



STARS & STRIKES
AMERICA'S BOWLING NEWSMAGAZINE

Tom Baker Defends Senior Masters Crown



Hero Noda

A Candid Conversation With USBC's TOM CLARK



NICHOLSON WINS 2007 FLOWERS AWARD



PETER SPREADBURY Wins TAT

RHINO PAGE Wins High Roller





BOWL • • PINION

by Jim Goodwin

The editorial opinions expressed here are offered to provoke thought on important and sometimes controversial or provocative issues.

Agree or disagree, we'd like to hear from you:
starsandstrikes@sbcglobal.net

THERE THEY GO AGAIN!

USBC Women's U.S. Open adds to Tournament Confusion

In early July, I was getting ready to make reservations to go to the new Women's U.S. Open at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno; so I went to *bowling.com* to get the event schedule. I read it three times and then called a couple of friends to see if I was the only dummy that didn't know the event was split into two segments – one in August, and one in October.

It must have been a pretty good secret, because I had to contact four people to find one who was aware of the 'unusual' format. That person was our friend Fran Deken, and she was not confused like me, but she was very concerned that the new format will not give the event the prestige a U.S. Open deserves. Fran is a PWBA and USBC Hall of Famer who has bowled or served as tournament director for more than 20 U.S. Opens.

Fran and I are two of the many former employees of the Professional Women's Bowling Association who have a passion for top-level women's bowling. After seeing this new format, I'm not sure those who designed it share that passion. I have no doubt that USBC officials have a passion for bowling; I'm just not sure they share our belief that a Women's U.S. Open should be on the same level as the men's. Or that the integrity of the sport is more important than marketing and TV exposure.

I'm not saying that the prize money has to match – that was one of the issues that led to an ill-advised boycott a few years ago. Equal prize money will only come when entries are equal, and that may take a few years. Right now, we're just happy someone has stepped up to bring the event back for the first time since 2003.

The issue with this event is the format. Fran expresses her concerns in a guest column on page 13, and I will attempt to do it here. In a nutshell, the Women's US Open field will bowl 32 games over four days; the top 16 will then advance to single elimination one-

game matches, which will be taped for television on August 17-18.

Four winners will emerge from those matches, and they will return to Reno to bowl for the title on October 14 on a live ESPN show. The four preliminary taped shows will air on September 16, 23, 30, and Oct. 7. The live show on 10-14 will have three matches – #1 v. #3, #2 v. #4, and then the two winners bowl for the title.

The format was borrowed from last year's USBC Women's Challenge, which featured 16 invited women bowling in an exhibition setting in Las Vegas' Fashion Show Mall. So, how did that format find its way from a fashion show/bowling exhibition to the U.S. Open?

Fans, family and friends of the players, and writers, will now have to make two very expensive trips to Reno if they want to see the entire event, and any media that attends in August will be discouraged from revealing the four preliminary match winners before the shows air. But it will get out – it always does.

Another twist of this event is that the PBA will charge an extra \$750 to any woman who wants to make herself eligible for a four week 'Women's PBA Mini Tour.' They are calling it the "PBA Women's Tour Trials", and women who pay the fee will use their 32 game qualifying score to win one of the 16 spots available. I hope they get 16 entries, and I hope the women who qualify are good enough to be professional bowlers for a month. Even though they won't be required to join the PBA, they will be perceived as pros. In the past, there has been a minimum average requirement for the U.S. Open. There is no minimum in this event.

I turned to USBC's Chief Officer of Marketing and Communications Tom Clark for the answers. He is also the chief architect of this event and format. My question to Tom was

'Do you think television coverage is more important than getting this event covered by several print journalists, and for fans, family, and friends of the players to be able to

attend?' His answer was "Yes." Of course, Tom had a lot more to say, and you can read it in the article 'Talk Is Not Cheap' on pages 8-9 in this issue.

I don't blame Tom for trying something new. For years, I have been one of a few writers who have hammered USBC (ABC) for not making changes and not questioning the status quo. But gosh, why do they have to do it in an event with such rich tradition, status, and history!?

According to Clark, USBC in spending over \$100,000 extra in TV production costs to stage five shows instead of just one. It seems to me like putting that money in the prize fund to attract more entries and being satisfied with only one live TV finals would have been a wiser choice – but maybe that's just me. But I do like the announcers they chose – it will be great to see Bo Burton and Marshall Holman together.

Is there a pattern of problems?

One would think that organizations like the former ABC and WIBC and the USBC would be experts at designing and running tournaments, but sometimes we just scratch our heads and think 'Why did they do that?' The most recent example was the decision to stop the games before they were over in the 2007 USBC Queens TV Finals. Someone decided that when the match was mathematically over, it was over. Even Yogi might have been confused. Then, when a mistake was made, they changed it in the middle of the TV show!

That questionable call brought to mind the WIBC Senior Queens of a few years ago that produced two champions. After the event was over, a WIBC official declared that the wrong format was used and made them start over. A different champion emerged. Ouch!

The very popular ABC World Team Challenge had great promise, but a poor decision to make brackets a huge part of the event led to its demise. Teams were accused of 'throwing off' just to remain eligible for future events so they could clean up in the brackets.

The USBC Open and Women's National Championships (formerly ABC & WIBC Nationals) are no picnic either. Thousands participate in these events every year, but thousands more have walked away because of poor cash ratios, bracket problems, lane condition problems, and other factors. Our late friend Dick Stoeffler was incensed that the WIBC event paid back less than 40% of entry fees, and he wrote several columns about it. He believed bowlers were being exploited, and he might have been right. And while we're on the subject, why is there no MEN'S National Championship like in other sports?

It even filters down to the youth level. This year's Junior Gold attracted over 1700 kids – but how much of the \$150 entry fee is returned in scholarship money? Last I heard, it was only \$80, and that was up from \$55 because so many parents complained.

Please don't misunderstand – I strongly believe in a free enterprise system where people have a choice to buy or reject a product or service, but I am amazed at what some people will buy. I guess that is why products in airports are so expensive. It must be 'the captive audience syndrome.'

It really speaks to the question 'Just because you *can* do something, does that mean you should?' for those who live by the 'Do the right thing and don't worry about who gets credit philosophy,' it is troubling that fairness and profit often seem to be at odds.

Getting back to the Women's U.S. Open Tournament, when I asked Tom Clark about the format, he asked me "What was last year's format?" Of course, there was no event last year, and there hasn't been since 2003 when the PWBA folded. But does that give whoever puts up the cash the right to change history and tradition? Whoever has the gold, makes the rules – but what happened to 'Doing the right thing?' **XXX**

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Chuck Pezzano is the dean of bowling writers. His columns have appeared in newspapers and magazines nationally for over 45 years. He is a charter member of the Professional Bowlers Association, and is enshrined in both the PBA and American Bowling Congress Halls of Fame.

PEZZANO

NBL - only a blip, but a significant one

Whenever I mention the National Bowling League I get blank stares from most.

Yes, there was an NBL, and the dream was to put bowling on the same footing as the other pro sports. It did get off the ground, more than 40 years ago, but not too far. In fact it had a shaky flight all the way in the less than a year it was in existence.

The circuit boasted 10 teams, the Kansas City stars (Blue & Gray) Los Angeles Toros (Black & Gray), Dallas Broncos (Red & White), Omaha Packers (Blue & Gold), Fort Worth Panthers (Black & White), Detroit Thunderbirds (Brown & Blue), United States Orphans, formerly the San Antonio Cavaliers (Red, white & Blue), New York Gladiators (Black & Gold), Twin City Skippers (Blue & White) and Fresno Bombers (Gold & Brown).

Each team was required to carry at least seven players on its roster and was allowed a maximum of nine, though changes were frequent. The minimum wage was \$6,000, and there was no maximum and a number of players earned \$25,000 for the season and some close to \$50,000. Those were big bucks 40 years ago and in line with the salaries paid other

professional athletes.

The pro tour had started and the average first place prize was less than \$3,000. In 1960 Don Carter led the money winning list with \$22,525 and in 1961 Dick Weber was best with \$26,280. So it was a good deal for top bowlers to opt for a guaranteed salary with no expenses needed to compete, and members of the league also were allowed to bowl in some outside tournaments.

The NBL was founded in February of 1960. Action started in the fall of 1961 and it was all over by the spring of 1962.

There is no single reason why it failed, but there are a number of factors. The idea was probably ahead of its time. The schedule was atrocious. Super stars did not enter the fold. Failure to obtain a national TV contract hurt in two ways, in giving the league the notice and attention it needed and in adding rights money to the league.

Though many of the owners were over ambitious and under financed they deserve the highest praise for being pioneers in attempting to fill a possible need. And they put their money into the project. They spent more than \$20 million in building revolutionary new bowling stadiums or in converting bowling centers

or theatres into bowling arenas.

There weren't enough fans to pay the bills but there were fans, some events drawing more than 2,000, but the league didn't last long enough to create new fans. Few, if any sports leagues ever succeed from the start; they must build up over time, and the NBL didn't have the luxury of time because of financial losses.

You can't blame some of the top stars for not jumping in; simply because they were doing well and didn't want to get into an iffy situation. The bowling industry sat on the sidelines mostly, not hindering the league, but not helping it much either.

More than 100 of the best bowlers in the country from more than 20 states did participate and consider it one of their most memorable bowling experiences, and the only time they could bowl for a living and know they could make a good living with their bowling talent.

More than memories last from NBL beginnings. Most of the various point systems utilized in leagues and tournaments are offshoots of the then new and creative scoring. The NBL was just a blip in bowling history, but made the sport just a little bit better, too.

CHAMPIONS CROWNED AT 2007 USBC SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

RENO, Nev. - Although he's bowled for more than 30 years, Wallace Davenport of Sophia, W.V., has only recently begun to enjoy the competitive side of the sport, and his dedication paid off with a win at the United States Bowling Congress Senior Championships.

The 59-year-old used a 1,413 six-game total to earn the top seed for the Open Division Class D stepladder finals and cruised to a 219-193 victory over Charles Reeder of Newell, W.V., who was at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev., representing the state of Ohio.

The USBC Senior Championships featured a Women's and Open Division, each divided into five age classifications (Super Seniors: 75 and older, Class A: 70-74, Class B: 65-69, Class C: 60-64 and Class D: 55-59). The field included representatives from 48 states and Canada vying for a share of the \$40,000 prize fund. Each of the 10 winners took home \$1,000.

"To come out here and bowl against some of the best senior bowlers from around the country was a great experience and would've been worth the trip even if I didn't win," Davenport said. "I'm 59 years old and this is a pinnacle for me. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience and something I'll cherish for the rest of my life."

And once Davenport realized that the USBC Open Championships also was being held in Reno this year, he and his wife decided to make the trip a bowling vacation and planned to stay in town long enough to compete in the Open Championships too.

"I was honored to even have the chance to be here to compete, and to win took the cake," said Davenport, whose only other Open Championships appearance came at the 2003 event in Knoxville, Tenn. "And bowling in the Open Championships again was special

too. I just love to compete, and I've really enjoyed this week."

In the other Open Division classifications, Hershel Williams of Leicester, N.C., was the winner among the Super Seniors, Art Schleifer of Bellville, Ontario, downed defending champion Mariano Debusca of Alea, Hawaii, and top-seeded Pete Alvarado of Douglas, Ariz.,



Open Division winners l to r: Super Senior- Hershel Williams; Class A- Art Schleifer; Class B- Billy Webb; Class C- Robert Tonelli; Class D- Wallace Davenport

on the way to the Class A title, Billy Webb of Collinsville, Miss., won Class B and Robert Tonelli of Henderson, Nev., won Class C.

On the women's side, Sallie Carson of Hendersonville, N.C., claimed the Super Senior title, while top-seeded Henrietta Adams of Stamford, Conn., won Class A, Polly Bull of Trout Lake, Wash., won Class B, Jonny Brown of Aztec, N.M., took the top spot in Class C and Donna Scheibe of Butler, Wis., escaped with a one-pin victory in Class D.

Competitors qualified for the national event



Women's Division winners l to r: Super Senior- Sallie Carson; Class A- Henrietta Adams; Class B- Polly Bull; Class C- Jonny Brown; Class D- Donna Scheibe

by winning their state association's senior handicap all-events titles and bowled a total of six qualifying games at the Stadium on Tuesday and Wednesday before the field was cut to the top three in each division for the stepladder finals.

USBC SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS National Bowling Stadium, Reno, Nev.

Top three

Open Division

Super Senior (ages 75 and up) - 1, Hershel Williams, Leicester, N.C., \$1,000. 2, Gordon Brown, Easton, Wash., \$625. 3, Gil Kangas, Ironwood, Mich., \$520.

Class A (ages 70-74) - 1, Art Schleifer, Bellville, Ontario, Canada, \$1,000. 2, Pete Alvarado, Douglas, Ariz., \$650. 3, Mariano Debusca, Alea, Hawaii, \$500.

Class B (ages 65-69) - 1, Billy Webb, Collinsville, Miss., \$1,000. 2, Frank Menchaca, Los Angeles, \$605. 3, George Curry, Fairdealing, Mo., \$520.

Class C (ages 60-64) - 1, Robert Tonelli, Henderson, Nev., \$1,000. 2, Antonio Duran, Thornhill, Ontario, Canada, \$625. 3, John Orton Jr., Colonial Heights, Va., \$520.

Class D (ages 55-59) - 1, Wallace Davenport, Sophia, W.V., \$1,000. 2, Charles Reeder, Newell, W.V., (representing Ohio), \$605. 3, Gary Martin, Lenore, Idaho, \$520.

Women's Division

Super Senior (ages 75 and up) - 1, Sallie Carson, Hendersonville, N.C., \$1,000. 2, Rose Roylo, Radcliff, Ky., \$550. 3, Bernice Pelletier, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, \$400.

Class A (ages 70-74) - 1, Henrietta Adams, Stamford, Conn., \$1,000. 2, Margaret Salzer, Timberlake, S.D., \$625. 3, Ruth Hopkins, Russell Springs, Ky., \$500.

Class B (ages 65-69) - 1, Polly Bull, Trout Lake, Wash., \$1,000. 2, Doris Jones, Greenville, Texas, \$575. 3, Jean Dawson, Vero Beach, Fla., \$500.

Class C (ages 60-64) - 1, Jonny Brown, Aztec, N.M., \$1,000. 2, Connie Purifoy, Mobile, Ala., \$625. 3, Kay Jensma, Elizabeth, Colo., \$500.

