

in the morning and I was asleep by then! Third place went to Larry Romay of St. Louis, with the spoiler, Leon Black of Michigan, taking fourth place.

Once again, many thanks to all who attended and sorry to those who won't get their picture on a milk carton this month. Looking forward to seeing some old and new faces at Shooter's on Aug. 20-22. (Somebody else bring a camera, please!)

McDaniel Wins Maryland State Singles Championship

By Dick Gorman

The Maryland State championship singles was staged at Harvey's Place, Street, Maryland on April 23-24 for the second year. This was the finale of a long series of tournaments (eight weekends) at Harvey's for the 1998-99 season. The four in-house boards were ready and so were some new challengers.

Friday night was practice night and to be fair with practice time, a draw partner event was set up to equalize time. Some surprise winners (but it didn't do much good in the real events on Saturday) were Faye Todd, Newark, Delaware, and her partner, Dan (the Teacher of Darlington, Md. Taking second place was host Harvey Comer and Faye's husband, Wayne Todd.

On Saturday morning, the Div. 2 (1.51 Bowers System or better) lined up to do battle. Maryland State Championships are open to competitors from any state and play they did. This year the ultimate winner was a Maryland lady, Judy Iseman of Chestertown. Judy hasn't been as active in tournaments as she once was, but we sure were happy to see her back and winning. Second place went to a Philadelphia player, Billy Pollock from Upper Darby's Knights of Columbus championship team. Third place went to another Marylander, Curtis Dean of Northeast. Congratulations to all; spend the money well.

The real biggie was the open singles' (open to all, including any who were in the Div. 2) and many competed, taking advantage of the handicap system. Long-time player Jim McDaniel of Darlington emerged the state champion. It was fitting that just three weeks ago, a tribute was paid to him by his shuffleboard friends and family. Over 100 people showed up from surrounding states to pay tribute to Jim for his dedication to the sport over so many years (nobody really knows how many years because nobody has been around that long). Fighting his way through a host of other hopefuls was Butch Kelly, Springfield, Pa., to take a hard-fought second place, while both tournaments were being played on the same boards.

As if that wasn't enough, those who had been

eliminated from the singles events joined in the regular Saturday night draw event on the boards that were available. Taking first place in the draw were Wendy Davis and Dick Gorman, both from Wilmington, Del., with second place going to Hilda Poling and Dewey Shortridge, both from Darlington.

The weekend was a great climax to a long and innovative season with more tournaments than ever before and more participants (many new). Harvey Comer and hostess Darlyene Belcher said they were happy with the new format and they believe it has turned the direction of shuffleboard in this area to help ensure its future growth. They want to once again thank Debbie and Ron Bowers for all their hard efforts.

Next season's schedule is already being planned and will be announced in the August Board Talk after contacting other tournament sites on the East Coast to reduce conflicts on dates. Meanwhile, show up any Saturday night by 8 p.m. and enter the draw partner events.



Winners of the Maryland State doubles championship, held at Harvey's Place on April 10 were Johnny Gardner of Chestertown and J.B. Armour of Rising Sun.



Taking second place honors in the Maryland State doubles championship were Steph O'Neill of Rising Sun and Steve (Ski) Lacinski of Philadelphia.

(Photos by Brenda Wallace)