

Goldstein Sr. defeats 63, wins \$1350 in NCMG 18 @ Clayton Valley

Needing a mark in the 10th frame to win the tournament, Joe Goldstein Sr. threw the best mark by putting 10 in the pit. Another strike after that and it was a 256-234 win over former champion Darren Francisco and the title in the 18th Northern California Match Games held at Clayton Valley Bowl on March 21st.

This was Joe's 1st NCMG title. He defeated a terrific field of 63 players and won \$1350. Joe knocked down the most pins (1989) of any player and tied for the most match (6) wins. Goldstein had 3 games in the 250's and 2 more in the 260's. Joe caught a break in game 7 as his lowest game (216) turned into a winner.

Even with a loss in game 8, Francisco's 234 game dropped him only to second place. Darren went from 23rd after game 3 to the lead after game 7, by winning 4 games in a row with scores of 264-248-247-277. He earned \$900 for his runner-up finish.

Robby Porter found himself in 42nd place after a 237-225 game 1 loss to Jeff Frankos, a 267 win in game 2 jumped him to 18th and was part of a 4-game winning streak that sent him as high as 3rd place. A 236-197 win over Jerry Kennedy in game 8 kept Porter in 3rd place and winning \$700.

Heading into the final game of the 18th Northern California Match Games, just 91 pins separated the top 8 players. It becomes even closer when 50 bonus pins are given to the winner of each match.

Russ Greiner was in 6th, but only 1 pin ahead of Anthony Thompson, who was in 8th. They both won their matches but Thompson outscored Greiner 248-246 and finished 1 pin ahead of Greiner. They both moved up in the standings and Thompson won \$525 for 4th & Greiner \$450 for 5th. Lee Patterson jumped from 11th to 6th in the final game by winning with a 258 game, finishing 1 pin higher than Mark Figari (\$350) in 7th place.

The next Northern California Match Games, the 19th will be held at Yosemite Lanes in Modesto on (Memorial Day) Monday May 31, 2010.

NCMG 18 Notes: For the first time in NCMG history, nobody won 7 or 8 matches in a tournament. The top 6 players each won 6 matches and there 9 players in the field with 6 wins...Frankos had the only 300 game of the tournament and Greiner had a 299.

Charting the champ..... d. Sean Munkner 258-213, lost to Treico Holland 226-224, d. Marvin Hale 244-216, d. Nolen Velasco 268-267, lost to Leonard Lopez 259-258, d. Robby Porter 265-247, d. Greg Thompson, Jr. 216-168, d. Darren Francisco 256-234.