

Vancouver U.S.A. Senior Open - 2014



Ron Martinsom

Lee Phipps

Tim Myers

LEE PHIPPS EARNS FIRST N.W.S.T. TITLE IN DOWN-TO-WIRE FINISH

The weekend of January 18-19 kicked off the “second season” of the Northwest Senior Tour as it headed north to Hazel Dell, Washington, for the Vancouver U.S.A. Senior Open. On Saturday, a full house of 24 teams competed in the second 650 Swiss Trio on the schedule, followed by a 56-person field for Sunday’s featured singles event.

The Swiss-style format for Saturday’s team competition established a highly competitive environment. Each bowler received a point for defeating their opponent in head-to-head match play, with 2 points awarded for a team victory. Bonus points were also handed out for individual games of 235 and above, 255 and above, as well as team totals at or exceeding 705.

Ron Henderson, Jr. led his Dead Man’s Curve teammates of Gerry Tate and Sam Matrix to the \$780 first-place check, opening with a sizzling 833 series en route to a six-game total of 1518. His 253 per game average led all bowlers, helping the Hazel Dell trio outdistance the field with 47 total points.

Trent Zabelle carried his New Direction team of Mike Nogle and Mike Harmony to a second-place total of 36 points. Zabelle averaged 238 on total pinfall of 1432. Chris Mott, along with Lee and Ryan Phipps, all fired 1300+ series to claim third place with 35 total points. Their Cherry City Bums squad was led by N.W.S.T. member Lee Phipps with a 227 per game average.

Milwaukie’s Jeff Abney posted a 246 average on total pinfall of 1477 to help team members Steve Susbauer and Tom Humphrys secure a fourth-place finish. Brandon Ruddick fired the tournament’s third 300 game in round four to help his Shakey Jakes partners of Steve and Kevin Convirs claim the fifth-place payout. The Vancouver right-hander’s 1486 total and 247 per game pace was the second highest among all bowlers in the field. Bonus points earned by Greg Frahm’s 257 and Vince Scopacasa’s 280 in the final round allowed Tony Hess and their No Aim-No Fame trio to collect the sixth-place check.

In other noteworthy performances, perfect 300 games were posted by Vancouver’s Mike Armstrong, Jr. and Tualatin’s Jim DiSanto in round two. Armstrong also averaged 244 on total pins of 1465- fourth highest among all competitors. Washington left-hander Ronnie Noel rounded out the top five in scoring with a per game average of 242 on total pinfall of 1454. Other bowlers breaking through the 1400 ceiling included Vancouver’s Sam Matrix at 1439, Astoria’s Jon Gustafson at 1428, and Greg Frahm with 1419 in total pins.

Sunday’s regular tour event began with Mike Karch firing the day’s only 300 game in round three, giving the Washington right-hander the early lead with a 786 series and a

red-hot 262 per game average. Vancouver's Mike Yoder sat in second place, his 740 and 246 per game average leading all super seniors in the field.

Oregon City's Mike Polinsky used a 277 game in round two to climb into third with 726 in total pinfall, only 1 pin ahead of Brush Prairie's Tony Ferguson. Oregon's Mike Ewing topped all tournament left-handers, rounding out the top five with a three-game total of 724.

Mike Karch held onto the lead through round four, averaging 254 on total pins of 1017. Eugene's Mike Ewing moved up to second place, firing another 248 game for a 972 total and a 243 per game pace.

Washington right-hander John Makay posted round four's high game of 279 to vault from seventeenth to third with 964 in total pins and a 241 per game average. Oregon's Tim Myers and Washington's Dean Hebner joined Makay as new faces in the top five. Myers was positioned in fourth place with a 950 total, followed by Hebner at 943.

Tim Myers fired round five's high game of 289 to move into first place with a 1239 total and a 247 per game average. Dean Hebner climbed to second place on the strength of a 256 game, giving him a 239 average on total pinfall of 1199.

Mike Ewing remained the top southpaw, despite dropping a spot to third place with an 1194 total and a 238 per game average. Beaverton's Ron Martinson used a score of 262 to jump from twelfth to fourth with an 1175 total. Seattle's Mike Kelly posted a game of 279 to move into the top five, leading all super seniors with total pinfall of 1172- good for a 234 per game pace.

