

Lawn bowlers tops at provincials

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Logic dictated that the competition get tougher as the provincial championships wore on.

But a local lawn bowling duo tossed that theory out the proverbial window during the Labour Day weekend Ontario novice women's triples showcase in Woodstock.

Skip Laura Seed and vice Marilyn Meyer joined forces with impromptu lead Marion Dallas of Brampton to clinch top honours among a 16-team field with five years experience or less.

And surprisingly enough, the trio's most dominant moments were reserved for the stretch drive — when they handily turned back challenges from a pair of more seasoned squads.

A 19-12 decision over Etobicoke sealed the deal for the locals, who rallied from an early 7-0 deficit on the way to gold-medal victory. Even Meyer being stung by a wasp in the fourth end could-

n't derail the team's championship run.

"I didn't let anybody know until afterwards. I didn't want to upset the apple cart, so I just played on," explained second-year competitor Meyer.

Added Seed, "They (Etobicoke) made a big mistake that allowed us to pocket six and get right back in it. They never saw daylight from that point on."

Even more prosperous in the semifinals against Peterborough, Milton mounted an early stranglehold and cruised to a 16-6 win. "We were in complete control the whole way," said Seed, who with just three years of lawn bowling under her belt was the veteran of the group.

Shining in the final four turned out to be a whole lot easier than actually reaching it for the District 9 representatives.

In fact, just advancing beyond day one's round robin portion of the tournament proved to be a rather towering task — particularly in the second game against Agincourt.

Seed and company trailed by one going home in the final end and needed to take the jack back to the ditch in order to squeak out the win.

In what she described as the best shot she's ever made, Seed delivered a clutch three-pointer to upstage Agincourt 16-14.

"I've made that shot before, just not in such a high pressure situation. It was pretty cool. I knew right away I'd made it, everyone was cheering all the way down the green."

That last-shot victory highlighted an undefeated round robin campaign for the local ladies, who went on to edge Madoc 10-9 in a seesaw battle that also went down to the wire.

This time it was Meyer laying down a key bowl that her opponents just could dispose of with their final attempt.

That capped a 2-0-1 opening day and put the eventual champions into the elite eight and a single elimination showdown with Sarnia. Powered by a four-point effort in the second to last frame, the locals prevailed 16-11.

"The final score wasn't a good indication of how close it was," explained Seed. "They were three really close wins. Everyone said we didn't do it the easy way."

Agreed Meyer, "It was a real struggle over two hot days. But you just got to keep focused, that's all. We were all really pleased (with the championship win)."

Laura Seed (left) and Marilyn Meyer recently struck gold at the novice lawn bowling championships in Woodstock. They won the women's triples division with some convincing day-two victories.

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