



THE OPAL 'GEM' EXPRESS



NLSP 2014-07

February 24, 2014

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

HIDDEN (*Except when in parenthesis*) **Be An OPAL Winner... Read The Newsletter**

somewhere in this Newsletter are "5" APA Membership numbers just waiting to be discovered. Sadly, no one from the February 10th newsletter, called in to claim their prize leaving a party of five in the loser's corner this week.

From the February 17th newsletter, no one has called in from that newsletter either. There is still 5 numbers from that week, plus the 5 new ones from this week. **REMEMBER**, You have only until the writing of the 2nd

Newsletter following the one your number is in to call the league office with the magic words "Gimme My Shirt"

A Sad Week For the OPAL/APA Community

Sadly, two of our most popular members passed away last week.



Devon "Ldyklr" Kellar passed away in his sleep on February 20th. Devon joined the league, Spring session 2000 and the league has never been the same since. His infectious smile and "Don't sweat the small stuff" attitude gained him many, many friends in our community.

He was a rare individual whose outlook on life was nothing short of amazing considering the challenges that he faced on a daily basis. Devon will long be remembered for his Dolly

nabbing escapades at Chinook Winds and his constant companion "Duck Monkey" His most notable feat and one of his proudest moments in pool, that we witnessed, was when he and his partner, Jennifer DeHaan took 3rd place in the Jack N Jill Scotch Nationals last year. Devon most recently played for "Bustin Loose" out of Underground Sports Bar in the Northwest division. There will be a Celebration Of Life event at Embassy Suites, 9000 SW Washington Square Rd, Tigard at 1 pm on Devon's birthday, March 17th. Get there early, the place is going to be packed!



Dim "The Chosen One" Dy was killed in a tragic kayaking accident on February 21st. Dim joined the league, Spring session 2007. From the very beginning, his upbeat personality made him one of those people that you just wanted to be around. You could not have a bad time if Dim was in the house. Dim most recently played on Fortune Star's "Kung Fu Cues" in the Far East division.

Dim leaves behind a girlfriend and his two young children. Service for Dim will be Saturday, March 1 at 1 pm at Bateman Carroll Funeral Home, 520 W Powell, Gresham. There will be a Celebration Of Life and pool tournament in his honor at Wichita Town Pub, 6106 King Rd, Milwaukie at 7 pm on Thursday, February 27th. All proceeds and donations made at this event will go to his children. Our deepest condolences to family, friends and teammates of both these players. They will truly be missed.

2014 Spring Singles Regionals

Rodder's, in Oregon City, served as the host to our 2014 Spring Singles Regionals this last weekend. 8 Ball was on Saturday and crowned 5 national finalists and 9 Ball was on Sunday with 3 players advancing to nationals. Participants earned their right to compete in this competition by winning a singles qualifier board by November 30, 2013. Format at the regional and national level is modified-single elimination, which guarantees that each player will play twice. Starting with the 3rd round the competition becomes single elimination. In each format, participants were placed into tiers based on their skill level, with a national finalist emerging from each tier. In 8 Ball, there are 5 tiers: Blue Tier (skill levels 2 & 3), Yellow Tier (skill level 4), Red Tier (skill level 5), Orange Tier (skill level 6) and Purple Tier (skill level 7). In 9 Ball, there are 3 Tiers: Green Tier (skill levels 1-3), White Tier (skill levels 4-5) and Black Tier (skill levels 6-9). At nationals the brackets are broken down into the same tiers, with a national champion going to be crowned in each tier. Each finalist received a plaque, a room at the Riviera, in Las Vegas, for the duration of their event in May, \$275 travel allowance, a commemorative jacket and a minimum of \$100 just for showing up at the national tournament. 1st place in 8 ball at nationals is \$15,000 in cash and prizes for each tier. 1st place in 9 Ball at nationals is \$10,000 in cash and prizes for each tier. We are proud to say that OPAL players took 7 of the 8 available spots to Vegas in this competition.

Special thanks to the following people who helped to make this event run smoothly and enjoyable for all.

League Operator, Randee Lee from Salem, Referees: John Blue, Dan Fendall, Larry Hande, Terry Pinto and Steve Schneringer. Refs in Training: Sarah Pearson, Le Donovan, Wayne Vanosse, Lonnie Knotts, Patrick Vollenfroff and Maxine Buhler. And of course the staff of Rodder's who gave us great service throughout the week-end.

In the Blue Tier, Clarice Burkhart took the long road to the finals, losing her first match against Marissa Alexander. She worked her way back to the winner's side by defeating "Mr Bye", Tom Moler and Marissa Alexander in their rematch to meet undefeated Nancy Lockwood in the finals. Nancy caught a bye the first round and then defeated Tom Moler and Roger Pinder to land on the hot seat. In the finals match, Clarice took the first two games to win the match and the title of National Finalist.



In the Yellow Tier, Jo Phelan from Randee Lee's area, trod through the field undefeated by first winning her match against Lacey Remster, then on through Helen Hahn and Bruce Micheau to end up on the point. Gerrie Moler also made her way through the winner's side undefeated by first tackling "Mr Bye" then on through Dee West, Bruce Micheau and Ricci Jean-Bart. Both ladies had some really tough matches along the way and the finals would be no exception. Even though the score ended up 3-0 in favor of Jo, the match was touch and go each and every game.

