

Men's lumberjack title goes to Dion Lane of New Zealand



6/23/2008 9:00:02 AM

By Bob Brown

Post-Bulletin, Rochester MN

For the first time in three years Jason Wynyard didn't win the men's overall title in Rochesterfest's Midwestern Lumberjack Championships held over the weekend at Foster Arend Park.

But the title did stay in the family.

Wynyard's brother-in-law and fellow New Zealander Dion Lane won the championship. Wynyard is married to Dion's sister Karmyn.

Not only did Lane eke out a victory over Wynyard, but he did it because Wynyard had trouble with his hot saw and didn't make Sunday's finals in the event. And the hot saw happens to belong to Lane. Wynyard was using

Lane's second hot saw because he was having trouble with his own.

"But, honestly," Wynyard said, "this wasn't a case of sabotage."

Lane's victory marked only the second time in the 13-year history of the Rochesterfest show that neither Dave Jewett nor Wynyard emerged as the men's winner. Jewett didn't compete this year because he's still not in top form after undergoing a kidney transplant last summer.

Nancy Zalewski of Manitowoc, Wis., won the women's title for the third straight year and the fifth time in the last six years. Sheree Taylor of New Zealand, who has won three Rochesterfest titles herself, finished second.

Lumberjack win is special for New Zealander