

Another Pot of Gold at Blinky's Presidents' Day Tourney

By Rick Thomas

Once again, the Presidents' Day tourney at Blinky's Sports Cafe, Santa Clara, California, yielded a big "pot of gold." The grand total for the eight days, Feb. 7-15, was \$31,780.

The tournament got underway on Sunday with the always popular Ladies' Champagne & Roses draw doubles. This fun group never fails in getting the week off to a roaring start. In the end, the winners were:



Jane Mourgos and Shari Bussey Hudson (rear left), 1st place; Stevie Parks and Bonita (front), 2nd; Bev Chaffin and Betty Hudson (right), 3rd.

The amateur doubles draw was held on Monday night. The ladies kept the guys from being too serious, however, everyone's intensity showed in the end:



Winners were Chris Wayt and Don Davidson, with Dale Pirlot and Teresa Manfredi taking second place honors.

Third place went to Steve Cathey and Lorraine Bingham.

Fourteen players joined together to get the amateur singles underway on Tuesday night, vying
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Hal Perry Inducted into California Hall of Fame



A highlight of Blinky's Presidents' Day tournament was the induction of Hal Perry into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Baseball's loss ended up being shuffleboard's gain. A record-setting high school MVP in 1954-55, pitcher Hal Perry was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1956 and continued setting records in semi-pro baseball. It wasn't until 1960 that he shifted his priorities to shuffleboard. In that sport, too, he set records as a player and as a person:

--"Hal is about much more than shuffleboard talent. His honesty, integrity and sense of fair play are also legendary." -- Phil Skover and John McDermott, *The Shuffleboard Federation*

--"By any means by which a person would judge a shuffleboard player, Hal stands right there with the greatest players." -- Nick Chaffin

--"He's always there for you. If a person needed something and he didn't have it, he would go out of his way to get it." -- Fred Thumann

--"He's one of the best shuffleboard players on the planet and has been for many years." -- Darrol Nelson

--"In life and in game, I am proud to call Hal Perry my father and am happy that everyone else has had a chance to see and experience what I have all my life." -- Steve Perry

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for a \$2,000 prize. The final was intense. First place went to Chris Wayt, with second place honors going to George Main, and third to Paul Weber from Bellflower.

On Wednesday and Thursday nights was the most popular event, the ABC draw, 2 of 3, double elimination, with a prize of over \$3,000. The action blasted off with strong teams everywhere and it was a super event! The results: 1st -- Nick Chaffin, George Main and Lorraine Bingham; 2nd -- Don Cox, Pete Craven and Shari Hudson; 3rd -- Pat Bayless, Don Davidson and Jim Olson.

After a brief one-day respite, the sponsor sale was held on Friday night for the open/pro doubles which began on Saturday morning with 14 teams vying for a prize fund of \$13,775.



What a perfect ending! After being inducted into the California Hall of Fame, Mr. Hal Perry (second from right) and his partner, Don Cox (left), came in first in the doubles. Hal's son, Steve Perry (right) and his brother-in-law Joe Hudson (known by the end of the week as Mr. Shari Hudson), took second place honors.



Karl Spickelmier (right) and Dave Keithahn took third.

Following the Hal Perry induction and the fantastic dinner of a 160-pound pig with all the trimmings (thanks to Blinky and all of the people who worked very hard to put on this fabulous meal), the open/pro singles began with 22 players participating for a prize fund of \$10,950. It concluded Monday evening.



Rick Niblett (right) came across the country from Maryland to play -- and that he did to finish No. 1! Another great traveller, Darrol Nelson of Oregon, took second place in the open/pro singles.



All the way from Oklahoma, Bill Melton (left) finished third in the open/pro singles. His buddy, Dave Williams of Texas, extends congratulations.

From the mountains of California, Don Cox finished fourth.

What a great week! We give special thanks to all of the out-of-town and out-of-state players who continually support the tournament: Hal Perry, Rick Niblett, Bill Melton, David Williams, Harvey Kidd, Darrol Nelson, Karl Spickelmier, Rich (Bubba) Warren, Steve Perry, Paul Weber, John Fisher, Ron Harrolson, Bob Hunt, Nick Chaffin, Fred Thumann, Joe Hudson, Don Cox, George Camara, Paul Elliot, Steve Fisher; also many kudos to the locals who always support this tournament.

A very special thanks to Paul Weber and Hope for spending the week with us and running the 50/50 draws and for helping in so many other ways.

Thanks to Fred Thumann, Bubba, Don Cox, Eddie Brayman, Chris Wayt, Dale Pirlot, Dan Mourgos and everyone who helped during the week. Thanks to Nelson Jennings for conducting the pro sponsor sales. Many thanks to Kathy Thomas, Stevie Parks and Paul Weber for handling the sponsor sale collection and prize fund distribution. Kathy, a thankless job, but from all of us, thank you! And thank you, Hal Perry!

Blinky's is a member of The Board Talk's national shuffleboard network.

**Thanks from
Hal Perry,
California Hall of
Fame Inductee....**



- *"Thank you to the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame for this great honor. It was a very special day for me and my family."*
 - *"Thanks to all of you for your kind words, personally and in writing. Those words will be treasured forever."*
 - *"Thanks to all of the out-of-town and out-of-state friends who were there to share this special occasion with me."*
 - *"Special thanks to my son Steve and brother-in-law Joe Hudson for making it a 'family affair.' "*
 - *"Thanks to my buddy, Don Cox. Anytime you partner with a great player like Don, you have a chance to win."*
 - *"Thanks to Rick Thomas, who got the whole thing started."*
- "Thanks to everyone for an unforgettable day!"***

