

BOB PORTER WINS SENIOR MASTERS FOR FIRST N.W.S.T. TITLE

The N.W.S.T. Senior Masters, the season's first major, was held over the February 2-3 weekend at Triangle Bowl in Longview, Washington. A starting field of 49 bowlers faced a grueling 8 games of qualifying, hoping to be one of sixteen to advance to Sunday's match play. There they would square off in head-to-head, two-game matches, set in a double-elimination bracket.

Through the early rounds of qualifying, Tacoma's Bob Hanson set a blistering pace, averaging 244 for the first five games with a total pinfall of 1220. Steve Michaliszyn trailed in second with an 1187 total, a per game average of 237.

Oregon City's Mike Polinsky sat in third, averaging 229 with 1145 in total pins. Hugh Miller followed close behind, averaging 228 on pinfall of 1140.

Mitch Vernon fired the high game of round five, a 279, giving the Olympia bowler a total of 1139. Portland's Trent Zabelle was the only other competitor to crack the 1100 ceiling, averaging 224 on 1123 in total pins. Matt Surina's near-perfect 299 game in round two was another highlight, placing him inside the cutline with a five-game total of + 62.

Round six found Bob Hanson still in first place with 1415 total for a 235 per game pace. However, Mike Polinsky's 258 game cut Hanson's lead from 33 pins to 12.

Steve Michaliszyn slipped one spot to third place at + 202, a per game average of 233. Lori Eskew followed her game five score of 254 with a 284, high for the round. Her 1374 total and 229 average moved the Hillsboro right-hander into fourth place.

Trent Zabelle and Hugh Miller remained in the top six. Zabelle climbed one spot to fifth place, firing a 232 to total 1355. Miller slipped to sixth, averaging 223 with 1341 in total pinfall.

Round seven ended with a change atop the leader board, as Mike Polinsky's 269 propelled him into first place with a 1672 total and a per game average of 238. Steve Michaliszyn moved into second, shooting 248 for a seven-game total of 1650, good for an average of 235 per game.

Washington right-hander Bob Hanson, the tournament leader, since round two, dropped to third despite firing a game of 234. He trailed Michaliszyn by only 1 pin with a 1649 total.

Hugh Miller and Trent Zabelle switched places from the previous round. Miller's 258 moved him into fifth with a 1599 total and a 228 per game average. Zabelle fell to sixth with 1586 in total pins, a per game pace of 226.

Washington's Lonnie Sharkey jumped from twelfth to ninth, posting a game of 274 to total 1550. Longview's own Brian Yoke made his first appearance in the top sixteen, climbing four places to fifteenth on the strength of a 258 game and 1491 total.

Super seniors made their presence known as Philomath's Bill McNelly fired a game of 257, placing him in thirteenth with a total of 1507 and 215 per game average. Albany's Walt Lundgren established the cut line entering the final game of qualifying, his 1471 total and 210 average placed him sixteenth in the standings.

Despite one-third of the field being within 60 pins of that cutline, only one addition was made to the field. Mike Polinsky earned the honor of number one seed, the only bowler to reach the + 300 plateau with total pinfall of 1918- an impressive 238 per game average.

Washington right-handers Steve Michaliszyn and Bob Hanson held onto second and third place. Michaliszyn's 1864 total and 233 per game pace edged Hanson's 1861 total.

Trent Zabelle climbed to fourth in the standings. His final game of 268 gave the Portland right-hander a + 254 total and a 231 per game average. Rounding out the top six qualifiers were Washington southpaw Hugh Miller and Oregon right-hander Lori Eskew, the only other bowlers to crack the + 200 ceiling. They finished in fifth and sixth place with total pinfall of 1836 and 1802, respectively.

Mike Karch, the newly crowned N.W.S.T. titleist, led the next group of qualifiers. He earned the seventh seed on the strength of a final round 248 to total 1746, a 224 per game average.

