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## 2012 WBC RESULTS

### **Ed Menzel Wins Gettysburg '88 Title**

It was back to the future at this year's World Boardgaming Championships as 4-time champion **Ed Menzel** of Fullerton, CA captured the Gettysburg '88 tournament in Lancaster, PA on August 4, defeating former champion **Richard Beyma** of Blacksburg, VA in the final. After Ed won the crown 4 years in a row, 2006-2009, his fellow competitors realized that the only way to keep him from winning the title was to keep him out of the playoffs entirely, which they managed to do the last 2 years. But Ed clearly was dissatisfied with winning the book we give out for the highest non-playoff participant, and recorded a 7-2 mark this year. Richard finished 10-2 on his way to playing in his 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive Gettysburg final. Frequent playoff contender **Greg Smith** (Boca Raton, FL) took 3<sup>rd</sup> place with a 7-8 mark and another 4-time former champ, **Kevin McCarthy** (South Euclid, OH) returned to the playoffs for the first time since 2001 with a 3-4 mark good for 4<sup>th</sup> place. 30 players entered, down from last year. 56 games were played, again down from last year but still the 4<sup>th</sup> highest WBC total ever. How much the declines in entrants and games played were due to the tropical rainforest conditions prevailing in the Lampeter/Conestoga Rooms later in the week is difficult to say.

Preliminary games were played at the Grogardcon from Saturday through Tuesday, and at the WBC proper from Tuesday through Friday. Friday night, the 13 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, **Richard Beyma** (9-1, 64 Total Points), **Ed Menzel** (5-2, 62 Total Points), **Greg Smith** (7-7, 60 Total Points), and **Kevin McCarthy** (3-3, 54 Total Points). Kevin was just the 2<sup>nd</sup> player since we moved to the free-form format 8 years ago to make the playoffs while playing every game as the Union – and the first since 2004. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row, **Richard Beyma** was the only player to repeat from the previous year's final four. 5th place was secured by **John Sharp** (Sarasota, FL/3-4), who was awarded the book *The New York Times Complete Civil War 1861-1865* for

being the highest finisher not to win a plaque. Other top finishers were 6th, **Dave Zimmerman** (Myerstown, PA/3-3), 7th, the GM (Wilmington, DE/3-3), and 8th, **Jeff Lange** (Augusta, GA/3-1). Rounding out our top 10 were 9th, **Charlie Drozd** (Vernon Hills, IL), and 10th, defending champ **Ted Drozd** (Chicago, IL).

In the Saturday morning semifinals, #1 **Richard Beyma** duelled with #4 **Kevin McCarthy** and #2 **Ed Menzel** squared off against #3 **Greg Smith**, the latter a rematch of a Swiss round game. Richard's Confederates, bidding 5.5, secured a turn 15 resignation from Kevin's Union, in advance of a near-certain July 2 Rebel knockout (the Grey was leading 48-22.5. Meanwhile, **Ed Menzel's** Rebels rolled over **Greg Smith's** Federals; even a bid of 10.5 could not keep the boys in Blue on the field past turn 11.

In the final, **Richard Beyma** again took the South for a bid of 11 against **Ed Menzel's** North. The Confederates were forced to hand over the chit on turn 6 when suffering a double flip in an all-infantry assault on Cemetery Hill. The reroll resulted in a single flip against the Grey. With the chit in hand and no reason to hand it back, USA then proceeded to slowly grind down the CSA, leading to an eventual July 2 concession by the South. Congratulations again to 2012 champion **Ed Menzel** for his 5<sup>th</sup> WBC crown! In each of his 4 previous championships, Ed won the final over an opponent who had defeated him in the Swiss rounds. But that was not the case this year, as Ed beat his final opponent in the preliminary rounds as well.

Champ **Ed Menzel's** 4-0 mark as the Grey earned him the Best Confederate Player designation on a percentage basis over **Richard Beyma's** no less impressive 9-2 record. Best Union Player was **Jeff Lange** with a 3-0 log, edging the GM's 3-1 tally.

For the complete final standings, please see page 5.

## **STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS**

This year, the South won 30 games to 26 for the North. 47 games used the campaign scenario, with the Confederates on top in 30 and the Union in 17.

9 games used the short July 1 scenario, with the Federals winning all 9. 6 of those 9 July 1 scenario games were played in pairs, with the best total score determining the winner for Victory Point purposes and AREA reports. In the campaign scenario games, there were 40 Confederate bids ranging from 1.0 to 12.0 Victory Points, no Union bids, and 7 games in which neither side bid. There was one Union bid of 2 among the July 1 scenario contests. The average bid was 4.32/Confederate for all games and 5.75/Confederate for games in which there was a bid. The former average equaled last year's and the latter was slightly lower, no doubt due to the usage of the Revised Order of Appearance (see below).

Average game length clocked in at 3 hours and 41 minutes, the longest by 20 minutes since we began timing games in 2004. Game length ranged from an 8½-hour ultramarathon between the GM and **Mark Gutfreund** down to a 60-minute battle between **Bert Schoose** and **George Karahalios**.

## TOURNAMENT NOTES

>Combined all-time WBC/Avaloncon, BPA PBEM Championship, and PBEM Ladder records show **Barry Shoults** with the highest overall winning percentage (.762) and highest Union winning percentage (.785), while **Tom Gregorio** sports the highest Confederate winning percentage (.846).

