

Spishock, Baginsky take championships

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BY MIKE MORETTI

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Senior Dan Spishock of East Brunswick was one pin away from perfection, but he gladly settled for being good enough to win the Greater Middlesex Conference individual championship yesterday at Brunswick Zone Carolier Lanes in North Brunswick.

Junior Nicole Baginsky became the first bowler from Cardinal McCarrick to win an individual crown when she defeated sophomore Morgan Brown of East Brunswick, the runner-up for a second straight year, 191-158.

Spishock's only blemish was a wobbly eight pin in the fifth frame, which kept him from rolling the first 300 in a GMC final. He defeated top-seeded Matt Sabin of Woodbridge, 279-230. It was the best game of Spishock's high school career and one pin from his all-time best.

Spishock, the second seed, eliminated fifth-seeded Brian Nicholas of Sayreville in the semifinal round, 248-236.

"Matt's a great bowler, capable of a monster game at any time," Spishock, who averages 221, said of Sabin, who leads the GMC with a 232 average. "I had to block him out and focus on my line and be ready for my score. This season, I picked up the rev rate on my ball, so I'm getting a different spin on it coming out of my hand and I'm getting a lot more action on it."

Spishock adds to East Brunswick's list of GMC champions, following Matt Hage's title in 2006. East Brunswick Greg Church lost last year in the final to Evan Simon of Woodbridge. Spishock had placed ninth in 2008 and fourth in 2007.

Spishock's older brothers, Michael, a 2001 graduate, and Douglas, a 2004 graduate were, like Dan, team captains for East Brunswick.

"Dan's a competitor," East Brunswick coach Jeff Elias said. "He's not flustered under pressure. He's had three 700 series this season. He's ready for any situation."

Baginsky was the top seed, with three-game qualifying rounds of 605 and 663 for a 1,268. She waited patiently for the final match as Brown, the third seed, ousted second-seeded Amanda Pearce of North Brunswick in the semifinal, 164-158.

"My whole thing was to stay calm and breathe," said Baginsky, who reached the stepladder as a freshman and lost to eventual champion Nicole Caggiano of Woodbridge. Baginsky, who averages 195, failed to qualify last year.

"I wasn't picking up spares and I got aggravated and let that get in my way," she said of last year's performance. "This year it was easier to keep going because I was already doing well. I didn't have to pick myself up."

Baginsky takes home the trophy to the second-smallest public school in the GMC behind South Amboy.

"This just proves even someone from a small school, a school that doesn't get recognition, can come in and do something really good," she said.

BOYS

QUALIFYING: 1-Matt Sabin, Woodbridge, 1,396. 2-Dan Spishock, East Brunswick, 1,369. 3-Mike Savarese, Sayreville, 1,356. 4-Mike DiLeo, Woodbridge, 1,354. 5-Brian Nicholas,

Sayreville, 1,351. 6-Jesse Rossmann, East Brunswick, 1,348. 7-Matt Wasielewski, Sayreville, 1,336. 8-Chris Byrnes, East Brunswick, 1,324. 9-Camryn Nieves, Sayreville, 1,323. 10-Shawn Zwonar, Edison, 1,319. 11-Nick Barracato, Old Bridge, 1,297. 12-James Lang, Edison, 1,290. 13-Mike Farano, Edison, and Craig Leopold, Edison, 1,288. 15-Mike Dandola, South Plainfield, 1,282. 16-Tyler Mortensen, Woodbridge, 1,281. 17-Phil Bailey, Sayreville, 1,278. 18-David Caceres, Perth Amboy, 1,276. 19-Dan Eremias, Edison, 1,273. 20-Matt Stasik, North Brunswick, 1,267.

STEPLADDER FINALS: Nicholas d. DiLeo, 214-204; Nicholas d. Savarese, 236-208; Spishock d. Nicholas, 248-236; Spishock d. Sabin, 279-230.

GIRLS

QUALIFYING: 1-Nicole Baginsky, Cardinal McCarrick, 1,268. 2-Amanda Pearce, North Brunswick, 1,217. 3-Morgan Brown, East Brunswick, 1,204. 4-Justine Bleacher, South Brunswick, 1,200. 5-Carly Kohutanycz, South Brunswick, 1,198. 6-Jackie Sutton, South Brunswick, 1,194. 7-Meredith Matthews, Edison, 1,179. 8-Jessica DiSilvestro, Woodbridge, 1,176. 9-Kayleigh Kimberlin, South Brunswick, 1,167. 10-Kathi Pincus, Bishop Ahr, 1,158. 11-Gina Curcio, South Plainfield, 1,152. 12-Danielle Larsen, Carteret, 1,146. 13-Lacey Thome, Colonia, 1,144. 14-Catherine Rotolo, Edison, and Amanda Kertesz, Carteret, 1,136. 16-Christina Brady, Woodbridge, 1,128. 17-Kelly Daunno, Carteret, 1,124. 18-Carol Sharrouf, Sayreville, 1,118. 19-Ariel Tiernan, Iselin Kennedy, 1,113. 20-Staci Brown, East Brunswick, 1,104.

STEPLADDER FINALS: Bleacher d. Kohutanycz, 175-142; Brown d. Bleacher, 232-178; Brown d. Pearce, 164-158; Baginsky d. Brown 191-158.