

Eagle Soars to Victory in Fair Lanes Open

by Bob Cosgrove

Dale Eagle scored an emotional second PBA career title when he defeated Art Trask, 232-199, in the championship match of the \$125,000 Fair Lanes Open at Capital Plaza.

Victory was assured for the 37-year-old veteran when Trask, the defending champion, missed a 10-pin in the final frame. The \$18,000 win pushed Eagle's 1984 earnings past the \$30,000 mark—more than he made during all of 1983.

In the opening match, Dennis Jacques, of Belford, N.J., defeated Bob Handley, of Pompano Beach, Fla., 219-185, with the help of two Brooklyn strikes during a mid-game five-bagger. Jacques then proceeded to beat Steve Wunderlich, of St. Louis, 191-158, in a battle that was undecided until the final two frames when the powerful right-hander struck out. Wunderlich was unable to overcome the carry-down of the oil on the lanes' back ends and had three splits in the first six frames, one more than his beleaguered—though victorious—opponent.

Two more splits and an open in the first five frames of the semi-final contest spelled doom for Jacques, who fell victim to a steady Dale Eagle, now bowling out of Chicago, 189-155, setting the stage for the championship match.

Trask, 35, of Fresno, Calif., began his drive for a fifth career victory with two overpowering strikes, before missing the 2-5-8 combination in the third frame. Meanwhile, Eagle, whose legal surname is still Glenn, started with a strike, three spares and a turkey. Trask returned to form, striking in frames four through seven, and then stepped to the approach to roll what many thought would be the strike that would make it all but impossible for Eagle to overcome.

"I only missed [my target] by a board at the most," explained Trask, whose 4-6 split left him open with a score of 171 after eight frames.

Eagle's lead was five pins after sparing in the eighth and setting up the final frame with a strike in the

ninth. Trask also answered with a foundation-frame strike and then threw what he believed would be a sure double to begin the tenth.

"I thought it was the best shot I made in the whole match," recalled the twelve-year veteran, but the 10-pin remained unconvinced. "I was very surprised when it hit so weakly. When the ball got to about 40 feet, I just started walking back. I was very confident that it was going to strike."



Eagle receives an \$18,000 check, the championship trophy and congratulations from Fair Lanes' CEO Walter Hall as ABC-TV's Chris Schenkel listens in.



District Manager Jerry James appears with the champion.

If Trask was surprised at leaving the single pin, he was dumbfounded by the result of his conversion attempt.

"I threw it the same way I'd been playing it all week, and I hadn't missed any."

Until then.

"Maybe we ought to check that lane and see if it's too long! It looked like the ball just ran out of lane. I threw it where I wanted to. I didn't miss my target; it just started sliding and kept right on going."

WDCAWBA Members "Behind the Scenes" at Fair Lanes Open

When the professional bowlers come to town to compete in the Fair Lanes Open, it requires many hours of hard work from many people to ensure the smooth operation of the event—scores have to be checked and rechecked; scorekeepers recruited; and records kept. The people who perform these functions are often neglected because they work behind the scenes.

Nell Horne and Berlin Myers are among the diligent team behind the scenes. They are deeply involved in the preparation and finalization of the tournament, and work vigorously for its success.

Nell, a former tournament director, has played an important role in the open for eight years. She is primarily responsible for the Pro-Am tournament where amateur bowlers get the opportunity to "bowl with the pros." Under Nell's direction, this year's event broke all records with 878 entrants. Her other duties include: supervising the tournament director's "Golden girls" and hospitality committee; typing; running errands and handling inquiries—which, in sum, makes Nell a jack-of-all-trades.

Berlin, a former Women's Professional Bowlers Association member, holds the position of head scorekeeper. She is responsible for the monumental job of recruiting and securing scorekeepers. This task begins three months in advance and requires the selection of dependable people to record the scores of the pros from day one through the televised finals. The dedication that Berlin displays in this position makes her a jewel of the event.

...Dee Poindexter

Needing just seven pins to sew up the win, Eagle, with tears of joy welling in his eyes, doubled, flapped his "Eagle" wings in a victory pose, and then added a six-count to secure a 33-pin victory.

Runner-up Trask was comforted with a \$9,500 check. Jacques earned \$7,000, Wunderlich collected \$5,500, and Handley made \$4,500 in his fourth championship round appearance this year.