Fourth-round leader Mike Karch struggled through a 152 game to fall back to sixth place. Southern Oregon's Bob Korth led all bowlers in the super senior-plus category, firing a game of 255 to tie Washington right-handers Mitch Vernon and John Makay for eighteenth place. They established the cut line for match play with 1122 totals and averages of 224 per game.

Entering the decisive final game of qualifying, a logjam of 25 bowlers were within 40 pins of the cut line. However, when round six was completed, only 2 new competitors earned their way into the match-play finals.

Milwaukie's Tim Myers remained in first place, earning the honor of top qualifier with a 1485 total and a 247 per game average. Vancouver's Dean Hebner also held onto his second-place position, finishing with a 1433 total for a 238 per game average.

N.W.S.T. rookie Fred Butkovich posted a 275 in his final game to jump from eighth to third with pinfall of 1430 and a 238 per game pace. Washington's Jeff Knapp fired the round's high game of 278 to move into a fourth-place tie with Mike Ewing and Ron Martinson, each totaling 1423 for an average of 237 per game.

A trio of super seniors held down the next 3 spots in the standings, Washington's Bob BJORKE leading the way with a sixth-place total of 1396. Vancouver's Rohn Morton used a final game of 257 to tie fellow Washington right-hander Mike Kelly for eighth place with a 231 per game average on total pinfall of 1388. Oregon right-hander Mike Polinsky rounded out the top ten with total pins of 1385.

The early tournament leader, Mike Karch, held on to qualify in eleventh place with a 1383 total, 1 pin ahead of Portland right-hander Steve Menning. Super senior-plus bowlers were led by Bob Korth's thirteenth-place finish, averaging 229 on total pinfall of 1374. Washington's Lee Phipps followed in fourteenth place with a 1364 total.

The host center proved friendly to two of its own as Mike Yoder qualified in fifteenth place with 1352 in total pins. Gerry Tate used a clutch 257 in round six to sit 1 pin back in sixteenth, becoming the second super senior-plus bowler to qualify for match play.

Mitch Vernon, the 2012 champion of this event, settled in seventeenth place with a 1348 total. N.W.S.T. titleholder Stan Lorimor followed his round-five game of 258 with an even more impressive score of 265, rocketing from forty-fifth place at the end of round four to secure the eighteenth and final berth to match play with total pinfall of 1340 and a 223 per game average.

As usual, the finalists would face one another in four rounds of match-play competition. But instead of the champion being determined at the end of those rounds, the top three competitors would be seeded into a step-ladder final to determine who would claim the tournament title. This format, used for the first time in recent N.W.S.T. history, provided high drama as each bowler battled to secure a top-three finish.

Tim Myers carried a 52 pin lead into round one of match play, but it was short lived. A 200-198 loss to Stan Lorimor dropped the N.W.S.T. all-star to fourth. Taking over the top spot was lefty Mike Ewing, firing the round's high game en route to a 258-192 victory over Bob Korth. Ron Martinson moved into second place, trailing Ewing by only 3 pins. The N.W.S.T. rookie closed his game with an eight-bagger to edge Lee Phipps, 255-236.

Dean Hebner fell back to third despite a 223-216 win over Mitch Vernon. His victory did, however, draw the right-hander to within 25 pins of the lead. Gerry Tate defeated Fred Butkovich, 247-233, dropping the Lake Oswego right-hander to fifth place. Tate climbed into the top ten with the win.

Oregon's Steve Menning improved from twelfth to sixth, overcoming a first-frame open with eight strikes in a row to outdistance Bob BJORKE, 247-203. Bellevue's Jeff Knapp fell three places to seventh, losing a close contest to fellow Washingtonian Mike Yoder, 245-235.

In remaining round-one matches, Puget Sound right-hander Mike Karch defeated Rohn Morton, 235-202, climbing to eighth with the win. Mike Kelly prevailed over Mike Polinsky, 226-179, to hold on to his ninth-place position.

Mike Ewing expanded his lead to 38 pins in round two, using an early four-bagger and a tenth-frame punchout to post a 235-201 victory over Ron Martinson. Rebounding from his first-round loss, Tim Myers moved into second-place contention with a 225-212 win over Dean Hebner. Martinson and Hebner dropped back to fifth and sixth place with their losses.

