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MDUSBC Junior Masters Girl's winner Sophia Matheson (l) and Boy's winner Joseph Merz (r)

SOPHIA MATHESON AND JOSEPH MERZ WIN MDUSBC JUNIOR MASTERS TITLES AT VISION LANES

Sophia Matheson of Macomb prevailed in the girl's division and Joseph Merz of Davison won the boy's division of the Metro Detroit USBC Junior Masters at Vision Lanes in Westland.

Matheson defeated top seed Jacey Thibodeau of Warren 148-115 to win the girl's title. Matheson qualified fourth with 1,033, while Thibodeau's qualifying score was 1,172.

Merz qualified fifth with a six-game total of 1,200. He beat top seed Dylan Maurer of Macomb 214-195 in the championship match. Maurer qualified with a six-game total of 1,349.

The girl's stepladder began with Matheson beating Mackenzie Calahan of Kentwood 201-133 then Sophia Best of Redford who exited early due to an injury 185-93 before advancing to the championship match.

The boy's stepladder began with Merz defeating Nick Weidenbach of Madison Heights then brothers Cole and Connor Rogus of Macomb 197-181 and 222-177 on his way to the finals.

The event was a USBC Junior Gold qualifying event. Matheson earned the girl's spot, while Brandon Rinke of Utica and Nicholas Paulson of Shelby Twp. earned the boy's spots.

A total of 51 youth bowlers participated in the scratch event, 39 boys and 12 girls.

The MDUSBC Junior Masters Tournament is a USBC certified event operated by the Metro Detroit USBC Association, the largest local association of the United States Bowling Congress.