>The Confederates have won 61% of the games for which we know a winning side to the Union's 38%, with 1% ties. 84% of the games played have used the campaign scenario, 15% have used the July 1 only scenario, and less than 1% all other scenarios. 56% of the games have featured a Rebel bid, 2% a Yankee bid, and 43% no bid.

>Welcome first-time players **Ian Lange** and **Lembit Tohver**. We hope we'll see you again next year.

>**Bob Hamel** got off the best line of the tournament after rolling hot dice but ultimately losing a game: "Well, I've got the rolling down — I just need help on the mechanics."

## PLAY BALANCE

Play balance has been a frequent topic of these post-tournament newsletters. One notable feature of this year's tournament was the

introduction of a Revised Order of Appearance for both sides. The Revised Order of Appearance had been playtested by a few dedicated Gettysburg aficionados, including but not limited to **Ed Menzel**, **John Sharp**, **Mark Gutfreund**, and the GM. In the revised version, the game begins on the 10 AM turn of July 1, or turn 2. The Confederate troops which in the current rules arrive on turns 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 now are all delayed one turn, to turns 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 respectively. Union troops arriving on turns 1, 2, and 3 arrive on turns 2, 3, and 4 instead. Its usage was optional this year, and the revision was not used in the playoffs. However, reviews were unanimous that this change improved play balance by reducing the Confederate edge. We did not keep records of its usage or non-usage for every game. However, for those games where we did, the results were 9 Confederate victories and 9 Union victories when the Revised Order of Appearance was used vs. 10 Confederate victories and 4 Union victories in games where the Revised Order of Appearance was clearly not used. For this reason, the Revised Order of Appearance will become standard for all Scenario 5 (3-Day Campaign Scenario) games at future WBCs, which is our default scenario. It is not advisable to use the Revised Order of Appearance for the July 1 scenario, which already favors the Union.

### **MANY THANKS**

Again this year, first thanks go to **Bruno Sinigaglio** and **Bill Morse** for running the Grogardcon from Saturday afternoon through Tuesday. Thank you also to Assistant Gamemasters **Ted Drozd**, **Ed Menzel**, **Greg Smith**, and **Bill Thomson** for helping run the tournament. Finally, **Bill Morse** deserves continued appreciation for completely automating the scoring at the WBC for all the Grogardcon games, including Gettysburg '88. Thanks to the work of these 5 gentlemen, the GM's job isn't too stressful.

Sincerely,

*Vince Meconi*

**2012 WBC Gettysburg '88 Final Standings**

No.	Name	Games	Confed. W-L	Union W-L	Total W-L	Game Pts	Bonus Pts	Total Pts	Schedule Strength	Finish
<b>9</b>	<b>Ed Menzel</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4-0</b>	<b>3-2</b>	<b>7-2</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>
5	Richard Beyma	12	9-2	1-0	10-2	30	34	64	—	2
14	Greg Smith	15	4-4	3-4	7-8	30	30	60	—	3
19	Kevin McCarthy	7	—	3-4	3-4	30	24	54	—	4
4	John Sharp	7	3-2	0-2	3-4	30	14	44	—	5
15	Dave Zimmerman	6	2-1	1-2	3-3	30	10	40	—	6
16	Vince Meconi	6	0-2	3-1	3-3	30	4	34	—	7
10	Jeff Lange	4	0-1	<b>3-0</b>	3-1	30	2	32	—	8
20	Charlie Drozd	4	1-1	1-1	2-2	12	2	14	H to H	9
11	Ted Drozd	7	1-1	1-4	2-5	12	2	14	H to H	10
24	Lembit Tohver	3	1-1	0-1	1-2	12	0	12	—	11
13	Bill Thomson	3	0-1	0-2	0-3	3	0	3	18.89	12
2	Mark Gutfreund	7	0-2	1-4	1-6	3	0	3	14.25	13
8	Bob Jamelli	2	1-1	—	1-1	11	10	21	—	14
3	Bob Hamel	2	0-1	1-0	1-1	11	6	17	15.67	15
18	Pat Mirk	2	1-1	—	1-1	11	6	17	12.67	16
30	Roger Knowles	1	1-0	—	1-0	10	6	16	18.00	17
17	Ted Lange	1	—	1-0	1-0	10	6	16	10.67	18
23	Allen Kaplan	1	—	1-0	1-0	10	2	12	—	19
28	Chuck Stapp	1	1-0	—	1-0	10	0	10	4.00	20
1	Scott Beall	1	1-0	—	1-0	10	0	10	4.00	21
26	George Karahalios	1	—	1-0	1-0	10	0	10	1.00	22
21	Ray Freeman	2	0-1	1-0	1-1	10	0	10	0.50	23
6	Alexander Lange	2	0-1	0-1	0-2	2	0	2	—	24
7	John Clarke	1	—	0-1	0-1	1	0	1	21.33	25
12	Ian Lange	1	0-1	—	0-1	1	0	1	10.67	26
27	Bert Schoose	1	0-1	—	0-1	1	0	1	10.00	27
22	Bryan Eshleman	2	0-1	1-0	1-1	1	0	1	5.00	28
25	Ray Clark	1	—	0-1	0-1	1	0	1	3.00	29
29	Frank Cunliffe	0	—	—	0-0	0	0	0	—	30
30	Totals	112	30-26	26-30	56-56	392	190	582		

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Address Correction Requested

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