
Price, Esterson win Reno trips to National USA JOG Tournament

Michael Price of Herndon and Joy Esterson of Annapolis won all-expense paid trips and an entry into the National USA Junior Olympic Gold Tournament to be held July 12-17 in Reno, Nevada after winning the Greater Virginia Junior Olympic Gold Scratch Tournament Feb. 14 at Bowl America Falls Church.

After two five-game series, the top six boys and two girls, based on total pinfall, were selected to go to Reno.

Price scored 2,291 to earn a \$100 entry for the Reno event, along with expenses for air travel and hotel accommodations. The following bowlers won a Reno entry: 2. James Whitlow, Chester, Va. (2,242); 3. James Gaskill III, Arlington (2,239); 4. Frankie Ciannella, Hawley, Pa. (2,225); 5. Thepiolus Aspirias, Chesapeake, Va. (2,172); and 6. Jeremy Brimmer, Williamsburg, Va. (2,157).

Esterson (2,021) won the \$100 Reno entry and the airline and hotel expenses, while Becky Welch (2,001) of Richmond, Va., received the Reno entry.

High game scorers included Bubba Kennedy of the District (254 and 267), Price (258 and 268), and Thomas Piontek Vega of Sterling (265).

Following this event, the top 25 percent of the two divisions competed in match play for scholarships. All of the earlier scores were discarded.

The scholarship winners and amounts: (*Boys*) Jeremy Pancoast, Newport News, Va., \$350; Donnie Presley, Purcellville, Va., \$300; Theus Aspirias, \$200; Frankie Ciannelli, \$150. (*Girls*) Melissa Brownie, Chester, Va., \$175; Joy Esterson, \$150; Arlea Bowman, Sterling, \$100; and Becky Welch, \$75.

This tournament was open to any Junior Olympic Gold member. To qualify as a JOG member, girls must have at least a 165 average and boys at least a 175 after 21 games in a league or a single event and also be a YABA member in good standing. After a \$25 fee to YABA is made, the member receives a card, bowling bag ID, a tee shirt or cap, and a newsletter that includes information about future JOG events.

The purpose of becoming a JOG member and participating in events such as this is to qualify for the Reno event. The top six boys and six girls in Reno will become members of the USA Junior Olympic team which will train and bowl in international tournaments.

At Falls Church, 57 boys and 13 girls, some from as far away as Florida, Ohio, and Indiana, competed.

The next Greater Virginia qualifying tournament will be held at Bowl America Southwest in Richmond, Va., on April 25. Contact Becky Fine, tournament director at 703/560-5588 or via E-mail at Beckyvajog@aol.com for more information.