A trio of Washington bowlers completed the top ten, led by Lonnie Sharkey's eighth place total of 1786 and 223 average. Right-handers Mitch Vernon and Bob Porter followed in ninth and tenth at + 276 and + 265, averages of 222 and 220 per game.

Oregon right-handers dominated the remaining six qualifying spots. Jim Winklepleck claimed the eleventh seed at 1751, followed by Steve Kiss in thirteenth at + 121, Bill McNelly in fourteenth at + 111, and Dennis Day as the sixteenth and final seed at + 99.

Washington right-hander Danny Combs fired a clutch 268 in round eight to jump from eighteenth to qualify in the twelfth position with a 1722 total and a 215 per game average. Brian Yoke, another Evergreen state bowler, earned the fifteenth seed at 1707.

A stone 9-pin in the twelfth frame prevented Walt Lundgren, the N.W.S.T. record holder with 21 career titles, from making the finals. However, his 1694 total and 211 per game average earned Albany, Oregon, right-hander the final check for his seventeenth place finish.

The 16 qualifiers returned Sunday for a grueling day of two-game matches in a double-elimination bracket. First-round matches were seeded, with bowlers one through eight paired against those in positions nine through sixteen.

Qualifying leader Mike Polinsky struggled through a game of 160 in his opening match against Dallas, Oregon, right-hander Dennis Day. Polinsky recovered for a respectable 202 in game two, but Day's 410-362 victory dropped the top seed to the losers' bracket.

Second-seed Steve Michaliszyn fared better in his match versus Triangle Bowl's Brian Yoke. The Vancouver right-hander fired an opening game of 234 to cruise to a 433-388 win over Yoke.

Bob Hanson continued the winning ways of the top seeds, starting with a game of 249 to outdistance Oregon's Bill McNelly, 473-413. However, fourth-seeded Trent Zabelle fell to the defending Senior Masters champion, Steve Kiss, 446-404.

Washington bowlers squared off in three of the remaining first-round matches. Hugh Miller overwhelmed Danny Combs, 480-400. Bob Porter fired a 249 in game two to defeat Mike Karch, 436-403.

Southpaw Lonnie Sharkey posted solid games of 235 and 222 to down Mitch Vernon, 457-413. Oregonian Lori Eskew and Jim Winklepleck faced off in the final match of round one, Eskew coasting to a 389-303 victory.

Facing elimination in losers' bracket play, qualifying leader Mike Polinsky opened his match against Mitch Vernon with a solid 228. However, a second game of 163 ended his title hopes. Vernon advanced with a 424-391 victory.

Oregon's Trent Zabelle fired games of 256 and 257 to overpower Danny Combs, 513-391. Brian Yoke registered the high two-game set of match play, posting 13 strikes in a row for games of 278 and 255, defeating Mike Karch, 534-404. In the rounds closest match, Jim Winklepleck defeated fellow Oregonian Bill McNelly, 437-411, eliminating the sole super senior to make the finals.

In round two of winners' bracket action, Starlite Lanes right-hander Dennis Day used an opening game of 242 to defeat a struggling Lonnie Sharkey, 435-318. Hugh Miller was a model of consistency, posting games of 227 and 225 to edge Steve Kiss, 452-441.

Rookie Bob Porter breezed to a 462-398 win over fellow Vancouver bowler Steve Michaliszyn, setting up a quarterfinal match with Lori Eskew. The Oregon right-hander broke open a close contest with a second game of 245 to eliminate Tacoma's Bob Hanson, 448-365.

The battle to stay alive in match play continued into the next round. Highlighting the action was Lonnie Sharkey's perfect 300 game, the only one of the tournament. The Bremerton lefty routed Oregon's Jim Winklepleck, 534-409.

Washington right-handers shined in the round's remaining matches. Mitch Vernon used a clutch four-bagger to close out his contest with Bob Hanson, securing a razor-thin 396-387 victory.

Steve Michalyszyn nipped Trent Zabelle in a close but low-scoring match, 384-372. Longview right-hander Brian Yoke bumped another Oregon bowler from the field, defeating Steve Kiss, 404-353.