Steve Menning continued his move up the leader board, jumping into third place with a 238-216 victory over Fred Butkovich. A five bagger in frames 4-8 allowed Jeff Knapp to defeat Mike Karch, 230-198. Knapp returned to his original fourth-place position with the win.

Vancouver's Gerry Tate continued his climb in the standings, striking in seven of his first eight frames to register a 233-206 victory over Mike Kelly. The Washington right-hander moved into seventh place with the win. Lee Phipps posted round two's high game in overwhelming Mike Yoder, 256-182, advancing the right-hander into eighth place.

Lakewood's Bob BJORKE topped Rohn Morton, 225-196, to improve to tenth place. Remaining contests saw Stan Lorimor slip by Bob Korth, 197-194, while Mitch Vernon held off Mike Polinsky, 218-209.

Highlighting round three was the high-scoring duel for first place between Mike Ewing and Tim Myers, both former Players of the Year in 2009 and 2010. Myers' opening four-bagger proved to be the difference as each bowler answered the other strike-for-strike in frames 7-11. Myers reclaimed first place by a 12 pin margin over Ewing with his 267-247 victory, setting up a decisive rematch in the tournament's final round.

Ron Martinson vaulted into title contention with the round's high game, using an eight-bagger in frames 2-9 to defeat Dean Hebner, 269-236. The win moved the Oregon right-hander into third place, 15 pins removed from second and only 27 behind the leader. Hebner fell to seventh place with the loss.

Steve Menning fell to fourth place despite a 225-201 victory over Jeff Knapp. Vancouver's Lee Phipps moved into the top five by overpowering Gerry Tate, 255-193. With their victories, Menning and Phipps advanced to within 26 and 37 pins of the third-place Martinson. Knapp and Tate dropped to eighth and tenth with their losses.

Fred Butkovich improved to sixth on the strength of his 235-205 win over Bob BJORKE, leaving the Oregon right-hander 64 pins behind the coveted third-place seed. Mike Kelly crept back into the top ten, securing his ninth-place position with a 223-174 victory over Mike Karch.

The round concluded with contests between Oregon and Washington right-handers. St. Helens' Stan Lorimor moved up to twelfth with a 223-190 triumph over Rohn Morton, while Olympia's Mitch Vernon held onto thirteenth place with a 200-178 defeat of Mike Yoder. In another low-scoring match, Mike Polinsky outlasted fellow Oregonian Bob Korth, 204-187.

The fourth round of match play turned into a four-man battle to secure the three berths to the step-ladder finals. Tim Myers and Mike Ewing responded to the pressure once again, trading strikes like prize-fighting heavyweights. Both bowlers started their match with three-baggers, then traded open frames- a split in the fourth frame by Myers and one in the sixth by Ewing.

Myers strung a four-bagger in frames 6-9, and Ewing responded with four strikes of his own in frames 7-10. A solid 7-pin on Ewing's second shot in the tenth left him with a score of 236. Myers, now forced to strike on his first ball in the final frame, calmly punched out to secure the win with a game of 255. With the victory, Tim Myers claimed the number one seed. Mike Ewing's hopes for a shot at the title now rested on the results of two remaining contests.

Ron Martinson duplicated his round-three score, using an eight-bagger in frames 3-10 to coast to a 269-208 victory over Steve Menning. With the win, Martinson secured the second seed to the championship rolloff. Menning fell back to fifth place with the loss.

Lee Phipps was now the only bowler left with a chance to qualify for the step-ladder finals. The Washington right-hander proceeded to reel off an opening string of eight strikes, then stayed clean in the final two frames to easily defeat Fred Butkovich, 268-204. Phipps' third consecutive match-play victory and a four-game average of 253 secured for him the third and final seed, edging Mike Ewing by a mere 10 pins. Butkovich dropped back to an eighth-place finish with the loss.

Washington right-handers captured the next two spots in the standings. Mike Kelly posted a 245-227 victory over Gerry Tate to earn a sixth-place finish. Dean Hebner held onto his seventh-place position with a 201-182 defeat of Jeff Knapp. With their losses, Tate and Knapp fell back to tenth and eleventh place. Oregon's Stan Lorimor was the only bowler to complete match play undefeated as he breezed by Bob BJORKE, 252-213. Lorimor earned ninth place as a result, while BJORKE slipped to fourteenth.

