

April 25, 2021

The Annual All-State Scholarship Tournament, sponsored by Storm, was held at Heritage lanes in Kokomo yesterday. Some of the best high school bowlers in the state competed for the \$2000 in scholarships. Everyone who had made one of the 'All-Teams' was invited to attend and participate.

To make the Academic-All State Team, seniors had to bowl in at least 1 varsity game and compile a GPA of 3.5 or better on a 4. Scale. The year we had 16 boys and 21 girls named to the team.

The other teams were determined by points awarded for average and tournament placings. The top average in the conference was awarded 40 points and each succeeding place got 3 points less. Each event of the tournament was awarded points with the sectional champion receiving 9 regional champ 13, semi-state champ 17 and state champ 21. Each place in the stepladder received 1 point less and points dropped by 3 for each place out of the stepladder with each advancing bowler receiving at least 1 point.

The All-Region Teams named the bowlers participating in the 6 regionals across the state that scored the most points from conference average, sectional, and regional placings. The All-Tournament Team were the bowlers who scored the most points in the tournament: sectional, regional, semi-state, and finals. And finally, the All-State Teams were the bowlers who score the most points in both conference and tournament. This year there were 104 bowlers that were selected to at least one of these teams and 76 of these bowled on Saturday.

Before bowling started, each team was announced, and each bowler came forward to receive their certificate and get their picture taken with their team. After all the teams were announced we had a couple special awards. Along with the certificates, the All-State First Team members all received jackets. Every year we name a Bowler of the Year. This is the boy and girls who score the most points in their division. This year's winners were State Champion Meagan Kennedy from Brownsburg and repeat BoY Ryan Speer from Lutheran HS. Ryan scored 98 points out of the 100 possible.

The format for the bowling was the same as it had been in the IHSB State Tournament series. All bowlers rolled 3 qualifying games and the top 4 boys and girls advanced to a single game match, stepladder finals. The lane conditioning was an incredibly challenging pattern. Tandess O'Neal/Greenfield Central led the girls with 577. She was followed by Krista Gwynn/Alexandria 562, Meagan Kennedy/Brownsburg 556, and Shayla Gwynn/Alexandria 554. Casey Saas/Carmel and Leeah Wade/Elkhart finished 5th and 6th with 541 & 513 to also receive scholarship. The boys were led by Nathan Smith/Noblesville 710, Dalton Goulet/Norwell 608, Ryan Speer/Lutheran and Jacob Browning/Harrison each with 603. The next 4 places for the boys who also received scholarships were Aaron Huffman/Goshen 593, Hunter Thompson/Daleville 589, Trevar Thompson/Avon 588, and Brayden Alfrey/Elwood 577.

After qualifying we moved to the stepladder finals. In the first match, Shayla Gwynn was paired against Meagan Kennedy. It was competitive match to the end and Shayla came out on top 166-142. That set up a Gwynn sister match. It was another close match right to the tenth frame with Krista topping older sister by a 145-126 score. That set up the championship match of Krista Gwynn vrs #1 seed Tandess O'Neal. The first half of the game was very close. Tandess had a couple bad breaks to keep it close. Krista found the line to finish the game with a turkey and a 192-155 win.

The first match of the boys' finals featured BoY Ryan Speer against Jacob Browning. Both bowlers struggled but Ryan was able to put some strikes together at the end of the game to win 104-133. He continued to strike the next match to beat Dalton Goulet by the score of 237-182. That set up the championship match between 2 first team All-State bowlers, Ryan, and Nathan Smith. Another close match went to the 10th frame with Nathan holding the lead. Ryan needed a double to win but was unable to strike on the first ball so Nathan won by the score of 194-181.

We did award \$2000 in scholarships and it was a good day of competition.