Class D (ages 55-59) - 1, Donna Scheibe, Butler, Wis., \$1,000. 2, Paula Horn, Picketon, Ohio, \$625. 3, Billie Jean Davis, McAlester, Okla., \$450.

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Baker Defends Title at USBC Senior Masters

RENO, Nev. - Although his 17-match USBC Senior Masters winning streak came to an end Friday at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev., Tom Baker of King, N.C., capitalized on the tournament's double-elimination format and bounced back to

place. "I hit my target and thought I threw the last shot pretty good, but I guess I just didn't have enough on it. There were a few other times today where I made one or two mistakes, and that's just too many against Tom."

Earlier on Friday, Baker and Starnes went

entered, including the 2005 and 2006 Senior U.S. Opens.

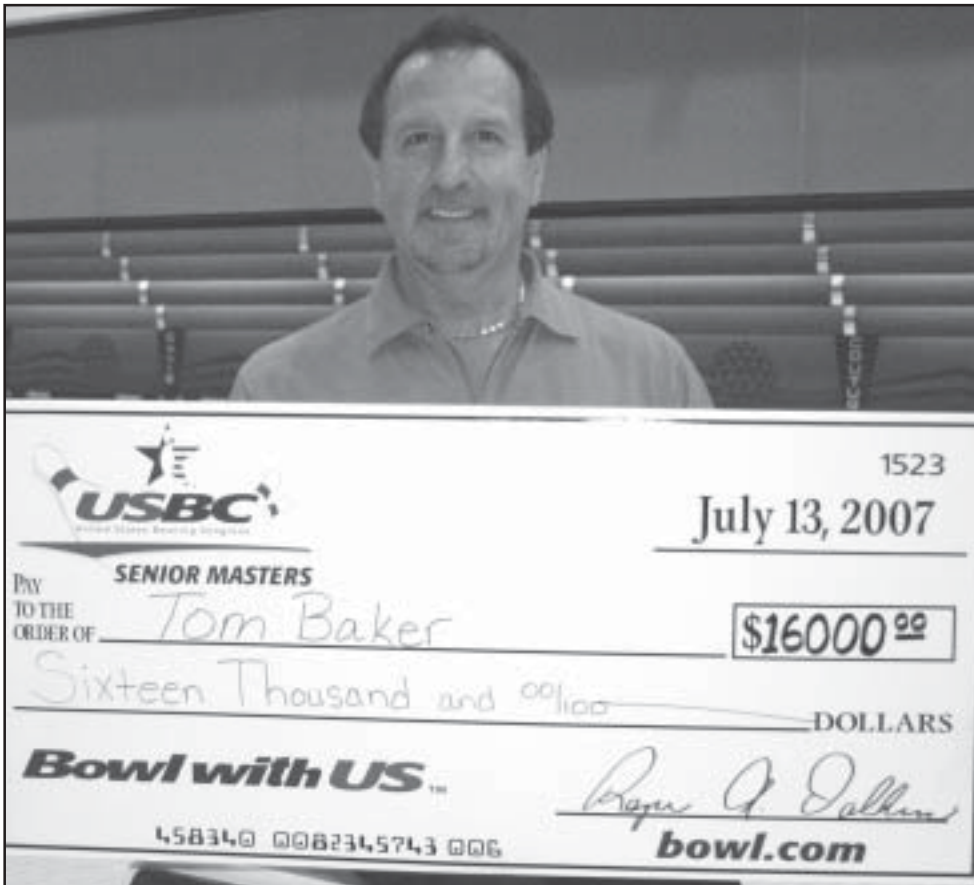
Baker's Senior Masters win is his second victory in as many weeks. The seven-time Senior Tour champion celebrated the fourth of July with a win at the PBA Senior Northern California Classic in Brentwood, Calif.

"This really feels great," said Baker, who is a 10-time champion on the Denny's PBA Tour and the only player who is a full-time member of the PBA and PBA Senior Tours. "I knew Shannon was going to be tough, and he was. I was pretty confident before that last match because I was throwing the ball well in practice, but I started to throw some bad shots

and lost a little of that confidence. This was by far my toughest match, but it had the perfect ending."

The Senior Masters first was conducted in 1993 in Tulsa, Okla., and traditionally has featured bowling's strongest and deepest field of senior bowlers. Nearly 300 bowlers turned out this year to compete for a share of the \$125,000 prize fund.

Hall of Famers Gary Dickinson of Edmond, Okla., and Pete Couture of Titusville, Fla., also have won the Senior Masters two times, while Hall of Famer Dave Soutar is the only bowler to win both the Senior



become the second player in tournament history to win the event in back-to-back years.

The two-time defending Professional Bowlers Association Senior Player of the Year fell to Shannon Starnes of Fort Worth, Texas, 664-614, but because he was undefeated entering the final, Baker had a second chance to claim the coveted crown and did so with a 658-625 victory in the second three-game match.

"I definitely made it hard on myself because I didn't execute as well as I should have, and it seemed like every time I made a mistake, he came back with three strikes," said Baker, who joined PBA Hall of Famer Dave Davis (1995 and '96) as the only players to successfully defend their Senior Masters titles. "It was nip-and-tuck the whole way, and no one led by more than 10 pins the entire match."

Baker entered the final game with an eight-pin lead and tossed three strikes in the 10th frame to force Starnes to throw a triple of his own to win by a pin, but Starnes left the 2-4-5-8 on his first offering to give Baker the \$16,000 top prize.

"I knew exactly what I needed, and I knew I wasn't locked out of the match," said Starnes, who collected \$8,000 for second

head-to-head as the only two undefeated players remaining in the event, with Baker sending Starnes to the losers bracket with a 685-570 victory. Starnes then earned the rematch with Baker after a 594-504 win over USBC Hall of Famer Bob Chamberlain of The Villages, Fla.

The road to the winner's circle was a little easier for Baker this year, since as the defending champion, he was exempt from the 15 games of qualifying and automatically seeded into the double-elimination match play portion of the event. In all, he bowled 24 games this week, compared to 54 in 2006, which included 12 overall match wins and 13 total matches bowled, both Senior Masters records.

"I watched a little bit of qualifying this week, and I saw some guys playing inside and some guys playing outside, so when I finally got to the lanes, I did what was best for me," Baker said. "I think the longer formats of the Major tournaments are better for me because it gives me time to make adjustments. Also, I think I'm a pretty good spare shooter, and that's always important. The longer we go, the better I usually feel about my chances."

Since joining the PBA Senior Tour in 2005, Baker has won four of the six Majors he has

USBC SENIOR MASTERS National Bowling Stadium, Reno, NV - July 8-13, 2007

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

Baker 685-614-658 (\$16,000)

Starnes 570-664-625 (\$8,000)

LOSERS BRACKET ROUND 10 - (Loser eliminated, finishes 3 and earns \$5,500)

Shannon Starnes, Ft. Worth, Texas, def. Bob Chamberlain, The Villages, Fla., 594-504.

LOSERS BRACKET ROUND NINE - (Loser eliminated earns \$4,500 each)

Bob Chamberlain, The Villages, Fla., def. Sam Zurich, Grant, Fla., 595-521.

LOSERS BRACKET ROUND EIGHT - (Losers earn \$3,500 each)

Sam Zurich, Grant, Fla., def. Terry Leong, Henderson, Nev., 667-653; Bob Chamberlain, The Villages, Fla., def. Bob Handley, Winter Garden, Fla., 612-609.

LOSERS BRACKET ROUND SEVEN - (Losers earn \$2,500 each)

Terry Leong, Henderson, Nev., def. Mark Van Meter, Albuquerque, N.M., 575-559; Bob Chamberlain, The Villages, Fla., def. Roger Kossert, Lithia, Fla., 641-503.

LOSERS BRACKET ROUND SIX - (Losers eliminated earn \$1,700 each)

Terry Leong, Henderson, Nev., def. Mark Estes, Grapevine, Texas, 666-637; Mark Van Meter, Albuquerque, N.M., def. Nick Morgan, Sacramento, Calif., 669-638; Bob Chamberlain, The Villages, Fla., def. Kevin Croucher, Grants Pass, Ore., 666-615; Roger Kossert, Lithia, Fla., def. Rod Tramp, Porterville, Calif., 566-552.

LOSERS BRACKET ROUND FIVE - (Losers eliminated earn \$1,400 each)

Terry Leong, Henderson, Nev., def. Tim Ruelle, Racine, Wis., 594-571; Nick Morgan, Sacramento, Calif., def. Henry Gonzalez, Colorado Springs, 705-598; Kevin Croucher, Grants Pass, Ore., def. Vinnie Atria, Louisville, Ky., 664-608; Roger Kossert, Lithia, Fla., def. Pete McCordic, Katy, Texas, 666-648.

LOSERS BRACKET ROUND FOUR - (Losers eliminated earn \$1,200 each)

Terry Leong, Henderson, Nev., def. Roger LeClair Clackamas, Ore., 607-603; Tim Ruelle, Racine, Wis., def. Mel Wolf, Jackson, Miss., 639-577; Henry Gonzalez, Colorado Springs, def. Hugh Miller, Marcos Island, Wash., 650-539; Gary Morgan, Marietta, Ga., def. Danny Carbone, Broomfield, Colo., 626-523; Vinnie Atria, Louisville, Ky., def. Norb Wetzel, Fond Du Lac, Wis., 676-595; Kevin Croucher, Grants Pass, Ore., def. Dave Soutar Bradenton, Fla., 684-578; Pete McCordic, Katy, Texas, def. Norm Palomares, San Francisco, 642-600; Roger Kossert, Lithia, Fla., def. Robin Romeo, Newhall, Calif., 597-526.

LOSERS BRACKET ROUND THREE - (Losers eliminated earn \$1,000)

Roger LeClair Clackamas, Ore., def. Warren Nelson, Madera, Calif., 605-571; Don Sylvia, Discovery Bay, Calif., def. Gary Dickinson, Edmond, Okla., 618-570; Bob Brady, Santa Monica, Calif., def. Brian Brazeau, Ocala, Fla., 688-637; Tim Ruelle, Racine, Wis., def. David Ozio, Beaumont, Texas, 614-575; Lenny Biondi, Maitland, Fla., def. Ron Winger, Las Vegas, 552-WD; Henry Gonzalez, Colorado Springs, Colo., def. Jeff Suma, Auburn Hills, Mich., 638-552; William Keenan, Orlando, Fla., def. Michael Landrith, Chandler, Ariz., 650-626; Gary Morgan, Marietta, Ga., def. Mike Truitt, Roscoe, Ill., 625-524; Steve Jansson, Blaine, Minn., def. Sam Carter, Ben Lomond, Calif., 615-580; Vinnie Atria, Louisville, Ky., def. Don Blatchford, Santa Monica, Calif., 561-543; Gary Skidmore, Albuquerque, N.M., def. Larry Laub, Lincoln, Calif., 605-599; Kevin Croucher, Grants Pass, Ore., def. Robert Pazur, Venice, Fla., 686-551; Pete Bryan, Laurel, Del., def. Kerry Painter, Henderson, Nev., 567-528; Norm Palomares, San Francisco def. Harry Mickelson, Yakima, Wash., 589-581; Bill Argenbright, Fishersville, Va., def. Joe Salvemini, Klamath Falls, Ore., 586-560; Roger Kossert, Lithia, Fla., def. Mark Glover, Woodbridge, Va., 632-589.

LOSERS BRACKET, ROUND 1 - (Losers eliminated earn \$900)

Nelson def. Czipka, 598-572; Dickinson def. Kryz, 626-587; Brady def. Prieto, 663-655; Ozio def. Fife, 655-600; Biondi def. Harding, 627-621; Suma def. Gibson, 548-465; Landrith def. Henry, 571-521; Truitt def. Surina, 611-514; S. Carter def. Psaropoulos, 622-621; Blatchford def. Aono, 549-544; Laub def. Smith, 583-555; Pazur def. T. Carter, 536-527; Bryan def. Hanson, 590-575; Palomares def. Kaczmarczyk, 565-563; Argenbright def. Roth, 603-519; Glover def. Morton, 615-553.

Other Cashers - (\$700 each, *alt \$800)

*Barry Gurney, West Hills, Calif., 2,945; Paul Herrera, San Jose, Calif., 2,945; *George Lord, Mulberry, Fla., 2,941; Carl Chavez, Albuquerque, N.M., 2,940; Roger Wiemer, Springfield, Mo., 2,940; Billy Young, Tulsa, Okla., 2,940; Steve Calyore, Naples, Fla., 2,938; Rickey Kendrick, Castle Rock, Colo., 2,934; Ernie Schlegel, Vancouver, Wash., 2,931; Gary Bessette, Summerdale, Ala., 2,921; Carey Hofmann, Phoenix, 2,921.

Super Senior Cashers

Larry Graybeal, Elizabethton, Tenn., 2,918; Bob Knipple, Long Beach, Calif., 2,918; Rudy Moreno, Reno, Nev., 2,918; Jim Micus, Renton, Wash., 2,902; Ed Roberts, Braintree, Mass., 2,894; Donald Brehlan, Columbia, S.C., 2,893; Dan Kukuk, Spokane, Wash., 2,892; James Gariotti, Reno, Nev., 2,888; Dennis Jones, Fremont, Calif., 2,888; Dale Eagle, Kingsport, Tenn., 2,886.

Hall of Famer Robin Romeo Makes History at USBC Senior Masters

RENO, Nev. - Standing out from a field of nearly 300 competitors, three women made their debut appearances at the USBC Senior Masters this week hoping to make history by winning the prestigious event at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno.

USBC and Professional Women's Bowling Association Hall of Famer Robin Romeo of Newhall, Calif., who turned 50 in June and is one of the youngest members in the field, already found her way into the record books as the first woman in the tournament's 15-year history to make the cut to match play, qualifying in a tie for 57th place with a 2,958 total for 15 games.

Romeo only recently has returned to competitive bowling after her successful,

20-year professional career came to an end when the PWBA ceased operations in 2003. Now, she is preparing for the return of the U.S. Women's Open, which will be held for the first time since 2003. The event, which Romeo won in 1989, is slated for August 13-18, also at the Stadium.

"This is first big tournament I've geared myself up to bowl in before the U.S. Women's Open in August," said Romeo, who was honored as the Bowling Writers Association of America Woman Bowler



of the Year in 1989 and recently was inducted into the National Italian

American Sports Hall of Fame. "I had mixed expectations because I knew I was capable of making the cut, but I haven't seen any challenging lane conditions in a while. But no matter what, it's exciting to be here, and competing here has really gotten my competitive fire burning again."