With the field whittled to 8 bowlers, 4 competitors set their sights on remaining undefeated. Hugh Miller, a 2012 champion on the PBA50 tour, posted back-to-back 230's to cruise to a 466-411 win over Dennis Day.

Bob Porter joined Miller in the winners' bracket semifinal. Finding strings of strikes hard to come by, the Vancouver right-hander opened only once in two games to register a solid, if unspectacular, victory over Lori Eskew, 406-381.

The pressure to avoid elimination continued in losers' bracket action. Mitch Vernon jumped to a 10 pin lead on Steve Michalyszyn after game one of their match, but Michalyszyn took advantage of Vernon's game two split problems. A game-ending five-bagger sealed a 412-371 win for Michalyszyn.

Brian Yoke's back-to-back games of 204 were not enough to hold off Lonnie Sharkey. A seven-bagger by Sharkey in frames 3-9 secured a 448-408 victory. With their losses, Mitch Vernon and Brian Yoke finished in seventh and eighth place, respectively.

With only 6 competitors left in the bracket, the spotlight shifted to the 2 remaining undefeated bowlers- Hugh Miller and Bob Porter. Both had trouble finding the pocket in game one, with Miller holding a 3 pin lead, 185-182.

Porter took charge in game two, stringing strikes in frames 4-6, then closing with a crucial four-bagger in frames 8-11 for a score of 256. Porter's 438-410 triumph left him as the only undefeated bowler in the tournament. Miller would have to wait in the wings, his next opponent being the survivor coming out of losers' bracket action.

The two matches in losers' bracket play featured interstate rivalries. Washington's Steve Michalyszyn trounced Dennis Day, 472-369, using a seven-bagger in game two for a score of 268. Day earned a sixth place finish with the loss.

Lori Eskew, the only Oregon bowler now remaining in the tournament, dominated her match with Puget Sound southpaw Lonnie Sharkey. Her opening game of 288, built on a ten-bagger in frames 2-11, proved insurmountable. Eskew advanced with an impressive 512-409 victory, while Sharkey finished the event in fifth place.

After 8 games of match play, Lori Eskew and Steve Michaliszyn had nearly identical averages of 216 and 214. Game one of their match reflected this competitive balance as Michaliszyn opened a small 6 pin lead, 220-214.

Eskew recovered to even the match through the sixth frame of game two, but a seventh frame split opened the door for Michaliszyn. The Washington right-hander took full advantage, posting a three-bagger in frames 7-9 for a hard-fought 435-390 win. Despite the loss, Lori Eskew earned an impressive fourth-place finish.

Steve Michaliszyn now faced the unenviable task of taking on Hugh Miller, runner-up for Player of the Year honors on the PBA50 tour. The winner of their match would advance to the championship final against Bob Porter.

Miller lived up to his reputation, opening the match with a string of nine strikes. Michaliszyn, on the other hand, did not post his first strike until the fifth frame.

Miller's momentum was stopped dead in its tracks with a tenth frame open, leaving the left-hander with a still impressive 266. Michaliszyn dug deep, climbing back into the contest by producing a seven-bagger for a game of 256.

The whiplash of momentum swings continued into game two. Miller started with a double, followed by a turkey in frames 4-6. With Michaliszyn opening in two of the first four frames, Miller carried an 80 pin lead into the final six frames of the match.

Steve Michaliszyn got off the mat once again, striking in the fifth frame, then continuing to strike through his first ball in the tenth frame. Combined with Miller's back-to-back opens in the eighth and ninth frames, Michaliszyn's come-from-behind miracle now gave him a 5 pin lead in the match.

Hugh Miller now needed the first two strikes in his final frame to secure the victory. However, a stubborn 7-pin on his first ball spelled defeat. With his narrow 471-467 win, Steve Michaliszyn advanced to the championship match.