In remaining contests, Mike Polinsky prevailed over Mike Yoder, 247-224, moving up to a twelfth-place finish. Reigning Player of the Year Mike Karch moved into thirteenth place by outdistancing Mitch Vernon, 223-154. With their losses, Yoder held steady in sixteenth place, but Vernon sank to seventeenth. In the tournament's final match, Rohn Morton improved to fifteenth place with a 214-201 win over Bob Korth.

The spotlight now shifted to the step-ladder finals, with Ron Martinson squaring off against Lee Phipps to determine who would face Tim Myers for the tournament title. Martinson entered the contest having already earned second and a third-place finishes

this season. Phipps, on the other hand, was participating in only his fourth N.W.S.T. event in the last two years.

Martinson took an early 19 pin lead through the first four frames of the contest, firing a three-bagger in frames 3-5. The momentum began to change, however, when Phipps struck in the fifth, then kept the string alive by collapsing the “ bucket ” in the sixth frame. A solid strike in the seventh frame gave Phipps a three-bagger, while Martinson left the 6-7-10 to open in his half of the seventh. Phipps took full advantage, closing out the match with strikes in frames 8-10. The resulting six-bagger earned Lee Phipps a 247-212 victory, while Ron Martinson had to settle for a third-place finish.

The title match started slowly for Tim Myers until a ball change in the fourth frame began to make a difference. With Lee Phipps posting only an opening double through the first six frames, Myers took a 21 pin lead with a four-bagger in frames 3-6.

Both bowlers converted spares in frames 7-8. Myers next shot traveled high, leaving him with a ninth-frame spare and a 19 pin lead. Phipps responded with a light pocket strike in his ninth frame, then coolly punched out in the tenth. To win the game, Myers now needed a tenth-frame double. His first ball was perfectly thrown, but a solid, solitary 8-pin remained standing. The result was a dramatic 226-224 victory for Lee Phipps and his first N.W.S.T. title. Tim Myers, the qualifying leader and number one seed, had to settle for a second-place finish.

The Northwest Senior Tour would like to thank proprietor Dave Husted, manager Toni Fantini, and the entire staff of Hazel Dell Lanes for their hard work and hospitality in hosting this annual event. In addition, a thank you to Hammer Bowling for their sponsorship and generous donations of their top-of-the-line bowling balls for all N.W.S.T. raffles.

Our next tournament is the season’s first major. The N.W.S.T. Senior Masters is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, February 15 and 16, at Triangle Bowl in Longview, Washington.

Husted's Hazel Dell Lanes

Squad Results

	Total	Name	Lane	-1-	-2-	-3-	-4-	-5-	-6-
1	1485	Tim Myers	14	238	255	219	238	289	246
2	1433	Dean Hebner	8	267	226	226	224	256	234
3	1430	Fred Butkovich	22	249	235	235	206	230	275
4	1423	Mike Ewing	16	239	248	237	248	222	229
5	1423	Jeff Knapp	2	232	213	209	246	245	278
6	1423	Ron Martinson	17	233	232	232	216	262	248
7	1396	Bob Bjorke SS	18	236	226	217	238	242	237
8	1388	Mike Kelly SS	4	258	214	184	237	279	216
9	1388	Rohn Morton SS	21	257	204	204	232	234	257
10	1385	Mike Polinsky	19	225	277	224	214	209	236
11	1383	Mike Karch	24	258	228	300	231	152	214
12	1382	Steve Menning	19	244	225	202	217	257	237
13	1374	Bob Korth SS+	14	215	212	234	206	255	252
14	1364	Lee Phipps	11	222	227	214	237	235	229
15	1352	Mike Yoder SS	5	268	235	237	181	227	204
16	1351	Gerry Tate SS+	20	207	216	267	204	200	257
17	1348	Mitch Vernon	8	258	248	211	213	192	226
18	1340	Stan Lorimor	6	231	213	205	168	258	265
19	1338	Scott Schimming	10	198	234	203	225	223	255
20	1336	Ernie Schlegel SS+	1	178	200	257	236	208	257
21	1335	Ronnie Noel	10	188	215	215	235	256	226
22	1333	Steve Michaliszyn	18	212	219	238	214	240	210
23	1329	Steve Soto	6	216	226	205	211	224	247
24	1329	Dwayne Webb	9	235	209	215	172	233	265
25	1322	Tony Ferguson	15	234	248	243	200	181	216
26	1317	Bob Porter	3	226	190	235	224	226	216
27	1307	John Makay	4	224	236	225	279	158	185
28	1304	Johnny More SS	12	193	195	278	224	197	217
29	1304	Tim Pierce	24	236	209	246	204	173	236
30	1303	Kathy Tribbey	20	248	238	202	218	195	202
31	1299	Tom Humphrys SS	5	192	191	234	243	224	215
32	1298	Dennis Day	8	205	244	202	202	203	242
33	1287	Ed Bliquez	7	231	212	247	213	190	194
34	1278	Steve Force SS	7	235	169	220	203	204	247
35	1278	Jim Winklepleck	23	185	201	227	231	233	201
36	1276	Kurt Bogner	12	213	222	171	192	240	238
37	1276	Len Mawson SS+	1	211	195	208	193	244	225
38	1275	Steve Kiss SS	22	262	191	235	189	211	187
39	1273	Dave Oliver SS	9	206	235	194	253	209	176
40	1272	Alan Bredy	2	234	213	179	224	224	198
41	1267	Walt Lundgren SS+	20	204	267	235	199	160	202
42	1253	Trent Zabelle	12	211	213	192	226	196	215
43	1243	Mike Nogle	2	234	200	203	194	246	166
44	1242	Jeff Muzzy	15	204	182	193	193	268	202
45	1241	Jon Gustafson SS	10	178	226	231	194	185	227
46	1206	David MacLaren	17	193	189	246	186	210	182
47	1202	David Manecke	13	174	208	194	246	180	200
48	1190	Steve Ford SS	4	185	161	183	212	217	232

