

Mason-Dixon *(continued from Page 11)*

Gardner, Greensboro, Md., and his partner Arnold Ledford (Dad of Andy), Street. No Yankees made the payoff for this one unless you want to count the Delaware players.

Saturday's bring partner event didn't bring much better luck to the teams from the North. First place money was taken by J. B. Armour, Chesapeake City, Md., and his partner Johnny Gardner, repeat money winner from Friday night. Second place was finally taken by the Yankees but not without giving a loss to the first place team. Herb Forster and his neighbor Joe Williams, both from Ridley Park, Pa, gave one great battle and last try. Third place went back to the Maryland team of Curtis Dean, nearby Rising Sun, and host Harvey Comer.

As usual, hosts Darlyene Belcher and Harvey Comer spread their hospitality and good cooking to all participants.

The next event at Harvey's will be the Maryland State Championships on April 29-30. Call 410-836-8881 to ensure your spot.

Another Fun One at Bud's Action Lounge

Bud Hillburn's Sweetheart Tournament at the Action Lounge, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, turned out to be another great tournament. Bud served up some good ham with all the fixings. Zane Porter was on the scene after a serious bout of flu/pneumonia. Zane passed out sage words of advice such as "the secret of the game is to hit weights and lag." Most of the players tried to take Zane's advice but, as U.J. West said: "I tried but failed." Fred Washington claimed that the secret of the game is to gamble, gamble, gamble and then lag and pray. Johnny Cason and Rick Yingst stated: "Our secret of the game is to keep our secret secret."

The first event was an open draw, single game double elimination, and the bring partner was 2 out of 3 in the winner's bracket and one loss in the loser's bracket, and a sweetheart draw on Sunday. Both events were based on the Bowers Rating System. As Bud has said in the past, some of the best players in the nation reside in the Tulsa area and he was once again honored to have a lot of those players in the tournament.

In the open draw, Charlie Bryom and Shirley

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Davis fought to a showdown with Carolyn Jones and Keith Oyler. Charlie and Shirley hit weights and lagged well enough to come in first place. Carolyn and Keith "almost won" but had to settle for second. Mike Bruza and Cliff Goff came in third place.

Carolyn Jones and Mike Bruza took first place in the bring partner event. Do the names in the previous sentence sound familiar? Mike said: "I think I would like to play tournaments more often." R. U. Underwood and Ruthie Atherton fought hard but had to settle for second place. Bud Hillburn and Fred Washington played well, but had to settle for third. Fred gambled, gambled and gambled, but just not enough.

Gary (who is this guy?) White and Sherry Fisher (everyone knows her) came in first place in the sweetheart draw with Squeaky Salyer and Carolyn ("If I enter, I'm gonna win") Jones came in second.

Bud gives a big thank you to all the players and attendees for making this tournament a big success, and special thanks to Keith Oyler and Shirla Porter for their time and patience in running the brackets.

Dunns Win Sweetheart Tourney at TOPS

By Jack Murphy

TOPS Bar in St. Louis, Missouri, was the setting for another fine turnout of local competitors for the annual Sweetheart Tournament, which was held on Feb. 12. Tournament organizer Bill Hill had to reluctantly turn down some prospective teams due to time constraints. Maybe it can be expanded into more than a one-day event in the future...

All of the men and women shooters teamed up to play some amazing games that were definitely exciting for this shuffleboard fan to watch. Almost every game played came down to hanging in the balance with that final shot. It was great to see how everyone put their best foot forward and got into some serious shooting all day long.



First place honors went to long-standing sweethearts, Jim and Donna Dunn, congratulated by director Bill Hill. (continued on Page 22)

TOPS (continued from Page 12)

In their first game against hometown players, Greta Hensick and Rich Steiger, Jim and Donna played a great game, but were sent to the loser's bracket in a tough 15-14 defeat. But, being the Jim and Donna we all know so well, they buckled down and got busy with some fine play against some equally tough opposition. They battled back up through the loser's bracket until they eventually met back up with Greta and Rich. When the smoke cleared, Jim and Donna were victorious and went on next to defeat the eventual third place winners, Melanie Shipp and Chick Blake.

Then it was on to the finals. Jim and Donna had to beat the undefeated team of Robert Kasza and Jill Hajek. They won that first game rather convincingly and then the scene was set for the final game of the night. It was a great game! All four players continued to make great shots when they had to, but this time the final of 15-14 was in favor of Jim and Donna. They became the true sweethearts of this tournament. Congratulations, guys, you deserved it.



Second place honors went to the team of Robert Kasza and Jill Hajek.

This team played some great games. When it seemed the chips might be down, Robert and Jill just got back in there with either a phenomenal lag shot or a crucial bump shot. It seemed their steam might have run out when Jim and Donna Dunn came out of the loser's bracket to hand them a 15-6 loss. And, although they didn't win the next game, Robert and Jill put up some great rounds of shooting and again, like many of the games in this tournament, the outcome came down to one final shot. It was a tough 15-14 loss, but I'm sure they'll be back.

Third place honors went to Melanie (Mel) Shipp and Chick Blake. Mel, a long-time favorite in the local shuffleboard league, and Chick, a relative newcomer and a regular on the home board at

TOPS, both played some tough puck-for-puck battles. They made it through their first rounds to be one of the final two undefeated teams in the winner's bracket before being handed their first loss. Mel and Chick then regrouped only to suffer another tough loss at the hands of the eventual tournament champions, Jim and Donna Dunn.



Third place finishers were Mel Shipp and Chick Blake.

Thanks to the organizers, Bill Hill and Robert Kasza, for a great day of shuffleboard play. Also thanks to Bill Hill, Robert and Victoria Kasza (Mmmm...I love those cabbage rolls!), Peggy Magee, and Jill Hajek for all the great food and snacks. Finally, thanks to Joe Parisi, the owner of TOPS bar, for allowing us to hold this tournament at his establishment again this year.

As the Puck Turns....

By George & Donna

WANTED: Copies of the January 2000 issue of The Board Talk. We know many of you keep all issues, but if you do not and have a January issue lying around, please send it to us: The Board Talk, 503 E. Sheridan, Lansing, MI 48906 (it is not necessary to send the inserts). For your courtesy, we will **extend your current subscription another two months.**

Unless some sponsors step forward, the next "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing will be published in the June issue. The January listing was sponsored by 10 Indiana shuffleboard sites which paid \$20 each for advertising on the cover page (it costs us \$200 to print the 4-page flyer). If you have a number of shuffleboard establishments in your area, you may wish to consider this opportunity. In the meantime, check the last listing to see if the information for your favorite place is correct. For example, we recently discovered that the phone number listed for the American Legion Post 73 in Del City, Oklahoma, was incorrect. It should read: 405-670-9128. Please make that change.