

## Nelson Wins World Championship Shuffleboard Title in Las Vegas



World champion shuffleboarder Darrel Nelson took \$17,500 back to Oregon.

Ever watch a cobra respond to the irresistible music of a snake charmer? That's the best way to describe Darrel Nelson's rise to the top in his bid for first place in the first official world championship shuffleboard tournament, held at the Showboat in Las Vegas, Jan. 27-29.

Nelson, who hails from Eugene, Oregon, rose above names like Billy Mays, "Mac, the Greek," Doug Buhl, Ed Graves, Bill Melton, and many other nationally-renowned players to become the undisputed world champion. Could be that the \$17,500 first-place purse held some of the charm that kept him on his winning course.

You didn't have to be a shuffleboard expert to get emotionally involved watching these players bump heads. One throw of the puck could have turned things

around for most any of the outstanding players in this tourney.

Second-place honors and \$6,000 went to Ed Graves (better known as "Portland Eddy" from his former home) of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, who staged a tremendous comeback after almost being eliminated early in the tournament.

Third place and \$1,500 went to Doug Buhl of Bremerton, Washington, with fourth place and \$1,000 earned by K.D. Makarounis ("Mac, the Greek") of Portland, Oregon.

Bouquets are in order for tournament organizers Billy Mays, Doug Buhl and Bill Melton, tournament director Larry Cowan, and helpers Earl Kelly and Willie Wilson, and brickbats to the editors for not getting the names of all the other hard workers who made it happen in Las Vegas.

Billy Mays, who entertained the enthusiastic crowd with trick shot exhibitions when he wasn't competing in the tournament, requests that participants share their ideas for improvement. Send your suggestions to Billy, U.S.S.A., Rte. 1, Box 117-F, Kemp, Texas 75143.

Those of you who thought Las Vegas was great (or if you missed this tourney) will be interested in a national doubles tournament scheduled for April 19-22, again at the Showboat. Watch the next issue for further details.



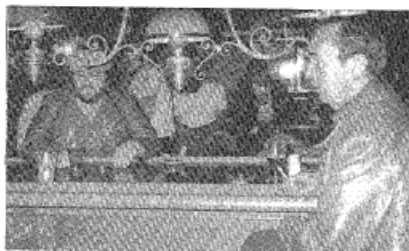
Doug Buhl's style took him to third place and earned him \$1,500.



Ed Graves shows the stuff that earned him second place and \$6,000.



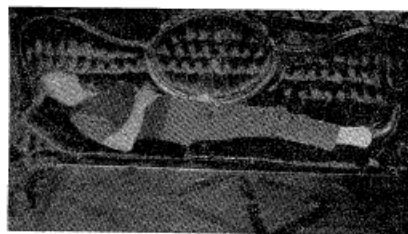
Fourth place winner K. D. Makarounis kids with shuffleboarder great Billy Mays.



Carl Daly (right) comforts Michigan's contender, Lee McDonald, at the airport bar with, "You can tell them back home that you beat Billy Mays!"



A rare break in the action for tournament director Larry Cowan.



The marathon shuffleboard tournament was a grueling pace for spectators as well as players, but the action kept most of them on the edge of their seats.