



The Board Talk

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Bill & Billy Melton Win at Bourbon

Shufflers from 12 states -- Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Illinois, Florida, Texas, Oklahoma, California, Oregon, and Washington -- gathered in the little town of Bourbon, Indiana, on May 6 for the 34th Annual Spring Doubles at the American Legion Post 424. Out of the 12 states represented, at least one person from eight states made it to the top eight spots.

"Though we were a little short on filling the 64 spots, this was one of the toughest fields yet at Bourbon," said tournament director Fritz Broka. "Out of the 51 teams participating, the top eight spots were not all pros -- just going to show -- the pros don't always win here!"

However, it was the pro team of Bill and Billy Melton of Davis, Oklahoma, who took the number one position.



The father and son team of Bill and Billy Melton took top honors at Bourbon's 34th Annual Spring Doubles Tournament against 50 other teams.

Making a mark in shuffleboard history for women were second-place finishers Fritz Broka of Indiana and Louise Freer of Pennsylvania.



Giving the famous Meltons a run for their money were the determined Fritz Broka of Bourbon and her partner, Louise Freer of Lansdale, Pennsylvania (secretary of The National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame).

Taking third-place honors were Steve Blue of Columbia City, Indiana, and Deb Voorhis of Fairmont,
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TRAGEDY IN AMERICA'S HEARTLAND

By Ron Huddleston

As most of you know, we recently experienced a national disaster in Oklahoma City. Fortunately, none of our players who work in the area were among the 170 killed in the explosion. Unfortunately, we did know people who were badly hurt or killed in this mind-numbing tragedy.

Thank you all for your concern. Many of your states (New York to California, Michigan to Florida) sent rescue teams in an enormous effort to save as many lives as possible in the round-the-clock effort. You might be as surprised as we were to know most of them were using vacation time in order to volunteer their help.

As to how it felt when the bomb exploded, my wife Sharon, who works six blocks away, thought an airplane had crashed into her building. I was 12 miles away and thought someone's house had blown-up in the neighborhood.

We can only hope that this is a singular event. Tornadoes, earthquakes, and hurricanes are bad enough, but to have an American kill 170 fellow Americans to make a point, has been quite a shock to the Heartland.

Imagine that your parents had gone to file for Social Security and never came home, or you dropped your 4-year-old off at day care and never saw him again, or that you go into work and in the middle of saying "good morning" It may sound a little dramatic, but that is what most people were doing Wednesday, April 19, 1995, at 9:02 a.m.

Meltons Win at Bourbon's 34th

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Indiana. Locals Mike Koontz and Dennis Kinsey finished fourth, with Bob Shaw of Ft. Worth, Texas, and Denny Busch of Omaha, Nebraska, in fifth spot. Others in the winner's circle were: Jimmy Allis of Everett, Washington, and Bob Voorhis of Fairmount, Indiana; Bob and Bobby Brown of Portland, Indiana; and Bjerne Sunde of Madison Heights, Michigan, and John Tischler of Detroit.

Winner of the set of weights was Jim Yank Jr. of Philadelphia.

Tournament director Fritz Broka and the American Legion Post 424 thank all who participated in this 34th annual event. Fritz also thanks the West Coast bunch for making the trip to Bourbon once again. "Wes, sorry you didn't get that ride on my Harley!" she said.

Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Gives First Awards at Bourbon

A highlight of the Bourbon tournament was the presentation of outstanding service awards to deserving people from that area. Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Director Larry Creakbaum presented awards to Mike Koontz, Steve Hart, and Fritz Broka.

"These people are those who dedicate a lot of their time to serve the shuffleboard community well," said President Glen Davidson. "They put a lot more into the game than they will ever get back."

Lots of Winners at Dew Drop Inn

The weather was not the best, as even light snow fell this late in the year, but the shuffleboard tournament held on April 6-9 at the Dew Drop Inn in Waterloo, New York, was a great success, with players coming from as far away as Indiana, Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania, to compete on the four in-house boards.

Thursday night kicked off the shuffleboard weekend with \$10 round robins, with 24 players competing.



Keeping it in the family, Jane's hubby, Arlow (right) with partner Jim Fowler from Wolcott, New York, won the second round robin.

Jane Johnson of Jordan, New York, drew host Doug Fridley Jr. to take top honors in the first round robin.



Sixteen players vied for the top prizes of trophy, Old Milwaukee shirt, and half of the \$2,040 purse in the singles event which started Friday night.



Milt Benedict (left) and Steve Bennett, both of Sherburne, New York, took first and second places respectively in the open singles at the Dew Drop Inn.

"Upstart" Earl Durgan of Port Gibson, New York, upset some top players, like Chuck King and Steve Bennett, to take third place. Fourth and final cash spot went to Johnny Gardner from Maryland. Defending open singles champion Louise Freer just missed cashing and finished fifth. Tourney favorites Bobby Voorhis and Doug Fridley Jr. "bombed out" as it just wasn't their day!

In Saturday morning's mixed doubles, it was local shooters Theresa Gibson and Doug Fridley Jr. doing it the hard way, as it took two games in the finals before turning back Louise Freer from Pennsylvania and Chuck King from Delaware, who settled for second. Third and final cash spot went to the husband and wife team of John and Sharon Canino from Baldwinsville, New York.

Theresa Gibson and Doug Fridley Jr. were winners of the mixed doubles at the Dew Drop Inn. They beat out favorites Louise Freer and Chucky King.



The draw partner event held Saturday night and well into the late evening hours was a complete sell-out, with prize monies topping \$2,225. Again, it went two games in the finals, but with Rob Hummer from Waterloo shooting tough weights against the pro from Indiana, Bobby V, it was Rob and Doug Fridley Jr. earning first place. This was Rob's first-time ever cashing. Settling for second were Bobby and his partner, Dave (Red Dog) Shewbridge from Maryland. Earning third spot were tourney favorites Chuck King and Steve Bennett, with Louise Freer and Dick Losee from Poolville, New York, in fourth. Taking the fifth and final spot were Howard Arndt from Waterloo and Bob White from Sherburne, winning it in a very close playoff game against Doug Fridley Sr. and Milt Benedict.

Sunday's popular bring partner event attracted 32 players and the top spot and decidedly the best team in the tourney