

Canada's Top Five Men

When you think of ranking anything, the top spot is often one of the easiest to declare. Not so for men's bowlers.

Last week, we ranked Canada's top women's bowlers, and today, we'll talk about the men.

After the medal count is made, and personal accomplishments and longevity considered, Alberta's Bruce Morter sits on top of the pile.

Morter has a singles title in both the open and masters, and 12 team golds split evenly between the open and masters. The championships may be housed in Western Canada, but the western Canadian tour always brings in the very best from eastern provinces as well.

Morter's most impressive statistic comes from the western Canadian tour. Within these events, Morter has 14 victories spread over six different bowling centres, and four different decades. His most recent win was the 2011 Tournament of Champions in Edmonton, capturing first and second and almost \$10,000.

Between 1968 and the mid-'70s, Fraser Hambly had become a household name in Ontario's fivepin community. Hambly was first to win two open singles crowns, in 1968 and 1973, and in 1974 he won what was then the No. 1 event in all of Canada, the Canadian Invitational. His reward was \$10,000; his teaching salary of \$6,500 for the year seems trifling.

Hambly's bowling continued to explode through five decades. By the end of his run, Hambly had won just over 60 tournaments, including three national team titles and the two previously-mentioned singles titles. Also to his credit are 16 perfect games, two of which are officially recognized.

Third spot is awarded to B.C. and Quebec's Frank Lavigne. Lavigne's precision is unmatched. He would study the lanes meticulously and once he found the line his game was impenetrable.

For example, as a spare drill Lavigne could routinely pick 100-plus corners cleanly. Lavigne also had several year-end league averages over the 300 mark, his best being 325. On the western money tour he dominated two of the three main championships - the Chinook Autumn Open and the Rose Bowl, held in Calgary and Edmonton respectively.

Greg Peteraitis of Ontario most certainly deserves consideration. During a span of 15 years, Peteraitis was a dominant force. He pulls into fourth by virtue of five men's team gold medals, one master's singles, a TSN championship, and two perfect games. If more convincing is required, consider that on the western money tour Peteraitis has captured two Manitoba Opens and both the KG Invitational and Open.

Another Albertan who made his name known across the nation is Tom Stevenson.

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Stevenson's record of accomplishment is impressive but so too is his ability to capture the imagination of others. When Stevenson was bowling you watched and you learned.

Stevenson has collected seven men's team gold, mixed team gold and two master singles titles. During a momentary break in his run of success he also coached a women's team to gold at the master's national championship.