The downtime over the past few years has put Romeo in a position to get a fresh start as a competitive senior bowler, and her new,

more relaxed outlook may be just what it takes to find success again.

"When I retired from the ladies tour, I took a break, but I never lost my competitiveness," said Romeo, who has accumulated 17 professional wins and three USBC Women's Championships titles in her career. "I did lose some of the desire to be out on the lanes because the way things ended for the women was very disappointing, but as a result of that experience, I gained a new perspective on bowling that's much more fun since I'm not living and dying with every shot."



Barrette gets grand slam as USBC Women's Championships closes

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - For the third consecutive year, Leanne Barrette made a major impact on the final standings at the USBC Women's Championships.



Tiffany Stanbrough

Barrette won her fourth title in the past three years and her fifth overall as Ebonite Bowlers Map of Roseville, Calif., won the Classic Team title with 3,210 at this year's Women's Championships.

The former professional star shot an 804 series, the second highest series in tournament history, en route to winning the team championship. Barrette was joined by USBC Collegiate spokesperson Kim Terrell (634), 2006 USBC Queens champion Shannon Pluhowsky



Susan Jeziorski & Liz Johnson

Barrette, who won all-events in 1987 and 2005, singles in 2005 and doubles with Takahashi in 2006. "Ever since we stopped bowling on tour, I've been bowling really well in the Women's Championships, and I don't know why."

In Classic All-Events, former professional bowler Wendy Macpherson won her second career all-events title with 2,161.

(621), Lauren Macpherson, who also won in 1994, shot 752 in team, 724 in doubles and 685 in singles.

Macpherson's victory comes just a year after she made history by becoming the first woman to win a Regular Division title at the USBC



Wendy Macpherson

Open Championships. She won Regular Singles with an 812 series.

Liz Johnson of Cheektowaga, N.Y., and Susan Jeziorski of Buffalo, N.Y., claimed the Classic Doubles title with 1,385. Jeziorski paced the pair with a 711 series while Johnson added 674.



Ebonite Bowlers Map
Sandra Terrell, Shannon Pluhowsky, Kim Terrell, Lauren Takahashi, Leanne Barrette

In Classic Singles, Tiffany Stanbrough of Oklahoma City took home the title with 745, the lowest winning series in that event in six years. She had games of 257, 223 and 265 in

the winning effort. The tournament attracted 8,710 five-player teams, which competed for an estimated prize fund of more than \$2 million. All results are posted on bowl.com.

USBC Open Championships End - Masur & Butler Set New Doubles Record

RENO, Nev. - After nearly two months of waiting to see if their 1,544 record total would hold up, first-time participant Jonathan Masur of West Orange, N.J., and Jeffrey Butler of Garfield, N.J., now are officially the Regular Doubles champions at the 2007 USBC Open Championships.



Chip Aki

In May, Masur walked into the Stadium as a novice, excited about his first appearance on the tournament lanes, and one day later, he struck on 30 of 36 opportunities on the way to games of 279, 278

and 253 for an 810 series and walked out as a celebrity.

Butler contributed 236, 253 and 245 for 734 and helped the pair topple the four-year-old doubles record of 1,540 set by Derek Sapp of Keokuk, Iowa, (857) and Sean Rash of Anchorage, Alaska, (683) in 2003.

"We'll probably have to do some celebrating soon now that this has turned into such a big week with our win and my birthday coming up," said Masur, who rounded out



Jonathan Masur & Jeffrey Butler

his Open Championships debut with 631 in team and 595 in singles for a 2,036 all-events total. "The wait was difficult at times, so we're thrilled now that it's over, but the whole experience is one we won't soon forget."

Bryon Smith of Roseburg, Ore., the 2003 USBC Masters champion, also found instant success as a first-timer at the Open Championships and helped Lava Lanes of Medford, Ore., to the Regular Team title with a 3,405 effort, the first 3,400 in the tournament's five trips to the Stadium.



Mike Rose Jr.

Smith led the group with a 750 set and was followed by Brian Tinsley (718), 18-year-old Open Championships rookie Jake Drier (670), Wynn Malikowski

(649) and Guy Sutherlin (618).

"Winning the Masters was a great individual accomplishment, but this win at the Open Championships was a team effort and the most fun I've ever had bowling in a team event," Smith said. "The guys bowled phenom-



Lava Lanes of Medford, Ore.

enally, and it was a great experience. I am definitely looking forward to bowling again next year."

Ken Abner, the only bowler to break the 700 mark in all three events this year, led the group with 2,174 and

was followed by Ken Jessee (2,094), Steve Fehr (2,031), Jon Murph (1,907) and George Gohagan III (1,865).

Chip Aki of Nicholasville, Ky., rolled the highest of the tournament's five 800 series and took home the Regular Singles title with games of 279, 277 and 258 for an 814

set back on March 19.

"The closer it's gotten to the end, the worse the wait has been, but now there's no way to put into words how much it means to be a champion," said Aki, 45, a standout at Wichita State University during the late 1980s. "I've been a student of the game for a long time and had the chance to bowl

with some great bowlers and champions, and now to have my name among them is truly an honor."

The Regular All-Events crown went to Mike Rose Jr. of West Henrietta, N.Y., who had 787 in singles, 724 in doubles and 687 in team for 2,198, the highest all-events total since the tournament's last trip to Reno in 2004.



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Talk Is Not Cheap!

A candid conversation between USBC Chief Communications Officer Tom Clark and Stars & Strikes Publisher Jim Goodwin

One of the best things about International Bowl Expo is the thousands of conversations that take place between people from all corners of the bowling industry. No one would argue that we must communicate to solve bowling's problems and move forward as a vital industry.

One of the highlights of this year's Bowl Expo was a breakfast 'town hall meeting' with leaders from several of the companies and organizations that represent big slices of the bowling industry pie. The conference was well attended, and the questions and answers from the audience, and a few members of the bowling press, were honest, and sometimes a little frank and revealing.

The meeting, held Thursday morning when Bowl Expo was winding down, was sponsored by the United States Bowling Congress, and was moderated by USBC's Tom Clark, who joined the USBC staff in April 2005 after spending five years as a sports assignment editor for USA Today.

Many interesting things were discussed, but I left the room with many more questions than answers. One of the things I wanted to hear more about was Roger Dalkin's controversial remarks to the Milwaukee paper (when he said, among other things, that USBC needed to "thin the herd" and that he expected USBC membership to continue to decline from 2.5 million to under 1 million, and league

business to fall from its present level of 47% to 20-25%.)

For the CEO of Bowling's governing body to make these statements is major news, which is why last month's Bowl O Pinion column covered the subject. During Bowl Expo, Clark told me Roger was upset by my editorial, but Dalkin never spoke to me directly about it, except when I asked for his explanations by email.

When Tom relayed Roger's feelings, the first thing I asked him was if he had read my column - he said he had not, so when we got home from Vegas, I emailed a copy to him, which sparked the email exchange that follows.

A few days later, I sent Tom another ques-

tion about the growing controversy over the format of the Women's US Open tournament, which is being sponsored and presented by USBC for the first time this month. (for more on this, see this month's Bowl O Pinion, and Fran Deken's Guest Column)

My US Open questions caused another flurry of emails, which make up part two of the exchange that follows. With Tom's consent, we decided to share these conversations to demonstrate that even when we don't agree, it is always good to discuss these issues.

Without talking about it, solutions would never be found - Thus, talk is not cheap.

-Jim Goodwin

PART ONE: DALKIN'S BOLD STATEMENTS

Jim Goodwin: Are we, as an industry, better served by ignoring comments like Roger's, or by writing about them to generate discussion and possible solutions to the challenges described?

Tom Clark: Of course I think it's fair game for you or anyone else to criticize the choice of words by someone in a position like Roger's, no matter what he says. It's also a very important time in bowling and I wish there was a journalist out there who could put everything together, look at the realities and the future and craft a piece void of opinion (of course there would be author bias in some ways).

JG: There is someone - YOU. As a publicist for USBC, that is your job one. In my opinion, a writer without bias is a writer without passion.

TC: I think it's a compelling story to tell and some large magazine or perhaps TV news show would get mileage from it. It's a hard story to pitch however, because we need to find someone with an interest in the topic and [someone who] is ready to listen and learn. People in bowling have been begging for strong leadership and vision and straight talk and I think more and more it's coming. Look at how the BPAA President spoke of the PBA during general session last week - that was straight talk. Our old model hasn't worked. Membership has dropped every year since 1979. People don't think bowling is a sport (22% of general population consider it a sport). The PBA struggles for sponsorship.

JG: And which organizations in this industry forgot their primary responsibility is to maintain the standards of the sport? ABC and WIBC caved in to pressure from BPAA and the ball companies to 'relax' the rules and regulations which led to the scoring epidemic and cost bowling its credibility in the world of sports. If ABC leaders had stood up to these influences, bowling would still get the respect it gets in other countries that have high standards, and league bowling would still be considered sport.

TC: The only thing growing is birthday

parties and cosmic bowling and the use of Superman or Bart Simpson or WWE leagues to get regular customers - this stuff isn't the way people should be introduced to the game or they'll never respect it as a sport. It's fine, but only if the sport side has a similar push of exposure.

JG: Agree. There is nothing wrong with these promotions, as long as the people know there is also a legitimate sport. Another example - I just reviewed the Wii Video bowling game for the BJ. The exciting thing to think about is that millions of kids will play this game, and many will want to go to a 'real bowling center' as a result. When this happens, will we have someone there trying to get

standing for what goes into being great; drive a reason for people to want to be coached; a reason for people to want to watch it on TV; a reason to actually practice bowling.

JG: AMEN! And what a boost it would be to have a Hall of Fame Week with two major tournaments like the men's and women's U S Opens or the Masters and Queens.

TC: All the while, the USBC maintains the rules and organizes the league bowling system thru associations, but can do both much better with funding coming from more than just membership dollars. The membership dollars now do not pro-

vide enough to invest into the game at rates to make a great impact and save the sport. We need corporate support and the direction we are going now, the increased TV and the attitude of sport over just for fun, is our best chance.

dresses to bring our membership together. How many of those 600,000 members do you think open their email to read US E-Bowler, which has very solid news of the industry and USBC and includes coaching tips, etc.? About 100,000 of them. Maybe, just maybe, only that percentage of current league bowlers actually care about bowling beyond being a night out with friends. In terms of sponsorship sales, I agree with you that Strike Ten and USBC should merge for the good of the game to sell a combination of bowling center activation and media buys/access to membership packages - and we are. Frank [DeSocio] and I have formed a partnership on the sponsorship end.

"I think it's fair game for you or anyone else to criticize the choice of words by someone in a position like Roger's, no matter what he says." - Tom Clark

them into a youth league or learn-to-bowl class, or will we just try to sell the parents a birthday party?

TC: We have to do something and I am proud of the vision of the USBC right now. Of course the hope is always that membership will grow. But my hopes are that the membership is "stronger."

JG: Two million is "stronger" than one million, and ten million is really strong. It seems as if decline has become a business strategy at USBC. The vision is great, but don't use it as an excuse to avoid responsibility and accountability.

TC: The potential for corporate partners and sponsorships are easier to gain because of improved perceptions, respect, effort to sell and opportunities to connect with this stronger membership (membership communications, internet marketing, TV, media). Then things like youth bowling initiatives, high school bowling, collegiate bowling, televised bowling glorifying the best players in the game, coaching, traveling clinics with great stars, youth championships and sustained national championships for amateurs and professionals can be better, be exposed much more and grow the sport. Grow the passion for the sport, an under-

vide enough to invest into the game at rates to make a great impact and save the sport. We need corporate support and the direction we are going now, the increased TV and the attitude of sport over just for fun, is our best chance.

JG: I think you and your entire department should be transferred to Strike Ten to allow USBC to concentrate on making and enforcing rules, and building and servicing membership.

TC: USBC needs a marketing and communications because our focus is the sport (high school bowling, collegiate, PBA Experience leagues, etc) - if we have the goal of Strike Ten to simply get people in the door, we will be publicizing birthday parties, as they do with the "Go Bowling" campaign. Again, that Strike Ten stuff is fine - it's just not governing body stuff.

JG: The things you describe *should* be Strike Ten stuff. "Governing body stuff" should be GOVERNING, not marketing.

TC: The national governing body needs a communications department - and I didn't even mention the extensive internet marketing efforts USBC has that utilize over 600,000 member email ad-

JG: I didn't know there was a "US E-Bowler." Are you saying you do a blast email to 600,000? When did this start? And even if only 10% open your email, that doesn't mean they don't love the game. It just means they don't love email. Glad to hear you are working with Frank. Good luck with that.

TC: What does "servicing membership" mean to you? Giving them patches for 100 pins over average games and 700 series?

JG: Servicing membership means delivering a fair amount of value for a fair price. As for the Awards Program, I got in trouble ten years ago for recommending that ABC get rid of it.

TC: I think what would be more beneficial to the industry is an article written by a journalist given the benefit of time and resources to research properly the state of bowling today, the history of membership and put into context the vision for this new organization as Roger articulated at the USBC Convention, including input from many different areas of bowling and the industry.

JG: How can a "journalist" from outside the industry possibly write about this subject with the passion and historical perspective of a bowling writer like Jim Dressel, Bob Johnson, Chuck Pezzano, Dick Evans, or myself? At the BWAA board meeting, when you were talking about sending someone to the AP meeting, I noticed you said something about "reaching REAL writers" - do you not

consider the people I just mentioned legitimate, qualified writers and journalists? Your implication is troubling.

TC: "REAL" writers is of course not the best way to say it, but I mean mainstream publication writers reaching general population - primarily the ones that attend the Associated Press Sports Editors convention. Working press for daily newspapers - not special columnists for the sport or niche publication owners and writers. I thought this was a similar argument you made last year about the merger of the BWAA and NWBW since most of the NWBW writers weren't "real" writers? Maybe I misunderstood you. Yes, one of you guys should write it, and sell it to a major publication so maximum number of eyeballs see it and not just people familiar with bowling.

JG: I don't recall using that terminology, but if I did, it would have been accurate for most. In fact, if you have read some of the writing, you know that some can't even put two sentences together, which is why it made no sense to 'dumb down' the BWAA by merging. Now we have strength in numbers, but a much weaker membership, which you say is the opposite of what USBC wants. Only 8 former NWBW members (who were not BWAA members) attended the new BWAA convention. Mary Lynly from California was one of them. I asked her why more didn't come, and she said they will only go to the USBC convention and probably will never come. So, what was the purpose of the merger?

