

Winners Announced for B&M's Annual RPS Tournament

Dateline – Waukesha, WI – B&M's annual employee Rock, Paper, Scissors (RPS) tournament produced scores of thrilling comebacks, crushing upsets and breathtaking tie-breakers. If you've never witnessed an RPS tournament, you can only imagine the excitement, cheers and flailing of arms that accompanies each highly contested point. It has to be experienced to be appreciated.

Although he went through a rigorous off-season training program, Bruce Bartelt amazingly was unable to better his 2005 mark of only a single match win during the opening 2006 round robin. Bruce was able to force a "throw off" with Steve Borgwardt, who also managed only a single win in the opening round. But Steve won the tie breaker so Bruce set a new record for being the first participant in B&M tournament history to be eliminated first, in two consecutive years.

Heather Brunner and one of last year's finalists, Jaime Klemp, were the next two participants to fall. Jaime's unorthodox left-hand throws did not seem to confound opponents as they did last year. And Heather's strategy of having no strategy was entertaining, but ineffective. However her early exit did enable her to take over bar tending duties which has its own rewards.

Leslie Bonk tied the record she set last year with 6 winning throws in a row during the initial elimination round. Leslie's greatly improved ability to sync her "primes" in unison with her opponents, despite shorter arms, was a testament to the positive results of practice.

Right from the onset, last year's champion Steve Borgwardt, had to stage several come-from-behind rallies, having to rely on the last throw of each preliminary round to save himself from elimination. Steve was visibly shaken by his inability to dominate opponents in the early rounds.

When the dust settled and additional pitchers of Margaritas had been mixed, the final pairing turned out to match the highly favored and motivated Steve Borgwardt against the much smaller, but fiercely competitive, Leslie Bonk.

In the final match, after three electrifying stalemates with both contestants revealing the same throw, Steve finally managed to win the first point. However that turned out to be the only point the former champion was able to muster. A shrewd student of the game, Leslie had studied Steve's earlier games and used that knowledge to win the next four consecutive points and the Championship. For RPS aficionado's who are enamored with statistics, Leslie's final throw of paper defeated Steve's too-often-thrown rock.

Steve presented Leslie with B&M's traveling RPS trophy and a \$25 gift certificated to Pedro's Restaurante. Steve's second place finished earned him two lottery tickets ... but he's still working here, so they must not have been "winners."

Mark May 5, 2007 on your calendar and make plans to attend next year's B&M RPS tournament. Seating is limited, so make your reservations early. (For non-participants, this is a BYO event.)

Note: Employee, distributor and customer RPS events are fun, undemanding, memorable and usually cost next to nothing (or in some cases, exactly “nothing”) to run. If you would like help to organize, announce and conduct your own RPS experience, just call B&M. We'll make it as easy as one, two, three.