Vince Meconi
-->-->note current e-mail address-->-->   vmeconi@verizon.net
September 3, 2009

WBC RESULTS
Ed Menzel Wins 4th Consecutive Gettysburg '88 Title
Numbers of Entrants (35) and Games Played (67) Smash Records

Can anybody beat **Ed Menzel** at Gettysburg '88? The answer would appear to be no, at least when the title is on the line, as the Fullerton, CA resident made it 4 consecutive championships in Gettysburg '88 at the 2009 World Boardgaming Championships in Lancaster, PA last month. Ed finished with an 8-4 record and defeated 2nd year contestant **Richard Beyma** (Blacksburg, VA/5-4) in the final. Gettysburg veteran **Dave Zimmerman** (Myerstown, PA) took 3rd at 4-2 and another sophomore, **John Clarke** of Tampa, FL finished 4th with a 4-6 log. The 35 total entrants and 67 total games played both were all-time bests at the WBC/Avaloncon. Not bad considering that just 6 years ago we were down to 8 players and 7 total games played.

Preliminary games were played at the Grognardcon from Sunday through Tuesday, and at the WBC proper from Tuesday through Friday. Friday night, the record 17 players who had played the required minimum number of games (3) to qualify for the Final 4 were ranked, with the top 4 advancing to the single-elimination rounds. The top 4 qualifiers were, in order, **Ed Menzel** (6-4, 68 Total Points), **Dave Zimmerman** (4-1, 66 Total Points), **Richard Beyma** (4-3, 64 Total Points), and **John Clarke** (4-5, 62 Total Points). **Ed Menzel** was the only player to repeat from last year's final four. As usual, all the playoff slots were determined by hairbreadth margins; one game won instead of lost or lost instead of won would have meant a different playoff lineup. Places 5 through 10 were captured by, 5th, the GM (Wilmington, DE/6-2), 6th, **Jim Tracy** (Dayton, OH/6-4), 7th, **Pat Mirk** (Tampa, FL/4-1), 8th, **Ted Drozd** (Chicago, IL/4-2), 9th, **Greg Smith** (Boca Raton, FL/4-4), and 10th, **Erica Snarski** (Wilkes-Barre, PA/3-6).

In the Saturday morning semifinals, #1 **Ed Menzel** faced #4 **John Clarke**, and #2 **Dave Zimmerman** squared off against #3 **Richard Beyma**. **John Clarke**'s Confederates, bidding 5.0, damaged the Union on July 1, but suffered significant losses on turns 9-11 and resigned at the end of turn 12 with only 3 unflipped infantry units remaining. **Ed Menzel** thus avenged a preliminary round loss to John. Meanwhile, **Richard Beyma** bid 7.5 for the Confederates against **Dave Zimmerman**. The South scored some good rolls early while North counterattacks did nothing. The Rebels attritioned the Yankees for 3 consecutive turns and turned the Union left flank. By turn 9, the South continued to hurt Union infantry stacks, and with Union counterattack capability diminished, they surrendered.

For the 4th year in a row, the final contest featured **Ed Menzel** against an opponent who had defeated him earlier in the tournament; this year, **Richard Beyma** had scored a July 1 knockout as the Confederates despite a bid of 5.0. And for the 4th year in a row, it was **Ed Menzel** turning the tables in the championship match. Richard acquired

the Grey for a bid of 7.0 The Union managed to keep their losses low on the first day, with 4 factors killed and 2 flips. The Confederates suffered 1 factor dead and 1 flip. The Confederates also had 2 artillery units at hexes B4 and D2 blocking some of the Union's turn 8 reinforcements. The tide turned on turn 9 as the Confederates suffered an infantry flip and the 2 blocking units were eliminated. Turn 10 saw more Southern reverses, with an infantry flipped in one battle and a double infantry flip in another battle, followed by a chit transfer and the same result on the reroll. The snowball continued rolling downhill on turns 11 and 12 with more Confederate casualties, leading to Lee's concession on turn 12. Congratulations again to 2006, 2007, 2008, and now 2009 champion **Ed Menzel**!

Dave Zimmerman's 4-0 mark as the Grey earned him Best Confederate Player honors, just ahead of **Pat Mirk**'s 3-0 log.   Best Union Player at 4-1 was **Ted Drozd**, the 3rd time he has received the designation. **Ed Menzel** at 6-3 was the only other player to win more than twice as the Blue. Veteran gamer **Tom Gregorio**'s 2-1-1 record, best among the 11 freshmen, garnered him the Rookie of the Year appellation.

