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OCTOBER 1979

# ROY BOOTH SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDS HOMELITE "TOURNAMENT OF KINGS" CHAMPIONSHIP

Charlotte, N.C. — Defending champion, Roy Booth Sr., LaGrande, Ore., defeated Dave Geer, Lisbon, Conn., 49 to 41, after six cutting feats to capture the Homelite Tournament of Kings world chain saw cutting championship for the second year in a row.

The 46-year-old, six-foot, 213-pound Booth took first place in two of the six events—modified steeplechase and speed-cutting—to earn the \$2,500 first place prize. Geer, oldest competitor at 54, received \$1,000 for second place. Tom Bildeaux, 44, Silver Bay, Minn., edged the surviving international contestant, Bren Canfell, 43, North Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia, 37 to 36, to repeat his third place finish from last year which was good for \$500.

Nineteen chain saw champions from regional competitions in the United States, Canada, Australia, Belgium, Ecuador and Finland had qualified for the Tournament of Kings, but nine contestants, including four from outside the United States, were eliminated in the first round. Identical Homelite professional chain saw models 750, 550 and 360 were used by all contestants, and points were awarded based on the order of finish in each event.

By scoring 49 points out of a maximum of 60, the defending champion improved upon last year's point total of 47½. After scoring eight, six and eight in speed-boring, tree-felling and precision-cutting respectively, he tied Geer for the lead by posting a perfect 10 in the modified steeplechase. Stern of expression and showing no affects of the mounting pressure, Booth took sole possession of first by scoring seven in disc-stacking, to Geer's two, and then simply outpaced the field by posting a second perfect "10" in the speed-cutting finale.

Booth, who's been felling Douglas fir and larch timber in the Blue Mountains of Oregon for more than 20 years, won last year's tournament without finishing first in any

of the six cutting events. In 1978 he had two nines, two eights, a 7.5 and a six. His first-place finish in the modified steeplechase this year was a direct result of intensive practice. He had set up a steeplechase course at his home in LaGrande and was able to cut 10 seconds off his time by practicing several times a day for two weeks.

The five-foot, eight-inch, 210-pound Geer finished seventh in the 1978 tournament and had qualified for a berth this year by winning the hot power saw contest at the New York State Woodsmen's Field Day, Boonville, N.Y. The congenial tree farmer had built up a three-point lead at the halfway mark by scoring nine, eight and nine in boring, precision-cutting and tree-felling.

Bildeaux was tied for sixth after four events, but moved up two notches with a 10 in disc-stacking and a five in speed-cutting. The six-foot veteran logger had qualified only two weeks before the tourna-

ment by winning the Lake States Logging Congress chain saw competition in Escanaba, Mich. Canfell qualified by winning the Queen's Birthday Woodchops, Victoria, Australia.

The remaining finalists were: Jim Taylor, Redding, Calif., Albany Timber Carnival, Albany, Ore., 33 points; Ron Johnson, who finished sixth in 1978, Jewett City, Conn., Alabama Forest Festival, Montgomery, Ala., 32; Hugh Adams, Kalispell, Mont., Big Sky Loggers Championship, Kalispell, 30; Alex Bildeaux, Isabella, Minn., Paul Bunyan Show, Nelsonville, Ohio, 29; Harry Boedeker, who finished fourth in 1978, Zanesville, Ohio, Southeastern U.S. Woodchopping Championships, Webster Spring, W. Va., 26, and Dave Neiger, Luther, Mich., Great Lakes Forestry Exposition, Mio, Mich., 18.

The nine contestants eliminated in the preliminary round include (in order of finish): Jack Stewart,



Roy Booth Sr., 46, LaGrande, Ore., shown during disc stacking event, successfully defended his title last month

in the 1979 Homelite Tournament of Kings world chain saw cutting championship. First prize was \$2,500.

## ON THE COVER

*Homelite President, F. W. Maddux, second from right, is pictured at conclusion of the 1979 Homelite Tournament of Kings world chain saw cutting championship with first place winner, Roy Booth Sr., second from left; runner-up Dave Geer, right, and third place finisher, Tom Bildeaux, left.*

second in 1978, who lost in a speed-cutting saw-off for the 10th position to Adams, Meridian, Idaho, Orofino Lumberjack Days, Orofino, Idaho; a three-way tie among Jose Archambeau, Sprimont, Belgium, International De Belgique de Cucherouage, Franchorchamps, Belgium; LeRoy Ax, Nampa, Idaho, Western Idaho Timber Carnival, Boise, Idaho and Hannu Kilkki, Juvelakyla, Finland, Finland National Championship, Jamsankoski, Finland.

Also a two-way tie between Jim Bennet, Belvidere, Vt., Stratham Fair Woodsmen's Competition, Stratham, N.H., and Claude Tousignant, Trois Riveres, Quebec, International Meet, St. Jean Eianney, Quebec, Canada; followed by Chuck Lentz, Battleground, Wash., Eastern Oregon Timber Carnival, Elgin,



Fifty-four year-old Dave Geer of Lisbon, Conn., finished second and won \$1,000 at the 1979 Homelite Tournament of

Kings world chain saw cutting championship held last month in Charlotte, N.C.

Ore.; Calvin Crape, Everson, Wash., Deming Logging Show, Deming, Wash., and Manolo

Sarabia, Guayaquil, Ecuador, Ecuador National Championship, Guayaquil, Ecuador.



Tom Bildeaux of Silver Bay, Minn., finished third for the second straight year at the 1979 Homelite Tournament of

Kings world chain saw cutting championship held last month in Charlotte, N.C.



Scoring a perfect 10 points in speed-cutting the last of six events, Roy Booth Sr., 46, LaGrande, Ore., wins his second straight world chain saw cutting championship in the Homelite Tournament of Kings two-day competition.