

IFPA Pinball Tournament Has Global Impact

By Doug Young

Milwaukee, WI--AMOA's International Flipper Pinball Association concluded its Third Annual Championships on May 23 and, to say the very least, it was a world class experience. With individual entries in excess of 900, and competitors from across the country and around the world in attendance, the IFPA has raised the sport of competitive pinball to all new heights.

The Grand Milwaukee Hotel was the showcase for 100 brand new pinball games, donated for tournament use by IFPA's four manufacturer sponsors. This year's stellar line-up included TWILIGHT ZONE from Bally/Midway, Data East Pinball's JURASSIC PARK, TEE'D OFF from Premier Technology, and DRACULA from Williams Electronics Games. It was an impressive line-up indeed, and one that responded dutifully to the thousands of plays endured over the weekend. Supporting the equipment was a veteran Tournament Committee made up of IFPA Charter Operator members, including three time Tournament Director



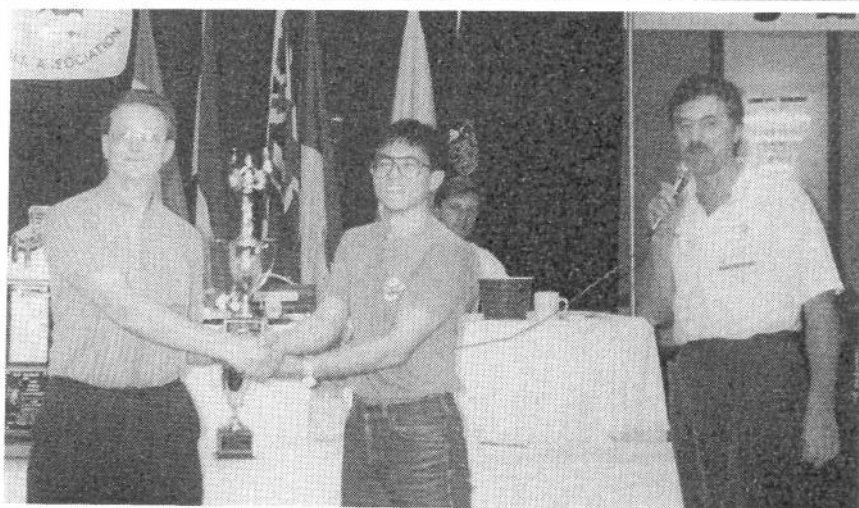
Mike Wiley (center) of Fenton, MI, accepts his Open Singles 2nd place trophy from IFPA's Chris Warren and Doug Young.

Mike Hawkins (D & R Star, Rochester, MN), Chris Warren (Capital Music, Helena, MT), Mike Jensen and Brian Graw (Jim Stansfield Vending, LaCrosse, WI) Dennis Bohrer (Hastings Dist., Milwaukee, WI), Bruce Dentice (Wisconsin Novelty, Milwaukee, WI) and Ed Tolisano (TBI Games Unlimited, Loves Park, IL). Pinball players everywhere owe a debt of gratitude to the tournament committee, the manufacturer sponsors, and the game technicians for a job very well done.

As with all IFPA tournaments, the players really made it great. Almost everyone of them holds a feeling of reverence and respect for their games of choice. They're very grateful for the opportunity to compete in a tournament, especially an event of such stature, that has broad appeal and that is designed to accommodate players of a variety of skill levels. In much the same way as they have for the first two tournaments, the young and young-at-heart responded enthusiastically. It's a reflection of the response to IFPA leagues, in which many of them have had the opportunity to



The Fair Play Centers Dutch Pinball Team, (l to r) Sander Jansen, Ufuk Aydin, Jurgen Cleyne, and Dursuw Aydin, poses with Doug Young (center).



Jim Shird (Alvin G. & Co.) and Masaya Horiguchi (Data East Pinball) captured the first place trophy in the Manufacture Team event. The question is, "Who is going to keep it?" compete.

This year was special for a number of reasons, the most important of which was the participation of many international players. The French contingent of twenty headed the list, but there were also competitors from Australia, Canada, Hungary, the Netherlands, and Mexico. Unless you were there, you can only imagine the interest as spectators watched the interpreter attempt to explain IFPA's double elimination series format to a Japanese competitor friend, while he was playing a match against a French player who understood no Japanese and very little English. It was incredibly amusing!

With very little exception, the tournament format remained as it was last year, with competitions in seven different regular events ranging from the Pinmaster Divisions for Singles and Two-player Teams, to the Open Singles and Open Teams, Women's Singles and Teams, and Youth Divisions for ages 13 through 17 and 12 and Under.

The tournament room opened Friday afternoon to allow players to get acquainted with one another and the pinball machines that most of them had never seen before. Between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. contestants had the opportunity to attend play instruction seminars presented by the respective game designers. They were also treated to a beer, soda and munchies

social courtesy of the IFPA. At 8:30 p.m. it was time for the opening ceremonies. Competitors were introduced and recognized for their efforts in attending the tournament. They were encouraged to observe the rules of good sportsmanship, but most important of all, to have fun and enjoy the company of new friends. To conclude the festivities, they were treated to a rousing rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner," delivered by talented Milwaukee vocalist Steve Grimm. Then it was time to "get on with the show!"

After a brief captain's meeting, the first competition, the Mixed Team

Event, got under way. For thirty-six of the next forty-eight hours, it was pinball, pinball and more pinball. The tournament provided a rigorous test of endurance, skill and mental fortitude. Saturday was filled to capacity with preliminary rounds in all events and complete events in the youth divisions. With Sunday morning came the finals and a lot of very tired competitors. But you know, they wouldn't have wanted it any other way. Everyone agreed the tournament was a glorious combination of styles, cultures, fun and incredibly skillful play.

