

## 73<sup>RD</sup> INTERNATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT HELD AT NOBLE MANOR BOWLING LANES, PITTSBURGH, PA.

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Slovak Catholic Sokol International Bowling Tournament was held on Friday May 17th and Saturday May 18th, 2019 at the Noble Manor Lanes in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The combined bowling tournament included members from the Greek Catholic Union (GCU) Fraternal organization for the 5th straight year along and members from the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU).

Pittsburgh Plaza Hotel was the host hotel for the 2019 bowling tournament and was minutes away from Noble Manor Lanes.

The three fraternal organizations combined with 29 Men's Team and 12 Women's Teams, for a total of 164 bowlers. The annual sporting event began Friday with team bowling beginning at 5:30. The playing of the National Anthems of the United States and Canada kicked off the event. All of the bowlers received a souvenir coffee mug from the fraternal societies.

On Friday evening from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., the bowlers were treated to a hospitality dinner at the bowling alley that included ziti, sausage and peppers, pulled pork, coleslaw, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables and soft drinks, allowing ample time to eat and socialize during the tournament. Supreme Director of Sport and Athletics, James C. Matlon welcomed all of the bowlers. Basil Wahal, Activities and Communications Director from the GCU, and Kevin Collins, FCSU Fraternal Activities Director coordinated the lane assignments for all 41 teams.

Friday night team tournament winners include: Female Division first place winners from the FCSU Team ???? consist of Chris Tokarsky, Denise Ricciuti, Anne Mitro and Bobbie Werner from the Slovak Catholic Sokol, with a handicap score of 2815 total. Second place team 412 members from the GCU included Patricia Kutzfara, Patricia Nisjach, Barbara Wahal, Melanie Basl with a combined handicap score of 2373. Finally third place team winners from SCS with a handicap score of 2347 are Heather's Heroes with Heather Horvath leading her team members: Kelly Palchanis, Marianne Mangiafico and Bernadette Jacob. Way to go ladies! All three fraternal organizations were well represented in the winnings.

Women's Team Scratch winners include: First place winners from the GCU, Team 412 with an actual score of 1995. Second place is awarded to SCS team 2+2 from Barberton and includes: Karen Bakita, Carol Mako, Diana Simpson and Jean Karaffa with an actual score of 1802. Rounding out the Women's Team Scratch Division are SCS Heather's Heroes with a total score of 1786.

The Men's Team Division with Handicap First Place Winners from FCSU, Mon Valley Boys: Vernon C. Smith, David Smith, George Resi and Vernon E. Smith with a handicap score of 2815. Second place winners from SCS Assembly 162: Albert Pogorelec, Honorary Supreme Officer, Steve Pogorelec, John Termyna and Thomas Krack with a score of 2767. Third place winners hail from Lilly, Pa. and include SCS members: Thomas Muldoon Jr., Nicholas Cassisi, James Bart and John Smith with a score of 2705.

Men's Team Scratch winners include: First place winners Club Lanes consisting of bowlers: Ryan Lebanik, Jeffrey Siesky, John Adamcik and Mark Cherpak with an actual score of 2251. Second place was awarded to GEO Lawn Service and included Robert Pugh, Wayne Newmyer, George Romanchak, Steven Romanchak beating the Mon Valley Boys by 1 pin for scores of 2195 and 2194 respectively.

On Saturday morning, bowlers returned to the Noble Manor Lanes for the Doubles and Singles competition. In the Women's Division the dynamic duo of Patricia Kutzfara and Barbara Wahal bowled a combined score of 1,220 ahead of the second place team from Lilly, Pa. Colleen Keagy and Nancy Cassisi who bowled a

close 1,208 combined handicap score. Third place trailed behind by a 7 pin difference. Anne Mitro and Carol Gemoll scored 1201. All results were handicap scores.

Scratch Women's Doubles winners include: GCU ladies, Patricia Kutzfara and Barbara Wahal took first place with an actual score of 1037; while SCS women took second and third. Second place winners Diana Simpson and Jean Karaffa scored 1032 while Third Place winners Karen Bakita and Carol Mako scored 962.

In the Women's Singles Division, the same three ladies took first, second and third place in both scratch and handicap events. Handicap Singles Division: Kathleen Shirilla – 1st place with a score of 770, Patricia Kutzfara- 2nd place score of 754 and Jean Karaffa -3rd place score of 735. Scratch standings resulted in Jean Karaffa placing 1st with a score of 579, Kathleen Shirilla placing 2nd with a score of 551 and Patricia Kutzfara scoring in 3rd with a total of 526. In the Men's Division with Handicap, the father-son duo Vernon Smith Junior and David Smith claimed first place with a 41 pin margin against the second place team consisting of Vernon Smith and George Pesl. The winners rolled a total of 1490 with handicap. Second place winnings were won by a one pin margin against third place duo. George and Vernon rolled a 1449 combined score for second place over Brian Phillips and Dave Iskra Sr. bowling a 1448.

The Men's Double Scratch Division winners include: First Place Ryan Lebanik and John Adamcik for a total of 1296 pins; Second Place Jeffrey Siesky and Mark Cherpak trailed behind 7 pins for a combined score of 1289; and Third Place Winners with 9 less pins were Charles Houser and Keith Eggar for a score of 1280.

In the Men's Singles Division, Handicap scores yielded the following winners: Vernon E. Smith- First place with a score of 819; second place winner – AJ Novotney with a score of 789 and third place winner with a score of 776 was Ryan Lebanik. Scratch winners include: First place winner – Andrew Keebler with an actual score of 1280.

