

The Candlepin Professional

The Pro Series

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Sam Dagostino and Jeff Surette win Random Draw Doubles

In the sixth tournament of the season, Jeff Surette won his fifth Pro Series title, randomly pairing with his former Friday Night Pro League teammate, Sam Dagostino. The Random Draw Doubles Tournament was held at the 1-7-10 Sportscenter in Augusta, ME. The tournament ran very smooth with the help from Mike Gosslin, Lee Ann Lowe and the staff at the 1-7-10. Last month was the first time we ran a tournament like this, where eighty two bowlers competed for sixty four spots in the knockout round. Once the field of sixty four was set, all of the teams were randomly selected and put into a bracket.

Once in the knockout round, Sam and Jeff set out by defeating Shawn Baker and Mark Ricci 275-250; Brian Athearn and DJ Trask 241-226; Craig Holbrook and Jon Winchell 263-241; Jim Nester and Dave Barber 272-250, and Peter Flynn and Nick Norcross in the finals 278-225. After qualifying with 682, Sam bowled 124, 104, 116, 117, and 121 for a total of 583 in the knockout round, while Jeff had a qualifying score of 632, seemingly saving it all for the knockout with strings of 151, 137, 147, 155, and 157 for an incredible 747!

For Jeff, this is his second straight tournament victory, after winning the Singles Knockout in January, and for Sam, it is his first.

Jeff Surette wins Singles Knockout at Boutwell's in January

The fifth tournament of the season was a Singles Knockout held in January at Boutwell's in Concord, NH. Brian Purdy was the top qualifier out of eighty bowlers with a score of 687. After struggling in the first three strings of qualifying, Jeff Surette bowled strings of 153 and 133 to finish in 16th with 625. He continued bowling well into the knockout round defeating Scott Lapierre 159-126, Joey Hutchinson 132-129, Stu Bergman 124-113, Korey Packard 152-134, and Shawn Morrison in the finals 135-132. The final match was back and forth all the way through. Shawn and Jeff went spare for spare, each taking back and losing the lead, until finally Jeff had a spare with a 6 fill in the 9th box to win by 3.

In the knockout round, his combined score was 702, and if you include his last two strings of the qualifying round, he averaged 141.14 for his last seven strings of the day.

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Special points of interest:

- Mike Morgan had the high string at 1-7-10 with 189.
- Nate Nealey led all qualifiers in Augusta with 729, and a 171 string to finish.

Qualifying Results: Random Draw Doubles

Pos	Bowler	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1	Nate Nealey	145	137	143	133	171	729
2	Mark Ricci	137	130	145	169	130	711
3	Bobby Whitcomb	140	132	158	151	118	699
4	Craig Holbrook	127	131	137	158	145	698
5	Mike Morgan	189	145	106	127	122	689
6	Ed Woodside	139	170	142	113	125	689
7	Chris Boisvert	145	115	159	137	129	685
8	Sam Dagostino	138	118	154	118	154	682
9	Peter Flynn	117	117	150	145	150	679
10	Steve Vadney	131	139	159	88	149	666
11	Dave Barber	135	138	163	118	110	664
12	Mark Smith	121	144	126	139	132	662
13	Mark Strangio	136	131	127	144	121	659
14	John Starner	166	120	128	128	115	657
15	Jon Winchell	142	111	140	138	124	655
16	Jim Nester	150	116	130	119	135	650
17	Steve Renaud, Sr.	136	122	123	131	137	649
18	Shawn McKinley	151	117	124	120	137	649
19	Scott Lapierre	111	155	132	132	118	648
20	Tim Matero	136	120	122	127	143	648
21	Peter Pereira	149	113	139	128	117	646
22	Stu Bergman	117	112	137	151	126	643
23	Shannon Dykes	170	114	124	106	128	642
24	Dave Hodge	109	149	129	137	117	641
25	Gary Carrington	137	101	141	139	123	641
26	Shawn Baker	142	107	99	142	146	636
27	Kevin Pagington	112	116	103	137	165	633
28	Jeff Surette	115	122	129	138	128	632
29	Anthony Shaheen	110	156	117	138	110	631
30	Eric Pelletier	119	132	153	92	132	628
31	Ray Weatherbee	120	123	136	119	130	628
32	Joey Hutchinson	128	126	105	110	157	626
33	Steve Martel	122	115	109	130	150	626
34	Dave Lavallee	135	119	139	126	107	626
35	Brian Purdy	111	114	126	144	130	625
36	Richie Myrick	133	92	129	139	132	625
37	Dave Godwin	151	109	129	114	121	624
38	Jim Putney	119	136	116	120	131	622
39	Jason Sparks	143	101	135	112	129	620
40	Shannon Witham	118	128	132	106	136	620
41	Jim Ayotte	140	119	115	118	127	619
42	Mark Gregory	114	134	127	127	114	616
43	Jeff Lapierre	114	133	125	131	112	615
44	Chris Sacchetti	131	127	141	108	107	614
45	Dan Allard	143	108	132	119	109	611
46	Skip Easterbrooks	105	109	129	137	131	611
47	Andrew Maderios	96	121	132	144	115	608
48	Jason Kaler	96	141	110	149	111	607
49	John Zappi	115	142	116	126	106	605
50	DJ Trask	124	110	102	118	150	604
51	Marc Carrier	146	125	123	103	107	604
52	Dan Gauthier	121	108	106	114	154	603
53	Brian Athearn	103	103	124	118	153	601
54	Korey Packard	112	108	115	122	143	600
55	Nick Norcross	96	136	113	118	137	600
56	Shawn Morrison	116	116	124	114	129	599
57	Arty Gendreau	123	127	129	126	93	598
58	Harold Brown	128	132	109	130	94	593
59	Steve Lach	115	128	116	116	116	591
60	Steve Renaud, Jr.	99	131	102	135	123	590
61	Mike MacIntosh	95	111	117	137	126	586
62	Mike Kustak	117	125	120	98	121	581
63	Jonathan McDonald	127	108	87	138	119	579
64	Louis Richards	135	121	124	92	104	576

