

Padgett Competes At Nationals

Written by Staff Reports

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Noah Padgett, a senior at Watauga High School, competed at the North Pointe Junior Gold National Bowling Tournament in Detroit, MI, July 13-19.

Padgett, who attended this event last year, finished 884th out of 1,024 bowlers in the field. He had a pin total for all 15 of his games for qualifying was 2,407. His goal at nationals was to finish around minus 200 which is a total pinfall of 2,800. He finished -593 pins shy of his goal. The leader after qualifying had a total pinfall of 3,442.

"I have a ways to go to catch up to scores such as that for next year," Padgett said. "I went into the tournament thinking about how hard I worked this past year to get better, and to do better than I did last year. But despite working my rear end off, I managed to do worse.

"The biggest thing that I needed from the tournament was confidence. Confidence is a big part of my game that I need to build up, which comes from bowling and competing at higher levels of competition."

Padgett also attended a bowling Combine in Arlington, TX, August 6-8. And Padgett had a strong showing as he finished 25th among the 60 bowlers, who were invited to the combine. The rank was determined by three factors: sports specific (which is the physical game of bowling), athleticism, and "the IT factor" (which was a combination of a problem solving test and a bowling IQ test to see how well you understand the technical side of bowling).

Each factor was given a point total. Sports specific is 150, athleticism is 70, and the "IT Factor" is worth 80. In the sport specific section Padgett received a 67.5, in the athleticism he scored a 32, and in the "IT Factor" Padgett received a 60. He finished with a combined score was 159.5.

"Which isn't bad considering a few of the aspects of the game I was tested on," Padgett said. "I had never done it before. My "IT Factor" score was third overall out of the participants, which I was very excited about. After we completed all the bowling and testing, we got to talk with a few college coaches, who spent their time down in Texas to watch us bowl.

"One coach that I talked with during the combine was the coach of McKendree University, and I got to talk with him about the college and his program. He made it sound very tough because they did finish second this past year at Collegiate Nationals. It would be a great opportunity, if I got a chance to bowl there. And I also talked with a few other colleges such as University of Wisconsin- Whitewater, Tabor College, Spring Hill College, and Wichita State University."