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Well-known Assembly 25, Perryopolis, Pa. Sokol, Clarence "Buffalo" Checton was the recipient of the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award at this year's 73<sup>rd</sup> International Bowling Tournament in Pittsburgh, Pa. Brother Checton, center, is shown with Sokol officers and past recipients of the Petruff Sports Award, and include from the left: Chairperson of Supreme Auditors James G. Jerek, Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Martin Degnan, Honorary Supreme Officer Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Supreme President Michael J. Horvath, Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Nancy Kropolinsky, Brother Checton who has been an active Sokol sports enthusiast all his life; Edith M. Babik, Paul Awramko, nephew of the late Frank S. Petruff; Albert Pogorelec and Supreme Assistant Sports Director Frank P. Laury.

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score of 719, Second place goes to Vernon E. Smith with a score of 702 and third place, with a score of 692 was Ryan Lebanik.

In the Women's Division for All-Events with handicap, Patricia Kutzfara placed first with a score of 2002: Singles- 526, Doubles- 534, Team- 462, with a handicap of 480. Anne Mitro earned second place with a total score of 1921: Singles- 426, Doubles- 460, Team- 447, with a handicap of 588. Third place recognition goes to Nancy Rice with a total score of 1915: Singles- 458, Doubles- 421, Team- 430, with a handicap of 606. Highest recognition of best scratch all events winner for the female division goes to Melanie Basl with an overall actual score of 1660: Singles- 522, Doubles- 532, and Team- 606.

The Men's division for All-Events with handicap resulted in AJ Novotney, from Perryopolis, Pa, placing first with a score of 2,215: Singles- 672, Doubles-581, Team- 611 and a handicap of 351. Second place was awarded to David Smith for a score of 2,204: Singles- 463, Doubles-674, Team- 590 and a handicap of 477. Third place honors goes to Charles Houser with a total score of 2,177: Singles- 658, Doubles-742, Team- 588 and a handicap of 189. Men's All Events Scratch Winner was Andrew Keebler with an actual score of 2039. Andrew scored 719 in Singles, 690 in doubles and 630 in Team events.

One of the highlights of the tournament was cheering on Gregory Maranowski as he studied the lanes attempting to bowl a perfect score. His nine lane strike streak ended in a final score of 262. Congratulations Gregory on your efforts and athleticism.

After the bowlers finished with doubles and singles on Saturday afternoon, a Roman Catholic Mass was celebrated by Fr. Tom Nasta of the FCSU at the Pittsburgh Plaza Hotel prior to the banquet. A sit down meal was provided for bowlers and guests with the option to choose from fish or chicken as the main entrée. Salad, fruit salad, bread and butter, potatoes and vegetables accompanied the main course. Dessert, coffee and a cash bar were provided.

Kevin Collins, FCSU Fraternal Activities Director welcomed the fraternal organizations and bowlers. Father Nasta offered a blessing before the delicious meal was served. After dinner, Frank Laury, SCS Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics congratulated all bowlers and recognized SCS officers present. Mike Karffa, spokesperson for the GCU introduced officers present. Nancy Kropolinsky, Member of the SCS Supreme Physical Fitness Board announced unofficial leaders for each division including the top three Teams, Doubles, Singles and All Events for the Men's Division and Women's Division.

The final event of the evening was the announcement of the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award presented each year to a member of our organization who has been very active at the Assembly, Group and National level promoting and participating in the International Bowling Tournaments. From Perryopolis, PA., Clarence Checkton, better known as "Buffalo" was the 2019 recipient of the Frank S. Petruff Award. Buffalo was surprised and humbled to be awarded this honor. He now joins the following winners of the past seven years: Paul Awramko, Paul E. Sweeney, Albert J. Pogorelec, Michael T. Matras, Francis J. Risko, Christine M. Sofranko, and Chet Dziuba.

The rest of the evening was spent socializing between fellow members of our society and members of the Greek Catholic Union and the First Catholic Slovak Union. On Sunday morning the bowlers and guests headed home reflecting on the eventful weekend and looking forward to the 2020 Bowling Tournament. ZdarBoh!

**Nancy L. Kropolinsky**  
Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member



GCU National President George N. Juba and Supreme President Michael J. Horvath opened the tournament by rolling out the first bowls.



Veteran Assembly 162 keglers from Clifton, N.J. included, I-r, Albert Pogorelec, Honorary Supreme Officer Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C., John Termyna and Thomas J. Krack.



"Heather's Heroes" from Group 7, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. included, I-r, Heather Horvath, Kelly Palchanis, Marianne Mangiafico and Bernadette Jacob.



Ambridge, Pa. keglers included, I-r, Christine Sofranko, Geri Polloch, Kami Simon and Evie Catanzante.



2 + 2 Barberton, Oh. bowlers included, I-r, Karen Bakita, Carol Macko, Diana Simpson and Jean Karaffa.



“Paul’s Bar & Bowling” from Group 1 included, I-r, Marc Kudlacik, Donald Salmanowitz, Robert Mosloski and Scott Pitman.



Group 7 keglers included, I-r, Supreme President Michael J. Horvath, Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Martin Deignan, Charles Tokach and Joseph Hvozdic, Jr.



Keglers from Ambridge, Lilly and Wilkes-Barre, Pa. included, I-r, Brian Phillips, Dave Iskra, Sr., John Goberish and Doug Simon, Sr.



Sokolky from Milwaukee, Wis. and Lilly, Pa. included, I-r, Caroline Gemoll, Vickie Lofrate, Nancy Cassisi and Colleen Keagy.



The Lilly, Pa. team #1 included, from the left, Nathan Keagy, Alan Keagy, Robert Shedlock and Corey Shedlock.



Lilly, Pa. team #3 included, I-r, Jeremy Glass, Francis Risko, Gary Risko and Brian Risko.



“The New Dallas Charger” team from Group 7 included, I-r, Jeremy Francis, Justin Francis, David Iskra, Jr. and Jeff Jacob.