

Comeback man Norris sinks third seed Winstanley

Battling Alan Norris provided one of the great Lakeside comebacks to topple Frimley Green favourite and third seed Dean Winstanley 4-3 in a 63-minute

Remarkably, the 39-year-old stockily-built Somerset-born sharpshooter had been playing darts for more than 14 hours!

Although focused Norris had been practising since 7.30am and didn't start his match until 9.38pm he showed no signs of tiredness as he put in a terrier-like challenge, repeatedly pressurising the third seed, battling back from 3-1 down.

Nice guy Winstanley, who retained a beaming smile on his face throughout the match and even after defeat had notched seven maximums and a 30.64 average as he dipped out.

He signalled his intentions in the first leg, narrowly missing bull for the game's highest checkout -170. He took the leg and five of the next six to open up a solid 2-0 match lead.

Norris led the third 2-0 despite a 180 from Deano, who then followed up with a further maximum to pull back a leg, the Doncaster man then swooping to take double five after Norris failed to nail double 16 for a 143 set-winning finish. Yeovil-born Norris held his nerve to clinch double nine to pull the match back to 2-1.

The opening legs of the fourth set went against the throwing advantage, the next two going with the darts, Winstanley missing two attempts at double tops for the set. But he made amends in the next, clinching 94 with double six.

Norris motored into the fifth set, taking the opening leg with 130 finished on bull, Winstanley hitting his sixth 180 as he levelled the set. Norris, with the throw, held his nerve in the fifth leg driving in 86 completed on double 16 to pull the match back to 3-2.

Punishing a lack-lustre spell from the South Yorkshire player, Norris swept through the sixth set unchallenged and finished off with an eye-catching 100 checkout.

Norris, with the throwing advantage, took the opening leg of the deciding seventh set with double 12, amazingly the first time he had led the match. Winstanley defended his throw and Norris replied with a maximum and a 116 finished on double tops.

Another maximum followed a leg later, adding 140 and then Norris clinched victory coolly clinching victory with 84, finished on double 12 to capture the scalp of the ninth seed of the week.