

Monday, December 1, 2022

Spare Change

By Johnny Campos

Kevin Audi goes 2-for-2 in area tournaments during Thanksgiving holiday events

Kevin Audi went 2-for-2 in area bowling tournaments held during the Thanksgiving holiday.

He started by claiming the Striketown Bowl Thanksgiving Eve Tournament on Wednesday night, despite arriving late and missing the practice session.



Kevin Audi

Audi then skipped the Over 50/Under 50 Doubles Tournament at Landmark Lanes but was on the winning team of the Fall Baker Team Challenge at Potter's Alley in Morton on Sunday.

"It was a good weekend to have before Christmas," said Audi, who almost did not bowl the Striketown tournament.

"It was a late decision," he said. "If Maggie (his wife) was not going to come with me, I wasn't going to bowl."

After deciding to go to Pekin, they found a babysitter, but didn't leave Roanoke until about 5:15 p.m. for the 6 o'clock start of the event. So, Audi arrived too late for the 10-minute practice session. No problem.

David Bartlett led the high-scoring event after four games of qualifying with a 1,047 total. He had games of 290, 256, 247 and 254 to average 261.75 and grab the top spot.

Vee Tunyuck qualified second at 1,018, which included a 300 game, and Audi earned the last spot in the stepladder finals with a 1,007. He had games of 234, 279, 265 and 229 with no practice shots.

"It worked because we had the stars aligned, I guess, right?" he joked.

Audi beat Tunyuck in the opening stepladder match, 218-204, and then knocked off Bartlett, 213-205, in the title match.

The Over 50/Under 50 doubles title went to Brandon Hamilton and Byron Miller of Danville, the only team who went into the bracket finals with handicap. As it turned out, they didn't even need it.

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Hamilton/Miller qualified sixth for the eight-team bracket finals and were getting 17 pins of handicap every match.

The beat Nick Brem and Troy Morton in their opening match, 460-375; eliminated No. 4 seed Don Sweet and John Marsala, 458-441; knocked off top-seeded Kurt Riley and Scott Rogers, 459-449; and then beat top area finishers Andre Campos and Pete Burdette, who qualified second, 449-387.

Riley led the top qualifiers with 1,519 for his six games (253 average) and Rogers added 1,480 (246.7). Campos totaled 1,484 (247.3) and Burdette 1,405 (234.2) to qualify second, 110 pins behind the leaders.

Tommy Barnwell was the high individual with 1,580 (263.3). He and Mike Boogren tied for third with Riley and Rogers.

Miller and Hamilton also won the September Handicap Doubles at Landmark Lanes last year.

Instead of bowling the Over 50/Under 50 doubles event, however, Audi bowled in a 9-pin event at Ladd Lanes on Saturday night.

On Sunday, he teamed with Kevin Tockes, David Colburn, Tim Blanch, and Sammy Taylor to win the Fall Baker Team Challenge.

“Kevin Tockes and I like to bowl together, and he put the team together,” Audi said. “We did the Frank Vincent Memorial Doubles Tournament (which they won over a tough field), and are going to do the trios in Decatur, in January.

“We started to bowl together because we seem to fit well together. I guess it’s something about the name Kevin or something.”

Team Tockes went 11-5 in match play and qualified second behind Team McWethy (Mike McWethy, Eric Deal, Camden Rokita, Andy Stone, and Corey Kistner) by 84 pins.

Team Manker (Bob Manker, Chris Walcher, Austin Robertson, Darryll Harlan and Doug Robertson) qualified third and Team Walsh (Tammy Walsh, Tyler Mills, Andy Zahnd - - bowling in his first tournament - Jason Couwenhoven and Chris Grantham) fourth.

Team Walsh swept Team Manker in the opening match but couldn’t get past Team Tockes.

The best-of-three title match between Team Tockes and Team McWethy was tied at 1-1, both teams opened with five straight strikes. But Team Tockes prevailed to win the match 2-1 and claim the \$2,000 top prize.

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“Not everybody was perfect, but you’re never going to be,” Audi said of the winning team. “But we all had just positive attitudes and everybody threw big shots when we had to. And we had fun. Obviously, you have fun when you bowl good.”

Especially if you go 2-for-2.



Kevin Audi, David Colburn, Sammy Taylor, Tim Blanch, and Kevin Tockes