

## Cousins to Represent Northern Ontario at National World Cup



Tenpin bowling is a family activity for cousins Tamara and Aaron Craig. They live next door to each other, bowl together and now jointly hold Provincial titles together. Both are 17 years old.

Twenty five bowlers from Thunder Bay and Sault Marie participated in this years' Provincial Championships on Sunday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Mario's Bowl.

After eight games of scratch bowling, both emerged as the top seed in their respective divisions. Aaron averaged 239.88, 46 pins ahead of second place qualifier Ian Nakonechny to advance to the mens matchplay. Tamara's win, with a 210.13 average for the eight games was fourteen pins better than the Soo's Danika Montgomery to also advance to womens matchplay.

The top three finishers advanced to the matchplay portion of the championships whereby, for the men, Bob Woolley from the Soo took on Thunder Bay's Ian Nakonechny. In a close match where each bowler threw splits in the tenth frame, Woolley won 202 to 201 and a crack on taking on the top seed. Craig would have to be beaten twice for Woolley to become

the Provincial Champion for the eleventh time. He is also a two time National Champion. In this match, Woolley threw a perfect game to Craig's 237. This was the first time a non-Thunder Bay bowler has rolled a 300 at Mario's and Woolley's first since 2001. In match two, Woolley's 256 was not enough to defeat Craig's 259. Aaron will be the first youth bowler to represent Northern Ontario at the Nationals to be held in Laval, Quebec at the end of March.

James Shperuk had the high single with a 289 in game three for the men.

In the womens' matchplay, defending Provincial champion, Nicole Walker, won 237 to 176 over the second place finisher Danika Montgomery to set up the Championship match. Tamara placed Walker on the sidelines with a 235 to 195 finish.

Mongomery had the womens high game with a 279 in game 4.

Not settling to let her cousin hold the sole record of being the first youth Provincial Champion, she will join him in the record books and in Laval.