

## Mini-Eliminator History

The Mini-Eliminator was started as a side event to the High Roller. The High Roller was the first megabuck event to go to Las Vegas. With their famous match play format bowlers would only get to bowl 1 game a day and had a lot of down time. The Minis were created to offer High Roller bowlers waiting for their next match, or eliminated early in the tournament, additional action.

The Mini-Eliminator's first event was at Sam's Town Bowling Center in Las Vegas in July, 1993. The event was actually called the "Firecracker Classic" and was sponsored by Storm Products, Heddon Bowling Corporation and Grip-Rite. The top prize was \$10,000 and the event attracted 808 entries and was won by John Fine of Texas.

The name was changed to The Mini-Eliminator (the new name was coined by Heddon Bowling VP Dorman Spencer) because it was a smaller event compared to Sam's Town International Eliminator. The International Eliminator ran in January and The Minis continued in July.

The Minis continued an amazing growth for many years. By 1996 it was obvious Sam's Town was too small and the tournament moved to the larger and brand new Orleans Bowling Center. The tournament thrived at The Orleans and a second event was added in 2002 when The International Eliminator no longer ran. The February version of The Mini was hosted by The Gold Coast- a sister property of The Orleans. The Super Bowl Mini-Eliminator soon became the largest event in Las Vegas and attracted over 4,500 paid entries.

The Mini-Eliminators continued its run at The Orleans until 2007 when the property was sold to The Boyd Group. The event had a 1 year run at Texas Station and then moved to its current home The South Point Hotel and Casino. This brand new 2,100 room property recently signed on to be the Mini-Eliminator's permanent home through 2012.

In 2010 a new chapter in Mini-Eliminator history was written as a handicap version of the Mini-Eliminator, The Classified Mini-Eliminator, was held and attracted a great crowd of 330 entries. But over half of the entries came from the regular Mini-Eliminator's 205 & under division thus forcing a new chapter in Mini-Eliminator history.

Beginning in July, 2010 The Mini-Eliminator will change the 205 & under scratch division to a 210 & under handicap division. This basically combines the Scratch Mini and Classified Mini events. Although the 210 & under will feature handicap qualifying and finals, the end of the tournament divisional shootout will remain scratch to determine the Mini-Eliminator Champion.

## MINI-ELIMINATOR CHAMPIONS

<b>Month/Year</b>	<b>Bowling Center</b>	<b>Champion</b>	<b>First Place</b>
February, 2010	South Point	Rick Miller	\$20,000
July, 2009	South Point	Mark Estes	\$20,000
February, 2009	South Point	Ed Smglik	\$20,000
July, 2008	Texas Station	Rob Gotchall	\$20,000
February, 2008	Texas Station	Jason Belmonte	\$20,000
February, 2007	Orleans	Kari Schwager	\$20,000
July, 2006	Orleans	Les Sherwindt	\$20,000
February, 2006	Orleans	Tyler Jensen	\$50,000
July, 2005	Orleans	Ted Staikoff	\$30,000
February, 2005	Orleans	Craig Harrington	\$30,000
July, 2004	Orleans	Kenny Dyar	\$55,000
February, 2004	Orleans	Lasee Lintila	\$30,000
July, 2003	Orleans	Ron Gales	\$50,000
February, 2003	Gold Coast	Mike Neuman	\$30,000
July, 2002	Orleans	David Ewald	\$50,000
February, 2002	Gold Coast	Tony Manna	\$25,000
July, 2001	Orleans	Derek Sapp	\$50,000
July, 2000	Orleans	Al Cullins	\$50,000
July, 1999	Orleans	Ralph Smith	\$50,000
July, 1998	Orleans	Vinnie Atria	\$50,000
July, 1997	Orleans	Vernon Peterson	\$30,000
July, 1996	Sam's Town	Steve Richter	\$30,000
July, 1995	Sam's Town	Chris Barnes	\$20,000
July, 1994	Sam's Town	Cliff Connors	\$10,000
July, 1993	Sam's Town	John Fine	\$10,000
February, 2010	South Point	Tony Marine	\$5,000 (Classified Mini-Eliminator)