

Team finishes near the top at tourney

By Selena Boise
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Having a good league year, holding an 18-0 record, and placing in the Western BCA 13th Annual Regional 8-ball Championship tournament have placed this men's pool league team in high recognition in Central Oregon.

Team captain Emerson "Chief" Smith has taken his team to Lincoln City to compete in the regional tournament in the men's open category for many years.

This year his team proved themselves by advancing their game and teamwork to place seventh in a bracket of 132 teams.

These same team members have also won their men's league games, ending their season with an 18-0 final standing.

Team members include: Emerson Smith, Louie Smith, Willie Bagley, Jerry Bagley and Del Frint. Team name was "I Don't Know," because that was the answer Chief received when he asked what the team name should be.

"I have taken this same team with me for years, and they stayed with me win or lose," says Smith of his team. He went on to state that they have beat some good teams in tournament play and he proud of them all.

In league play he has the same team, and new to the team this year is Del Frint. They had a substitute who played when someone couldn't make it and



Team I Don't Know finished seventh out of 132 teams at the regional tournament.

that was Alfred Wolfe.

Their league is currently playing in a playoff bracket and will receive trophies in the next week.

Smith competed in the men's open "B" division at Lincoln City and placed in a tie for 9-12 out of 235 men in this same regional tournament.

Next year he will advance to the open "A" division, which are BCA open "B" players who have place in previous years.

Smith's son Louie Smith also placed in the scotch doubles bracket at a tie for 16-19 of 166 doubles teams. He shoots in the open "A" division, as he has placed in previous tournaments.

The annual regional BCA tournament began March 10 with the scotch doubles tournament to begin, and then March 12 singles play, and finally the

team event March 14. It is a weeklong tournament for many pool players as some of them enter each event that is held. The divisions include novice, open, and masters.

Before a team can enter in the BCA tournament, each member of the team is required to pay their BCA dues, and have eight weeks of league play.

The qualifying games for the BCA happens in the summer when 9-ball league starts. At this time individuals are playing in a dual sanctioned league and qualifying for the ACS league as well.

The Western BCA Pool Players Association was formed in 1995 as a non-profit "players association" with its purposes and goals being: to promote the sport of billiards in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Mon-

tana; to provide leagues where players have a voice; to establish uniformity of rules; and to provide and promote regional tournaments.

The Billiard Congress of America (BCA) was established in 1948, with early involvement by players like Willie Mosconi and Willie Hoppe. The objective was to organize the players and promote the sport through qualifying tournaments at the local, regional and national levels in Straight Pool and 3-Cushion billiards (the popular competitive disciplines of the era) and recognize those champions.

Organizers were also determined to produce an official rulebook to standardize the sport and help fund the effort; and to involve billiard rooms, retailers and manufacturers in meeting these promotional goals.

Tribes praise decision on problem sea lions

Leaders of the Columbia River treaty tribes had strong praise last week for a federal decision authorizing increased management of nuisance sea lions feeding on endangered salmon stocks.

The decision by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) gave a nod of approval to state managers to lethally remove up to 85 troublesome sea lions from an area at Bonneville dam.

"The tribes are pleased to see an effective management tool added to solve this very complex problem," said Warm Springs tribal member Olney Patt Jr., executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. "NOAA has laid out very clear criteria. Our desire is to maximize the benefits to endangered salmon while minimizing the impacts to the overall sea lion population."

The decision concludes a 19-month Marine Mammal Protection Act Section 120

process that included diverse stakeholder participation and public comment opportunities. The process was initiated by an application from the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

"NOAA has made the right decision at the right time," said Fidelia Andy, CRITFC chairwoman and member of the Yakama Nation. "The salmon need relief and the public deserves remedy to this serious problem. We recognize the strong sentiment and emotions on all sides of this matter. We ask for the public's patience and support, while management activities proceed."

Endangered salmon seeking entrance to fish ladders have become vulnerable to a growing and aggressive sub-population of California sea lions. For several years tribal and state crews have tried, with minimal success, to divert sea lions from sensitive areas around Bonneville dam

Biggs Bridge to re-open

Biggs Bridge on Highway 97 is scheduled to re-open on May 23, and remain open during the summer months.

The bridge will then close again in early September, so

workers can finish the bridge re-decking project. When the bridge re-opens in May it will open to all legal load limits as the previous weight restriction will be lifted.

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