Point Standings After Random Draw Doubles

Pos.	Bowler	Points Behind
1	Craig Holbrook	-
2	Shawn Morrison	500.5
3	Mark Smith	562.5
4	Jeff Surette	615.5
5	Nate Nealey	667.5
6	Skip Easterbrooks	820
7	Shawn Baker	859.2
8	Jon Winchell	926.5
9	Jim Putney	934.2
10	Mike Morgan	952.5
11	Peter Flynn	964.5
12	Dave Barber	977.5
13	Mark Gregory	988
14	Brian Purdy	1000
15	Scott Lapierre	1006.5
16	Chris Boisvert	1039
17	Jim Ayotte	1069.5
18	Mark Ricci	1096.5
19	Bob Whitcomb	1127.5
20	Mike Kustak	1174
21	Mark Strangio	1190
22	Brian Crowell	1196
23	Brian Feist	1202.5
24	Steve Vadney	1217.5

The points shown are not actual points. They are the amount of points behind the leader in the standings for Bowler of the Year.

Full standings and tournament results can be found at www.candlepinproseries.com.

Western New England Pro Tour Round-up

Written by: Richie Myrick

The Western New England Candlepin Association (WNECA) Pro Bowlers Tour kicked off the season on October 3, 2010, at Funtime Lanes in Holyoke, MA. This was the first of six events this season for the WNECA tour.

The WNECA Tour format consists of a five-string qualifying round with the top 5 scores advancing to bowl head-to-head in a 1-string ladder format. The 5th place qualifier bowls the 4th place qualifier, with the winner advancing to bowl the 3rd place qualifier, and so forth.

Steven Renaud, Jr. captured the first title of his young career in Holyoke. Renaud, Jr. defeated Ray Weatherbee, John Bird, Corey Packard, and Dave Dupuis in succession. Each was a double-digit victory for the 19-year-old from Southbridge, MA.

On October 30, 2010, the WNECA tour visited Canal Lanes in Southampton, MA. While most events have a fifth place cutoff of 620 or more, the famously fast Canal played difficult this time around. The fifth place qualifier scored just 583, with the 23-person field averaging a paltry 112. After defeating Nishon Morgan and Brian Mayer, Jeff Slesinski fell to Dave Dupuis in the semifinal match. Dupuis then claimed his first WNECA title of the season by defeating top qualifier Ray Weatherbee 157-103.

French King Entertainment Center in Erving, MA, was the next stop for the WNECA tour. There were a total of 30 bowlers participating in this event, a great turnout considering there were 13 bowlers at one event just a year ago. Brian Mayer, who qualified 5th with a score of 642, knocked off Dave Dupuis and Steve Renaud, Sr. in succession before bowing to Tom Bishop in the semifinals. Bishop, who bowls out of Candle Lanes in Pittsfield, MA, went on to defeat Hall of Famer Steve Vadney in the final match, 127-101, capturing his first career Pro Tour victory.

February's event was held at Bogy Lanes in East Brookfield, MA. After wins against Phil Clough and Rich Bober, Corey Packard lost to Steven Renaud, Jr. in the semifinal match. Renaud, Jr., bowling in his home house did not disappoint the fans as he defeated top qualifier Jeff Slesinski by 23 pins en route to his 2nd WNECA victory of the season.

In our next edition of the Candlepin Professional, we'll cover the final two events of the season, including the last event at Canal Lanes, which will be held April 3rd at 12pm. This final event is a members-only event, and features a special format involving a second-chance roll-off and increased prize money. Stay tuned!

