

2011 MILLCREEK OPEN
ERIE PA OCT. 22-23, 2011
By Sam Steiner

Some new faces attended this year's installment of the Millcreek Open possibly related to our major reversal of the schedule, moving Sunday's events to Saturday and vice versa. This allowed a different set of players the benefit of getting home late after playing, and not having to get up sore to go to work. Except for Dave French.

The York power team of Wetzler and Burnside made short work of the U2400 and Senior Over 40 fields meeting in the finals of both. In both cases they elected to split the prize money having played enough times at home.

A strong Open draw culminated in the Final Four round robin of Dan & Randy Seemiller, Samson Dubina, and Joe Cochran. Spectators expected some sparks and got them. First up were 1st & 3rd seeds Dubina and Dan Seemiller.

The years have slowed Dan's game somewhat but he still has the wherewithal to compete on Samson's level. With Samson attacking on both sides and Dan mainly blocking and countering they traded fierce points and games back and forth into the deciding 7th game where they played even point for point to Dubina up 10-8. Then 10-9 with Dan serving. Then at this climactic moment...Dan serves into the net, to a concerted groan from the audience. Later after shaking it off Dan recounted that that was the 2nd time in his career that he did that- the last time being in 1980. But who's counting. Next Randy Seemiller, playing stronger than in his last Erie visit, was able get 2 games from Samson. Then Dan vs. his former student Joe Cochran. Again this was a close, fiercely contested battle culminating in a win for Cochran at 11-7 in the 7th game. This set up the climactic match for 1st & 2nd between the top seeds Cochran and Dubina. This was a slugfest of topspin but Joe acknowledged not being on top of his game after a 4-1 victory for Samson.

Some other notable play included strong play by the Pech brothers Seth & Keith, both seeming to take their game to the next level possibly due to Samson's coaching influence. Keith reached the semi's of 2200, the 1/4's of 2400, and 1st place in the Top Gun event. Seth reached the 1/4's of Open with wins over Chip Coulter and Don Hamilton, and had the wisdom not to push his now-recovered



Samson Dubina vs. Dan Seemiller Sr.



Samson Dubina vs. Dan Seemiller Sr.

shoulder after an injury several months ago. Toronto's Chandru Krishnan had some good wins and some near wins against strong players making the semi's of 2200 and 1/4's of 2400. Tak Cheong Ip of Cleveland was on fire to win the 2200's taking out the sandbagging Wetzler in the semi's and Keith Pech in the finals. New to U.S. table tennis was Asaf Azarsky presently living in Pittsburgh. Asaf plays a strong 2200+ chopping game but he had the misfortune to get knocked out of two events by Wetzler's power loops. Meijun Cai, born in China, raised in Jamaica, and now living in Utica, belied his 2001 rating losing to Wetzler in the 2200's 15-13 in the 5th.



Thanks to sponsors Butterfly Online and Erie's Glass House Inn and all our hard-working tournament committee members.

U2400: 1/4's: Randy Seemiller d. Keith Pech 3-2; Rich Burnside d. Chandru Krishnan 3-2; John Wetzler d. Chip Coulter 3-2; Mike Walk d. Dan Seemiller Jr. 3-2. Semi's: Burnside d. R. Seemiller 3-2; Wetzler d. Mike Walk 3-2. Finals: Burnside & Wetzler split, but had they played, undoubtedly it would have been 3-2!

U900: Semi's: Zack Wawrzaszek d. Tom Banko 3-1; Carol Chu d. Tom Mulligan 3-1. Finals: Carol Chu d. Zack Wawrzaszek 3-9.

Junior U17: Final RR 1. Seth Pech d. Sayed Hamrahian 3-2; d. Brian Brzycki 3-0. 2. Sayed Hamrahian d. Brzycki 3-0. 3. Brian Brzycki.

Senior Over 40: 1/4's: Randy Seemiller d. Dave Pech 3-1; John Wetzler d. Ken Roskos 3-0; Rich Burnside d. Wayne Carney 3-0; Mike Walk d. Sandy Chu 3-0. Semi's: Wetzler d. Seemiller 3-1; Burnside d. Walk 3-1. Final: Burnside & Wetzler split.

Open: 1/8's: John Wetzler d. Asaf Azarsky 4-0; Seth Pech d. Chip Coulter 4-2. 1/4's: Samson Dubina d. Wetzler n.s.; Randy Seemiller d. A.J. Carney 4-1; Dan Seemiller Sr, d. Rich Burnside 4-0; Joe Cochran d. Seth Pech 4-2. RR semi's: 1. Samson Dubina d. Randy Seemiller 4-2; d. Dan Seemiller 4-3; d. Joe Cochran 4-1. 2. Joe Cochran d. Randy Seemiller 4-3; d. Dan Seemiller 4-3. 3-4. Dan & Randy Seemiller split.



