



—SP Photo by Gord Waldner

**Joe Kranabetter of Tofino, B.C., has a storied past**

# At 70, he's making run for money in national five-pin tournaments

□ High rollers at Eastview for annual Brewhouse Open

By Ned Powers  
of The StarPhoenix

By today's bowling standards, Joe Kranabetter might have been considered a late bloomer because he took up the five-pin game at the age of 21.

"I was invited by some friends to join them in a league one night," says Kranabetter "and it worked out so well that they wouldn't let me get away."

Kranabetter is now 70 years old, the oldest bowler in the Great Western Brewhouse-Jubilee Ford money tournament at Eastview Bowl. He still knows how to find the winning circle.

Kranabetter's success story dates back to the days of the old Western Canada championship format. He has bowled in national finals in the Open and Masters levels. He has won TSN's national Pins Games. He won the Canadian Bowling Championship singles as recently as two years ago. He was part of the British Columbia team which won the Masters' tourna-

ment men's gold medals in July.

"I've been coming to Saskatoon for most of 20 seasons, usually making enough money to pay my way, but I like the thrill of playing in money tournaments and I like what the organizers do in Saskatoon," says Kranabetter, who averages 259 on his home lanes in Tofino, B.C.

Kranabetter succeeds in spite of the travel conditions he faces.

Tofino is on the Pacific Ocean side of Vancouver Island, and if he participates in playoff systems, it means across-the-island drives to Nanaimo, Duncan or Victoria and then whatever flying time it takes beyond.

Bowling is his winter season pastime; fishing his summertime favourite. He's been able to enjoy the best of two worlds.

The Saskatoon tournament, considered the richest in Canada, has been kind to other out-of-town bowlers in the early going this week.

## Father, son make history

Iain MacLean is from Bowmanville, Ont., and as the bowler who has trav-

elled the farthest, he made the best of his opportunity Friday, shooting an eight game block of 2,347 to tie Edmonton's Matt Schultz after the first qualifying round. Each averaged 293 for the day. In close pursuit were Dave Jorgensen of Saskatoon, with 2,307 and John DeGrazia of Thunder Bay, with 2,302. DeGrazia, who has been coming to the Saskatoon tournament for eight years, got a chance to share a moment of glory with his son, Greg, on Thursday when they became the first father-and-son combination to win the Brighthouse Doubles. It's an event where partners bowl on alternate frames.

After qualifying in first-round play they were the masters in the three game, round-robin playoff by winning their three matches and averaging close to 275. Aaron Arndt and Brad Wilton of Calgary were second; Dave Jorgensen and Tom Paterson of Saskatoon were third.

The tournament continues with two more qualifying rounds in the main event today. Sunday's schedule features the top 32 in match play until a champion is declared.