

GELLING VICTORIOUS AT MEAGOR CLASSIC

The 36th Annual Bill Meagor Peterson Point bowling tournament is in the books. When the oil had dried and pins had fallen, it was the Mining city's Nate Gelling who emerged as the 2014 champion. Gelling averaged 217 and won 10 of 12 Peterson points on the way to winning his 2nd career title at this event.

Gelling's victory brought to an end the four year stranglehold on the title by Mark Hodges. Hodges, who has won a record 8 titles at this event, never found his groove and finished 8th at this year's tournament. Gelling's opponent in the championship match was Harry Shaffer, who has a title to his credit as well. Gelling won 239 - 219 in a very competitive first place match.

Shaffer beat 3rd seed Todd Edelen 219-210 to reach the final. Edelen, who made the cut by one pin Saturday night, bowled excellent on Sunday, averaging 241 and winning 5 of 6 points. His climb from the bottom to 3rd on the final day was believed to be the first time it had been done in the tournament's history.

In the other top 5 matches, Edelen defeated fourth seed Pat O'Rourke Jr 226-183, O'Rourke downed fifth seed Ryley Bosch 207-170 in the stepladders opening match. The tourney marked personal best finishes for both O'Rourke and Bosch, who both reached the top five for the first time in their young careers. Also completing his best finish ever was this year's alternate Mike Krankowski, who finished 6th.

Thirty-eight keglers toed the line at this year's scratch tournament. Debbie Martinich was the highest women's finisher, making the cut to Sunday. The tourney also witnessed its youngest competitor ever, 14 year old Kevin Keller, one of the stars of the junior ranks. While he found the going tough in his first adult tournament, not making the cut, he gained valuable experience for his future tries.

Tourney Sidelights:

This year's "Skins" game was competitive in both divisions. The upper division champion was Helena's Mike Reed, while Derek Burch finished 2nd. The lower division champ was Wayne Marchie with Brad Cottom finishing 2nd and Tim Gross captured 3rd. In the Count-up challenge, Dillon's Cottom won top honors over runner-up Mike Krankowski 8-0.

The rest of the top 20 finishers and their Peterson Point totals were as follows:

(Note: 19th place finisher Mike Reed was unable to finish due to an injury; his place was taken by Saturday's alternate Brenda Shaffer)

7th	Bill Keller	57.04
8th	Mark Hodges	56.47
9th	Dave Martinich Sr	56.34
10th	Keith Meagor	54.48
11th	Kyle West	54.43
12th	Ray Grundhauser	54.41
13th	Dave Martinich Jr	53.48
14th	Joe Martinich	53.39
15th	Lucky Norbury	53.12
16th	Dan Grundhauser	53.03
17th	Brad Cottom	52.40
18th	Bill Abraham	49.35
19th	Reed / Shaffer	49.04
20th	Debbie Martinich	46.28

Submitted by Walt Parrett - Tournament Manager