

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



Sept 24, 2018  
NLF2018-04

19681279



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

Membership numbers.

For the third week in a row not a single solitary soul has succeeded in finding their hidden number and bothered to call into the office and utter the magic words to claim their prize. NOT ONE! This means there's a party of "5" from the Sept. 10th newsletter for your viewing pleasure in this week's Loser's Corner for you to ridicule & laugh at. One of 'em maybe you'll get to laugh at again in next week's Newsletter too—or would that be the week following ???

From the Sep. 17th Newsletter **no one yet has bothered to find their number yet and call in dither...** That means there still 5 orphan shirt's remaining (plus the 5 new one's from this week) for a total of 10 — still out there to be found. So, If you haven't checked over the last Newsletter get off your dairy airs and go look. Otherwise you might loose if you snooze's !!!!

**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—

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

**The OPAL GEM EXPRESS**



**SERVING YOU:**

**OPAL-APA**

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Boomer Humphreys**

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# US Amateur Preliminary

## OPAL WOMAN WIN'S TOP SPOT AGAIN!

The Cue Ball in Salem, owned by **Jim Lebold**, hosted the Western Regional US Amateur Preliminary on Saturday September 22nd, with **Merle** as director, and **Larry Hande** and **Glen Shoup** Officiating. There were originally 46 entries representing multiple western regional states (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and California). (10 women & 36 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, 2018.

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 players meeting at 10:30 AM. From start to finished there wasn't a problem to come up that wasn't easily fixed plus everything transitioned along smoothly.

The competition was both keen and fierce in addition to being pretty much continuous once we got underway. However, we tried to make allowances for food, smoking, fresh air, and bathroom breaks

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whenever possibly needed. 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. Made even longer with the fact that the matches seem to drag on more and more as the day went on. The Men's Final matches finished out first. The Men's 1 of 2 bracket finished at 12:30 AM, The Men's 2 of 2 bracket finished at 1:00 AM and the Women's Bracket finished up at 1:05 A.M., and then it was a complete rush to get the all the forms quickly filled out, pictures taken, and the etched glass trophy plaques awarded and then beat feet out the door to home

In the Men's division the split level tournament board bracketed two individual preliminary winner's side champions. **[There were 36 entries but 9 "No Show'd"]** The ladies tournament bracket board was designed to produce just one winner as there were only **10 entries** to begin with, and then one those withdrew whereas the other joined with her boyfriend and "No-Show'd." leaving just 8 ladies to compete for the one slot. 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 First Men's Tier, OPAL's last year's (2017) Champion **Ben Cruz**, from Fife Wa., and Salem's **Jonathon Mesa II**, ended up in the finals. **Ben** began his long journey on the first board by getting clobbered into the one loss side by Portland's **Byrd McDonald 7-5**. Next **Ben** defeated some guy named "**BYE**" from nowhere'sville. Then in the very next round **Martin** took down Bye's brother "**Bye Bye**". Then **Ben** put an end to OPAL's **James Knappenberger 7-4** to send him on out the door to home. Moving forward, **Ben** reamed Portland's **Larry Gee 7-3**. Then pushed the "halt" button on Newberg's **Scott Barnard 7-5** to win once again. Going into the quarter finals **Ben** discovered he was up again against the mighty **Byrd McDonald** from Portland who had sent **Ben** straight into the one-loss side right out of the opening round gate.

This time however, it was NOT summer re-runs--**Ben** blasted the **Byrd 7-4** knocking him out of the sky, through the door, and on down the road to home. finally at the Loser's side Point semi-finals **Ben** found himself up against one of his long time arch rivals from Kirkland Wa., Mr. **Andrew Pillinger**. By a score of **7-5 Ben** graciously showed **Andrew** the way out the front door. **Ben** on the other hand, has headed back across the board and straight into the race to 11 final against the amazingly undefeated **Jonathon Mesa II** from Salem, Oregon. **Jonathon** had—from the very beginning steamrolled himself through one opponent after the other in quick and easy fashion. **Jon** won his first Tier 1 match because Seattle Wa's **Chris Miller "No Showed."** **Jon** then bested Portland's **Martin Wragg 7-5**.

Continuing on into round #3 of the winner's side of Tier 1 bracket **Jon** shot down Myplayer's **Scott Barnard** from Newberg, Ore. **7-4**. Next in the Quarter Finals, **Jon** sliced and diced OPAL's undefeated **Toby Dittrich** from Vancouver Wa **'7-2.'** Then **Jon** positioned himself up on the Winner's point to see who would emerge to try and take him into the just-one-race-to-11-Finale point to play for the first of two "Male" preliminary championship slots.

