

The Highland Open

The 4th annual 3-star Highland Open was held on the weekend of November 17 & 18. This event was sponsored by South Shore Sports and the South Bend Table Tennis Club. There were 154 players in attendance vying for the \$3,900 in prize money.

In the Open Singles it was, once again, Mark Hazinski, an easy winner over Sasa Drinic 4-1. Sasa was down match point to 14-year old A.J. Brewer in the quarter finals. He also survived 3 match points against him in the semifinals against Thilina Piyadassa. Thilina is a national team member from Sri Lanka who now resides in Ohio.

In the 2500 final Piyadassa led 2-1 and 7-4 against Dan Seemiller Sr. only to lose the lead and the match 3-2. A.J. Brewer and Damian Czyz, who upset Joe Cochran, were the semi-finalists.

In an all South Bend 2400 final it was A.J. Brewer over Joe Cochran 3-0. Dan Seemiller Jr. won the 2250's by overcoming a 2-0 deficit to improving Leon Li. Leon won the 2125 by defeating Tennessee's Slawomir Waclawik 3-1. Mike Montalbano won the 2000's over Andre Khailo and Derek Borysiewicz captured the 1875's over Bob Douglass 3-1. Other rated event winners were Grant Hageman, Todd Carter, Inigo Zapater, Leszek Zabiegly, Kevin Schrock, Will Bardoczi and Jeffrey Zazove.

In the youth events, David Trykall won the 14 and under event over Timothy Chen 3-2. And in a rematch, Joe Cochran defeats A.J. Brewer 3-2 to win the 18 and under event. Stephen Clyde and Dan Seemiller Jr. were the semifinalists.

Thank you to Kagin Lee and Jorge Vanegas who were the officials for this event. Kagin made all the draws as the referee and was a big help to the staff, and Jorge was always there to umpire when needed.

Special thanks to Jason Sands of South Shore Sports and the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau. This is their 4th year sponsoring this tournament and we couldn't have had such a fine event without their support.

Mark your calendars for the 44th Robo-Pong St. Joe Valley tournament scheduled for May 2-3. The tourney will be held at Indiana University at South Bend and will feature \$10,000 in prize money. See you there!!