

Houston Memorial Open Revs Up in Texas

By Don Meehan

Shuffleboard's version of the "Indy 500" made its debut in Houston this May 26-29 at Danny's Sports Bar. Nearly 100 contestants registered for the three-day affair and competition was fierce. The only things missing were the roaring engines and the gasoline fumes! The tracks were slick (eight of them to be precise) and each player tried his/her best to stay out of the pits. Of course, when not battling on the boards, everyone had a chance to watch the real "Indy" on one of Danny's myriad TV screens or order some delicious food from Chef Andre's kitchen.

Friday night featured pro and amateur events. The pro players were able to pick partners from the pool of talent available. Players not picked comprised contestants in the amateur draw.



Winners were local Tom Milan (left) and Jeff Womble (right) of Dallas. A pleased sponsor, Mike Taylor (center), shares their honors.



Pro Bob Shaw (left) of Dallas and Jim Kosiske of Nebraska took second place honors. The "muggers" in the background are their sponsors, Leon Black of Michigan and Harvey Walden of Tennessee.



Local Danny Green (left) and Billy Melton, now of Houston, claimed third place.



Host Danny Norris (left) and Mike Taylor of Austin took fourth place.



On the amateur side, John Sellers of San Antonio and Edy Schwertner of Corpus Christi teamed to take first place.



Al Kennedy (right) of Corpus (Edy's beau) carried local Bob (the professor) Lee to second place.



Neil Garvin, Corpus Christi, led local Gary Fomby (not pictured) to third place.

Johnny Wayne Crawford (the Great One) teamed with Dale Koteris (not shown) of Houston to take third place.



Local Pete Worsnop, co-owner of Danny's Sports Bar and one of the Memorial Open staff, and Beverly McGinty of Clear Lake came in fourth.

Day 2 featured bring partner events for pros and amateurs.



First place honors in the pro division went to Mike Taylor and local Harvey (the auctioneer) Kidd.



On the amateur side, local players Del Ammermann and Jimmy Fernandez took first place.



Del and Jimmy held off a fierce challenge from Danny Norris and Denice Klein, who settled for 2nd.



Billy Mays (the Legend) led Jeff Womble to second place.



Mahlon Nobles of Dallas and local Sammy Stringer took third place.

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Frisko Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A Series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(Editor's Note: Author Balboa Ron is on the disabled list while he recovers from his hip replacement. His prognosis is better than reported in last month's issue. Because of a new procedure, after his 3-hour surgery, he will be in the hospital from three to five days, then spend six weeks in recovery and rehab. He will be back!

His many fans can speed his recovery by sending him their best wishes:

Ron Schweikert
1140 Coral Desert Drive
Las Vegas NV 89123

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Linda Nobles and Danny Green claimed fourth. Fifth and sixth place were shared by locals Kathy Orlando with Jimmy Britt, and Dallasites Cheryl Shaw with Carol Audet.

Sunday, Day 3, was singles day.



Billy Melton came from the loser's bracket to beat Bob Shaw in the 2 out of 3 format and claim pro division honors.



Dave Williams (right) of Dallas had a marathon contest with Harvey Kidd to place third and fourth respectively. He receives congratulations from tournament co-director Jack Scott.



Jeff Womble (left) completed the course undefeated to take 1st place in the amateur division (are those raters watching?). Del Ammermann (center) came in second, while Bob Lee (right) claimed third.

Rene Roberts of Clear Lake came in fourth. Fifth and sixth place honors were shared by locals Gilbert Baird and Sammy Stringer. Seventh and eighth place were shared by Mike McGinty of Clear Lake and Jim Kosiske.

While this was the first Memorial Open, organizers Jack Scott and Johnny Ballard were able to make it a smooth start by using the same crew that staffs the Houston Holiday Open, which has been a rousing success for four years. With plenty of cooperation from owners Danny Norris, Reuben Manchaca, Pete Worsnop and all the friendly folks at Danny's, things indeed went smoothly. Replay Amusements of Houston provided the four extra boards and Triple Crown Shuffleboard Supplies donated dust and silicone. Perla Scott, through her employer, Allison Cummins, Inc., allowed us the use of a currency counting machine.

To all those who worked and to all those who played, as well as all those who worked AND played, we thank you and hope to see you after Christmas at the Houston Holiday Open!

Mark your calendars now!
HOUSTON HOLIDAY OPEN

Dec. 26-31, 2000

Greenspoint Marriott, Houston, Texas