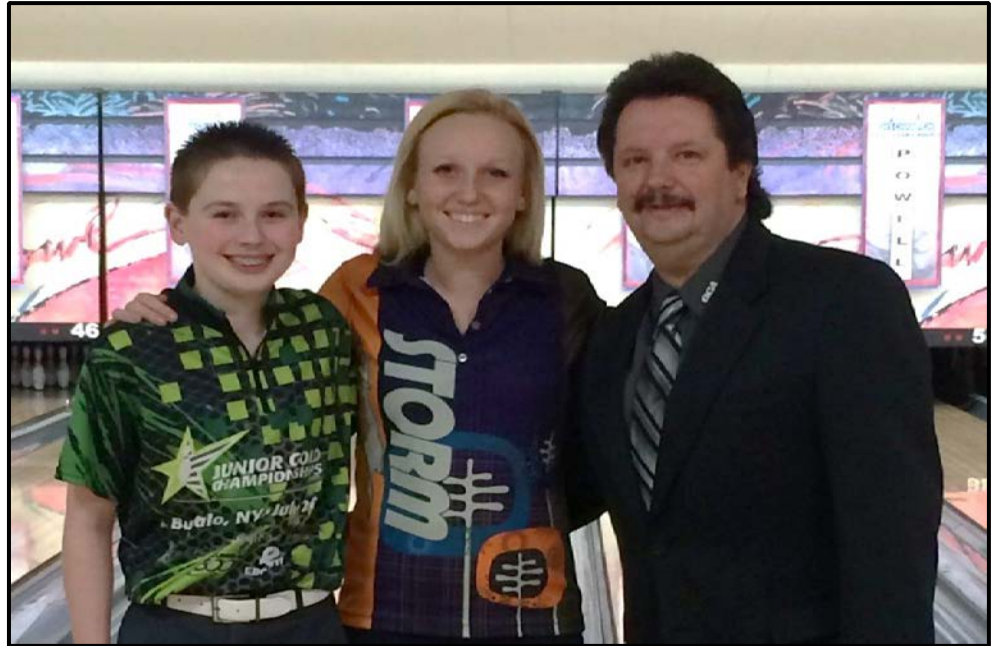


NEWHAM DEFENDS TITLE, SHEPHERD CAPTURES FIRST TITLE PAIR EARN TITLES AT GREATER CALUMET HARSCO OPEN

Eighty players (43 boys and 37 girls) from four states gathered at Plaza Lanes in Highland IN to compete for the NWIJTPA's 2015 Greater Calumet HARSCO Open title and a share of one of the largest scholarship pools in NWIJTPA history.

In the end, defending champion and Vanderbilt University recruit Jordan Newham prevailed over a talented girl's field to claim her second title and the \$375 first place scholarship. The Metea Valley (Aurora, IL) senior sensation qualified in the eighth position following a grueling 6-game qualifying block on the difficult WTBA Beijing pattern, but, then showed why she was one of the most sought after recruits in the nation as she navigated the transition - that proved too difficult for many - with both finesse and power during the four game advancers round. Games of 184, 203, 236, and 194 resulted in a match play record of 11-1 (quad match format) and a runaway victory in the ten game total pinfall with bonus pins format. Newham's 2,066 total bested runnerup Kasey Eaton (Grand Rapids, MI) by 114 pins. Eaton, competing in her third event of the weekend across three states, showed her grit, determination, and talent during the 4-game round, jumping from 14th to second on the strength of a 10-2 match play record. Lauren Price of Naperville IL secured the third spot with her 1,938 total. Rounding out the top five were Homer Glen, IL's Bailey Delrose and Cicero IN's and Valparaiso University freshman Aubree Trexler.



Jordan Shepherd, Jordan Newham, and GCABA President Michael Kozy

Other ladies who earned scholarship awards were Elkhart, IN native

Brooklynn Schutz, Hobart High and two-time

Post Tribune First Team All Area selection Maryssa Carey, and Valparaiso University sophomore Carly Larson.

Overall, the girls field averaged 171 for the event.

On the guys side, Noblesville IN's "little big man" Jordan Shepherd dominated one of the strongest boy's field in NWIJTPA history during qualifying and then survived a rough start to the advancers quad-format match play round, going 4-6, before coming up clutch in the 10th and final game, securing 30 bonus pins (2-1 record) with a solid tenth frame, displaying nerves of steel, to garner his first NWIJTPA title. Shepherd, a sophomore at Noblesville High, totaled 2,072 to outdistance Michigan City's Aaron Skibinski and Avon, IN's Brian Edwards by 41 pins. Shepherd, one of Indiana High School Bowling's rising stars, collected \$375 for his tour win as well as an additional \$180 for his Super Qualifying Bracket win during which he survived 5 games of head to head match play against the guys before facing off against Griffith's Erica Ward, the girl's division advancer, in game 6. Shepherd prevailed 189-131. Ward collected \$140 for her Super Bracket runnerup finish.

Rounding out the top 5 boys were Pikeville University' Brandon Dubuc (Auburn, ME), and Tyler Urbanszyk of Highland, IN.

Other scholarship recipients were Grand Rapids Michigan's David Northouse, Portage's Austin Schultz, Demotte's Tyler Winnick, and Hammond's Tyler Reid. The boys field averaged 170.9 on the WTBA Beijing short pattern.

Junior Gold spots were awarded to Daniel Brown, Aydan Coffman, and Michael Ramos.

The battle of the sexes returned from its brief hiatus and the guys showed their dominance winning the match by the scores of 184-172 and 197-178. Coached by Keagan Trexler, a tactical lineup change to start game two proved to be pivotal to the guys victory as their anchor (Tyler Urbanszyk), who closed out game one with a three bagger was moved

to leadoff for game two to keep the pressure on. And, that he did, striking and ultimately dashing any hopes of a ladies comeback. The ladies maintain a 5-3 series lead.

Special thanks to our tournament sponsors, HARSCO Engineering and the Greater Calumet Bowling Association, and our outstanding host, Plaza Lanes. Mari Albanese and her staff at Plaza set the standard for our tour with their outstanding service and facilities. The dedication and outstanding efforts of HARSCO Engineering's Arthur Olvera and GCABA President Mike Kozy allowed the NWIJTPA to award in excess of \$3,000 in scholarships and awards at the event resulting in a entry fee payback ratio just above 100%. And, with this field's scholarship pool, the NWIJTPA has surpassed it's season goal of \$20,000. AND we still have three events remaining.

The next event is April 12 - The Lafayette Open presented by Savage Bowling - at Star Lanes in Lafayette, IN.



Brandon Dubuc, Brian Edwards, Tyler Urbanczyk, Aaron Skibinski, and NWIJTPA Champion Jordan Shepherd hoist coach Keagan Trexler following their Battle of the Sexes victory



Girls Top Five
Lauren Price, Aubree Trexler, Bailey Delrose, Kasey Eaton, Champion Jordan Newham, and GCABA President Michael Kozy