From out of the hazy fog of the dark side finally emerged a challenger. It was **Ben Cruz** from **Fife Wa** who we discussed in detail earlier. Both players played their hearts out, but in the end by a 4 game margin it was **Jonathon Mesa II** defeating **Fife Wa's 2017 defending champion—Ben Cruz 11-7** And thus **Jonathon Mesa II** claimed the bragging rights to being the first of two 2018 Men's Northwest Preliminary Champions who would be headed for prestigious US Amateur event in Palm Harbor Florida.

Moving, over to the Men's 2nd Tier the two finalists were "**My Player's**" **Joseph Farmer** from Salem, and Oregon City (OPAL's) **William Hodges (AKA "Ricky")** started out the day over on Tier #2's Match #1, against **Joseph Farmer** from Salem. **Joe** took down **Ricky 7-3** sending him straight into Tier one to get lost in their dark side. **Ricky**, instead, put the pedal to the metal. In round #2 he booted Mr. "Bye" off the chart, and then blasted Salem's **Andrew Sullivan** out the door and down the road to home. Next **Ricky** took down Seattle's **Ed Ambo 7-3** then drop kicked Beaverton's **Martin Wragg** over the rainbow to home. Next **Ricky** ended the winning hopes for Redman Wa's **Scott Carroll 7-3**. Still standing tall **Ricky** fought valiantly against Hillsboro's **Basheer Muddebihal** to eventually emerge a **7-3** winner. **Ricky** was now in the Semi Final's playing against Vancouver's **Toby Dittrich**. The winner would be coming across the board to play in the Tier 2 championship against the unscathed and undefeated **Joseph farmer**, but the loser would be saddling his horse and riding out of dodge empty-handed. **Ricky** was a man on a mission and he wanted desperately to have another crack at **Joseph Farmer**—the guy who'd put him in to the loser's side that very first match of the day. **Ricky** bested **Toby 7-2** so **Toby** hopped on his horse and galloped away while **Ricky** headed back across the board with **(Continued on Pg. 3.)**



**JONATHON MESA II**



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(Cont. from Pg. 2) the delusion that he was going to be getting flippin even with **Mr. Farmer....** Meanwhile when we last saw **Joseph Farmer** he had just sent **Ricky** flying off into what was supposed to have been potentially his doom, but obviously it wasn't... On the other hand, **Joseph's** journey had proven to be anything but a cake walk. After **Ricky**, **Joseph** fought hard against **Brian Vance** from **Damascus** Oregon before posting a 7-5 victory. **Joseph** continued on with his winning ways when he blasted **Basheer Muddebihal** from **Hillsboro** 7-1 sending him off to continue his adventure in the dark side. After sparring with **Basheer**, **Joseph** found himself pitted against the undefeated **Andrew Pillinger** from Kirkland Wa. for the winner's point and a shot at the 2nd Men's Tier Finale. However, that thought ended for **Andrew**, when **Joseph** won the match 7-5 which flung **Andrew** off into the dark side where he was eventually crushed by **Ben Cruz's** pilgrimage during his quest to get to the 1st tier finals.

Now back to **William "Ricky" Hodges**. After he won his final Tier 1 Loser's Point match against Vancouver's **Toby Dittrich** 7-4 "**Ricky**" was propelled back across the board and straight into the Tier 2's race-to-11 finals against the winner's point finalist **Joseph Farmer** — the same guy who had sent "**Ricky**" on that wild ride through the dark side. It was a possible shot to for **Ricky** redeem himself but that, as it turned out, was not meant to be as **Joseph** remained calm and focused to win the 2nd men's tier finals race 11-5 and claim the bragging rights to having become the 2nd male US Amateur Preliminary Champion to be headed to Palm Harbor Florida.



**JOSEPH FARMER**

**Moving** along to the women's bracket where there were 10 ladies [ minus 2 who either withdrew or No Show'd ] who were fighting for just the one slot. OPAL's **Helen Wragg** of Beaverton, Oregon and **Missy Lovell** from Milwaukie Oregon were the two women who ended up in the race to 9 women's Finals. **Helen** 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 came back with 5-1 win in the second round over Salem's **Chris Ryan** from Salem. In the third round **Helen** had to work at it but still managed to get through Salem's **Kimber Sexton** 5-3. Then in the final match for the winner's point Helen put the pedal to the metal and out-scored OPAL's Stacy Enriquez from Milwaukie 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 trying to take Helen's potential preliminary title away. It was a long wait.

