

Chad Nelson wins Minnesota Masters

Chad Nelson of Owatonna defeated Rob Downer of Rochester to win the 26th annual Minnesota Masters tournament on December 31st, 2005 at Midway Pro Bowl in St Paul. Nelson was undefeated and waited while Downer came through the loser's bracket and had to beat Nelson twice in the double elimination single game match play format. Downer won the first game 246-219 but Nelson came through in the championship match 228-201 for his first Masters' title and a paid entry into the USBC Masters tournament in Milwaukee in October 2006.

64 bowlers started the day bowling 8 games of qualifying. The top 16 advanced to the double elimination single game match play. Nelson and Al Loth of Arden Hills each won their first 3 matches and faced off for the winners bracket final. Nelson took care of Loth 248-189 to send Loth into the losers' bracket. In the semifinal of the losers' bracket Downer squared off against Sam Sylvester of St Paul with Downer winning 222-196. Downer took care of Loth in the final of the losers' bracket 195-184 to meet Nelson for the title.

The average to make the top 16 was 219.8 (1755 pins) and the 18th place and last cash was a 218.5 average (1748 pins). High Qualifier was Daron Hansen of Brooklyn Center with a total pin-fall of 1906 (238.2 avg) followed by Matt Meyer of Alexandria with 1869 (233.6 avg) for the 8 games of qualifying.

Al Loth, who won the Minneapolis Masters, was 4th in the St Paul Masters, and finished 3rd in the Minnesota Masters was the On Track Masters Triple Crown champion setting a record with a mere total of 8 points. He pockets the \$500 and a jacket for the bowler with the best finishes in the 3 Masters' tournaments.