PART TWO: WOMEN'S U.S. OPEN

JG: I was making plans to go to Reno to cover the Women's U.S. Open when I noticed that there is a two-month gap between determining the top four and bowling for the title?! I understand your desire for TV coverage, but this is a major championship. No athlete in any sport should have to wait two months to vie for a title. Do you think (very expensive) television coverage is more important than getting this event covered by several print journalists, and for fans, family and friends of the players to be able to attend?

TC: Yes, I think television coverage and the audience we hope to build over five weeks, including the added exposure for 16 TV finalists rather than 4 or 5, outweighs any negatives of this creative format.

JG: Is it OK to put a Major women's event in the same category with the 'Fashion Show exhibition and PBA summer series'?

TC: Who is putting the U.S. Women's Open in the same category as the

Women's Challenge or PBA Summer Series? I'm not.

JG: Isn't it a little hypocritical for USBC to preach about the integrity of the sport while designing a format like this for a major event?

TC: This event has complete integrity. An open field will bowl 32 games of qualifying on four different PBA Experience lane conditions to decide the top 16, which will enter into a single elimination bracketed format. Losing a measure of integrity due to television is normal in all sports, including bowling.

JG: Can you name a major tournament in any sport that has ever waited two months after the event was over to deter-



Last summer Clark worked with PBA star Chris Barnes and Dave Ryan in announcing the Las Vegas Women's Challenge

mine the winner?

TC: I haven't researched whether other sports have had their championships later, but for example the college football season is over and they wait over a month sometimes almost two months for the championship game.

JG: You may not be following it, but the USGA is seriously considering changing its policy of having Golf's U.S. Open playoff on the Monday following the event. Why? Because it's not good to make the players, media, and fans wait for 24 hours to see a winner.

TC: Is the USGA taking away their integrity by making a playoff be sudden death or a limited number of holes when golf has traditionally decided it with a full round of 18 holes, or are they making it better for TV?

JG: Since you brought it up, doesn't using the PBA oil patterns give a huge advantage to players like Kelly, Liz, and perhaps Carolyn? Shouldn't you wait a year and use this aspect as an incentive to get more women into the PBA experience leagues? How many entries so far?

TC: Entries are not as high as I'd hoped

at this point, but without an incentive to enter early, I'm hoping that just means late entries like usual in bowling. Around 55 in now... I think players like Kelly, Liz and Carolyn have an advantage anyway - they're the best, have maintained their games and stayed competitive by battling in PBA Tour events because they had to, it was the only thing out there for them, and they certainly shouldn't be penalized for that. Those patterns have become the gold standard for bowling and are the staple of the USBC's effort to educate and provide regulated, credible scoring environments for league bowlers... The patterns were used during Team USA tryouts this year, and the leagues have been available for most of the year.... So I really like the fact we are using them at the Stadium, and will be able to promote

more than half of the field, maybe 3/4, is not very competitive. Historically, the U.S. Open has had a minimum average requirement to maintain the quality of the field. Now USBC has dropped that. I hope you are aware that allowing lower average bowlers who have very little tournament experience changes the dynamics and perception of the event. If 'Susie Q' crosses with Wendy Mac or Carolyn (or next to them) and doesn't understand lane courtesy or double-jumping, it diminishes Wendy and Carolyn's ability to perform at their best. It becomes a constant distraction that they have to deal with, and they do - but they sure don't like it. They tolerate it because they understand that prize funds are entry fee driven, not sponsor driven.

Years ago, I'm told, the Queens had a minimum, but it was dropped to get more entries; and it did - but the perception of the event was changed - the best players in the world don't put the Queens on the same level as the U.S. Open because of the format and quality of the field. That is also why the Masters is not seen as a test of talent on the same level as the men's U.S. Open. It's not as obvious on the men's side because of the depth of talent among men - there is no depth of real talent on the women's side.

That is why USGA makes its U.S. Open golf courses tougher - to enhance the perception among players and fans that it is a true test of talent. It shows respect for the best players.

I'm not saying all tournaments should have this

policy, but the U.S. Open should. Obviously, most of the women who bowl in any event know that they can't beat the top players. The question is - should 'semi-casual' bowlers be allowed to bowl with or beside players who have earned their status through years of sacrifice, hard work, practice and 'paying their dues,' when they have not? That's why the PBA has an exempt field.

JG: This is supposed to be a major athletic competition for the best women bowlers in the world - not a social gathering.

TC: I'm not sure what you are referring to. Of course our number one priority is to have the best possible field for the U.S. Women's Open. The best players, not missing any of them. But if you think people enter U.S. Opens in other sports, tennis, golf, bowling of previous years, with their only realistic intention to win the event, you are wrong. It's just the reality that many players in all sports in Open events enter for various reasons - to see where they stack up, to test their own games, to get the experience of playing with the best, to experience the event, etc. In this specific case, this is a historic occasion. There is pride on the line for a lot of women, who believe in women's bowling at an elite level and will want to participate even if they don't think they can realistically win the U.S. Open.

JG: Obviously, I'm referring to the Queens and Senior Queens, where easily

those leagues on our shows. The Cheetha pattern, by the way, will be the one used on all the TV shows.

If we are going to have a SPORT, then the organizations that operate tournaments have got to put the game and the players at the top of the priority list when designing formats and rules. I don't see that happening here. As you said, your #1 priority is television coverage. You also said it is to have the best quality field. You can't have two #1 priorities. In my opinion, you have put the cart before the horse.

TC: I never said my number one priority was television coverage.

JG: When you said "I think television coverage ... outweighs any negatives of this creative format", I took that to mean that television is the most important element of this event, which strongly implies that it might be your number one priority. My apology if I misunderstood your meaning.



"We need to get back to our roots," said new USBC President Jeff Boje.



Keynote speakers James Carville and Mary Madelin with BPAA President Joe Schumacker, left, and BPAA Executive Director John Berglund



Seminars were a big attraction - here Beth Standlee, speaks to a sold out room



John Sommer received the BPAA Victor Lerner Hall of Fame award. After his speech, 8 year old grandson John Nicholas Sommer sang *God Bless America* while his 7 year old sister Brynn Elizabeth Lambrecht signed for the deaf people in the audience.



Mia Dorr, Minnesota \$5000 winner of the 2007 International Bowling Karaoke SuperStar contest



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Nicholson Earns 2007 Flowers Award

Las Vegas: For years, the 2007 Flowers for the Living honoree has had one of the most unenviable jobs in sports. On June 26, during the 2007 International Bowl Expo, the tables were turned in Las Vegas when all the kudos he earned for doing that job so well and under the most trying conditions netted Len Nicholson the 'Flowers' award. It is an honor presented to someone in bowling who is admired, respected and, indeed, loved.

Turnabout, as they say, is fair play. In Nicholson's case, we might add, it was overdue.

Nicholson was part of the PBA's original lane maintenance team, along with Sam Baca. In that role - either with Baca, or individually - he has been involved in analyzing, cleaning and conditioning bowling lanes in more bowling centers, in more cities, in more states, and in more countries than anyone in the history of bowling. The numbers are staggering. He has been involved in doing the lanes for the PBA for over 800 tournaments, which included the National Tour, the Senior Tour and all of the PBA's seven regions.

He has the distinct honor of being the only person to have been in charge of conditioning lanes for every PBA member who is currently in the PBA Hall of Fame. This man traveled the PBA Tour for over 25 years and has worn many 'hats' in this sport that he loves. As a result, his insights into bowling are unique and often sought after from his peers.

These days, as host of a 24/7 internet-based bowling webcast, many know Nicholson as 'The Phantom.' He has turned 'Phantom Radio' into a 'must hear' webcast since originating the show in April of 2001. His webcast has attracted a litany of guests and celebrities all across the bowling spectrum in the over 270 shows he's done since.

As bowling Hall of Famer and longtime friend Billy Hardwick describes him, "Lenny was totally crazy but, everybody loves the guy. You can't help but like him. He's a man's man."

suggested that deserving individuals be honored while they were "still alive to smell the flowers." The award is intended as a surprise to the recipient. Honorees are determined by a special committee of prominent bowling



Award winning writer and former Flowers Committee Chairman Jim Dressel presented the 2007 Flowers for the Living Award to Lenny Nicholson during the Bowl Expo IPBSIA luncheon in Las Vegas. The pro shop operators and instructors gave Nicholson a standing ovation in recognition of his many contributions to the sport.

The Sam Levine Flowers for the Living Award was created in 1961 by the late Cleveland Kegler Publisher Sam Levine, and is based on a poem by former Ohio Associated Press editor Fritz Howell. In the poem, Howell

writers.

This year's award was presented by Hall of Fame legend Billy Hardwick, and Bowlers Journal Editor Jim Dressel, former chairman of the committee.

International Bowl Expo 2007 Breaks Records . . . Again

Highlighting the celebration of the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America's 75th Diamond Anniversary, International Bowl Expo 2007 (IBE 2007) surpassed the previous record year attendance of 2006 by approximately 6% (also was 12% over IBE 2003 which was also held at the popular Mandalay Bay) and received extremely high marks from bowling industry leaders, suppliers, manufacturers and attendees as more than 5,500 gathered in Las Vegas, Nevada June 24 - June 29 at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino along with the Mandalay Bay Convention Center. International Bowl Expo was born out of what was previously known as BPAA's Annual Convention, and then in 1995 BPAA's Bowl Expo was the first time the "Bowl Expo" logo was introduced. In 1996, the event shifted away from being known as "BPAA's Convention" to "International Bowl Expo", a bowling industry gathering that continues to grow into the 21st century.

IBE continues to grow in popularity as the event heads back to Orlando and the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel, Central Florida's newest and most luxurious meeting destination, and Orlando's Orange County Convention Center in 2008. Contingencies from BPA of Canada, the European Bowling Proprietors' Association, the Japanese Bowling Proprietors Association, as well as numerous industry colleagues from China, Australia, South America, Mexico, Russia, India and Southeast Asia among many other countries were also in attendance. Online registration for the IBE 2007 continued to be a popular avenue for registrants with hundreds of Bowl Expo attendees signing up through International Bowl Expo's official website, www.bowlexpo.com. IBE 2007 also welcomed back the Bowling Writers

Association of America's annual conference, the IBPSIA Annual Conference and USBC Coaching Summit, mostly held at Texas Station Hotel & Casino, in addition to the Annual Armed Forces Bowling Conference, held at South Point Hotel and Casino.

The 2007 Expo's trade show also set a record by being sold out for the first time in the event's brief history. The trade show presented attendees with a lively exhibit floor comprised of a range of new and standard products and services available to the bowling industry. Thousands of bowling center, military, pro shop and other bowling-related operators spread throughout the Mandalay Bay Convention Center exhibit floor, which was sponsored by Pepsi-Cola, the official soft drink of bowling, on Wednesday and Thursday in search of the industry's most current and innovative products and services. Overall reports from IBE Exhibitors indicated an upward trend in trade show floor sales. Many Pro Bowlers appeared all over the show floor signing autographs while an increase in trade show activities including The Bowling Foundation's Mystery Squares fund-raiser that brought in thousands of dollars for youth programs, the second-annual BPAA-USBC Bowling Challenge, again won by BPAA 196-190, contests along with other cash prize giveaways, such as BPAA's 'Balloon Drop', helped keep buyers on the trade floor throughout both exhibit days.

Monday, June 25th was also very busy as the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA) conducted their annual membership breakfast meeting, which featured a celebration of BPAA's 75th anniversary and unveiling of a new BPAA logo, started out with a 'Celine Dion' impersonator to entertain those in attendance. BPAA member delegates re-elected their slate of officers to a second one-

year term, BPAA President, Joe Schumacker of Schumacker & Co. in Davie, Fla. Jim Sturm of Dunbar Bowling Center in Dunbar, W. V. as President-Elect, John Snyder of Thunder Bowl Lanes in Alpena, Mich. as Secretary and Tom Martino of Majestic Lanes in Hopelawn, NJ as Treasurer. Also elected to two year term at-large director seats were Rick Braden of Terre Haute, IN, John Losito of Lincoln, NE and Bill Wammes of Bowling Green, OH. Jim Doty, Indianapolis, Ind. will assume the East Central Region director seat while Bob Johannes, Shawnee, Kan., assumes the Midwest Region director seat.

In addition, Monday's meeting marked the recognition of Jack Moran, BPAA Past President from Roseland Bowl, Canandaigua, N.Y. as the 2007 President's Medal recipient, Dick Evans, bowling columnist, received the 2007 V. A. Wapensky Award, Past BPAA President and BPAA Hall of Famer Rex Golobic was presented the 2007 Ruben A. Dankoff Legislative Award and Helen Duval, renowned professional bowler and coach received the 2007 BPAA/Dick Weber Bowling Ambassador Award. Other award winners included Executive Director's Award winners Wanda Arthur and Dave Overbaugh, Special Project Award recipient C. J. Fox, The Lighting & Sound Karaoke Store, along with several of the BPAA Golden Pin (Best Practices) and Proprietors of the Year recipients. Several educational seminars were also held on Monday, including an educational keynote session presented by well-known speaker, Jay Levinson, speaking on his Guerilla Marketing tactics.

On Monday evening, everyone enjoyed a Welcome Reception sponsored by newly acquired Diamond-level Sponsor Anheuser-Busch featuring the Third Annual "International" Bowling Karaoke SuperStar

Rhino Page Wins July High Roller



Tim Bonneville, Terry Leong, Rhino Page - Champion and Peter Knopp

Las Vegas, NV - Rhino Page of Topeka, Kansas battled, persevered and conquered.... and when the final ball was thrown at the 2007 July High Roller, Page took home the top prize in the third leg of the High Roller's July Triple Header. A huge crowd saw Page fire a 210 in the Shootout Round, good for a \$25,000 pay-

day at Sam's Town in Las Vegas, NV.

"I was missing cuts by a few pins all week and I can't even say how good this feels," said Page. "It feels like I am on top of the world."

Terry Leong of Nevada (50 & Over) was second in the Shootout and could have doubled to win it in the tenth frame. Leong went high, leaving the 6-10 and settled for second place (195 - \$12,500). Leong had a great week, never the less, with two runner-up finishes ('A' Game).

Peter Knopp (40 & Over) of Germany was third, (180 - \$11,000), and Tim Bonneville (205 & Under) of Arizona was fourth (177 - \$10,000).

