

Monday, August 22, 2022

Spare Change

By Johnny Campos

Donovan Miller, Matt Robinson finish 1-2 in PRC Youth Around the Town Event



Donovan Miller

Donovan Miller had no idea that he was in contention to capture the Youth Around the Town Tournament going into the final day of competition.

“I thought I was in seventh place,” said the 15-year-old. “My parents did not tell me I was in second place until we were walking out of Potter’s.

“They did not tell me because I bowl really well when I’ve just got music in, and I’ve got a clear head. But I did hear

them talk about it.”

Miller, a sophomore at Dunlap High School, did end up winning the 16-game event, sponsored by the Peoria River City USBC Association, 28 pins ahead of runner-up Matt Robinson.

Miller, who was receiving 65 pins of handicap a game, finished with a handicap total of 3,622 after bowling four games in four area centers during the first two weekends in August.

Robinson, who was getting 25 pins a game, finished with a handicap total of 3,594, followed by Brayden Sherlock (3,560), Isaak Rosenthal (3,539) and DeMaurion Thomas (3,513).

A total of 23 bowlers completed the event, bowling four games at each of two Peoria Centers, Landmark Lanes and Mt. Hawley Bowl on the first weekend. On the second weekend, they bowled four games at Plaza Lanes in Washington and closed out the competition with four games at Potter’s Alley in Morton.

Winning the tournament earned Miller \$600 in scholarship money. He also was high scorer at Plaza Lanes for an additional \$100.

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Thomas was high scorer at Landmark, Kacy Snowden led the field at Mt. Hawley and Sherlock was high scorer at Potter's Alley with a 1,014, the highest overall four-game score of the tournament. Each earned an additional \$100 in scholarship money.

The local association handed out a total of \$3,414 in scholarships in the event.

"I was really happy about the win," said Miller, who bowls out of the Christian Center Lanes. "I was not expecting that. I was going to be happy with third or second."

Miller said he had bowled at all four centers and enjoyed the tournament format.

"I really like going to all the different places," he said. "That was really cool, just being able to see our community better."

Had it been a scratch tournament, it would have been no contest. Robinson averaged just a shade under 200 at 199.625 for his 16 games. His pinfall total of 3,194 was 211 pins ahead of the field.

The 16-year-old junior at Morton High School closed with his high four-game block of the tournament at 944 at Potter's and earned \$300 in scholarship money.

"It was good to get second, because I thought I shot the best scores that I could," he said. "I put up some good numbers, but I think there was like a 700-pin difference in handicap between me and the overall winner.



Matt Robinson

"At Potter's I had a 232 game, but in the third game I bowled a 160-something. I could not find a strike shot, could not get anything to carry and missed a couple of crucial spares. That is what happened both weekends. I would bowl three good games and one lower one."

Brey Jones, who finished sixth overall, had the second high scratch average (186.4 average), Thomas was next at 185.5 and Matt's twin brother Michael fourth at 179.

"I never got the first-place spot (in any of the centers), but it was some pretty good bowling on my part. I think that means that now is the time to transition

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from handicap tournaments to scratch type stuff,” said Robinson, the section leader for the trumpets on the Morton marching band.

One of the interested spectators at the event was Gary Robinson, father of the Robinson twins and one of the top bowlers in the area for many years.

“I’ve taken a lot from him, and he’s taught me a lot,” Matt Robinson said. “I am very thankful for what he’s done. He taught me how to be calm in those situations when you are bowling. Do not worry about your last frame.

“I hope one day I can be just as good as him. Maybe even better.”