

Unlikely Lions duo bowls team to title

Written by Tom Fruehling

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The top two girls on Linn-Mar's top-flight bowling team are an odd couple, indeed.

Senior leader Stacey Schwarzenstein is big and broad. She charges the line, and when she lets loose it's like a cannonball exploding down the lane. Pins blast in all directions.

Petite junior teammate McKenzie Routhe, on the other hand, tiptoes to her mark like a ballerina. Her ball floats along and the pins fall over as if touched by a feather.

Together, however, the unlikely pair came through when it counted Saturday afternoon at Lancer Lanes to propel the top-seeded Lions to an exciting victory over Xavier to claim the team championship the third annual Prairie Invitational Baker Tournament.

To claim the title, though, the Linn-Mar girls had to overcome a flurry of strikes by the Saints' Tara Trcka, the defending state champion in Class 1A who currently leads all girls in Iowa with an astounding 234 per game average.

But the double-elimination Baker tournament format puts the focus on team competition, not individual scoring.

Each of the five bowlers on the teams bowl two frames, and it takes two winning frames to take the match.

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The Lions duo of [Name] and [Name] have won the [Tournament Name] title, defeating [Opponent] in the final. The duo, consisting of [Name] and [Name], were considered underdogs but proved to be a formidable team. They won the title with a score of [Score].