Page joins Rick Miller of Nebraska in the Winner's Circle. Miller took two legs of the Triple Header, the 'A' Game (\$10,000) and Las Vegas Red Hot(\$12,000). 168 bowlers earned prizes of at least \$1000 or more in the 2007 July High Roller.

For complete results visit high-roller.com.

2007 July High Roller
Sam's Town Bowling Center, Las Vegas, NV

1. Rhino Page, Topeka, KS - 210	\$25,000
2. Terry Leong, Henderson, NV - 195	\$12,500
3. Peter Knopp, Frankfurt, Ger - 180	\$11,000
4. Tim Bonneville, Mesa, AZ - 177	\$10,000



Rick Miller

2007 Storm July Red Hot
Top five

1. RICK MILLER - Lincoln, NE	\$12,000
2. PETER KNOPP - Frankfurt GER	\$ 6,000
3. GREG MCMAHAN - Dandridge, TN	\$ 3,000
4. DEAN HEBNER - Vancouver, WA	\$ 2,250
5. STEVE KLOEMPKEN - Ogden, UT	\$ 2,000

STORM JULY HIGH ROLLER
"A" GAME Top Six

1. MILLER, RICK - Lincoln, NE	\$10,000
2. LEONG, TERRY - Henderson, NV	\$ 5,000
3. NELSON JR., RON - Bridgeview, IL	\$ 2,500
4. ESTES, MARK - Grapevine, TX	\$ 1,500
5. MACLELLAND, DAN - Saginaw, MI	\$ 1,500
6. NADEAU, DAN - Grand Junction, CO	\$ 1,500

Peter Spreadbury Takes True Amateur Tournament Title

Bowlers enjoyed our new host center (The Orleans). The positive feedback we received increased round by round in the finals. Entries were slightly higher compared to last July (just over 3,950).



Peter Spreadbury

from the bowlers was overwhelming. The Orleans really knows how to pay attention and take care of the bowlers needs.

The final match was exciting to say the least. It went down to the final ball as 4 bowlers could still win 2nd place and 1 ball made the difference between \$5,000 and \$15,000.

The Qualifying scores for the main finals ranged from 590 in the 205 division to 700 in the 35 & under division. The Top 6 prizes were increased over \$16,000 (from last years July event). All Guaranteed prizes in all events were paid in full. The winner of the main event was Peter Spreadbury from Illinois (274) (\$25,000), 2nd place went to Matt Meyer from Virginia (231) (\$15,000), 3rd place was Mike Warren (Senior Division) from Dallas TX (226) (\$10,000), 4th place Rob Gotchall from Lincoln NE (224) (\$5,000), 5th place was Marvin Hale from Discovery Bay CA (221) (\$3,500), and 6th place was Chris Muldrow from Chicago (189) (\$2,500).

All Bowlers received a Free Ebonite performance bowling ball, (The Total NV) with their first entry.

The entry fees also paid for the 5 - \$25,000 Chance Tournaments, the 3 sweepers, the \$30,000 Ebonite Challenge and the main Tournament prize fund with \$61,000 being paid to the Top 6 with a Guaranteed minimum of \$500 for making the finals. Prizes also

increased round by round in the finals. Entries were slightly higher compared to last July (just over 3,950).

It was an exciting week as 4 different bowlers bowled perfect games.

Buddies Mystery score paid out over \$15,000 to over a dozen different bowlers (\$10 entry fee).

The Ebonite Challenge paid 16 cash spots, the winner Amy Stoltz. Champion Amy Stoltz won \$5,000 with the other top 4 paid \$1,000 each- 2. Derec Morenci, 3. Ramiro Thomas 4. Chad Pierce, 5. Robbie Smith. For their \$10 entry fee all Qualifiers received a second Free Performance ball by Ebonite (RXS300). Last cash was \$100. Where else can you bowl for \$5,000 for a \$10 entry fee?

The 5 Chance Tournaments had 141 winners, these 5 Free events paid out \$25,000 with last cash of \$100. Winners were #1 Kim Bolleby (Sweden) winner #2 was Russ Davies (Las Vegas) #3 David Palojarvi (Illinois) #4 was Don Jackson (Bonita CA) #5 was Klaus Lischka. The other 136 Bowlers needed a 228 to 238 or higher game to win a prize in the 5 Free Chance Tournaments. (2 game squads- high game counted)

The 3 sweepers paid out over \$20,000 with 81 bowlers receiving checks and bonuses from \$1,000 to a minimum of \$100 last cash in the 3 Sweeper events.

The Ebonite Demo Days ran from the 1st to the 6th of July and many bowlers who did well used the Demo Days and the Ebonite staff to help them get the right ball reaction. Dino Castillo, Mike Calderon, Paul Enright and Chris Klerk were on hand to help the bowlers with layouts and ball surfacing.

The staff TAT would like to thank the bowlers and our sponsors, The Orleans, Ebonite Intl., Buddies Pro Shop.com, Enterprise Rent-a-car, and Continental Airlines, without their support we could not have these multiple prize funds with so many ways to cash. We hope to see you again the second week of February 2008. (exact dates will be announced soon) Any questions please call 1 888 828 2695 or visit our web site at www.trueamateurournaments.com.

TEAM USA Sweeps Doubles Gold Medals At Pan American Games

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil - Powered by strong first games from both the men and the women, Team USA ran away with a pair of doubles gold medals at the Pan American Games.

Diandra Asbaty of Chicago and Tennelle Milligan of Costa Mesa, Calif., finished with a 12-game total of 5,356 to win the women's event by 387 pins, while Rhino Page of Topeka, Kan., and Cassidy Schaub of Polk, Ohio, totaled 5,260 for a 158-pin victory at Barra Bowling Center.

Victories by both duos continued the trend of American success at the Pan American Games. Since bowling received medal-sport status in 1991, the U.S. has amassed 24 medals, twice more than second-best Mexico with 12.

With a 164-pin lead entering Tuesday's play, Asbaty's 258 and Milligan's 225 helped push their lead to 238 with five games remaining and they never looked back.

"It's an honor to win a gold medal with Tennelle and for the U.S.," said Asbaty, who had 2,757 in Tuesday's six games and averaged 229.75 in doubles - no game lower than 205. "The guys inspired us this morning and we just built off what they set up for us. This is a really great feeling to have."

As an exclamation point, Milligan capped off the gold-medal performance with a 299 in the last game - leaving only the 10 pin on her final ball - and Asbaty closed with 257.

"Coach (Jeri Edwards) said before that game, 'Enjoy the moment,' and we did," said Milligan, who had 1,329 Tuesday and averaged 216.58 in doubles. "Shots came off my hand with no added pressure."

"Gold medals never get old. Dee bowled really well, and I hung around then came out at the end."

Puerto Rico's Michelle Ayala and Yoselin Leon took silver with 4,969, while Mexico's Adriana Perez and Sandra Gongora claimed

bronze with 4,935.

Earlier Tuesday, lefthanders Page and Schaub distanced themselves from the field quickly as well - shooting 505 in the first game followed by 466 to increase their lead to an astounding 254 pins with four games remaining in the 12-game event.



Diandra Asbaty, Tennelle Milligan, Rhino Page, Cassidy Schaub

"We came out the gates strong and had a good game plan," said Page, who shot 1,401 Tuesday (233.5 average) and opened with 259 and 269. "We had multiple looks - one with a urethane ball and one with a reactive ball. The urethane looked a little

better to start; more controllable on the back end. We executed really well and our confidence was high."

Schaub, who is making his Team USA debut at the Pan American Games, shot 1,241 Tuesday (206.83 average) - highlighted by a 246 to open the day.

"It's an absolute great feeling," said Schaub, who uses a two-handed delivery. "Getting out to a great start was real important to us because it allowed us to try different things and get set up for tomorrow. Shooting 505 to start was incredible to jump out that far, that early."

Brazil's Rodrigo Hermes and Fabio Rezende took silver with 5,102, while the Dominican Republic's Victor Richards and Rolando Sebelen claimed bronze with 5,048 - one pin ahead of Puerto Rico's Frankie Colon and Luis Rodriguez.

The XV Pan American Games, which run July 13-29, are an Americas version of the Olympic Games which includes the Olympic Program sports and others that are not part of the Olympics. The bowling competition, consisting of singles and doubles events, runs through Thursday at Barra Bowling Center, a 20-lane facility located in the Barra Shopping Mall.

Visit the Team USA section of bowl.com for complete coverage of the Pan American Games.

IS IT REALLY THE U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN?

The bowling world is buzzing about the 2007 U.S. Women's Open, sponsored by the United States Bowling Congress at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno; but quite often, things that buzz may also sting. I hope this tournament is a great success and will lead to bigger and better things for the top women bowlers; but I think there are too many factors working against it to

GUEST COLUMN
by Fran Deken

If anyone knows the proud history of the Women's U.S. Open Tournament, it's PWBA and USBC Hall of Famer Fran Deken. From the early 70's until she became LPBT tournament Director in 1982, she bowled in ten U.S. Opens as a professional. In the 80's and 90's, she served as U.S. Open Tournament Director for a dozen events. She is also a former President of the Bowling Writers Association of America, Tournament Coordinator at the fabled Las Vegas Showboat Bowling Center, and Director of Operations at the National Bowling Stadium, where this Year's Women's U.S. Open is being held. She currently serves on the BWAA Board of Directors.



allow this to happen.

Let's start with the entry blank. Almost as soon as the tournament was announced I got on the internet and went to bowl.com to look at the entry blank so I could find out how the tournament worked. All the entry asked for was name, address, and money. There were no rules, no prize list, and no format on the entry blank. Why would anyone enter a tournament without knowing all the facts? Several weeks later this information was added to the website and entries were mailed out to high average women bowlers throughout the nation. However, the rules, format etc. were not included in this mailing.

Perhaps this is why there are so few entries (less than 60 in mid - July, only a month before the event)

The biggest drawback may be the format, which calls for four 8-game blocks of qualifying, then a cut to the top 16 bowlers. The top 16 are then divided into four groups by their qualifying position and will then bowl a one game match against a designated opponent, loser being eliminated from the tournament. The top eight follow the same procedure, then the winners of the four groups will return to Reno two months later for the live televised finals; which are again one game matches against a designated opponent, loser being eliminated.

Basically, after 32 games of qualifying, a bowler will bowl only four more games to win the U.S. Open, and she will only have to beat one opponent, not everyone in the field. Her average at this point means nothing; just get the win! I call this the 'instant gratification' format, and it brings to mind the High Roller Tournament motto - 'in a one game match, anyone can win.'

Perhaps this is why there are so few entries.

An added kicker to this 'instant gratification' format, and the second obstacle to a successful U.S. Open, is that qualifying will be held on four different PBA lane conditioning patterns, and then the matchplay will be contested on the fifth PBA pattern.. This will serve to promote the USBC's new PBA Experience leagues, which is all well and good, except that these leagues are not available in all cities and towns as yet.

Women did not know until May that they

needed to be practicing in these leagues, so if one could find such a summer league that would only allow approximately six games on each condition before the tournament. Because of this slight problem, the USBC will run sweepers at night during the U.S. Open so that bowlers can get in some practice on the next day's condition; this is after you've already bowled eight games of qualifying, and you get to pay to participate in the sweeper. Why not just run a practice session each evening, sort of on the order of going to the driving range after a tournament round of golf?

Perhaps this is why there are so few entries.

The men's U.S. Open consists of three rounds of qualifying, one round semi-finals for the top 25% of the field, then 24 games of round-robin match play for the top 24, followed by the stepladder format for the top four. That's more than 50 games to determine who's the best. The senior men's U.S. Open has the same format with a few less games in each qualifying block.

This same format has been used in the women's U.S. Open since the first one was held in Kansas City in 1971, until the last one staged in 2003 in Detroit, where over 300 women competed for the title. The U.S. Opens are an offshoot of the historic BPAA All Star tournament, a 100 game event for both men and women, held from 1941-1970. The whole idea of this demanding format, is that over so many games, the cream rises to the top; and history has shown this to be true.

It appears that the format for the 2007 U.S. Women's Open was developed primarily for television. I will be very happy to see women competing on television, but I believe the women are being short-changed. Perhaps I would not feel that way if the tournament had a different title; but since it's called the U.S. Open, then the bowlers should be treated with the respect a U.S. Open participant deserves, and the tournament format should reflect that respect.

Separating the finals by so many weeks from the qualifying also makes it difficult for foreign bowlers to compete; although the rules state that the USBC will pay the expenses for the return to Reno of the top four bowlers. For these players, jet lag might be another obstacle to overcome in a one game match. International bowlers in the U.S. Open have always added color and flavor to the tournament, with Shinobu Saitoh of Japan winning in 1982, and several others contending over the years.

The separation also forces many media people looking to cover the tournament to make a choice and either forgo seeing the qualifying, or pass up the finals. How can they justify the expense of going to watch qualifying if there won't be a winner at the end of that time? Will the average bowling fan lose interest in the results with such a long wait? I realize that we wait a few weeks for the NFL Super Bowl, but that's really not the same thing since it's a separate event. This is more like having play-off game end in a tie, and waiting eight weeks for the overtime. That would be unacceptable to players and fans alike.

Apparently, the only thing that seems to matter is television. An entire format has been designed to produce television shows, and while that's good for women's bowling, it's not good for a U.S. Open, which should be one of the premier titles in the sport.