You can find the complete final standings on page 5.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Here are a few stats. As headlined, the field of 35 entrants exceeded by 2 the previous largest field, and the 67 total games played surged past last year's then-record total of 49. The South won 36 games to 29 for the North; there were 2 ties. 57 games used the campaign scenario, with the Confederates on top in 34 and the Union in 21, plus the aforementioned 2 draws. 9 games used the short July 1 scenario, with the Federals winning 7 and the Rebels 2. One game featured the rarely used July 2 scenario; it was won by the Union; more on this shortly. 46 games featured Confederate bids, ranging from 0.5 to 8.0 Victory Points, with the South prevailing 27 times to the North's 18, plus one tie. There was no bid in 20 games and the Blue came out on top 10 times to 9 for the Gray, with one tie. In the one July 2 scenario game, the Union made the bid for the only time at the WBC — and what a bid it was: 18! And they still won; in fact, the Confederates were wiped completely off the board! The competitors, **Charles** and **Ted Drozd**, stated that this proves the July 2 scenario is therefore impossible for the Confederates to win. With all due respect to the Drozds, very competent players both, I think the scenario deserves at least a couple more playings before we make that declaration final!

Still, it's clear that the Union has an advantage in the July 1, July 2, and July 2-3 scenarios, just as it's clear that the Confederates have an advantage in the campaign scenario. Setting aside the single game with the Union bid, the average bid was 2.67/Confederate for all games and 3.84/Confederate for games in which there was a bid. The latter is a full point higher than last year. Whether the bidding at these levels accurately reflects the aforementioned advantages remains to be seen. For example, no one – including yours truly - has yet bid for the Union in the July 1 scenario, even though

the Union is winning, on a percentage basis, more in that scenario than the Confederates are winning in the campaign scenario. Figuring it out is all part of the fun!

Average game length clocked in at 2 hours and 53 minutes, a little less than half an hour shorter than in 2008 (which had the longest game length since we began timing the games). Of course, the "average" included a 6-hour endurance contest between the GM and **Charles Drozd**, while at the other extreme, **Alan Hayes** and **John Schoose** finished their contest in 20 minutes, the shortest game on record.

TOURNAMENT NOTES

~~Like the real Civil War, it was brother against brother when **Charles Drozd** faced **Ted Drozd**, and when **Pat & Tom Richardson** squared off.
~~Welcome first time competitors **Jeff Burdett**, **James Boyle**, **Carl Copeland**, **Tom Gregorio**, **Ty Hansen**, **Chuck Leonard**, **Bill Morse**, **Dennis Nicholson**, **John Ryan**, **John Schoose**, and **Eric Stranger**! We hope we'll see you in future tournaments as well.
~~Based on all available records from the Avaloncon, WBC, and BPA PBEM Championship tournaments, 4-time champion **Kevin McCarthy** continues to hold the all-time best Gettysburg '88 winning percentage at .810, reigning champ **Ed Menzel** has the best Confederate winning percentage at .792, and **Barry Shoults** is at the top of the Union winning percentage chart with .833. The Confederates have won 61% of the games for which we know a winning side to the Union's 39%. 82% of the games played have used the campaign scenario, 18% have used the July 1 only scenario, and less than 1% all other scenarios. 45% of the games have featured a Rebel bid, 2% a Yankee bid, and 53% no bid.
~~Rookie **Jeff Burdett** claimed that his loss on Saturday was the first of the entire WBC, which if correct means that his opponent, **Jim Tracy**, recorded the very first win of the Con.
~~For the 2nd year in a row, the designer of Gettysburg '88, **Craig Taylor**, stopped by to watch a portion of the final.

MUCHAS GRACIAS

Again this year, first thanks go to **Bruno Sinigaglio** for running the Grognardcon from Sunday afternoon through Tuesday afternoon, giving more players more chances to play Gettysburg. Also, I'm grateful to a fearsome foursome of Assistant Gamemasters, in alphabetical order, **Ted Drozd**, **Ed Menzel**, **Greg Smith**, and **Bill Thomson**, for their help in running the tournament. Each of them took one or more shifts so that we could keep the game kiosk manned at all hours of the day and night from Tuesday through Friday, and served as the default opponent if necessary. Again, it all added up to continuous opportunities for gamers to play GBG. Finally, **Bill Morse** has completely automated the scoring at the WBC for all the Grognardcon games, including Gettysburg '88. With 67 games played in Gettysburg alone, it's a large task. Not having to calculate

the standings takes a huge load off the GM's shoulders.

