

## **Youngest Ever to Snatch National Title**

**Following photos and introductions, the 17 ADO National Youth Championship participants broke into two round robins as determined by the placement cards drawn the night before. Due to the increased number of matches to play, it was decided that each preliminary round-robin would advance four to a final 'knockout round' of eight scholarship award recipients. Time permitting, the youth finals would be decided on stage.**

**New National Youth Manager, Chip Adams addressed the assembled youth, parents and supporters with a quick outline of the do's and don'ts and acknowledged his assistant for the day, Region 1-3 Director, Carolyn Camp. He then thanked all those who appeared ready to chalk the initial matches.**

**Group 1 contained veterans: Glenn Sutton, Dan Brown and Benji Smith, as well as the new faces of Steve Phillips, Darylann Hardwick, Ryan Morey, Mike Scarborough, Shawna Pike and Leann Burke.**

**Scarborough led the pack dropping only 3 legs in the initial rounds. Phillips and Hardwick started slowly but finished strong missing only 3 points a piece in the second half and claiming the 2nd & 3rd advancement places. Brown began smoothly, returned confidently after his bye, then seemed to lose concentration. His early efforts allowed him to hang on and claim the last spot to move into the knockout. Pike needed all three in the final set to force a tiebreaker but came up short.**

**Group 2 was spattered with returning players: Ashley Stewart, Alex Broderick, and Ryan Mahaffey who joined newcomers Brad Janowiak, Nick Compton, Dakota Brockman, Craig Gagnon and Danny Russano. Defending Champion Mahaffey, took control and the lead, giving up but three points of an available 21. Stewart, the lone female in this assemblage, marked her first two rounds with zero score, then turned on the heat losing only one leg in the next five matches to tie for second overall and advancement. Compton hit the gate skimming 11 of the first twelve legs before Stewart dropped his sails 3 nil in the fifth match. His half of the next six tied her score and he skidded into the knockout. Although Russano clipped Stewart in the first round, Mahaffey and Compton ripped three apiece leaving him in fourth but able to proceed.**

**Step two of the competition traveled into the main hall and garnered a wealth of spectators eager to measure the new stars. Many seemed surprised at the level of skill and professionalism exhibited. The top four matches hung the crowd on the edge of their seats and the staged finals brought them to a standing ovation for all five legs.**

**Stewart put her name on the first two legs...then Scarborough fought back to take games 3 and 4. The fifth seesawed until Stewart ended the suspense.**

**Though Scarborough threw the only maximum in this Championship event, no one dared doubt that these young players would finish well in the USA Classic events over the weekend.**

**The youngest ever and only female National Youth Champion to date, ASHLEY STEWART will represent the USA at the Winmau World Youth Singles Championship held in conjunction with the Winmau World Masters in England.**

**Stewart earned \$1,500 in scholarship awards, Scarborough \$1,000, Compton and Russano \$750 each. The other four players (Brown, Hardwick, Phillips and Mahaffey) in the final eight also receive scholarship awards from the ADO Memorial Scholarship Fund toward post-high school studies for \$500.**



**The perpetual trophy, donated by LASERDARTS / HORIZON as the K.C. Mullaney Memorial Trophy in 1996, will be engraved with Ashley's name and will be displayed each year during the national finals.**

**Selected once again by his peers to be given the Charlie Forrester Memorial Medallion for Sportsmanship, Glenn Sutton absolutely beamed with pleasure.**

**Special thanks is given to Mike Edwards of the METAL FAB TROPHY SHOP in Miami, Oklahoma who donated the Youth National awards. Take note of the distinctive 'all wood' plaque Ashley is holding on stage...players and organizers alike stopped to admire the unusual treatment.**

**As the excitement ebbed, hands were clasped and numbers exchanged. Yes, plans were made to meet again...as friends....and as PARTNERS. Thanks to**

**ADO National Youth Manager Chip Adams, the weekend did not end for the young participants with the Friday afternoon presentations. Adams polled the youngsters, set meeting times and organized events during Saturday and Sunday in addition to the planned Youth-Adult Sunday morning fare.**

**While Adams rummaged through the ADO booth stock for suitable prizes and shirts, Jim Boan of the Atlanta Darts contributed four sets of darts for the winners. James ' J.P.' Pelletier donated unique dart holders, Phil Fried contributed and Jay Tomlinson added a Halex board. A raffle ticket was given with every youth entry into the separate youth contests. ADO thanks them all for their generosity.**

**Leeann Burke and Scott Ingram won the Youth-Adult challenge on Sunday morning, with Craig Gagnon and John Kuczynski in second. Winners earned an ADO shirt in addition to sets of darts. Despite the fact that the results were kept haphazardly for the last-minute proceedings, it was reported that Scarborough claimed a set of darts for a 1st place in Youth Singles Cricket over Darylann Hardwick, AND won the raffled Halex board. Nick Compton picked up an ADO shirt and a set of darts for a first place finish in Youth Singles 501 on Saturday afternoon. The pleasure seemed to be in the competition without concern for the**

**prize. In the end, all who participated won and no one lost.....darts at their finest and friendliest!**

**The response to the unscheduled youth competition was so overwhelming that 2006 will certainly incorporate more youth activity than was seen in previous years. Special thanks go out to National Youth Manager Chip Adams for his enthusiasm and tireless efforts. ADO also thanks all those organizers, parents and youth who supported the ADO Youth Playoff Program in 2005.**

**The seventeen participants of 2005 set a high standard in numbers, demeanor, skill and particularly sportsmanship. ADO is very proud to recognize each of these outstanding young darters.**