How can you "grow" a sport that doesn't seem to respect itself or its top bowlers?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 6-9	PBA Senior Hammond Open , Olympia Lanes, Hammond, IN
Aug 11-12	SASBA South Central M/G Doubles , Winchester Bowl, Memphis, TN
Aug 11-14	PBA Senior Decatur Open , Spare Time Lanes, Decatur, IL
Aug 11-18	Lee Evans Tournament of The Americas , Tamarac, Fla.
Aug 13-18	U.S. Women's Open , National Bowling Stadium, Reno, NV
Aug 16-19	4th Annual New Mexico Open , Tenpins & More, Rio Rancho, NM
Aug 17-21	PBA Senior Dick Weber Invitational , West Country Lanes, Ballwin, MO
Aug 18-19	SASBA , All Star Lanes, Shreveport, LA
Aug 25-26	SASBA South Central , Millennium Bowl, Little Rock, AR
Aug 27-30	High Roller 60 & Over Classic , Samis Town Bowling Center, Las Vegas, NV
Aug 29-Sept 1	High Roller Senior A Game , Samis Town Bowling Center, Las Vegas, NV
Sept 1-3	SASBA South Central Labor Day Blowout , Lafayette Lanes, Lafayette, LA
Sept 8-9	SASBA Champs/Non-Champs , Cityview, Fort Worth, TX
Sept 15-16	SASBA South Central , Galaxy Lanes, Columbia, TN
Sept 18-23	Japan Cup , Shinagawa Prince Hotel Bowling Center, Tokyo, Japan
Sept 22-23	SASBA South Central M/G Doubles , Metro Bowl, Baton Rouge, LA
Sept 29-30	SASBA Masters , Fiesta Lanes, New Braunfels, TX
Oct 4-Nov 11	Storm National Mixed Championships , National Bowling Stadium, Reno, NV
Oct 6-7	SASBA South Central M/G Doubles , Millennium Bowl, Little Rock, AR
Oct 13-14	SASBA South Central , Rebel Lanes, Tupelo, MS
Oct 20-21	SASBA Annual Championship , Plano Super Bowl, Plano, TX
Oct 21-28	USBC Masters , AMF Bowlero Lane, Wauwatosa, WI
Oct 27-28	SASBA South Central Team Championship , Timber Lodge Lanes, Monticello, AR
Oct 31- Nov 4	PBA , Taylor Lanes, Taylor, MI
Nov 3-4	SASBA South Central , Cumberland Lanes, Nashville, TN
Nov 7-11	PBA , AMF Thruway Lanes, Cheektowaga, NY
Nov 10-11	SASBA , Delmar Lanes, Houston, TX
Nov 14-18	PBA Open , Stardust Bowl II, Merrillville, IN
Nov 17-18	SASBA South Central M/G Doubles , Rebel Lanes, Tupelo, MS
Nov 18-25	High Roller Thanksgiving Senior Classic , Samis Town Bwl, Las Vegas, NV
Nov 21-25	PBA , Hawthorn Lanes, Vernon Hills, IL
Nov 28-Dec 2	PBA , Spectrum Lanes, Wyoming, MI
Dec 1-2	SASBA Foursome , Plano Super Bowl, Plano, TX
Dec 5-9	PBA , AMF Country Club Lanes, Baltimore, MD
Dec 8-9	SASBA South Central Annual Championships , Metro Bowl, Baton Rouge, LA
Dec 12-16	PBA , Shamrock Lanes, Spartanburg, SC
Dec 15-16	SASBA Annual Team , Plano Super Bowl, Plano, TX
Jan 2-6	PBA Earl Anthony Medford Classic , Lava Lanes, Medford, OR
Jan 9-13	PBA World Championship , National Bowling Stadium, Reno, NV
Jan 15-20	PBA Dick Weber Open , Fountain Bowl, Fountain Valley, CA
Jan 20-22	PBA Special Exempt Field Doubles , Red Rock Lanes, Las Vegas, NV
Jan 23-27	PBA Tournament of Champions , Red Rock Lanes, Las Vegas, NV
Feb 6-10	PBA , Oasis Lanes, El Paso, TX
Feb 13-17	PBA , Thunder Alley, Omaha, NE
Feb 20-24	PBA , Woodland Bowl, Indianapolis, IN
Feb 26-Mar 2	PBA , Sequoia Pro Bowl, Columbus, OH
Mar 5-9	PBA , Norwich Bowling & Entertainment Center, Norwich, CT
Mar 19-23	PBA , AMF Babylon Lanes, W. Babylon, NY
Mar 23-30	65th U.S. Open , Brunswick Zone Carolier, North Brunswick, NJ

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Baker Wins First 2007 Title

BRENTWOOD, Calif. – Two-time defending Professional Bowlers Association Senior Player of the Year Tom Baker is back in the winners' circle, defeating Mark Glover, 245-221, to win the 2007 PBA Senior Northern California Classic at Harvest Park Bowl.



Tom Baker

pba photo

Baker won the PBA Senior Player and Rookie of the Year awards in his first season on Tour in 2005, then dominated the Tour last season, winning a Tour-record four titles in nine events including both Majors.

The road hasn't been as smooth for Baker in 2007, however, as several big names have joined the Tour full time. PBA Hall of Famers David Ozio and Mark Roth have returned full time along with a solid group of rookies, including PBA Hall of Famer Steve Cook, and Sam Zurich and Sam Maccarone, each of whom have won titles this season.

Baker was on a mission after coming up empty in the first seven events. He finished second to Ozio in the season-opening PBA

Senior Manassas Open and despite coming into the week second in the PBA Senior Point Rankings, he had made just one other championship round appearance.

On Tuesday, Baker caught a break to get into the title match. Trailing Sam Carter by 44 pins after four frames, Carter left the 4-6-7-10 split and opened, giving Baker an opening. The PBA Hall of Famer and exempt bowler on the Denny's PBA Tour took advantage, striking five consecutive times to take the match, 234-219.

"I was worried there," Baker (King, N.C.) said. "The right lane broke down and I went high and left a 4-9, but then he went to the right lane and left that split. I made a move and went a couple boards in on that lane and that was the turning point."

Baker then moved on to face Glover, who was looking for his first career PBA Senior Tour title. The 52-year-old fell behind again as Glover started with three strikes, but after he nine-apsed in the fourth frame, Baker took advantage and struck six times in a row to take the lead. The match all but ended when Glover fell to the same fate as Carter, leaving the 4-6-7-10 in the eighth frame, giving Baker his sixth title in under three seasons.

"I guess I was pretty frustrated," Baker said about his season thus far. "I knew I was bowling well, but I didn't have the success I've had the last couple seasons and it was just a matter of me carrying the 10-pin. It's been my nemesis. Today it came down to the 10th frame in a lot of the matches and when I needed strikes today I got them where earlier in the year when I needed them I left a 10-pin.

Baker earned \$8,000 for the win while Glover took home \$4,500. Carter (BenLomond, Calif.) and John Curtis (Newark, Calif.) each took home \$3,000.

PBA Senior Northern California Classic

Harvest Park Bowl, Brentwood, Calif. - July 3, 2007

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH - (Winner earns \$8,000. Loser earns \$4,500)

Tom Baker, King, N.C., def. Mark Glover, Woodbridge, Va., 245-221

ROUND OF 4 - (Losers eliminated, earn \$3,000)

Mark Glover, def. John Curtis, 237-212; Tom Baker, def. Sam Carter, 234-219

ROUND OF 8 - (Losers eliminated, earn \$1,700)

John Curtis, def. Rohn Morton, 2-0 (212-212*, 213-209); Mark Glover, def. Kerry Painter, 2-1 (244-199, 268-279, 237-228); Sam Carter, def. Bob Brady, 2-0 (254-232, 258-245); Tom Baker, def. Ty Dawson, 2-0 (223-204, 229-223).

*Curtis won in a roll-off, 39-38

ROUND OF 16 - (Losers eliminated, earn \$1,300)

John Curtis, def. Edward Silva, 3-0 (223-210, 265-233, 187-182); Rohn Morton, def. Keith Sharp, 3-2 (300-237, 167-226, 192-225, 257-216, 207-195); Mark Glover, def. Kevin Croucher, 3-1 (234-200, 200-290, 234-233, 245-237); Kerry Painter, def. Dave Soutar, 3-1 (223-214, 221-258, 246-159, 236-216); Bob Brady, def. Dale Eagle, 3-1 (226-221, 226-279, 238-194, 278-269); Sam Carter, def. Vinnie Atria, 3-1 (242-210, 215-207, 202-235, 202-194); Ty Dawson, def. Tom Carter, 3-1 (247-243, 227-232, 269-175, 254-236); Tom Baker, def. David Ozio, 3-1 (278-257, 222-232, 203-194, 221-218).

ROUND OF 24 - (Losers eliminated, earn \$1,100)

John Curtis, def. James Brenner, 3-1 (234-237, 258-221, 285-246, 233-200); Keith Sharp, def. Dan Duskin Sr., 3-1 (224-226, 235-199, 238-150, 228-209); Kevin Croucher, def. Roger LeClair, 3-2 (279-239, 214-224, 254-221, 217-267, 258-207); Kerry Painter, def. Mike Landriith, 3-2 (208-251, 258-259, 228-215, 258-218, 300-233); Bob Brady, def. Chet Steengrafe, 3-1 (268-213, 274-166, 279-279*, 257-248); Sam Carter, def. Steve Stein, 3-0 (259-178, 259-203, 237-219); Tom Carter, def. Teata Semiz, 3-1 (273-136, 232-212, 199-208, 268-247); Tom Baker, def. Jerry Walls, 3-0 (197-191, 214-152, 290-206).

*Brady won in a one-ball, sudden death roll-off, 9-8.

ROUND OF 32 - (Losers eliminated, earn \$1,000)

John Curtis, Newark, Calif., def. Ted Stalkoff, Black Hawk, S.D., 3-1 (224-222, 247-244, 203-212, 227-193); Keith Sharp, Orlando, Fla., def. Roger Kossert, Lithia, Fla., 3-0 (236-227, 252-196, 215-172); Roger LeClair, Clackamas, Ore., def. Pete Couture, Titusville, Fla., 3-0 (259-180, 246-231, 204-183); Mike Landriith, Chandler, Ariz., def. Bob Chamberlain, The Villages, Fla., 3-0 (247-222, 278-237, 278-218); Chet Steengrafe, San Martin, Calif., def. Steve Ferraro, Kingston, N.Y., 3-1 (231-223, 184-255, 217-195, 233-186); Steve Stein, Staten Island, N.Y., def. Gary Skidmore, Albuquerque, N.M., 3-1 (189-246, 268-266, 218-205, 236-203); Teata Semiz, North Brunswick, N.J., def. Mark Roth, Fulton, N.Y., 3-1 (237-172, 239-185, 200-214, 238-199); Jerry Walls, Klamath Falls, Ore., def. Don Blatchford, Santa Monica, Calif., 3-0 (264-219, 245-236, 221-201).

Other Cashers (\$800 each)

Bob Kelly, Dayton, Ohio, 3,526; Frank Fiscello, Bloomfield, N.J., 3,521; Gary Dickinson, Edmond, Okla., 3,519; Fred Kaczmarczyk, Martinez, Calif., 3,518; Don Sylvia, Discovery Bay, Calif., 3,517; Warren Nelson, Fresno, Cal, 3,516.

Super Senior (\$600 each)

Harley Trumbull, New Boston, Mich., 3,490; Norb Wetzel, Fond du Lac, Wis., 3,436; Chuck Best, Buda, Texas, 3,400; Ernie Schlegel, Vancouver, Wash., 3,395; 64, Gregory Goetz, Washington, 3,356; William Keenan, Jr., Orlando, Fla., 3,351; George Lord, Lakeland, Fla., 3,330; Stan Winters, Simi Valley, Calif., 3,319; Dennis Jones, Fremont, Calif., 3,312; Ken Waters, Kingsport, Tenn., 3,295.

300 games – Kerry Painter, Rohn Morton, Edward Silva, Bill Henson.

Schlegel Wins in Klamath Falls

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. – While he hadn't won a Professional Bowlers Association Senior Tour title in the last four years, Ernie Schlegel had no qualms in beating the top seed from qualifying in the 2007 PBA Senior Epicenter Classic at The Epicenter Bowling Complex in Klamath Falls.

In a battle of PBA Hall of Famers, Schlegel defeated top-seed David Ozio (Beaumont, Texas), 235-215, to claim his first PBA Senior Tour title since the 2003 PBA Senior Northern California Classic in Brentwood, Calif.

Schlegel refused to let Ozio in the match after the Texan left splits in the fifth and 10th frames.

"It always feels good to win. The cliché is

true, winning never gets old," said Schlegel (Vancouver, Wash.). "The win is the only anything that matters. If you win ugly, who cares, the win is what counts. If you are able to pick up some splits and convert your spares, chances are you are going to do well."

Schlegel advanced to the finals after defeating the event's second seed, Henry Gonzalez (Colorado Springs, Colo.), 245-182.

Ozio knocked off Bob Brady (Santa Monica, Calif.), 258-231, in the semifinals to advance.

Schlegel took home \$8,000 for the victory, while Ozio earned \$4,500 for second. Gonzalez and Brady took home \$3,000 apiece for third and fourth.

pba photo



Ernie Schlegel picked up his second PBA Senior Tour title after four years

PBA Epicenter Classic

The Epicenter Bowling Complex, Klamath Falls, Ore. - June 27, 2007

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH - (Winner earns \$8,000, loser earns \$4,500)

Ernie Schlegel def. David Ozio, 235-215

ROUND OF 4 - (Losers eliminated, earn \$3,000)

Schlegel def. Henry Gonzalez (Colorado Springs, Colo.), 245-182; Ozio def. Bob Brady (Santa Monica, Calif.), 258-231

ROUND OF 8 - (Losers eliminated, earn \$1,700)

Ozio def. Rohn Morton (Vancouver, Wash.), 2-1 (268-190, 148-238, 229-170); Brady def. Pete Couture (Titusville, Fla.), 2-0 (266-237, 258-204); Gonzalez def. Edward Silva (Manteca, Calif.), 2-0 (260-190, 193-174); Schlegel def. Bob Handley (Winter Park, Fla.), 2-1 (203-175, 208-208 [8-10], 213-199

ROUND OF 16 - (Losers eliminated, earn \$1,300)

Ozio def. Keith Sharp (Orlando, Fla.), 3-0 (227-165, 235-165, 247-217); Morton def. Teata Semiz (North Brunswick, N.J.), 3-1 (192-192 [30-27], 200-203, 203-170, 224-169); Couture def. Tom Baker (King, N.C.), 3-1 (204-268, 194-189, 248-194, 245-239); Brady def. Hugh Miller (Seattle), 3-2 (237-169, 212-237, 256-268, 257-212, 265-203); Gonzalez def. John Bennett (Clarkston, Mich.), 3-1 (219-236, 220-200, 247-214, 256-196); Silva def. Ted Stalkoff (Black Hawk, S.D.), 3-2 (191-184, 243-263, 221-214, 199-205, 238-235); Schlegel def. Bob Chamberlain (The Villages, Fla.), 3-0 (243-198, 224-189, 193-123); Handley def. Tom Carter (Rockford, Ill.), 3-0 (238-235, 253-213, 236-231)

ROUND OF 24 - (Losers eliminated, earn \$1,100)