THE 2010 TOURNAMENT

Considering that we had all-time bests in players entered and games played, there don't appear to be convincing arguments for big changes. I will probably set a cutoff time for games to start and finish on Friday so that we are not sitting around at 2 AM awaiting an unfinished game to determine the playoff participants. It didn't happen this year, I hasten to add, but as it stands there are no guidelines. In addition, I'm always willing to listen to suggestions for further improvements, especially in the area of play balance. If you have thoughts on that or any other subject, please let me know. In the absence of such suggestions, I'll be inclined to mostly keep things as they are.

In a free form tournament format, there is no such thing as too many Assistant Gamemasters. If you have as little as 3 hours to spare and are willing to cover the kiosk and act as a default opponent next year, we've got a place for you!

LAST THOUGHTS

I will continue to try to match folks who are looking for opponents if requested.

I look forward to seeing you all next August! As always, should you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, don't hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Vince Meconi

2009 FINAL STANDINGS

Following are this year's final standings. All players who completed 3 games and were playoff eligible are ranked ahead of players who did not play 3 times.

Name	Confed.	Union	Total	Game Points	Bonus Points	Total Points	Finish
Ed Menzel	**2-1-0**	**6-3-0**	**8-4-0**	**30**	**38**	**68**	**1**
Richard Beyma	4-3-0	1-1-0	5-4-0	30	34	64	**2**
Dave Zimmerman	**4-0-0**	0-2-0	4-2-0	30	36	66	**3**
John Clarke	3-2-0	1-4-0	4-6-0	30	32	62	**4**
Vince Meconi	4-2-0	2-0-0	6-2-0	30	30	60	5
Jim Tracy	5-2-0	1-2-0	6-4-0	30	28	58	6
Pat Mirk	3-0-0	1-1-0	4-1-0	30	20	50	7
Ted Drozd	0-1-0	**4-1-0**	4-2-0	30	20	50	8
Greg Smith	2-2-0	2-2-0	4-4-0	30	19	49	9
Erica Snarski	3-2-0	0-4-0	3-6-0	30	7	37	10
Charles Drozd	2-2-0	0-3-0	2-5-0	21	8	29	11
Mark Gutfreund	0-0-1	1-1-0	1-1-1	16	9	25	12
Kevin McCarthy	—	1-2-0	1-2-0	10	10	20	13
Bill Scott	—	1-1-1	1-1-1	16	3	19	14
Tom Gregorio	1-1-0	1-0-1	2-1-1	16	0	16	15
Doug Porterfield	0-2-0	1-1-0	1-3-0	12	2	14	16
Chuck Leonard	0-1-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	12	0	12	17
Bill Thomson	—	2-0-0	2-0-0	20	8	28	18
Dennis Nicholson	—	1-0-0	1-0-0	10	8	18	19
Bill Morse	1-0-0	—	1-0-0	10	8	18	20
Bert Schoose	1-0-0	—	1-0-0	10	3	13	21
Ty Hansen	—	1-0-0	1-0-0	10	0	10	22
Pat Richardson	1-0-0	—	1-0-0	10	0	10	23
Alan Hayes	—	1-0-0	1-0-0	10	0	10	24
John Ryan	0-1-1	—	0-1-1	5	2	7	25
John Schoose	0-2-0	—	0-2-0	2	0	2	26
Craig Yope	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-2-0	2	0	2	27
John Ohlin	0-1-0	0-2-0	0-3-0	2	0	2	28
Jeff Burdett	0-1-0	—	0-1-0	1	0	1	29
Bob Jamelli	—	0-1-0	0-1-0	1	0	1	30
James Boyle	—	0-1-0	0-1-0	1	0	1	31T
Carl Copeland	—	0-1-0	0-1-0	1	0	1	31T
John Sharp	0-1-0	—	0-1-0	1	0	1	33
Tom Richardson	—	0-1-0	0-1-0	1	0	1	34
Eric Stranger	0-1-0	—	0-1-0	1	0	1	35
Totals	36-29-2	29-36-2	65-65-4	501	325	826	

Vince Meconi
105 Churchill Lane
Wilmington, DE 19808-4355

Address Correction Requested

FIRST CLASS MAIL