Shocker Men’s Rally Falls Short

Wichita, Kan. - As fans sat on the edge of their seats, hearts in their throats the Shocker men faced off with UC-Davis in the seventh and final game of the final four deciding match. WSU and UC-Davis went back and forth the whole set as teams alternated winning games bringing the match down to the seventh and final game. Looking for revenge against the team that beat them in the opening match of the tournament, the Shockers headed into the final match looking for a final four appearance.

The game had hearts racing throughout as fans screamed at each strike yet silenced instantly after a tough split. As the match came down to the final frames, UC-Davis was able to capitalize on open frames. While the Shockers fought hard, their inability to consistently mark cost them the match and their season.

As players and fans sat with their head in hands the Shockers season came to an end in a disappointing fashion. However, the Shockers amazing run throughout the day was anything but disappointing. Needing to win out to make the final four, the Shockers stepped up to top competition with determination.

In fact, the Shockers dispelled of the Rookie of the Year's team and the Player of the Year's team in back to back matches. Out of the break, the Shockers faced of with William Paterson University with Rookie of the Year Matt O'Grady. The men came down to the wire as O'Grady and Mike Romano went strike for strike in the final frame, as the Shockers fell just short 180-179. However, this match became the turning point in the day for the Shockers as they rallied as a team.

Directly after the close game the Shockers fired nine straight strikes to win in commanding fashion, 269-191. In the fourth game, Romano doubled to close out the match and gave the Shox a three game to one lead. After a tough loss in game five the Shockers rallied together and knocked William Paterson out after throwing six straight strikes.
The Shockers then met up with Fresno State and Player of the Year P.J. Haggerty. After a tough opening loss the Shockers rallied stringing four strikes in the second game and five in the fourth game. The men won with ease four games to one.

Throughout the night, the shouts of "CHEESE" ran through the air as Shocker senior Mike Romano, nicknamed cheese for his last name, was a steady force in the anchor position of the lineup. (The anchor bowler or fifth bowler bowls the fifth frame and all the shots of the tenth frame.) Romano had an amazing day as the go-to-man of the team, throwing crucial strikes when needed.

After defeating two of the top teams in the nation, the men could not beat UC-Davis in the following match as they had the Shockers number this year. UC-Davis will face defending champion Saginaw Valley State in the final four match.

The Shockers ended the tournament tied for sixth place and ended the season with four tournament titles.

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*The Rhatigan Student Center has been the major financial and administrative supporter of the Wichita State University bowling program since 1959*