

## **Crowther wins racquetball title**

Lou Bradley Pro-Am, December 5, 2011

Determined to show his mettle after being derailed by a back injury in the final of the 2010 tourney, Chris Crowther leaned on power, reach and shot-making ability to win the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Lou Bradley Memorial Pro-Am Racquetball Tournament this weekend at the Prairie Athletic Club in Sun Prairie, Wisc.

Crowther, the No. 4 player on the International Racquetball Tour (IRT), dropped the first game, but rallied to defeat Cleveland's Andy Hawthorne (No. 6) 6-11, 11-5, 11-6, 12-10. Crowther earned \$2,500 with the victory, while Hawthorne brought home a \$1,500 check for reaching the final.

The 24-player draw featured four of the top 13-ranked players in the world and another dozen players among the best in the Midwest.

Crowther controlled Green Bay's Kyle Hermans and Chicago's Geoff Goldblatt in the first two round, then rolled over upset-minded Andy Thompson in the semis. Thompson, who hits the ball nearly 200 miles per hour and is the hardest hitter on the planet, had taken out 13-ranked Juan Herrera in the quarters ((11-6, 11-7, 11-5), but was swept 11-3, 11-2, 11-7 by Crowther in the semis.

Hawthorne took care of Minnesota youth sensation Jordan Barth and PAC's own Tracy Chynoweth to advance to the semis. There he met Fond du Lac native Tony Carson (No. 10) and survived a grueling 11-6, 11-6, 9-11, 13-11 victory to reach the final.

Carson swept past PAC's Paul Krueger in the quarters, while Chynoweth defeated Matt Stamborski in a marathon match that lasted nearly three hours 12-14, 11-13, 12-10, 11-8, 11-8 – coming back from 8-0 and 8-3 deficits in two of his three game victories – in the most compelling match of the pro draw.

Green Bay's Joey Salamone had an incredible run in the Mens Open draw, winning four straight matches to take the Pro drop-down title. After defeating his brother Dan, Joey beat state champ Matt Stamborski and Iowa standouts Ryan Ratchford and Blake Hanson for the \$200 check.

Barth beat Salamone in the pro draw, lost to fellow Minnesotan Lee Mienerz in the Open draw, but bounced back to win three straight matches and top Krueger for consolation title. Barth's junior partner, Sun Prairie's Justus Benson, won the Mens AA consolation crown.

Kyle Veenstra, who lost to Thompson in the state final this past March, won the 35+Open title, defeating state power Jay Wollenberg for the title.

Hawthorne teamed with Iowa's Bryan Crosser to topple Wisconsin state champs Wollenberg and Greg Beatty in the Mens Open doubles division.

Jesi Haak (PAC) had a fantastic tourney, winning all three of her matches to take the Womens Open crown and teaming with Becky Denniston (PAC) to take the Womens Open doubles title.

Matches ran from 1 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Friday; 7 a.m. until midnight Saturday and 7 a.m. until about 6 p.m. Sunday in the tourney, sponsored by Sussek Machine.

The draw featured more than players in 20 divisions and raised more than \$700 for the Lou Bradley Scholarship Fund. The results of the tournament are listed below.

## RESULTS

**Men's Pro:** 1, Chris Crowther; 2, Andy Hawthorne.

**Men's Open:** 1, Joey Salamone; 2, Blake Hanson; Consolation, Jordan Barth.

**Men's 35+Open:** 1, Kyle Veenstra; 2, Jay Wollenberg; Consolation, Tracy Chynoweth (PAC).

**Men's AA:** 1, Derek Ott; 2, Gordon Henry; Consolation, Justus Benson (PAC).

**Men's A:** 1, Jim Diener; 2, Max Dalebroux; Consolation, Jeff Rutkowski (PAC).

**Men's B:** 1, Mike Lawton (PAC); 2, Tristan Breese (PAC); Consolation, Carter Simon (PAC).

**Men's C:** 1, Craig Hauber; 2, Len Elton (PAC); Consolation, Kevin Stubbendick (PAC).

**Men's D:** 1, Brian Pensinger; 2, Kyle Lockhart.

**Women's Open:** 1, Jesi Haak (PAC); 2, Charlotte Neumann.

**Women's A:** 1, Michelle Biese; 2, Kristi Kiefer; Consolation, Lisa Rajkovich (PAC).

**Women's B:** 1, Danielle Falvey (PAC); 2, Joyce Sartorius.

**Juniors 1-bounce:** 1, Nathan Florek (PAC); 2, Nicco Baranski (PAC).

**Juniors 2-bounce:** 1, Caden Krueger (PAC); 2, Tyler Chynoweth (PAC).

**Men's Open Doubles:** 1, Andy Hawthorne/Bryan Crosser; 2, Jay Wollenberg/Greg Beatty;  
Consolation, Dan Salamone/Kyle Hermans.

**Men's AA Doubles:** 1, Mike Janse/Steve Rose; 2, DJ Johnson/Dave Rajkovich (PAC); Consolation, Pat McNamee/Steve Fons

**Men's A Doubles:** 1, Mike Lange/Tom Lange; 2, Roger Pensinger/Ben DeGroot; Consolation, Adam Rogers/Jason Helmstadter (PAC).

**Men's B Doubles:** 1, Max Dalebroux/Ryan Dalebroux; 2, Carter Simon/Sean Henry (PAC);  
Consolation, Mike Lawton/Matt Uebelacker (PAC).

**Women's Open Doubles:** 1, Jesi Haak/Becky Denniston (PAC); 2, Tracie Studinski/Charlotte Neumann (PAC).

**Mixed Open Doubles:** 1, Andy Salm/Charlotte Neumann; 2, Tracy Chynoweth/Tracie Studinski (PAC);  
Consolation, Pam Klein/Bruce Thompson (PAC).

**Mixed A Doubles:** 1, Tracie Studinski/Steve Fons (PAC); 2, Lisa Rajkovich/Dave Rajkovich (PAC);  
Consolation, Kevin Falvey/Pam Larsen (PAC).