
Hart wins one for his ailing dad

By Bob Cosgrove

A local bowler who has won many tournaments recently captured an event that he'll remember for the rest of his life.

David Hart III of Burtonsville, Md., withstood competition from some the region's best bowlers as well as his own emotions to take home the \$1,500 top prize Jan. 15 in the Nation's Capital/Baltimore Area Masters Scratch Tournament at Greenway Bowl in Odenton, Md.

The smooth left-hander also earned a champion's plaque which he immediately brought to Washington Adventist Hospital to show his terminally-ill father, who was diagnosed with cancer last August and who earlier this month had suffered a mild stroke at home.

"This whole last week had been hectic, and things weren't looking good," said the 37-year-old courier service owner. In fact, Hart constantly wavered in his decision about bowling in the Masters until he realized he needed the respite.

"I just needed to get my mind off of everything that was going on," he explained. "In my own mind, without saying it to my father, it would be great to win the tournament and be able to tell him that I won...."

Hart paused, overtaken with emotion as he recalled the moment.

"Anyway, I came to the tournament, and darn if I didn't win it!" he said.

Jan. 15 — Greenway Bowl, Odenton Qualifier	Matches	W-L	Total	Prize	
1. David Hart III, Burtonsville, Md.	1,233	1,124	4-1	2,477	\$1,500
2. Karl Schmidt, Belair, Md.	1,200	1,117	4-1	2,437	800
3. Jimmy Davis, Baltimore	1,195	1,148	3-2	2,433	500
4. Steve Robbins, Hanover, Md.	1,189	1,158	2-3	2,407	400
5. Steve Myers, Gaithersburg	1,196	1,103	3-2	2,389	300
6. Lee Brosius, Fort Meade	1,193	1,046	4-1	2,359	280
7. Gary Parsons, Suitland	1,232	1,082	1-4	2,344	260
8. Tommy Holmes, Annandale	1,192	1,041	3-2	2,323	240
9. Anthony Smith, Livingston, N.J.	1,174	1,113	1-4	2,317	220
10. Magic Gray, Suitland	1,185	999	3-2	2,274	200
11. Duane Wood, Middleton, Md.	1,181	1,023	1-4	2,234	190
12. Brian DeMatte, Greenbelt	1,207	932	1-4	2,169	180

• Other cashers: 13 (tie). Kip Roberts, Richmond, and Rich Wilburn, Laurel (1,171 for five games), \$155; 15. Scott Poe, Severna Park, Md. (1,166), \$145; 16. Brad Tolson, Alexandria (1,153), \$140; 17. Brian Cavey, Baltimore (1,150), \$135; 18 (tie). Kendra Cameron, Gambrills, Md., and Gerry Flemming, Temple Hills (1,147), \$130; 20. Ricky Wallace, Stafford, Va. (1,145), \$120; 21. Glen Shipe, Hampstead, Md. (1,140), \$115; 22. Bob Greenberg, Bolling AFB (1,138), \$110; 23. Tony Walton, Laurel (1,125), \$105; 24. Gary Mills, Odenton, Md. (1,122), \$100; 25. Mike Merrick, Johnson City, Tenn. (1,118), \$95; 26. John Parks, Herndon (1,117), \$90; 27. Lincoln DaCosta, Fairfax (1,113), \$85; 28. Bill Brown, Baltimore (1,108), \$80; 29. Jim Gross, Annapolis (1,107), \$75.

• High game out-of-the-money: Chris Ward, the District (277), \$40.

For Hart, who led the 116-player field after the five-game qualifier, bowling five match games proved difficult. He had told friends at Greenway Bowl that he was "on a mission" for his father. As he came closer to actually accomplishing the mission—victory—Hart occasionally had to remind himself to "keep focused" when thoughts of his dad intruded between frames.

When it was over, Hart, who averaged 235.7 for 10 games, emerged with a 40-pin victory over Karl Schmidt of Bel Air, Md.

The hospital already had just locked its visitors entrance when Hart arrived shortly after his victory, plaque in hand. He went to the emergency room and

signed in with a guard before being allowed to go upstairs. (This would be the second time in recent weeks that Hart had good news for his father: At the last Masters on Dec. 31 at Annandale Bowl, Hart tossed a perfect game.)

"I told him that I won it for him," said Hart, "and my dad said, 'Good going.' Tears started flowing, and we started talking about other stuff. I wrote down all the scores and left the plaque with him.

"I've won other tournaments, but the \$1,500 was immaterial. The money will come and go, but"

Hart couldn't finish. He didn't have to.