	Total	Name	Lane	-1-	-2-	-3-	-4-	-5-	-6-
49	1188	Larry Lindberg SS	14	195	209	224	212	192	156
50	1169	Tracy Teeters	11	203	190	178	204	180	214
51	1166	Mike Barber	21	205	202	178	239	164	178
52	1166	Bob Sturdevant SS	13	201	193	182	192	235	163
53	1162	Dale Ballou SS	16	196	222	181	193	172	198
54	1135	Larry Grenon SS+	6	193	223	179	155	213	172
55	1070	Doug Nowlin SS	23	178	244	171	136	152	189
56	990	Larry Scruggs SS+	3	183	172	139	167	166	163

— NORTHWEST — SENIOR TOUR

Vancouver USA Senior Open



January 19, 2014

FINAL RESULTS

Bowler		QUALIFYING	FINALS	BONUS	TOTAL	PRIZE	
1	Lee Phipps	Vancouver, WA	1364	1015	90	2469	\$600
2	Tim Myers	Milwaukie, OR	1485	945	90	2520	\$480
3	Ron Martinson	Beaverton, OR	1423	994	90	2507	\$430
4	Mike Ewing	Eugene, OR	1423	976	60	2459	\$390
5	Steve Menning	Portland, OR	1382	918	90	2390	\$350
6	Michael Kelly SS	Seattle, WA	1388	900	90	2378	\$320
7	Dean Hebner	Vancouver, WA	1433	872	60	2365	\$290
8	Fred Butkovich	Lake Oswego, OR	1430	888	30	2348	\$260
9	Stan Lorimor	St. Helens, OR	1340	872	120	2332	\$230
10	Gerry Tate SS+	Vancouver, WA	1351	900	60	2311	\$220
11	Jeff Knapp	Bellevue, WA	1423	848	30	2301	\$210
12	Mike Polinsky	Oregon City, OR	1385	839	60	2284	\$200
13	Michael Karch	Edgewood, WA	1383	830	60	2273	\$190
14	Bob Bjorke SS	Lakewood, WA	1396	846	30	2272	\$180
15	Rohn Morton SS	Vancouver, WA	1388	802	30	2220	\$170
16	Mike Yoder	Vancouver, WA	1352	829	30	2211	\$165
17	Mitch Vemon	Olympia, WA	1348	788	60	2196	\$160
18	Bob Korth SS+	Central Point, OR	1374	774	0	2148	\$155

STEPLADDER FINAL

Phipps def. Martinson 249-212

Phipps def. Myers 226-224

HONOR SCORES

Mike Karch - 300

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