

Bonvillain and Martin capture elusive GWBS Doubles Tournament

By Pie Snelson

No team could retain the elusive lead in the recent Greater Washington Bowling Senate Doubles Tournament, which ran for four weekends in January at Alexandria Bowling Center. The slippery first place repeatedly leap-frogged upward before it was finally captured, on the last day of the tournament, by the team of Nick Bonvillain of Wheaton (146 average) and Eugene Martin of Gaithersburg (122).

Bonvillain shot games of 188-202-214, while Martin had 214-161-172. That 1,151, plus their handicap of 396, gave them a total of 1,547, which was more than enough to earn them the \$2,500 first-place prize.

Early leaders in the tournament were Wilson Rowe of Greenbelt and Ron Sillaman of Annapolis, who moved into first place with a score of 1,416 on the second weekend. They managed to stay in the lead for only one weekend before their score was bested by Bret Lewis of Germantown and Glen Hirose of Rockville with a 1,460.

Lewis and Hirose led for only one squad before their score succumbed to the bowling prowess of Brian Poole of Hyattsville

and Ron Sillaman, who totalled 1,486.

Poole and Sillaman, however, eventually settled for the \$1,000 third-place money because by the end of the next squad, Edward Wheaton of Beltsville and John Creamer of Rockville had snatched away first place with their 1,505.

Wheaton and Creamer became the front-runners, but they too were eventually bested and had to settle for the \$1,250 second place money, as first place once again bolted away into the hands of another team.

On the last day of the tournament, the lead was finally riveted down for good by Martin and Bonvillain's 1,547. They had to be glad to see the tournament end!

Highlights of the tournament included high male three-game scratch sets of 811 by J. Chris Rives and 804 by Brian Poole. Series of 728 by Deborah Dabney and 725 by A. Jane Timmons were high for the women.

The tournament attracted 960 entries and paid more than \$17,800 in prize money. Tournament director Paul Carey said that he believes next year's event will attract over 1,000 entries.

Pie Snelson is an occasional contributor to BOWL Magazine.