

Monday December 19, 2022

Spare Change

By Johnny Campos

Blind draw doubles team of Danielle Vierck and Andre Campos form Mixed Doubles winning combination; Rains/Roseman/Cantrill claim Christ-Swiss Trios title

Both Danielle Vierck and Andre Campos took a chance on somewhat of a blind draw for the River City Mixed Doubles Tournament at Landmark Lanes on Sunday.

They decided to bowl together, sight unseen, based on a recommendation by Jennifer Mauerman.

They met for the first time on Sunday morning, and by late afternoon they were the tournament champions, winning the title over a tough field of 56 teams.

Vierck and Campos, the fourth seeds in the finals, edged top-seeded Nicole Hartseil and Tommy Barnwell in the semifinals, and then beat No. 2 seed Lizzy McVey and Brad Moore in the title match.

Vierck, who drove to Peoria on Sunday morning from the Janesville, Wisconsin, area, said she wanted to bowl the tournament, but did not have a partner.

“So, I talked with Jennifer, and she said, ‘I have someone who will probably bowl with you. He’s pretty good!’ ” Vierck said. “At first, I was like, ‘Ok, let me know.’ Then I said to sign me up.

“I thought it would be good, but I knew nothing about him. I was excited and optimistic.”

It was the same story for Campos, who had not planned on bowling the tournament.

“Jennifer asked if I wanted to bowl, and that she had someone who wanted to bowl in the tournament,” he said. “And I said, ‘Sure. Why not?’ All I knew was that she used to bowl in college.”

Vierck bowled collegiately at Stephen F. Austin and was a member of the team that was the national runner-up in 2015 and the NCAA champion the following year.

The two clicked right away. They were in second place after Campos opened with a 256 and Vierck added 213. Then in Game 2, they won the high-game pot with a 538 – a 258 by Vierck and a 280 by Campos.

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Vierck, who was getting 11 pins of handicap a game, finished with a scratch pinfall total of 1,341 (223.5 average) and a handicap total of 1,413. Campos totaled 1,404 scratch.

Hartseil and Barnwell were leading the event from the start. Hartseil opened with games of 279 and 277 had high average among the women at 241.3. Barwell started with a 297 (leaving the 4-8-10 on his fill ball) and averaged 245.7 for his six qualifying games.

The husband/wife team of Jared and Ali Remelius qualified third for the Baker-style bracket finals and reached the semifinals to face Moore and McVey.

Moore averaged 248.6 in qualifying, including closing games of 267, 268 and 269 for an 804 set. McVey was well above average at 168.8 and was getting 56 pins of handicap a game.

Ironically, Moore and McVey didn't know they were going to bowl together until Sunday morning.

"I was looking for a partner to bowl," he said. "Lizzy was going to bowl with Anthony Schnack, but he was sick. So, we ended up bowling together."

They won their semifinal match over Team Remelius to advance, but the other semifinal between Hartseil/Barnwell against Vierck/Campos came down to the final frames.

Vierck and Campos, who were getting six pins of handicap a game, won the opening game, 240-214, and had to hold off the leaders in Game 2 to face Moore and McVey.

Campos missed a 10-pin in the second frame and left another single pin in the fourth, while Hartseil and Barnwell opened with five straight strikes. But in the sixth, Barnwell left a 10-pin and missed it, opening the door for his opponents to close out the match.

Vierck and Campos threw the last eight strikes in the match for a 248 to clinch the win, despite a 255 by Hartseil and Barnwell.

"The 10th frame against Tommy was definitely the key," Campos said. "I knew it was going to be a close match. We both missed a 10-pin that game, so I needed all 30 pins in the 10th."

The title match was not as close. Vierck and Campos, who were giving up 44 pins of handicap in the match, opened with a 247, while Moore and McVey rolled a 184.

Vierck and Campos took a 29-pin lead (including handicap) into Game 2 and closed out the match with a 202-199 decision.

Tyler Tornow was the high individual bowler, rolling a 1,541 total for his six games (256.8 average). He and partner Misty Tunyuck finished in the 5-8 group, along with the teams of Hailey Jepson and Tyler Adams, Jerry Marrs and Lindsey Siegel, and Ann Grohmann and Austin Hall.

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Busy weekend

The tournament ended a busy weekend for many of the bowlers entered in the doubles event.

On Saturday, Landmark also hosted the Handicap Christ-Swiss Trios, which attracted 39 teams.

The trio of Joseph Roseman, Scott Rains and Josh Cantrill took home the top prize of \$1,800, outlasting the field in a format that was a position round every game.

Each team could win as many as nine points per match – two for individual wins, and three for team wins.

Roseman/Rains/Cantrill went into the eighth and final match with a narrow lead over Jorell Morris, Josh Glover, and Cam Crowe.

“We needed to win just one match to win the tournament,” Rains said. “We were looking at zero points but ended up getting them all against them. With about two frames to go, every one of us was trailing.”

The winners swept all nine points in the title match and finished with 59 points out of a possible 72.

The stacked team of Anthony LaCaze (a PBA champion), Kevin McCune (winner of this year’s Petersen Classic) and Brandon Biondo (former member of Junior Team USA and collegiate all-American at Wichita State) finished eight points back in second.

The trio of Chad Barnes, Irvin Johnson and Tim Blanch made a late charge to finish third with 50 points, four points ahead of fourth-place finishers Pete Burdette Shawn DeWeese and Andre Campos. Burdette and Campos were coming off a 15th-place finish at the Hammer Holiday Doubles the previous weekend.

After getting swept in the final match, Crowe’s team fell to fifth.

Jorell Morris, who placed eighth in the Holiday Doubles with Steve Taylor, then traveled to Linn Lanes on Saturday night and won the Canton Scratch Singles Classic. He beat defending champ Kevin Audi for the title.

The trio’s win was a nice change for Roseman, Rains and Cantrill, who had fallen just short of winning a title several times at Landmark.

“We’re notorious for getting second here,” Rains said. “We got second in a trio event here about six weeks ago and finished second in this tournament last year.”

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Rains averaged 228.5, Cantrill 233.4 and Roseman 244.3.

“I’m coming off a broken foot, so this is the first time I’ve been back,” Roseman said. “I was moving back in July, and I jumped off the back of my truck, rolled my foot and broke it. So winning feels pretty good.”



**Winners of the River City Mixed Doubles
Danielle Vierck and Andre Campos**



**Winners of the Christ-Swiss Trios (left to right)
Scott Rains, Joseph Roseman, Josh Cantrill**