

Locals compete at regional level

By Selena Boise
Spilyay Tymoo

With their eyes and mind focused only on the table, a test of skill was in place at the annual Northwest BCA Regional Pool Tournament held at Chinook Winds Casino in Lincoln City in March. Close to 80 pool tables held the challenge for hundreds of pool players from the northwestern states, including the local BCA pool players from Warm Springs.

The regional tournament was divided into divisions, such as: Novice, Open, Open A, Open B, Masters, and new this year was the Senior Division. These divisions were for both men and women.

Tournament play began with a scotch doubles event. In this event the male, female team alternates shots during their turn of play. The teams play a race to three against their opponents, on a double elimination bracket. Playing from Warm Springs were Emerson "Chief" Smith and Betty Bagley, and Louie Smith shot partners with Selena

Boise. The Smith-Boise team ended placing 17-24th on the bracket. Shooting scotch doubles in the Masters Division were Karla Tias and Greg Christensen, who placed fifth in the Masters Division.

The next day was the singles event in which several Central Oregon BCA League players competed.

Placing in the early finals of the bracket was Tony Boise, who played in the Open B Division. Tied for seventh and eighth place was Louie Smith also in the B Division.

In the Women's Masters Division Karla Tias placed ninth, and at that time received her semi-pro card. Her scotch doubles partner Greg Christensen placed seventeenth in the Men's Masters Division.

Tias competed in the nine-ball regional held in October 2003 and placed in the top three. She was then teamed with a professional woman pool player to compete in the pro-am held in the fall. "I have seen a real improvement in her and she impressed me," stated Stan

Tourangeau, Regional Masters champion in singles and scotch doubles.

Also playing in the singles event were Clint Smith, Willie Bagley, Chief Smith, Jerry Bagley, Betty Bagley, Selena Boise.

Friday, March 5 began the team events, in which local pool players competed.

Placing sixth in the women's master team were Karla Tias, Jeri Smith, Kendra Marcoulier, Andrea Aday, and Betty Bagley. These ladies play as a team in the Bend BCA League throughout the year together and have entered for the past four years, with sponsorship from Black Horse of Bend. They began competition in the Open Team division, and as they placed in the top three they were advanced to compete in the Masters Team Division.

There were two men's teams in the open from Warm Springs, whose team captains were Chief Smith and Tony Boise. Smith's teammates included Louie Smith, Jerry Bagley, Tony Littleleaf, and Willie Bagley.



Selena Boise/Spilyay
Central Oregon BCA Women's Masters Team competed at tournament to place sixth. From left to right, Karla Tias, Betty Bagley, Kendra Marcoulier, Andrea Aday, and Jeri Smith.



Courtesy of Willie Bagley
Local men's team competed in Men's Open Division of Regional Tournament held at Chinook Winds Casino. Left to right, Willie Bagley, Louie Smith, Chief Smith, Tony Littleleaf, and Jerry Bagley.

Boise's teammates included Randy Boise, Rusty Marcum, Clint Smith, and Selena Boise.

These pool players compete in the Central Oregon BCA League throughout the year to become eligible to compete in the regional tournaments held at Lincoln City. The nine-ball tournament is held in the fall and the 8-ball tournament is held in the winter.

They are required to play a minimum of eight league matches before they become eligible to participate in BCA tournaments.

The BCA, or Billiard Congress of America, was formed in 1948, with the idea to organize players and promote the sport through qualifying tournaments at local, regional, and national levels. Despite the involvement of the many integers of the BCA, the sport fell into depression in the late 40s and all of the 50s. Throughout this period the official rulebook proved to be the anchor of the association, and the World and National Cham-

pionship were not recognized unless they were sanctioned by the BCA.

In 1982 the BCA board of directors decided to promote an industry trade show. Today this BCA International Trade Expo is the largest billiard trade show in the world. Profits and retail sales of the official rule book generate substantial operating costs to the organization so that the BCA can promote the sport at many different levels.

Local competitors now prepare for the competition at the national level at the 28th annual BCA National 8-Ball Championships held in Las Vegas Ne-

vada. This tournament is the world's largest amateur 8-ball tournament. At the end of this annual year of play the league plays begins again with annual BCA Membership fees due, and the eight league matches required to become eligible for the upcoming competitions at the regional level of 9-Ball and 8-Ball at Lincoln City.

A meeting is being scheduled to discuss planning for upcoming pool tournament in memory of pool players who have passed on. Watch for dates and times.

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Event focuses on safety

The Fifth Annual Employee Safety Awareness Day has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 14. The event will be from 11:30 a.m. till 1:30 p.m. at the Community Center Social Hall.

The Safety Awareness Day is a collaborative event among the Confederated Tribes, the BIA and the Health and Wellness Center.

The goal is to bring safety topics to the attention of em-

ployees.

Authorization is granted by the Secretary-Treasurer and the Chief Operations Officer for those employees who request to attend, to be allowed two hours administrative leave from 11:30 a.m. till 1:30 p.m.

Employees are asked to make the necessary coordination with their supervisors to ensure coverage is available in departments during the time noted.

Mini-marathon this month

The Kah-Nee-Ta Mini-Marathon is set for Saturday, April 24.

For information on regis-

tration, please call the Warm Springs Community Center at 553-3243.

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