U1450: ¼'s: Yogi Pulla d. John Loposky 3-0; Dio De Los Santos d. Petre Golumbeanu 3-2; Bill Schlernitzauer d. Jinbiao Tu 3-2; Krzysz Slomski d. Randy McCracken 3-0. Semi's: Pulla d, De Los Santos 3-0; Slomski d, Schlernitzauer 3-2. Final: Slomski d. Pulla 3-0.



John Wetzler vs. Ayrton Chia

U2200: ¼'s: John Wetzler d. Meijun Cai 3-2; Tak Cheong Ip d. Yevgeniy Puzyrev 3-1; Chandru Krishnan d. Dan Seemiller Jr. 3-0; Keith Pech d. Des Preston 3-1. Semi's: Ip d. Wetzler n.s.; Pech d. Krishnan 3-2. Finals: Tak Cheong Ip d. Keith Pech 3-1.

U700: Final RR: 1. Ray Hric d. Carol Chu 3-2; d. Kris Williams 3-1. 2. Carol Chu d. Williams 3-0. 3. Kris Williams.

3400 Doubles: Semi's: Pulla/Lolla d. Aluri/Sanzotta Jr 3-1; French/Kerosevic d. W. Carney/Sanzotta Sr. 3-2. Finals: Pulla/Lolla d. French/Kerosevic 3-0.

U1100: Semi's: Abdul Alkabbani d. David Freeman 3-2; Harry (Potter) Steinberg d. Bill Jahnke 3-1. Finals: Harry Steinberg d. Abdul Alkabbani. 3-0.

U1800 ¼'s: Gary Martin d. Don Young 3-1; Roger Dickson d. Al Keselman 3-1; Stjepan Kersovic d. Chao Lin 3-0; Ali Khatami d. Ta-Min Chang def. Semi's: Martin d, Dickson 3-1; Kerosevic d. Khatami 3-1. Finals: Gary Martin d. Stjepan Kerosevic 3-2.

Senior Esquire Over 60: Final RR: 1. Harry Hawk d. Sandy Chu 3-0; d. Gary Martin 3-1. 2. Sandy Chu d. Martin 3-0. 3. Gary Martin.

U1600: ¼'s: Dio De Los Santos d. Ali Khatami 3-2; Sean McCracken d. Taylor Pancoast 3-2; Jim Spetsios d. James Kim 3-0; Shreyans Bafna d. Bill Schlernitzauer 3-0. Semi's: McCracken d. De Los Santos 3-0; Bafna d. Spetsios 3-0. Finals: Shreyans Bafna d. Sean McCracken 3-2.



Samson Dubina vs. Joe Cochran

Top Gun Singles: Semi's: Don Hamilton d. Des Preston 3-0; Keith Pech d. Meijun Cai 3-1. Finals: Keith Pech d. Don Hamilton 3-0.

U1300: Semi's; Brian Tripp d. Dan Emord 3-1; Bill Miller d. Dan Barnes 3-2. Finals: Brian Tripp d. Bill Miller 3-2.

U2000: 1/4's: Seyed Hamrahian d. Mark Krotec 3-0; Sam Gacki d. Wayne Carney 3-0; Carl Bradley d. Shri Lolla 3-2; Harry Hawk d. Will Humber 3-1. Semi's: Gacki d. Hamrahian 3-1; Bradley d. Hawk 3-0. Finals: Sam Gacki d. Carl Bradley 3-0.

Junior U14: Final RR: 1. Keiran Pinili d. Alex Averin 3-0; d. Will Gao 3-0; d. Naman Shah 3-0. 2. Alex Averin d. Gao 3-1; d. Shah 3-0. 3. Will Gao d. Shah 3-2. 4. Naman Shah.

2800 Doubles: semi's: Pulla/Shih d. Schlernitzauer/Mastro n.s.; Denysenko/T. Malis d. Dio De Los Santos/R. McCracken 3-0. Finals: Pulla/Shih d. Denysenko/T. Malis 3-0.

Hardbat: Final RR: A.J. Carney d. Ken Pinili n.s.; d. Bill Dorsch 2-0. 2. Ken Pinili d. Dorsch 2-0. 3. Bill Dorsch.