Bob Porter, waiting in the wings for two consecutive matches, now had the opportunity to earn his first N.W.S.T. title, as well as his first major. The Vancouver rookie had averaged 217 per game for his eight games of match play while his opponent, Steve Michaliszyn, carried a 16 game average of 214 into the championship round.

Porter showed no ill effects from the layoff, opening game one with a double, then adding a four-bagger in frames 4-7 for a score of 233. Michaliszyn, however, found nothing but frustration. He sandwiched a turkey in frames 3-5 between opens in the first and seventh frames.

Game two proved decidedly anti-climactic, as Porter answered Michaliszyn's opening double with a five-bagger in frames 2-6. Both bowlers remained clean through the remainder of the match, but Michaliszyn's tenth frame punchout was too little, too late.

Porter duplicated his first game score of 233 for a 466-406 victory, recording a perfect 5-0 match play record to capture the N.W.S.T. Senior Masters title. Steve Michalyszyn finished in second place with an impressive 6-2 win/loss record.

The Northwest Senior Tour would like to thank our hosts, Triangle Bowl proprietors Kurt Bogner, Beau Little, and the entire staff for their hard work and hospitality. The next tournament on the N.W.S.T. schedule is the Linn Lanes Senior Classic, sponsored by Dick's Pro Shop and Hammer Bowling. The singles event takes place on Sunday, March 3, at Linn Lanes in Lebanon, Oregon. In addition, the bowling center will host our final 650 Swiss Trio of the year on Saturday, March 2.

NORTHWEST SENIOR TOUR QUALIFYING

2013 Northwest Senior Masters



POS	TOTAL	+ / -	NAME	LANE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	1918	318	Polinsky, Mike	27a	227	215	212	266	225	258	269	246
2	1864	264	Michaliszyn, Steve	15a	221	217	258	257	234	215	248	214
3	1861	261	Hanson, Bob	13b	258	213	239	255	255	195	234	212
4	1854	254	Zabelle, Trent	26d	205	247	189	224	258	232	231	268
5	1836	236	Miller, Hugh	32d	188	245	244	259	204	201	258	237
6	1802	202	Eskew, Lori	28c	202	256	174	201	257	284	235	193
7	1794	194	Karch, Mike	27d	171	228	234	212	254	204	243	248
8	1786	186	Sharkey, Lonnie	18c	212	206	204	199	235	218	276	236
9	1776	176	Vernon, Mitch	23b	201	205	206	248	279	194	218	225
10	1765	165	Porter, Bob	09b	180	208	268	193	246	215	235	220