Meanwhile OPAL-APA's **Missy Lovell** from Milwaukie and **Kathleen Stanley** from Seattle ended up being the two finalists in the Women's Bracket. **Kathleen** had started her journey to the finals by first receiving a "No Show" win when OPAL's **Kelsey Joe** blew off the preliminary event to go play in another event up in Washington with her boyfriend. In round two **Kathleen** uprooted **Katharine Page** from Seattle Wa to the dark side in a 5-4 double hill thriller-diller. Next in round 3 of the winner's side the undefeated **Kathleen** went double hill 4-4 up against the equally undefeated **Missy Lovell**. Both players had their chances, but it was **Missy** who managed to squeak out the win—sending **Kathleen** tumbling off down into the backside night gully 5-4. **Missy** then pitched a tent on the winner' point to relax, and wait to see who would be emerging themselves back up out of the swamp to come after her. Unfortunately, she had a lonnnnnnnng wait!

Meanwhile off in the backyard dungeon slowly but surely the women (Predominantly –OPAL Women) were all eliminating each other one by one. **Stacy Enriquez** eliminated **Heidi Piehl**, **Rosemary Dunn** eliminated **Stacy**, and **Kim Trip**. Finally, in the Semi-finals at the loser's side point it was Seattle's **Kathleen Stanley** vs Milwaukie's **Rosemary Dunn** to see who would be returning back across the Board to face off against OPAL's **Missy Lovell**. Both ladies were chompin' at the bit to get at **Missy** because **Missy** had separately put each of them in the Loser's side to begin with.

Anyway, back to the story at hand. **Rosemary** and **Kathleen** fought all the way to double hill, but it was Seattle's **Kathleen** who won the case game and got to move back across the board to take on **Missy Lovell** in the race-to-9 finals. One would soon become the 2018 Women's Preliminary Champion whereas the other would be hopping on their old horse and riding out of dodge empty handed. The pressure was intense, and the match-time seemed to just drag on forever, but in the final analysis, **Missy** managed to finally squeak by **Kathleen** 9-7 to emerge (Continued Page 4)



**MISSY LOVELL**



ALL CARTOONS

Submitted By:  
Dan Bochar

Because true friends hang out with you  
when you're not feeling well.



Darn kids are in  
my yard again...

#14 What Else Can Happen To Make This Day  
Even Worse?



Turns out, all kids love blow up pools.



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with a stunning 9 to 7 victory. Finding herself now on top of the world for being able to once again claim the bragging rights to being the Women's Northwest Preliminary Champion —this time for 2018...and for having successfully defended her coveted and prestigious, US Amateur Preliminary title.

**Jonathon Mesa II, Joseph Farmer, and Missy Lovell** will be traveling east to compete in the US Amateur in Palm Harbor Florida Men: Nov. 8-10 Women: 11-12th 2018. We wish them all the best of success, and a fun trip.

**Special thanks to the Cue Ball and Staff for being such diligent and gracious hosts and giving that extra effort to insure everybody had a good time, that the equipment and room was in excellent shape and in superior operating order. Also extra thanks to the efforts of referee's Larry Hande, and Glenn Shoup who gave up their time and energy to officiate this awesome and prestigious event.**

**Last, to all those who attended, participated, and competed because of YOU, this day was truly extra special. Thank You.**



THE LOSER'S CORNER

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The 5 people listed below are September 10th newsletter losers. If you happen to see any of these people let 'em have 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—JAYE FOLSOM (97206309) who plays for Jake's "Strokin' & Polkin'" in the TPM-Vancouver. division.
- 2—JOHN SWIFT (97216405) who plays for Cascade Bar's "Misfits W/ Sticks" in the Columbia D.J. division.
- 3—RONDA STEFAN (97218142) who plays for Golden Horse's "Odz & Endz" in the Fareast D.J. division.
- 4—SCOTT MARSHALL (97221840) who plays for Wichita Town Pub's "Shoots & Giggles" in the Southern D.J. div.
- 5—JOEY MORALES (97222179) who plays for Dbl Aught's "Chalking Dead" in the Southern 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. So, pay attention Vanessa, & **READ** last week's **NEWSLETTER!**

