

The Board Talk

News and Views
from the World
of Shuffleboard

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The Hammer

Who the hell is Anthony Cacciavillani (alias Conch)? That's what bidders in *The Board Talk's* 1st annual national shuffleboard tournament singles event calcutta were asking. They kept their money in their jeans for a chance to bid on some of the bigger names and Anthony bought himself for \$15, a modest investment for the 2nd place entry and calcutta pot he won.

It was just a year ago that Philadelphia, Pa., shuffleboard booster Jim Yankauskas (alias Yank) told Anthony that he'd have to practice hard to make the team. He did work hard, he did make the team, and now he's made a name for himself in national shuffleboard circles. He'll never go for \$15 in a calcutta again.

In retrospect, that's what our first national tournament was all about. It was the Anthonys carving out a reputation for themselves in the World of Shuffleboard. It was the second generation players like Michigan great Jim Hoffman's daughter, Jamie, lagging consistent 3's and 4's against Anthony's team in the 4-person mixed event. It was opportunities for players from the Midwest to meet players from the East and gain respect for each other as players and as individuals from all walks of life.

In a nutshell, it put the spotlight where *The Board Talk* thinks it ought to be — on the "little people" who day after day, week after week, pump quarters into the boards to improve their game, and on the biggies who have earned their reputations for good play and good sportsmanship.

For the organizers, it was a learning, character-building experience. Two weeks before the big event, postponement — even cancellation — was under consideration. *The Board Talk* editors — Donna in the hospital for emergency surgery and George depressed by a "to do" list that kept growing instead of shrinking — took a look at the event we had promoted for several months and at the strikes that were against us.

Strike One — In terms of financial support, all national distributors and suppliers had failed to respond to our invitations for sponsorship of this first. That meant the financial load would have to be carried by the few local and area supporters who had responded (identified in this issue, bless them!), by our hosts, the Log Cabin Bar, and by us. That scared us!

Strike Two — Indications for participation were cause for panic. The Ryan brothers from New York and their party from the East were the only pre-registered, pre-paid participants. A letter from Oregon eliminated hopes for Northwest participation with medical and job-related reasons. A call from Oklahoma that Bill Melton's Little League team had made the finals on the 4th of July weekend scratched important participation from the Southwest. (That didn't stop Bill from promoting *The Board Talk*. He sent in 13 new subscribers, more than we collected during our tournament!)

Strike Three — We decided not to opt for this call. Thanks to the enthusiastic participation and great sportsmanship of players east of the Mississippi; thanks to the

(continued on page 6)

Tourney Talk

Hostess Nite Club, Toledo, Ohio, Aug. 3

A double elimination doubles tourney will be held at the Hostess Nite Club, 1401 Starr Ave., Toledo on Aug. 3. Entry fee \$50 per team. Pays four places, 50%, 25%, 15% and 10%. Calcutta starts at noon sharp. Two boards. For information, call 419-698-9251 and ask for Lynn, Randy or Jim.

McCleer's Saloon, Lansing, Mich., Aug. 10

McCleer's Saloon, 910 W. Saginaw, Lansing, will host a mixed doubles tournament on Aug. 10, beginning at 1 p.m. \$20 per team entry fee, calcutta, pays 60%, 30%, 10%. Trophies for 1st and 2nd places. For information, call 517-484-8656.

Chip-Kicker, Houston, Texas, Aug. 17-18

\$50 draw on Saturday, Aug. 17, \$100 bring your partner on Sunday, Aug. 18. Two game loss, big calcutta. Pays three places, 60%, 30% and 10%. Play starts at 2 p.m. on Saturday. 2078-1960, Houston, Texas. For information, call 713-440-8882 and ask for Don, Cory or Bobbie Jo.

Ace of Clubs, Marysville, Calif., Aug. 31-Sept. 2

Northern California's 5th annual Labor Day shuffleboard tournament will be played at the Ace of Clubs, 328 I Street, Marysville, Calif., on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Aug. 31, Sept. 1 and 2. Entry fees are \$100 per person for the doubles, \$150 per person for singles, double elimination. On the previous Friday, \$20 round robins all afternoon. The calcutta is scheduled for Friday night. Entry fees and calcuttas pay three places — 60%, 30% and 10%.