In the Red Tier, James Warner took the long route to the finals by winning his first match against Miguel Madrigal, only to get knocked to the loser's side. In the next round by Richard Kiltz. On the back side, he met up with Miguel for the 2nd time and was again victorious. Back on the Winner's side of the board, he first had to get through Mark Binkley before his rematch with Richard Kiltz. This time James was the winner and sitting on the point. Jeff Hiatt took the shorter route to the finals by going through undefeated with matches against "Mr Bye", James Shelton, Maxine Buhler, Kris Knutson and Michael Novak. In the finals, James took an early lead 2-0, then Jeff came back to tie up the score 2-2. James won the next two games to grab the title in the Red Tier.



In the Orange Tier, Michael Dowell got to the point undefeated with wins against Tyson Croonquist, Tim Higginson, Michael Black, and Tim Higginson again. Larry Estes, from Randee Lee's area, also got to the point undefeated with wins against "Mr. Bye", Shawn Chandler, Steve Kemp and Michael Black. In the finals, Michael came out "guns blazing" and took the first 4 games, including a break & run in the 2nd game. Not to be denied, Larry came back to win the next 3 in a row. With Michael on the hill and Larry needing 2, Michael took the opportunity and took the next game to earn him a ticket to Las Vegas for the 2nd year in a

row.

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In the Purple Tier, both finalists made it through the bracket undefeated. Collin Kharoufeh won his matches against Jake Dornblaser, "Mr Bye", David Hopfer and Craig Irwin. Adam Drew won his matches against "Mr Bye", John Scudder, Jonathan Hahn and David Hopfer. The match started off in true skill level 7 fashion. Adam took the first game with a break & run, Collin took game 2 with a table run. An ill fated scratch 8 put Adam up 3-1, Collin took the next game to make the score 3-2, keeping in mind there had only been 8 innings at this point. Adam buckled down and after a few well-played defenses by both players, Adam ended up with the win and seat to Vegas.



On to Sunday and the 9 Ball regionals. In the Green Tier, Anna Mixon took the long way around to the finals by losing her first match to Lacey Remster. She worked her way through the back side of the bracket with wins against Helen Hahn, Lacey Remster, Kailee Deel to get on the front side again. A win against Barb Duval, put her in the hot seat. Bob Albers, from Randee Lee's area, on the other hand battled his way through the winner's side as the only skill level 2 in the competition. He won matches against "Mr Bye", Daniel Weeks, Kailee Deel and Sharon Gulledege. In the finals, Bob took an early lead in game 1, 6-3, then Anna battled back to make the score 10-9, her favor. They split the points in game 3. With Bob needing only one point to clinch the match, Anna needed 4. Bob had a chance in the last game, but was not able to sink that last ball. Anna came through for the win and a spot in the National Championships. 97220178

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In the White Tier, both players in the finals took the round about way. Randy Messner lost his first match against James Shelton. On the back side, he fought his way through “Mr. Bye”, Brandon Deel and Stacie Larson only to meet up with James Shelton again. This time, Randy was victorious and earned a spot on the point. Michael Choe lost his first match against Traci Magnusson then had to work his way through Mihkel Talviste, Kris Wood, Sandy Deel and Angela Franklin to get in the hot seat. In the finals, it was neck and neck through the 3rd game, when Michael saw an opening and took the lead in the 4th game. Not looking back and taking no prisoners, he managed to finish it off 38-29 and claim his spot to the National Championships.



In the Black Tier, Paul Marquez won his spot to the finals by defeating David Scarth, Alex Willett and Tim Higginson. Jason Gilbert also went through the winner's side undefeated with wins against “Mr. Bye”, Michael Black, Lori Wood and Robert Solomon. In the finals, it started off looking like it was going to be a good

match with the two competitors splitting the points. Paul took all of the balls in the 2nd rack, but it still looked good for Jason as Paul had to spot him 29 points. Then you saw the look in Paul's eye and knew that he did not plan on losing this race. Jason had a few opportunities over the next few games and tried to make the most of them, but there was no stopping the runaway train that was Paul Marquez. For the 2nd time in a row, Paul is heading to the National Championships in Las Vegas.

All of the winners from this last weekend will join the winners of the Fall regionals in 8 Ball Jonathan Swanson, Jodell Broadus and Alex Willett. In 9 Ball, Jodell Broadus and Miguel Madrigal. National Singles Championships will be held May 1-4 at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Good Luck to all of our players!



The 5 people listed below are “Losers” from the Feb 10 Newsletter. If you happen to see these individuals, give ‘em your best razzing. And don't forget to give ‘em the old “L” sign,—while thanking ‘em for leaving a shirt in the box—possibly just for you!

1—MICHAEL FERY (97209263) who plays for River Rd House's “*The Biz*” in the *Master's East* Division.

2—TRAVIS PEARSON (97212375) who plays for McAnulty & Barry's “*Hookerz*” in the *Mt Hood DJ Div.*

3—TIM HOLYCROSS (97213195) who plays for Ballard Town's “*Got Felt*” in the *Horizon Super DJ Div.*

4—SEAN O'LEARY (97216181) who plays for Watertrough's “*Shipwrecks*” in the *Sunrise DJ Div.*

5—JONATHAN DOLLAR (97292024) who plays for Wrangler's “*Renegades*” in the *Willamette DJ Div.*

If you don't want to be caught here for everyone to see, then look 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, [RE97AD T21HE](#) [NE73WSLE18TTER..!](#)

