

Monday September 12, 2022

Spare Change

By Johnny Campos

Young Guns No Match for Old-School Bowlers in September Team Tournament

The young guns from St. Ambrose University were no match for an old-school foursome of veteran bowlers on Sunday afternoon.

The team of Tom Adcock, Jason Queen, Larry Larsen, and Gregg Zicha outlasted a field of 35 teams to claim the September Team Tournament title at Landmark Lanes.

The final score in the two-game Baker-format title match was 477-449. But the biggest disparity in the match might have been 220-79 – the combined ages of the four bowlers on the two teams.

“Three of those guys have got to be my age,” joked Adcock, who anchored the winning effort. At 60, he is, indeed, at least as old as any three of his opponents in the finals.

Cam Crowe, who opened the event with an 803 set that included a 300, is the oldest at 21. Justin Aboud is 20, while Zach Greim and Jorell Morris are both 19. All of them bowl for the strong St. Ambrose University team.

Crowe and Greim also are on Junior Team USA.

Team Adcock even took the long road to reach the title match. They had to win a roll-off to advance to the bracket finals after tying for eighth place.

The top two teams, Team Cantrill (Josh Cantrill, Scott Rains, Chris Wiley, and Logan Williams) and Team Aboud, took the short route in the finals, earning two byes. The third and fourth place qualifiers, Team Blair (Jake Blair, Chuck Parker, Jordan Schach, and Tom Simmons) and Team Baker (Steve Taylor, Bob Baker, Rick Kidd, and Andy Stone), had one bye.

Team Cantrill led the field with a scratch qualifying total of 4,768 (238.4 average per bowler), 103 pins ahead of Team Aboud. Team Cantrill had the top two individuals in the tournament in Wiley (1,293 for five qualifying games) and Rains (1,248). Crowe was next at 1,225, followed by Stone (1,219) and Tommy Barnwell (1,211).

Zicha, who has two Eagles in the USBC Open Championships and a Petersen Classic title, led Team Adcock with 1,132. Adcock, who has one Eagle and is one of the top players on the PBA50 Tour, was next at 1,125. Queen, who rolled a TV 300 on his way to winning the 1997 ABC (USBC) Masters title, added 1,078 and Larsen, one of the top players from the Decatur area for many years, 1,063.

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They had team games of 948, 863, 870, 858 and 859 for a 4,398 total to tie for the eighth and final spot in the finals.

“Early in the day we got a little bit lost in the transition,” Adcock said. “We just got some bad breaks and made a couple of bad shots here and there.

“But it kind of worked out and we made it. That is all we wanted to do was get there and have a chance. I felt like we were coming out of the loser’s bracket from Game 1. We just kept fighting away, and I think we did really well.”

They advanced to the bracket finals and won three more matches to reach the finals. In the semis, Team Adcock knocked off Team Cantrill, while Team About eliminated Team Baker.



Larry Larsen, Gregg Zicha, Jason Queen, and Tom Adcock (left to right), winners of the September Team Tournament at Landmark Lanes

In the finale, Team Adcock took a slim 222-214 lead after Game 1.

“Us old guys, we just try to make the shots,” said Queen, the youngster on Team Adcock at 49. “Shot making is still where it is at. Whether you are a power player or whether you are a stroker, you have still got to make the shots, and you’ve got to make them under pressure. We did that all day today.”

The deciding game was not as close. Team Adcock stayed clean, took advantage of a split by About midway through the game, and put together a late five-bagger to pull away, 255-235.

“It’s nice to get lucky and tie for the last spot and get in here and advance to this,” said Zicha, 58. “We got some breaks and struck when we needed to strike. It is fun, especially against these young guys because they are so good!

“I did not think they were going to miss very often. But we just kept up with them. Bowling with these guys, they are all hall-of-fame bowlers. It is awesome!”

Larsen, 53, was the only lefty on the winning team.

“When we got to the finals, I moved right and slowed up,” he said. “I seemed to strike more. But it is always good bowling with these guys.”

Adcock said he was not worried about feeling fatigued at the end of a day of bowling that lasted about 7 ½ hours.

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He had just finished bowling the entire PBA50 Tour, finishing eighth on the points list, behind a list of names that included Parker Bohn III, Chris Barnes, Tom Hess, Walter Ray Williams Jr. and Lennie Boesch Jr. He cashed on all 15 events and was second on the tour with 386 games bowled – seven fewer than Barnes.

“Bowling 400 games in the last five months kind of gets you in bowling shape,” Adcock said. “I did not get fatigued, and my legs did not get tired. But I am still battling a couple of injuries here and there. But for the most part, I think that definitely helped me get through this long day.”

The team of Travis Anderson, Tommy Barnwell, Shawn DeWeese and Tony Recsnik qualified fifth, but lost to Team Adcock in bracket play. The team of Gabe Howell, Brad Moore, Shawn Reed and Chad VanDolah qualified sixth, lost their first match and tied Team Anderson for 7th place.