end. The end result was 11-9 in favor of *Scott. Scott Carroll* would be going on to Florida, but *Scott Barnard* would have to wait at least another year.

(Meanwhile in the second Men's Tier **Paul Marquez** from Portland, Oregon had began his day long and into the night journey by demolishing Beaverton's **Jim Knappenberger 7-Zip** right out of the gate. Then as luck would have it **Paul** had a **Matt Hiatt** "No Show" before (Continued on Pg. 3.)



Page 3. NLF2016-04 OPAL: "A real 'GEM' in YOUR Community!"

S. AMATEUR (Cont. from Pg. 2) wiping out Jonathan Mesa II from Salem, 7-2. Next Paul dominated Happy Valley Oregon's Brian Vance 7-3 and find himself perched up on the hill of the winner's side of Tier #2 to see who would be his next victim.

Martin Wragg from Beaverton would eventually find his way to **Paul.** Martin began his adventure way off in the 3rd tier when he received a "No Show" forfeit from Carl Fibiger. In the next round *Martin* found himself up against 2015's champion *Adam Drew*. When the dust settled it was the calm before the storm the match was tied 6-6 double hill. *Martin* was lucky enough to score the case game and send Adam off to find his fate waiting in Tier 2's backside. For the winner's point on the 3rd tier Martin was kicked to the backside wall winner's point of Tier 2 by a score of 7 -2 by eventual 2016 champion Francisco Silva. Regrouping, Martin rose to the occasion and took down Andrew Pillinger 7-**Zip** who had been steamrolling himself through the backside. Now for *Martin* it was back across the bracket and straight into the Tier 2 finals to face off against the mighty Paul "Bunion" Marguez. When the trees finished falling the final tally was 11 to 4 in favor of Paul Marquez.

Moving along to the women's bracket where there were 17 ladies who were fighting for just the one slot. OPAL's Kirsten Fery of Portland, Oregon and Julie Valdez from Mountain Lake Terrace, Wa., were the two ladies who ended up in the race to 9 women's Finals. Kirsten went undefeated all the way to the finals. She began her dominating journey with a decisive win over a "No Show" in the first round, but then went double hill and a 5-4 win in the second round over Julie Valdez from Mountain Lake Wa. In the third round Kirsten found herself egg-shell walking her way into winning the case game in another double hill thriller against Joanne Mattingly from Chula Vista California. Now at the forth round's winner's point Kirsten put the pedal down out-scoring Ricci Jean-Bart from Corvallis 5-2 to perch herself up on the winner's point and await to see who would be foolish enough to come back out of the one-loss side with the delusions of taking Kirsten's potential preliminary title away. It was about a 6 hour wait.

Ricci Jean-Bart, had started her journey to the finals by taking down "No Show" *Cassie Epperson* from Spokane Wa., In round two *Ricci* blew open the door to the one–loss side for *Donna Lovejoy* from Eagle Idaho, with a 5-2 win. Next, in round three



Ricci upended **Traci Magnussen** 5-2 from Salem Or., sending her into the one-loss side to follow after **Donna**, Going to the Winner's point, **Ricci** hit a Kirsten wall and fell short of her winning ways when she was taken down **5-1** and sent off to the one-loss side by **Kirsten**. Finding herself on the point of the one-loss side up she waited several hours for an opponent to show up. Meanwhile after **Kirsten** had upended her in a double hill thriller **Julie Valdez** was scheduled to play Henderson Nevada's **Bretina Moden**, but she was a "No Show" forfeit. Next **Julie** took down Bothell Wa's **Cassie Francois** and managed to come out on top taking the match **5-3**. Next **Julie** defeated Salem's **Traci Magnussen** 5-2 and then squished California's Joanne Mattingly 5-1 as well. Standing between **Julie** and a trip back across the board to have another go at **Kirsten** was OPAL's **Ricci Jean-Bart**. **Julie** was on a roll and crunched her 5-1 and go back across for a rematch for all the marbles and the possibility of getting *revenge* by snatching the coveted and prestigious, US Amateur Preliminary title from **Kirsten** in the race to nine finals. Well that didn't happen... **Kirsten** took Julie down into defeatsville 9-4 to claim the victory, the bragging rights, and the 2016 women's title.

Now there's a bit more shocking news to be covered...Scott Carroll and Francisco Silva went through processing right after they each claimed their respective final victories, and bragging rights to the prestigious title of being the 2016 US Amateur Preliminary Champion; got their pictures taken holding their Trophies with big Chief Wooden Feather; filled out the required paperwork, and then paid their money to hold their slot in the US Amateur competition in Florida...Meanwhile **Paul** was watching **Kirsten** play her final match which ended up going 2 hours and 20 minutes, leaving us 50 minutes past closing time and about 10 raised eyebrow minutes to get through the finalist data and out the door with our stuff before possibly irreparably overextending our welcome. When Paul and Kirsten learned of the November dates they thought there might be a conflict. Apparently there was as they notified us on Sunday late night that they would not be able to go. Therefore **Martin Wragg** who finished 2nd to Paul will go in his place and compete. When I got in contact with **Julie Valdez** who had finished 2nd to **Kirsten** on Monday she declined as well because she had made other plans already which left **Ricci Jean-Bart** next in line at 3rd place. **Ricci** accepted the Challenge to go to the US Amateur in **Kirsten's** place. So, **Scott, Francisco, Martin,** and **Ricci** are going to Florida—We wish them all the best.