11	1751	151	Winklepleck, Jim	30c	186	220	244	192	236	235	222	216
12	1722	122	Combs, Danny	14c	198	236	240	148	191	229	212	268
13	1721	121	Kiss, Steve	16c	182	242	226	249	170	191	248	213
14	1711	111	McNelly, Bill	15a	227	183	181	212	202	245	257	204
15	1707	107	Yoke, Brian	19b	222	204	186	158	236	227	258	216
16	1699	99	Day, Dennis	16d	197	189	223	182	230	224	247	207
17	1694	94	Lundgren, Walt	25b	188	224	247	209	204	185	214	223
18	1687	87	Gorski, Stan	26c	204	184	161	244	214	198	249	233
19	1681	81	Nogle, Mike	18d	248	190	238	198	186	156	208	257
20	1681	81	Reed, Bob	28d	203	207	209	200	165	204	224	269
21	1660	60	Hebner, Dean	12c	156	178	241	171	202	237	239	236
22	1656	56	Tang, Jon	09a	197	190	183	245	249	204	171	217
23	1654	54	Borgaro, Joey	10c	256	203	233	149	153	174	237	249
24	1643	43	More, Johnny	25a	177	191	209	222	219	200	178	247
25	1638	38	Oliver, Dave	17a	212	176	213	184	208	205	242	198
26	1634	34	Force, Steve	24c	204	169	185	233	167	216	225	235
27	1633	33	Lorimor, Stan	11a	237	180	184	226	194	185	200	227
28	1631	31	Phipps, Lee	23a	177	162	225	174	224	177	258	234
29	1628	28	Surina, Matt	24d	185	299	169	221	188	216	179	171
30	1613	13	Borghi, Larry	32c	189	266	174	170	226	184	202	202
31	1598	2	Spellman, Jay	13a	172	201	229	254	162	200	226	154
32	1589	11	Mills, Tom	31a	161	259	171	219	224	177	194	184
33	1587	13	Lindberg, Larry	11b	202	221	201	167	211	203	191	191
34	1568	32	Schlegel, Ernie	30d	190	188	199	168	225	155	279	164
35	1566	34	Perry, Randy	22d	185	199	202	169	217	222	175	197
36	1534	66	Ferguson, Tony	10b	191	202	193	192	219	189	166	182
37	1533	67	Johnson, Terry	10e	192	177	145	182	187	224	186	240
38	1517	83	Ford, Steve	22c	215	191	186	171	180	184	188	202
39	1499	101	Pierce, Tim	21b	168	170	216	204	190	168	231	152
40	1490	110	Ballou, Dale	29a	225	213	168	151	216	156	161	200
41	1485	115	Lovgren, Lowell	14b	215	130	192	221	170	193	215	149
42	1464	136	Sturdevant, Bob	20c	234	147	175	177	155	167	205	204
43	1421	179	Mawson, Len	17b	158	221	187	184	173	173	170	155
44	1407	193	Gustafson, Jon	31b	195	128	211	158	138	155	216	206
45	1375	225	Muzzy, Jeff	21a	153	195	169	156	171	160	181	190
46	1307	293	Hoage, Jeff	19a	165	134	161	174	169	189	119	196
47	1286	314	Burrows Sr, Doug	29b	140	210	123	183	144	166	156	164
48	1264	336	Grenon, Larry	20d	189	144	147	142	119	193	116	214
49	1210	390	Dean, Nancy	12d	139	168	179	173	108	169	114	160

