



Highland Cougar Bowling Team

October 22nd , 2018 – Highland Bowling Re-Cap – Stout State Open – Menomonie, WI – Varsity MEN

The Highland Men traveled 4 hours North to Menomonie, WI (north of EauClaire, WI) for the Stout State Open. This is a new tournament for the Highland team as we chose to participate in this event versus the Titan Invite in November due to some schedule planning.

Saturday, the format called for 6 traditional games of team bowling. When the team arrived to the bowling center, they learned that the event was going to be bowled on Kegel's Boardwalk lane condition... another SHORT, 35' pattern which this team has not had much luck on this season in practice or in events (GLBC #2). In addition, many of the guys brought their new Brunswick arsenal with them as we were planning on 40'-42' patterns... which put a twist on the planning. The team adjusted surfaces to match up with the short pattern... but to no avail. This event's field while had many large colleges/universities... we honestly felt that we could compete for a win against them.

We bowled bad starting with 807, 809, 807. We made bad shots, missed spares, and couldn't duplicate most shots to even make the proper adjustments. We ended Saturday in 4th place.

Sunday, was 3 more traditional games before they would cut to the Top 3 teams for TV style – match play finals. After a team meeting the night before, the plan was in place and how we were to execute on the lanes... mentally and physically. The talk must've worked as the mindset was "better" and the Highland scores showed. The men erased the deficit and move all the way up to 2nd for the end of qualifying (which is what the USBC Power Points will be based). The TV Match play finals put us up against Iowa State for a "Best of 3" Baker match which we easily won 2-0. We then were matched up against tournament leader Winona State in a Best of 5 Baker match to determine the tournament champion. Highland won that 3-1 and took home the 2018 Stout State Open banner (picture attached).

Now we have a few weeks off to prepare the team for the rest of the season. We have bowled 4 weeks in a row and we have learned a lot about the character of our 18 bowlers. Time to evaluate, adjust some bowlers games to adapt to the collegiate lane conditions, and get ready to prepare the team for the rest of the season and post-season.

Winning is FUN! #cheers