Q & A with Bruce McClure

Written by: Richie Myrick

Bruce McClure is a candlepin bowler from Vernon, CT. Bruce created www.candlepingallery.org, a website designed to promote candlepin several ways, including photos, videos, and interviews with top pros and fan favorites. Bruce has been kind enough to join us to talk a little candlepin.

Bruce, when did you begin bowling?

When did I begin bowling? Some people would tell you I never really did start—I just chuck the ball and hope for the best! Honestly, I started bowling when I was around 6-years old or so (back in the dark ages, before cable television). My father and I would watch the old Channel 5 show on WHYN Channel 40 out of Springfield, and I asked him to take me bowling one day. Eventually, I was enrolled in youth leagues at Canal Lanes in Southampton, and I was hooked.

Holy cow, I just figured it out...that was 1974? Pass me my Geritol, would you? I'm not sure I can remain upright for the rest of the interview.

What gave you the idea to start a website dedicated entirely to candlepin? How long has www.candlepingallery.org been around?

I had nothing to do! Seriously! When I started the website, I was between jobs and looking for something to keep myself out of trouble while I was home, and my very understanding wife encouraged me to start the site. It was beta tested over a few months and rolled out on December 1, 2006. It's a labor of love for me as I enjoy running it...although it needs to be updated! There's just not enough time in the day anymore!

I'll say this about the beginnings of the site...when I first proposed doing it, the Maderios family (Bart, Andrew and Mary-Lynne) encouraged me the most. At first, there were some skeptics when it came to the legitimacy of the project (something new in candlepin? The horror!), and I received some flak. That quickly died down when it became successful. As the site grew and became more functional, more bowlers added pictures of their centers and it grew to what it is today. (Continued on Page 4)

Q & A Continued

Occasionally, I look at it and think, "Wow, I did this? Really?" It's pretty amazing to me. But now, it needs some maintenance and an updated look—I've got to find the time and the software necessary to do it. I've had some computer problems recently, so my software is on the fritz.

You have over 160 centers (and counting) on your website; do you have any help to acquire this info? Are there regular contributors to the website?

I do. Bowlers have sent me pictures they've taken on their own. Many center owners have taken their own pictures and submitted them. I've had a few regular contributors to the site, too. But overall, it's been an effort involving much of the candlepin bowling community.

If a house or center wanted to be a part of the www.candlepingallery.org website, how might they get involved?

If a bowling center wants to submit pictures and be part of the project, they can attach their pictures to the back of a 1960 Carl Yastrzemski rookie card in pristine mint condition, stuffing them in an envelope provided by the old Seattle Pilots baseball club, mailing them in via carrier pigeon to my home.

Okay...just email me at: webmaster@candlepingallery.org and I'll take it from there!

Your greatest candlepin memory is?

The best memories for me are the ones derived from the annual Pilgrim Lanes Rock 'n Bowl event. The money raised helps fund the ICYBA's trip to Canada each year. We take over Pilgrim for one morning and really have a blast. And me...the hack that I am...I get to stand on the lanes with some damn good bowlers! It's a set of memories that gets renewed each year...the highlight of the bowling season for me.

You're a first year member of the WNECA Pro Tour, what are your thoughts about the tour itself and your experience thus far?

I love bowling on the tour and the way the guys are encouraging to me. I've battled bad knees all year, so my numbers aren't what they should be. But once again, I can point to the candlepin community being such a fantastic group of people. And to get the chance to return to centers I haven't seen in a good long time or don't get to enough (Candle Lanes in Pittsfield, French King in Erving, etc.) is excellent.

My experience has been a positive one. I've enjoyed getting to know some of the guys. I'm looking forward to pushing my numbers up a bit next year.

A Look Ahead: Doubles Knockout

This Sunday, January March 20, 2011, the next Pro Series event will be held at Fairway Sports World in Natick, MA. The tournament is the second and final Doubles Knockout. Members and non-members alike will bowl a 5 string qualifying round with the top 24 advancing to the knockout round. The top 8 teams in the qualifying round will receive a bye in the knockout round.

All are welcome to Boutwell's Bowling Center this Sunday to witness some of the best bowlers in the New England Area. The qualifying rounds begin at 11, and the Knock-out round should begin around 4 PM.

The Pro Series Newsletter

If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please e-mail Dave Barber at LuckyStrikeDave@yahoo.com. If you would like a hard copy mailed to you, please call Dave at 781-592-9100.

The purpose of this newsletter is to publish the scores of each tournament in The Pro Series; however, we are always looking for something newsworthy to write about. So if there is a record broken, a tournament won, or even a good three string total bowled, please send it to us at the above e-mail.