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## Hoinke goes to court to determine tournament winners

Thousands of dollars have yet to be awarded in the 1994 Hoinke Classic, and Classic President Erv Hoinke has gone to court to determine who's going to receive the money.

The winners in the singles, doubles, team, and all events divisions are still not official.

"We have sought a declaratory judgement in Hamilton County Common Pleas Court," said Hoinke. "Our attorney hopes the judge will expedite our decisions so that we can give the deserving bowlers their prize money as soon as possible.

"It makes no difference to me," he continued, "I just want to make sure the bowlers who get the money have played the same playing field as all the other bowlers in our tournament."

The biggest loser could be Mike Stupar of Dearborn, Mich. Stupar entered the Cincinnati-based tournament last year with a 148 average. In the singles competition, he averaged 218 for five games, totalling 1,090 scratch and 1,322 with handicap.

Stupar bowled 70 pins over his average per game for five games while competing for a top prize of \$57,000.

According to the Detroit Bowling Association's records, Stupar averaged from 182 to 188 between 1981 and 1990. In 1991, he slipped to 155. In 1992, it was 153. In 1993, it was 148, and in 1994 it was 151.

In addition to the \$57,000 in the singles, Stupar is also the all events leader and stands to lose another \$20,000.

One of the Hoinke Classic rules calls for bowlers to disclose to tournament officials if they have ever received a tournament rerate.

"Back in 1983 at the National Industrial in Dayton, [Ohio]," said Hoinke, "tournament officials rerated Stupar from 183 to 190. He failed to disclose this to us when he entered."

Another pair of Dearborn bowlers, Joe Pape and Mike Balicki, held the lead in doubles, which is worth \$40,000. Pape entered the Hoinke Classic at 148 and rolled a 666 in doubles. Balicki entered at 156 and bowled a 641. With handicap, they totalled a leading 1,568.

Pape and Balicki had been rerated at the National Industrial back in the 1980s. Both had been elevated to 180 from their entering average, and both failed to report the rerate before bowling in the Hoinke Classic.

In the team event, the Idaho Cheeseheads Too of Milwaukee, Wis., were the tournament leaders and could have won \$53,000.

"We use a rule similar to ABC [Rule] 319," said Hoinke. "We ask for all scores bowled in the past 12 months in tournaments. The ABC rule calls for average adjustment if the

average is 10 pins higher than the entering average. In our rules, we raised that to 15 pins, which allows the bowler even more scoring leverage."

Tom Evans of Chicago, who bowled on the leading team, entered with a 192 average. He submitted three pages of tournament scores.

"We state that any failure to disclose games bowled or to report incorrect scores will result in disqualification," said Hoinke. "We started checking Evans' sheet and the inconsistencies just jumped at us."

Evans failed to report 116 games he bowled in the Senior Masters Tour, in which he averaged 216. He said he bowled in a tournament called the Action Super Sweeper and only scored 738 for four games. Hoinke has been unable to verify the existence of this tournament.

In one particular tournament, Evans listed low scores that he did not bowl and omitted a high series that he did bowl.

"We found all kinds of inconsistencies in his report," said Hoinke, "so we had no choice but to disqualify him and that lowered his team total from a leading 3,590 to an out-of-the-money 2,900."

Two bowlers who hope the judge upholds Hoinke's action are Jack Lewis of Austin, Ind., and Bruce Ottmer of Rensselaer, N.Y. Lewis is second in the singles and already has earned \$28,500. If Stupar is disqualified, he'll pick up a matching \$28,500. Ottmer is second to Stupar in the all events and will earn another \$10,000 in addition to the \$10,000 he already has won.

While the court decides, Hoinke has placed the contested funds in escrow.

"I hope it doesn't drag on," he said. "I want to pay the money to the bowlers, but I would like to pay it to the bowlers who deserve it and have earned it."

*(At press time, Hoinke Classic official Jennifer Klekamp told BOWL Magazine that Tom Evans "admitted his guilt" and signed a waiver to that effect. The tournament has not heard from any of the other bowlers involved, but they have one year to file a protest.)*



**Busy Hoinke Classic officials (from left) Anita Vollmer, consultant; Michele Brown, assistant director; Russell Hoinke, director; and Bertha Haefner, average verification specialist.**