A very special thanks goes out to all the players who participated in the MACC Fund Charity Challenge event. With their support, the IFPA was able to raise over \$1000 to donate to the MACC



Jason Werdrick (l) accepts his 2nd place trophy in the Pinmaster Singles Division. Last year he "lost" to Dave Hegge and this year to Rick Stetta. Jason is due... watch out!

Fund. The money will support research in the fight against childhood cancer. Thanks, also, to MACC Fund Executive Director John Cary and his staff for their logistical support of the contest. The contribution in promoting this year's event by Sprecher Brewery and Beer Capital Distributing is much appreciated, as well.

The IFPA has made tremendous progress in developing and promoting competitive leagues and tournaments for pinball. The success of the annual tournament is a reflection of those advancements and a small indication of the almost limitless number of participants any competition might enjoy. The tournaments have been a proving ground for ideas, and these ideas are available to AMOA-IFPA Charter Operator members. For more information you are invited to contact Doug Young at the IFPA's Administrative Office. The address is 141 W. Vine St., Milwaukee, WI 53212. By phone it's (414) 263-0233. IFPA is the way to play pinball.

OPEN TEAM - CHAMPS - Spherical Frenzy, Steve McCuaig, and Glenn Wilson (East Lansing, MI). 2nd PLACE - Double D's Dan Coyle (Austin, MN) and Dan Taradash (Minneapolis, MN). 3rd PLACE - Wizards from Oz Marion Richards and Jim Roberts (Topeka, KS). 4th PLACE - The Wackers Matt Bright and Rick Lilleberg (Linden, MI). 5th-6th PLACE (TIE) - Superior Amusements Kevin Kulek and Mike Wiley (Pinconning, MI). 5th-6th PLACE (TIE) - Crybabies Len Moscaritolo & Dallas Overturf (Ashland, MA). 7th-8th PLACE (TIE) - B.B.'ers Brian Severtson and Greg Severtson (Myrtle, MN). 7th-8th PLACE (TIE) - Salem Smokers Doug Osborn and Greg Pitner (Kenosha, WI).

PINMASTER TEAM - CHAMPS - AKA-Onies Naoki Masuda and Kenji Ishii (Tokyo, Japan). 2nd PLACE - Time Zone Masters Robert Mackintosh (Sydney, Australia) and Dave Hegge (Brookfield, IL). 3rd PLACE - Team 2048 Kevin Martin and Keith Johnson (Blacksburg, VA).

MIXED TEAMS - CHAMPS - Slayton/Sheats Julia Slayton (Phoenix, AZ) and Lyman Sheats (Hampton, VA). 2nd PLACE - Deadwood Duo Kristine Nagle and Phil Brown (Iowa City, IA). 3rd PLACE - The Power Jeri Lock (Goleta, CA) and John Ross (St. Paul, MN). 4th PLACE - Coyotes Joanne and Mike Wiley (Fenton, MI).

OPEN SINGLES - CHAMPS - Jim Roberts (Topeka, KS). 2nd PLACE - Mike Wiley (Fenton, MI). 3rd PLACE - Paul Champion (Holly, MI). 4th PLACE - Dave Swearingen (Sterling, IL). 5th-6th PLACE (TIE) - Keith Johnson (Warrenton, VA). 5th-6th PLACE (TIE) - Pat Marso (LaCrosse, WI). 7th-8th PLACE (TIE) - Brian Severtson (Myrtle, MN). 7th-8th PLACE (TIE) - Gennada Levitan (Bronx, NY).

PINMASTERS SINGLES - CHAMPS - Rick Stetta (Sunnyvale, CA). 2nd PLACE - Jason Werdrick (Des Plaines, IL). 3rd PLACE - Kenji Ishii (Tokyo, Japan). 4th PLACE - Lyman Sheats, Jr. (Hampton, VA). 5th-6th PLACE (TIE) - Candene Gauthier (Clapiers, France). 5th-6th PLACE (TIE) - Rick Miller (Algonquin, IL). 7th-8th PLACE (TIE) - Tim Van Blarcom (LaCrosse, WI). 7th-8th PLACE (TIE) - Paul Madison (New Brighton, MN).

WOMEN'S SINGLES - CHAMP - Teresa Dery (Brooklyn Park, MN). 2nd PLACE - Julia Slayton (Phoenix, AZ). 3rd PLACE - Kris Nagle (Iowa City, IA).

WOMEN'S TEAM - CHAMP - Deadwood Dudettes (Iowa City, IA) Julie Smith & Kristine Nagle. 2nd PLACE - Slayton/Dery (Phoenix, AZ & Brooklyn Park, MN) Julis Slayton & Teresa Dery. 3rd PLACE - Pinettes (Franklin, WI) Doreen Lucht & Bev Andersen.

YOUTH 12 & UNDER - CHAMP - Mitchell Kulek (Pinconning, MI). 2nd PLACE - Kevin Kulek, Jr. (Pinconning, MI). 3rd PLACE - Brian Romans (Greenfield, WI).

13 THRU 17 - CHAMP - Willie McKinney (Alexander, AR). 2nd PLACE - John Ruby (Pewaukee, WI). 3rd PLACE - Ehren Bilshausen (Oak Brook, IL) pGj

The next issue will be printed before Pinball Expo '93. I'm not sure it will be mailed in enough time for ads to refer to the show, but I will try. In any event, get ads, letters, and stuff to me now if you want it in that issue. ed.