The Ace of Clubs, with three boards, is open 24 hours a day. A "big feed" will be on the agenda Sunday. Tournament directors Fred Thumann and Jerry Miller say the best players nationwide will be participating in this Labor Day tourney. Call Sharon or Jerry Miller (916-743-6885) for more information and/or for lodging reservations.

California Action

Eleven teams participated in the doubles during the Memorial Day tournament at the Ace of Clubs in Marysville, Calif. with entry fees of \$2,200 and a calcutta of \$3,905. Winners were: 1st, Don Cox and LeRoy Ledford, Sacramento; 2nd, Jerry Miller, Marysville, and "Lagging" Leon, Sacramento; 3rd, Ron Harralson, San Jose, and Don Mitchel, Portland. In the singles, there were 20 competitors for the \$3,000 entry fees and \$3,950 calcutta. Winners were: Darrol Nelson, Eugene, Oregon, 1st; Loren Maxhum, Oroville, 2nd, and Eric Waldman, Pyru, 3rd.

In The Shelter's (Placentia, Calif.) One Grand Shootout, Billie Chiles and Bill Maxwell took top honors, with Ted Zariphes in 3rd place, Chris Monahan in 4th and Jim Martin in 5th place. (See Letters for explanation of "shootout.")

Central Indiana Action

Bob Voorhis and Deb Somers took top honors in the best 2 of 3 mixed tournament at the Palace Bar, Fairmont, on June 8. Second place went to Tom Vorndran and Val Beer. Hoot and Deb Gipson took third place with Dennis and Nina

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More Tourney Talk (continued from page 1)

Borgerding in fourth. Total prize money was \$795.

A doubles tourney hosted by the American Bar, Portland, on June 15 was won by Bob Brown and Bobby Brown. Rick Stocker and Gerald Shepherd came in second, Marcia Brown and Curly McNally were third and fourth place finishers were Larry Brown and Mike. Total prize money was \$1,100.



The Northwest team, composed of Lauri Niemi, Coloma Hollister, Sally Sanders, Jolene Lembke (captain), Lois Walter and Evie Wechter, won the women's team event at the Tolo Tavern's Memorial Day tournament (reported in last month's *Board Talk*). Owner Pat Burkhart invites shuffleboarders across the nation, "If you ever get our way, be sure to stop in and play a game or just say hi! We have the friendliest people in the country and a lot of good shuffleboard players." The Tolo Tavern is located at 7878 Blackwell Road, Central Point, Ore.



Lee and Nancy Vachter (front) of Gladstone, Ore., took first place in the Black Cat Sweathogs handicap doubles tourney. In second place were Galen Gaunce and Jody Bashaw of Portland, with Dave and Gail Barnbrook of Oregon in third. The Black Cat's (Portland, Ore.) Sweathogs tourney was held in late April.

Nelson-Allis Team Takes Washington Tourney Honors

Mount St. Helen didn't provide any fireworks display for the 4th of July weekend. All the action was at the Drive Inn Tavern in Spokane where 25 teams participated in a doubles tourney that attracted big name players. Darrol Nelson and Jim Allis took first place honors with Don Mitchell and Gary Singer in second place, and Steve Calamarski and "Dink" in third.

Honey Comb Lounge, Dallas, Features \$10,640 Purse

A tourney held at the Honey Comb Lounge in Dallas, Texas, July 6-7, featured a total purse of \$10,640 and a big outdoor feed. Bill Melton reports that owner Roger Schmitz has to be "the greatest shuffleboard host in the world," feeding the 250 people in attendance at his own expense. Winners of the \$50 draw partner event were: 1st, David Williams, Fort Worth, and Harvey Kidd, Houston; 2nd, Early Kelly and Bob White, Dallas; 3rd, Bill Melton, Davis, Okla., and Ben Alexander, Dallas.

In the \$300 team event, Glen Davidson of Oklahoma City and Bud Hilburn, Tulsa, took first place; Billy Mays and Earl Kelly of Dallas were second, and Harvey Kidd and Lee Brady of Houston were third.

Missed the Deadline

Received too late for promotion in *The Board Talk*: the mixed doubles tourney at the Sports Arena, Houston, Texas, on July 13-14 and The Best of the Rockies 1st Annual Colorado Open Singles at McCoy's in Denver. Watch for coverage results in the next issue. Remember: the closing date for each issue is the 20th of the month. The earlier we receive your tournament notices, the better promotion we can give.

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