Sharp def. Kevin Croucher (Grants Pass, Ore.), 3-2 (206-189, 288-290, 225-257, 268-227, 249-226); Semiz def. Sam Zurich (Grant, Fla.), 3-1 (278-187, 235-176, 237-266, 243-205); Couture def. Don Robinson (Boise, Idaho), 3-1 (225-248, 247-216, 202-178, 246-203); Brady def. James Brenner (LeClaire, Iowa), 3-2 (213-279, 176-149, 178-224, 238-215, 207-183); Bennett def. Roger Kossert (Lithia, Fla.), 3-2 (224-204, 227-249, 238-240, 200-190, 258-215); Silva def. Steve Stein (Staten Island, N.Y.), 3-1 (223-187, 147-201, 254-166, 186-184); Chamberlain def. Dave Bernhardt (Shelby Township, Mich.), 3-0 (254-238, 213-211, 222-177); Carter def. Leon Loucks (Marysville, Wash.), 3-2 (247-266, 231-265, 244-207, 214-159, 225-214)

ROUND OF 32 - (Losers eliminated, earn \$1,000)

Sharp def. Tommy Kress (Rochester, N.Y.), 3-1 (224-215, 192-253, 218-170, 248-226); Semiz def. Greg Goetz (Washington), 3-0 (225-221, 223-198, 201-195); Robinson def. Conway Sunnell (Eugene, Ore.), 3-1 (234-168, 204-193, 179-258, 215-193); Brenner def. Matt Surina (Everett, Wash.), 3-1 (165-227, 245-193, 223-191, 223-196); Bennett def. Don Sylvia (Discovery Bay, Calif.), 3-2 (224-279, 252-214, 221-243, 226-204, 237-150); Silva def. Jerome Lee (Medford, Ore.), 3-1 (184-199, 204-201, 198-157, 180-144); Bernhardt def. Roger LeClair (Clackamas, Ore.), 3-2 (256-172, 224-207, 222-248, 231-245, 234-211); Carter def. Mike Landriith (Chandler, Ariz.), 3-0 (159-134, 210-157, 220-182)

Super Seniors (\$600 each)

Mel Wolf, Jackson, Mich., 3,395; Ron Merritt, Florence, Ore., 3,389; Leo Plaia, New Orleans, 3,365; Bob Knipple, Long Beach, Calif., 3,349; Norb Wetzel, Fond du Lac, Wis., 3,348; Ken Waters, Kingsport, Tenn., 3,339; Robert Teeters, Lapel, Ind., 3,326; Fred Cole, Visalia, Calif., 3,315; Dave Soutar, Bradenton, Fla., 3,278; (TIE) Steven Jansson, Barnes, Wis., and Dale Eagle, Tavares, Fla., 3,277.

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QUARTERFINAL HANDICAP - MONDAY 9/3 - 1:30 PM

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 SUNDAY 1:00 PM
 SUNDAY 3:00 PM - 1ST CUT
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The 15th Annual Arizona Bowling Dream Rolls Labor Day Weekend

The Strike Force Tour Arizona's largest amateur bowling club will offer yet another guaranteed knock out for Arizona in this years Dream along with its trade marked divisional bowling which guarantees all averages to qualify, cash, and win! The 15th Annual Arizona Dream is slotted to be the largest Dream in Strike Force history! The event will be hosted by AMF Christown Lanes the plush 48 lane center offering comfort for the participants and spectators. The Tour is taking it to the next level in tournament action offering a mini mega buck event which will feature an estimated \$100,000 total payout, \$10,000 1st place guaranteed with bonus in the handicap divisional singles. The Scratch Division will boast a \$5,000 1st place with 250 entries and a minimum of \$3,000 1st place regardless of entries. Last years Arizona Bowling Dream paid out over \$80,000.

There will be a total of 19 qualifying squads with daily cuts for the handicap event running Friday, August 31 thru September 3. Monday, September 3 with quarter finals starting Monday, September 3 at 1:45 p.m. The scratch event will have 13 qualifying squads with three event cut scores that will run from Friday, September 2 with quarter-finals beginning Sunday, September 2 at 5:45 p.m. Dream checks will be disbursed on Sunday, September 2 (scratch) immediately following the finals and Monday, September 9 (handicap).

\$10,000 1st Divisional Handicap & \$5,000 1st Divisional Scratch.

The qualifying for the handicap divisional will consist of four divisions -- Division A 210 and above, Division B 190-209, Division C 189 and below. Everyone will bowl a three game qualifier with 1:8 bowlers advancing to the quarter-finals. There will be several rounds of cut until a champion from each division is crowned before moving to the champion of champion finals. The Scratch Division will consist of two divisional qualifying -- Platinum Division 210 and above and will include all amateur and pro excluding current PBA exempt players. The Silver Division will consist of averages 209 and below including senior +55 and women. Any senior or woman averaging over 209 and has a championship title win of \$2,000 or greater (last 5 years) will bowl in the Platinum Division.

Dream Early Bird Specials

This years Dream will offer the highest Early Bird value packages like no other as our national sponsor, Vacation Concepts, will offer multiple Early Bird specials: (handicap event) - special #1 is the Ebonite Travel Deal which includes a two night stay at the luxurious Residence Marriott Suites (free real breakfast each day), three tournament entries and a Platinum vacation package (3days 2 night stay - Vegas, Laughlin, Reno or Tahoe) for only \$460. This next deal will fit well for our traveling participants special #2 is the Early Bird Express Package which includes three tournament entries and a Platinum vacation package (3 days 2 night stay - Vegas, Laughlin, Reno or Tahoe) for only \$299. Special #3 is Early Bird entries at \$79 and re-entries \$72. Scratch event Early Bird specials: special #1 Early Bird Express Package 2 entries and a Platinum Vacation package (3 days 2 night stay - Vegas, Laughlin, Reno or Tahoe) for only \$299 and early bird entry is \$110. These are great Early Bird value packages and Early Bird deadline is August 11. Only 150 Early Bird Express Packages available for handicap and 100 for the scratch. Mail your entry form early to secure accommodations. Early Bird cut-off is August 17, 2007.

Special Bye Rounds

Handicap Event - Top series daily main event (Friday-Sunday) will earn a two round bye for a total of three and the last squads Saturday and Sunday will feature top series guaranteed into quarter-finals regardless of series bowled. Scratch Event * The 1st squad each day (Friday and Saturday) will be guaranteed into the quarter finals.

Hotel Accommodations

The Strike Force Tour host hotel is the Residence Inn Phoenix Marriott 2, miles north of the host center. You can reach the hotel by dialing 1(800) 331-3131 or (602) 864-1900. Online at www.Marriott.com and reserve your room. Mention Strike Force Tour for special rate. Suites \$74 and Penthouse \$99.

For more information visit our web site www.strikeforcetour.com or call the hotline at 480-838-7119, 1-800-838-7119 out of area for all your details or call the Director direct at (602) 502-4546. Until then see you on the lanes and "May The Force Be With You."

Four Bowlers Win Titles at Pepsi USBC Youth Championships

BUFFALO, N.Y. - Four players earned titles as the 2007 Pepsi United States Bowling Congress Youth Championships came to a close with single-game, double-elimination match play at Transit Lanes.

The Pepsi Youth Championships is one of the premier international tournaments for youth bowlers. This year's event consisted of nearly 200 athletes from all 50 United States, U.S. military zones, Puerto Rico and Canada

competing for a total of \$24,000 in scholarships. In Division 1 boys, John Vohs of Harwich, Mass., originally thought he had missed the finals yet he went on to win the event. After a scoring error was discovered shortly after qualifying, Vohs moved into the top 16 and was eligible for the finals.

"I thought I was going to be an alternate, but I made the finals and then I didn't lose," Vohs said. "It felt real good but I was nervous all the time. You have to try not to take everything into account otherwise you just psyche yourself out. It's pretty intense."

Vohs, a 16-year-old who works at a grocery store, defeated Bradley Owen of Pocatello,



John Vohs, Kellie Golias, Derrick Stewart and Tammy Veneski.

Idaho, 207-184 to win the championship and \$2,000 in scholarship money. Owen earned \$1,500 for second, while Andy Wagner of Ada, Minn., finished third for \$1,000 and Tommy Sims of Glen Ellyn, Ill., was fourth for \$500.

Tammy Veneski of McDonald, Pa., won the Division 1 girls title by defeating Katie Combs of Elkton, Md., in two straight matches. Veneski, who came from the non-winners bracket, beat Combs 204-180 and then 252-167 to win the title. Rebecca Lulu of Leicester, Mass., was third, while Adriana Gonzalez Matos of Bayamon, Puerto Rico, was fourth.

For Veneski, 17, it was her second title in the Pepsi Youth Championships. She won the same event in 2005 in Indianapolis.

"I wasn't quite as nervous because I had gone through this before, but of course there are still some nerves," said Veneski, who plays varsity volleyball and softball at South Fayette High School. "I actually was thinking I would do really bad this year. I figured there was no chance I could win this title twice."

DUKE & WILLIAMS Win PBA All-Star Shootout

EUREKA, Mo. - On paper, the team of Norm Duke and Walter Ray Williams Jr. should have been dominant in the first outdoor Professional Bowlers Association event since 2001. In reality, there were.

Duke and Williams, two of the most decorated bowlers in history, completed their

The second match also featured some drama as Williams converted a 2-5-7-8 split in the sixth frame to earn five bonus pins which turned out to be the difference. Smith led after a five-bagger in frames 2-6, but a spare in the seventh frame stopped his momentum. After the split conversion, Williams struck four



march through the special summer doubles event, sweeping the championship round matches against Tony Reyes and Robert Smith to win the GEICO® PBA All-Star Shootout Hosted by Six Flags at Six Flags St. Louis.

Although Reyes and Smith came into the finals as the only team to go 3-0 in round robin match play, they were no match for Duke and Williams, who swept the two singles matches - worth one point each - and the final doubles match worth two points for the 4-0 win. The pair of Hall of Famers - Williams a PBA and United States Bowling Congress (USBC) Hall of Famer and Duke a USBC Hall of Famer - with a combined 68 Denny's PBA Tour titles split the \$50,000 top prize.

The event featured 16 of the PBA's biggest stars split into eight teams for an alternate shot doubles event, where any split converted was worth five bonus pins and teams striking on their fill ball were allowed an extended 10th frame.

In the finals, Duke won the first singles match over Reyes, striking seven consecutive times in frames 3-9 to give "Will Duke 'Em" a 1-0 lead. Duke finished the match with a score of 258, striking on his fill ball to give himself the extra frame possibility. Reyes had a chance to take the lead by striking out in the 10th and throwing one extra strike, but he left a 3-10 split in the 10th frame to fall, 258-233.

GEICO® PBA All-Star Shootout Hosted by Six Flags
Six Flags St. Louis, Eureka , Mo. - July 22, 2007

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND

(Norm Duke-Walter Ray Williams Jr. vs. Tony Reyes - Robert Smith . Singles wins worth one point, doubles win worth two points)

Norm Duke, Clermont , Fla. , def. Tony Reyes , San Bruno , Calif. , 258-233

Walter Ray Williams Jr., Ocala Fla. , def. Robert Smith , Captain Cook, Hawaii , 259-255

Duke-Williams def. Reyes-Smith, 219-202

ROUND ROBIN GROUP PLAY - (Winner advances to championship round)

Dick Weber Group

Tony Reyes - Robert Smith def. Doug Kent-Danny Wiseman, 222-219

FINAL STANDINGS

(Winning team earns \$50,000. Second-place earns \$30,000. All other teams earn \$15,000. Each round robin win worth \$2,500)

Team Record Earnings

Norm Duke-Walter Ray Williams Jr.	6-1	\$55,000
Tony Reyes - Robert Smith	3-3	\$37,500
Doug Kent-Danny Wiseman	2-1	\$20,000
Chris Barnes- Mika Koivunieni	2-1	\$20,000
Jason Couch-Billy Oatman	1-2	\$17,500
Sean Rash-Pete Weber	1-2	\$17,500
Patrick Allen- Parker Bohn III	1-2	\$17,500
Tommy Jones -Wes Malott	1-2	\$17,500

In Division 2 boys, two games were needed to decide the championship as well. Derrick Stewart of Buena Vista, Pa., defeated Eric Henderson of Salem, Ill., 219-181 and 234-180 to win the title. Mykel Gallegos of Show Low, Ariz., took third, while Brandon Rinker of Cashmere, Wash., was fourth.

BOYS

Division 1 - (Averages 164-204)

1, John Vohs, Harwich, Mass., \$2,000.

2, Bradley Owen, Pocatello, Idaho, \$1,500.

3, Andy Wagner, Ada, Minn., \$1,000.

4, Tommy Sims, Glen Ellyn, Ill., \$500.

Division 2 - (Averages 107-163)

1, Derrick Stewart, Buena Vista, Pa., \$2,000.

2, Eric Henderson, Salem, Ill., \$1,500.

3, Mykel Gallegos, Show Low, Ariz., \$1,000.

4, Brandon Rinker, Cashmere, Wash., \$500

GIRLS

Division 1 - (Averages 151-205)

1, Tammy Veneski, McDonald, Pa., \$2,000.

2, Katie Combs, Elkton, Md., \$1,500.

3, Rebecca Lulu, Leicester, Mass., \$1,000.

4, Adriana Gonzalez Matos, Bayamon, PR, \$500.

Division 2 - (Averages 92-150)

1, Kellie Golias, Sugarloaf, Pa., \$2,000.

2, Shelley Deakins, Kaneohe, Hawaii, \$1,500.

3, Ashley Smigaj, Missoula, Mont., \$1,000.

4, Bethany Long, Asheville, N.C., \$500.

Brown & Martinez Win U.S. Junior Amateur Titles

BUFFALO, N.Y. - Jenny Brown of Deland, Fla., and Adam Martinez of San Antonio were crowned U.S. Junior Amateur champions at the 2007 United States Bowling Congress Junior Gold Championships.



Adam Martinez and Jenny Brown

The championships featured nearly 1,600 of the top youth bowlers in the country competing for \$100,000 in scholarships, individual titles and berths on Junior Team USA 2008.

Martinez, a right-handed bowler who throws a back-up ball, claimed a narrow victory, winning by just three pins with a 30-game total of 6,189, an average of 206.3. Josh Burkhardt of Beavercreek, Ohio, had a chance to pass Martinez to win the title, but left a 4-9 split in the final frame.

"I'm very excited and I still can't even believe that I won," said the 20-year-old Martinez, who finished seventh at last year's Junior Gold. "This means an awful lot to me. It's so hard to explain but it's just an amazing experience."

In addition to Martinez and Burkhardt, another player had a shot to claim the title in the final frames.