Northwest Senior Masters



1 Mike Polinsky 362

17-18 LOSER TO A

16 Dennis Day 410

25-26 LOSER TO L

8 Lonnie Sharkey 457

19-20 LOSER TO B

9 Mitch Vernon 413

4 Trent Zabelle 404

21-22 LOSER TO C

13 Steve Kiss 446

31-32 LOSER TO K

5 Hugh Miller 480

23-24 LOSER TO D

12 Danny Combs 400

2 Steve Michaliszyn 433

25-26 LOSER TO E

15 Brian Yoke 388

29-30 LOSER TO J

7 Mike Karch 403

27-28 LOSER TO F

10 Bob Porter 436

3 Bob Hanson 473

29-30 LOSER TO G

14 Bill McNelly 413

27-28 LOSER TO I

6 Lori Eskew 389

31-32 LOSER TO H

11 Jim Winklepleck 303

Day

Day 411

Sharkey

27-28 LOSER TO M

Miller 410

Kiss

Miller 466

Miller

21-22 LOSER TO O

Porter 466

Michaliszyn

Porter 406

Porter

25-26 LOSER TO P
(IF FIRST LOSS)

23-24 LOSER TO N

Porter 438

Hanson

Michaliszyn 406

LB WINNER

Eskew 381

27-28

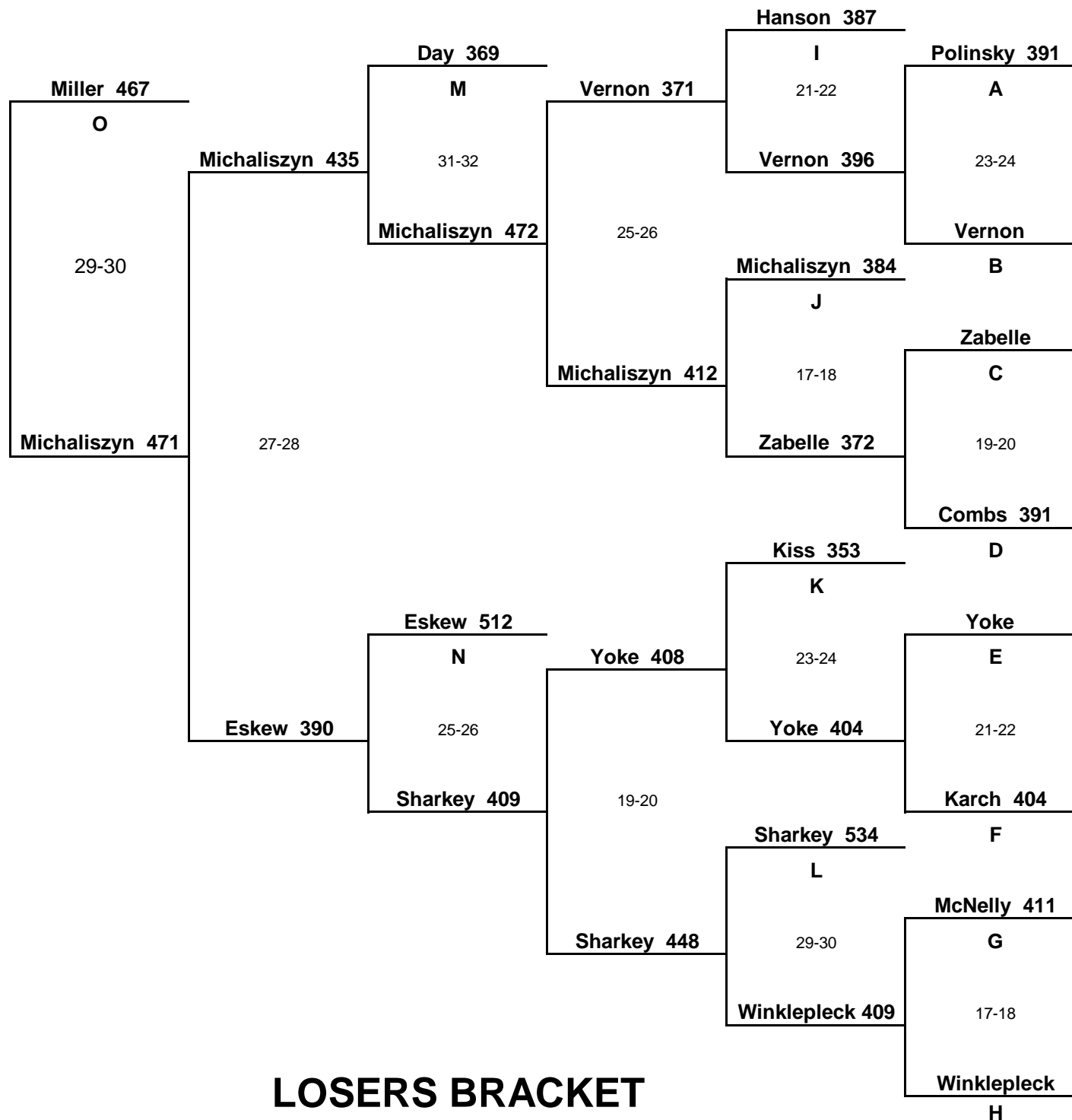
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Bob Porter \$700

CHAMPION

2	Steve Michaliszyn	\$525
3	Hugh Miller	\$425
4	Lori Eskew	\$375
5	Lonnie Sharky	\$310
6	Dennis Day	\$310
7	Mitch Vernon	\$260
8	Brian Yoke	\$260
9	Trent Zabelle	\$210
10	Bob Hanson	\$210
11	Steve Kiss	\$210
12	Jim Winklepleck	\$210
13	Mike Karch	\$170
14	Bill McNelly	\$170
15	Danny Combs	\$170
16	Mike Polinsky	\$170
ALT	Walt Lundgren	\$130

WINNERS BRACKET



LOSERS BRACKET