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Saatzer column: George sets new mark

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Two weeks ago, Eric George had a night he would never forget. He rolled 35 strikes and had one spare to set an Association record for the highest series with a 879. He rolled 300s back to back, then rolled a 279 in the Tonites The Nite League at Great River Bowl.

His series tied for the fourth highest series in the State. How could that ever be topped? It took 10 days to find out the answer.

Bowling in the Fred Mathiasen League on Monday at Great River Bowl, George had a better night. He was using a different ball — an Ebonite Angular One,

He started striking from the first frame of the first game, and just kept it up. George ran the first eleven strikes before leaving a 7-pin for a 299. He was a pin down after one game. He started the second game with a strike, ended with one as well, and also struck on all the other balls for another 300 game. After two games, though, he still was one pin short of his fantastic night.

Game three was a duplicate of game two, another 300 game. He beat his third game by 21 pins to finish with an unbelievable 899 — again an Association record and the second-highest game ever bowled in the State.

The state record is held by Darin Pomjie who rolled a perfect 900 in New Prague back on December 8, 2004.

A friend of mine, Marty Malinen, interviewed him, and here are a few of his comments.

When asked how he got started, George said: "It was a family thing, my grandfather and grandmother, Dave and Diana George, bowled and it was the thing to do."

To recap, in a span of 10 days George has rolled five perfect games, he had another one during the week, rolled three 800 series, yeah he had another one also, set two Association records, he has the second and now the fifth highest series ever bowled in the State, and has rolled back to back 300s twice. WOW!

Photo for the Times by Rick Saatzer Local bowler Eric George has had a big past two weeks, setting two Association records.

More Honor Counts.

Scott Stearns rolled another 800 in the Little Caesars Doubles League at Great River Bowl. Scott had games of 300-268-290 for a 858 series. Stearns and his partner, Lance Sunder took over second place with a two-man series total of 1633. Lance had games of 253-265-257 for a 775 series. The duo was 15 pins short of the record held by Wayne Wells (835) and Bruce Solt (813).

Buzz Wiley enjoyed his night last week in the Granite Bowl City League. He started with a 280 game before rolling the fifth perfect game of his career. He ended with a 258 for a 838 series.

Ryan Schleicher, age 22, posted two more honor counts in the Masters Doubles League at Granite Bowl South. Schleicher started with a 300 game and added on games of 246 and 277 for a 823 series.

Bob Hengel rolled a 800 series in the Granite Bowl Imperial League. He had games of 279-278-246 for a 803 total.

Jeff Smith topped the 800 mark in the Fred Mathiasen Classic League at Great River Bowl. He rolled games of 289-247-268 for a 804 total.

Lisa Stock had another 700 in the Tonite's The Nite League at Great River Bowl. She had games of 213-256-277 for a 746 series.

Jose Uvero came within a pin of being perfect with a 299 game in the Stearns Co. League at the Granite Bowl. He totaled 758 for the night.

A week ago, Garth Turner rolled a 298 third game in the Great River Juniors. He started with games of 252 and 167 for a 717 series.

Tom Kiess rolled a 290 game in the Fred Mathiasen Classic League at Great River Bowl.

Carl Zabinski earned his 11 In A Row plaque with a 290 game in the Great River Rollers League.

Spare Notes

Karen Bass, who holds a 122 average in the Oaks and Acorns League at Cold Spring Lanes, rolled a 227 game.

Bill Burggraff with a 191 average in the Classic-Addition League at Granite Bowl South, had games of 212-255-280 (89 pins over) for a 747 series (174 pins over).

Stacey Schoenberg was 81 pins over her 152 average with a 233 game in the Majorette League at the Granite Bowl. She totaled 583 for the night.

Kevin Otremba, who holds a 192 average in the Sharpshooters League at Granite Bowl South, beat it by 75 pins with a 267 game en route to a 697 series. In the same league, Brandi Bellmont rolled a 232 game, 76 pins over her 156 average, and totaled 577.

Chris Fuchs rolled his first 700 series at Melrose Bowl. He had games of 275-258-202 for a 735 series. Fuchs beat his average, 191, by 162 pins for series.

Amy DuBuque, who holds a 124 average in the Tuesday Mixed League at Granite Bowl South, rolled a 235 which was 111 pins over her 124 average. She added on games of 170 and 150 for a 555 series, 173 pins over her average.

In the Friday Night Mixed League at Great River Bowl, the Market America team rolled a 1004 scratch game. Team members and their scores was Barb Churchill (247), Lyle Nelson (254), Vikki Dullinger (246), and Earl Dullinger (257).

Marvin Schmitz rolled his first 600 series in the Beehive League at Cold Spring Lanes. Schmitz, who has a 166 average, rolled games of 178-190-243 for a 611 series.

James Britton, who holds a 163 average in the Classic-Addition League rolled games of 183 and 172 before rolling a 255 (92 pins over) for a 610, his first 600 series.

Debi Schmidt rolled her first 200 game which was 75 pins over her 125 average in the Ladies Classic League at the Granite Bowl.

The junior bowlers at Great River Bowl are starting where the adults have been. The Breakpoint Pro Shop team rolled a 892 scratch game and a 2509 scratch series. Team members and their games were Kyle Matthes (258-223-210-701), Jeremy Haakonson (247-248-158-653), Jon Beam (234-151-206-591) and Grant Turner (153-181-230-564).

Adam Braucks, age 17, rolled a 287 game, 100 pins over his 187 average. Two bowlers rolled their first 400s, Blake Tschida (417) and Zach Knutson (425). Last but not least, Mason Neuenschwander, with a 64 average, had games of 99-129-103 for a 331, his first 300 series.

USBC Open

The USBC Open started this past weekend in Albuquerque, N.M. and the Cold Spring group has completed their competition. I cannot give you a complete breakdown, but in Regular Division, team S & S Construction is eighth with a 2841 and Cold Spring Lanes is ninth with a 2821. In Regular All Events, St. Cloud's Mike Walther is tenth in All Events with a 1852.

National Notes

Tom Baker of King, N.C. was named the Bowling Writers Association of America Senior Bowler of the Year for 2007. Baker earned previous honors in 2006 and 2005. David Ozio of Beaumont, Texas was the runner-up.

For the second straight year, there was no senior woman bowler of the year selected.

This is the opinion of Times bowling columnist Rick Saatzer. Contact him at **rsaatzer@aol.com**.

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