Dean Richards of Tacoma, Wash., was the last player to finish the final squad and needed a double in the 10th frame to sneak past Martinez. Richards struck on his first shot but left a 2-8-10 split on the next ball

and finished in a tie for third with Geoffrey Young of Denton, Texas, four pins behind Martinez.

On the girls side, Brown took the lead after 18 games of qualifying and never looked back. For 30 games, Brown totaled 6,078, an average of 202.6 per game, and finished comfortably ahead of Michelle Carcagente of Palm Harbor, Fla., who was second with 5,928.

"I'm just speechless; I never thought I would ever finish in first place," said Brown, 17, a current member of Junior Team USA. "The fact that I was ahead most of the way took some of the pressure off. If I left a split or made a bad shot, I always had the next frame to look forward to. It gave me some room to breathe."

The top five finishers in each division earned automatic spots on Junior Team USA 2008 with the National Selection Committee picking three boys and three girls to join the team. Selections were made from the pool of athletes who advance to match play competition.

Joining Martinez, Burkhardt, Richards and Young on the boys squad was fifth-place finisher and last year's Junior Gold champion Matt O'Grady of South Amboy, N.J. Additional members of the girls team are Kerry Smith of New Holland, Pa., Emily Maier of Wichita, Kan., and Sarah Germano of Rochester, N.Y.

The National Selection Committee added Michael Marsico of Owings, Md.; John Szczerbinski of Wichita, Kan.; Toby Sambuono of Aiea, Hawaii; Noel Ocasio of Patchogue, N.Y.; Josie Earnest of Vandalia, Ill.; and Ricki Williams of Wichita, Kan., to Junior Team USA 2008 as at-large members.

Athletes in both the boys and girls divisions rolled 18 qualifying games July 9-13 at AMF Airport Lanes, AMF Thruway Lanes and Transit Lanes. The qualifying field then was trimmed to the top 96 boys and 48 girls for Friday morning's semifinals, which consisted of one six-game block. The top 32 boys and 32 girls closed with a six-game block in the finals.

thousands gathered to gain fresh knowledge and ideas on how to better run their businesses. Thursday, June 28th highlights included a Champagne Breakfast with the Industry Leaders, sponsored by the USBC, where bowling writers and others conducted a Q & A with various bowling industry leaders.

The pinnacle of IBE 2007 was Thursday night's Club Xpo, featuring Karaoke Finals winner Mia Dorr and headline entertainer LeAnn Rimes. QubicaAMF Worldwide with support from ASCAP, BMI and SESAC sponsored the Thursday night event.

Fundraisers were plentiful during Bowl Expo with The Bowling Foundation's Golf Outing and the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame's Salute to Bowling Silent and Live Auction where MLB knuckle-ball pitcher Tom Candiotti was officially inducted into the IBMHOF's Celebrity Hall of Fame wing. Pledges and actual donations for the BPAC (BPAA's Political Action Committee) were once again received from attendees.

International Bowl Expo thanks all of its sponsors and especially recognizes the 2007 Diamond Level Sponsors Pepsi-Cola, QubicaAMF, North Pointe Insurance Group, Brunswick, Sysco and Anheuser-Busch.

International Bowl Expo 2008 returns to Orlando, Fla. and the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel June 22 - 27, 2008. Exhibits will be housed in Orlando's Orange County Convention Center on June 25th and 26th.

Duke Earns Third ESPY Award

Norm Duke brought home his third Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly (ESPY) award July 11th at the 2007 ESPY awards show at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles.

Highlights of Duke's 2006-07 Denny's PBA Tour season include:

- Collected a Tour-high three titles despite withdrawing from eight events due to injury.

- Posted an average of 228.47 - a new single-season PBA record.

- Became the first bowler to go 14-0 in match play en route to the title in the 2006 Lake County Indiana Classic.

- Finished second in the Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year voting.



Duke had previously won the award back-to-back in 1994 and 1995.

Other nominees for the award included 2006-07 Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year Doug Kent and 64th U.S. Open champion Pete Weber.

The 15th annual ESPYS were presented by Hummer and Under Armour and were hosted by comedian Jimmy Kimmel and NBA star LeBron

James. The ESPYS celebrate the top moments, most emotional stories and best performances of the past year in sports.

Five Students Earn \$5,000 Earl Anthony Memorial Scholarships

Four recent high school graduates and one college sophomore have been selected by the United States Bowling Congress to receive its Earl Anthony Memorial Scholarship awards.

The prestigious \$5,000 scholarships, which recognize youth bowlers' community service and academic achievements, were awarded to Michael Brown of Wellsville, Ohio; Richard Holcomb of Montrose, Colo.; Brooke Kern of Miami; Michelle Ostrowski of Cincinnati; and Kristi Robinson of Gordon, Ga.

"I have had a great experience over the last nine years in the local youth bowling league, and I am grateful for the opportunity this scholarship provides," said Brown, 18, who plans to study sports management at Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio. Earlier this year Brown also was awarded USBC's Gift for Life Scholarship and named to the Who's Who All-Academic Bowling Team.

"Knowledge is power," said Holcomb, 17, who plans to study chemistry at the University of Colorado at Boulder. "There isn't anything you can't do if you have the education and training." Holcomb's long-term goal is to become a physician specializing in internal medicine and

infectious diseases.

"Bowling has always been an enormous part of my life and has provided me with great opportunities," said Kern, 20. She has studied for two years at Florida International University and begins Nursing School at the University of Miami this fall. She aims to be a registered nurse anesthetist.

"Bowling has allowed me to grow into a more positive person and learn to control my emotions," said Ostrowski, 18, who plans to study accounting at Pikeville College in Pikeville, Ky. She also was named to the Dexter/USBC High School All-American Bowling Team this year.

"I have been able to meet so many brilliant and talented people through bowling competitions," said Robinson, 18. "Bowling has opened up a world of opportunities that I never thought possible." Robinson plans to attend Georgia College & State University to become a pharmacist. She also was named to the USBC Who's Who All-Academic Bowling Team this year.

Named in honor of the legendary pro bowler and ambassador for the sport of bowling, USBC's Earl Anthony Memorial Scholarships are awarded annually to five high school seniors or college students who are USBC or USBC Youth members.

BANQUETS-FUNDRAISERS-CHARITIES-SOUVENIRS

The latest cartoon book by Stars & Strikes cartoonist **Walt Steinsiek**

is now available, and the author is currently accepting orders by phone and email.

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The Funniest Approach!

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To email Steinsiek: ztlaw98@hotmail.com, call 772-664-5564 or send a check to: 5337 Bison St., Micco FL 32976-7790.



BOWL EXPO continued from pg 11

Finals, presented by The Lighting & Sound Karaoke Store, where 12 regional finalists performed in front of a prestigious panel of judges and hundreds of IBE 2007 attendees vying for the \$5,000 top prize. Mia Dorr, who qualified and won the regional contest at Kandi Entertainment Center in Wilmar, Minn., came away the winner of the very entertaining contest.

International Bowl Expo attendees packed the Mandalay Bay's South Pacific Ballroom on Wednesday morning to hear "Washington's Best-loved Couple," James Carville and Mary Matalin. During the Wednesday General Session attendees witnessed a special presentation by USBC's incoming-president Jeff Bojé. In addition, the industry recognized John Sommer, the 2007 recipient of the industry's most prestigious award, the Victor Lerner Memorial Medal and 2007 inductee into BPAA's Hall of Fame. Strike Ten Entertainment Vice Presidents Frank DeSocio and Henry Lewczyk, provided an update on STE's progress over the past year including the announcement of the new WWE league promotion which included a surprise visit by WWE's Mr. Kennedy.

With 50 different educational seminars and workshops offered, education was the main focus on Monday afternoon and all day Tuesday as leaders and speakers from within and outside the bowling industry spoke to the

THE FUNNY PAGE



Confucius say: "man who run behind car get exhausted"... "man who run in front of car get tired"

XXX

Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

XXX

The Farmer

A cocky highway employee stopped at a farm and talked with an old farmer. He told the farmer, "I need to inspect your farm for a possible new road."
 The old farmer said, "OK, but don't go in that field."
 The Highways employee said, "I have the authority of the Government to go where I want. See this card? I am allowed to go wherever I wish on farm land."
 So the old farmer went about his farm chores.
 Later, he heard loud screams and saw the Highways employee running for the fence and close behind was the farmer's prize bull. The bull was madder than a nest full of hornets and was gaining on the employee at every step.
 The old farmer called out, "Show him your card!!!"

XXX

If you think nobody cares, try missing a couple of payments.

XXX

If you've ever worked for a boss that reacts before thinking, you will love this! A large company, feeling it was time for a shakeup, hired a new CEO. This new boss was determined to rid the company of all slackers. On a tour of the facilities, the CEO noticed a guy leaning on a wall. The room was full of workers and he wanted to let them know that he meant business. He walked up to the guy leaning against the wall and asked, "How much money do you make a week?"
 A little surprised, the young fellow looked at him and replied, "I make \$300 a week. Why?"
 The CEO then handed the guy \$1,200 in cash and screamed, "Here's four weeks' pay, now GET OUT and don't come back!"
 Feeling pretty good about himself, the CEO looked around the room and asked, "Does anyone want to tell me what that goof-off did here?"
 From across the room came a voice, "Pizza delivery guy from Domino's."



MOST ARTISTIC REACTION

Customer: Hi, good afternoon, this is Martha, I can't print. Every time I try, it says 'Can't find printer'. I've even lifted the printer and placed it in front of the monitor, but the computer still says he can't find it...

XXX

Tech support: How may I help you?
 Customer: I'm writing my first e-mail.
 Tech support: OK, and what seems to be the problem?
 Customer: Well, I have the letter 'a' in the address, but how do I get the circle around it?

XXX

If you want your spouse to listen and pay strict attention to every word you say — talk in your sleep.

XXX

A young son asked, "Is it true Dad, that in some part of Africa a man doesn't know his wife until he marries her?"
 Dad replied, "That happens in every country, son."

XXX

Grandpa is the smartest man on Earth? He teaches me good things but I don't get to see him enough to get as smart as him!

XXX

To All Non-Pet Owners Who Visit & Like to Complain About Our Pets:

They live here. You don't.
 If you don't want their hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture. (That's why they call it "fur"nature.)
 I like my pets a lot better than I like most people.
 To you, it's an animal. To me, he/she is an adopted son/daughter who is short, hairy, walks on all fours and doesn't speak clearly.

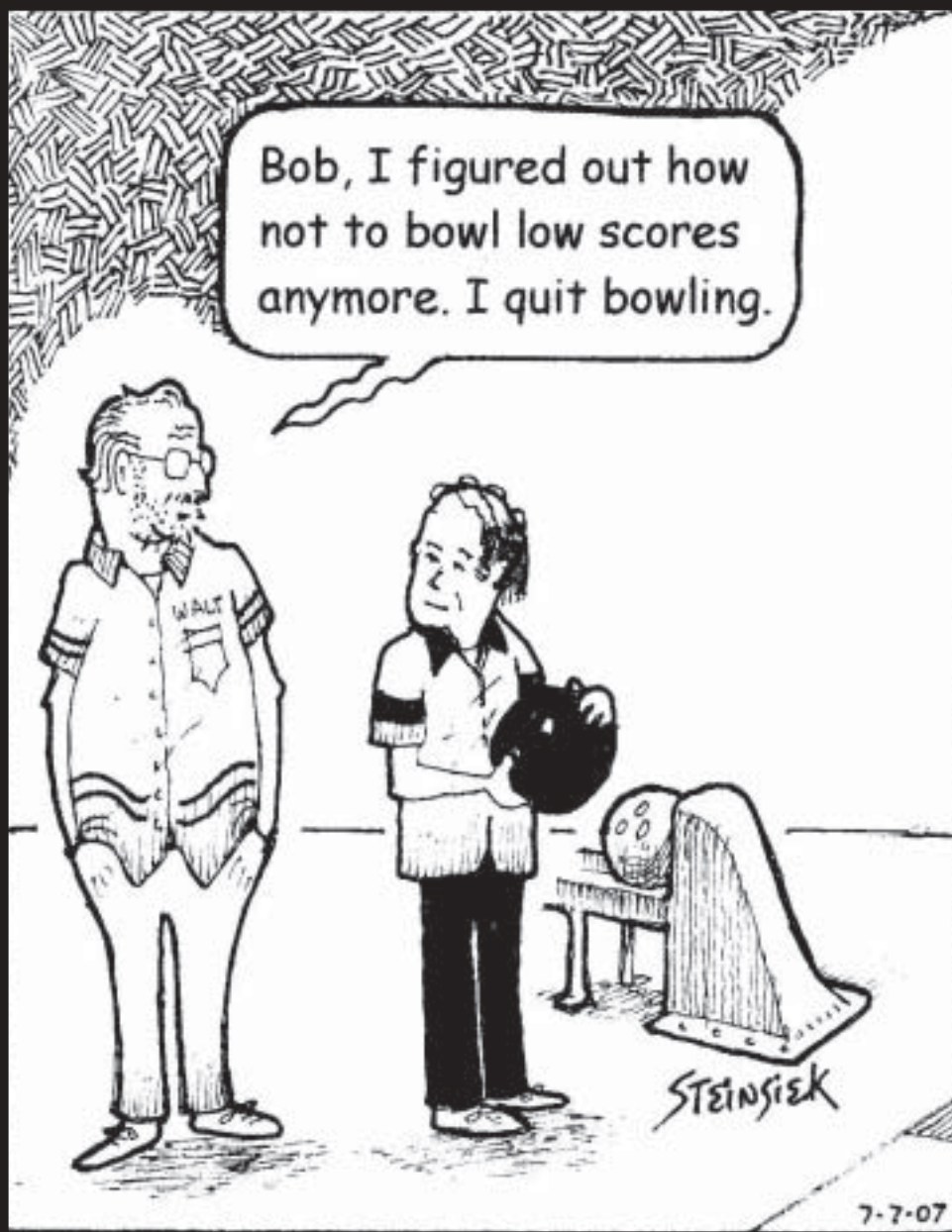
XXX

At a cocktail party, one woman said to another, "Aren't you wearing your wedding ring on the wrong finger?"
 "Yes, I am. I married the wrong man."

XXX

Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television because they are the only grown ups who like to spend time with us. They know we should have snack-time before bedtime and they say prayers with us every time and kiss us even when we've acted bad.

WALT'S WORLD BY WALT STEINSIEK



7-7-07

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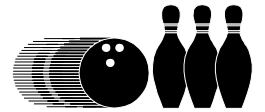
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Please give to BVL through your league coordinator.



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