



STARS & STRIKES
AMERICA'S BOWLING NEWSMAGAZINE



JOHNNY PETRAGLIA

Interview with one of bowling's most outspoken and knowledgeable ambassadors and champions



DICK STOEFFLER TRIBUTES

Jim Goodwin . . . page 2

Joe Lyou . . . page 8

TOUR WINNERS

**PATRICK
ALLEN**

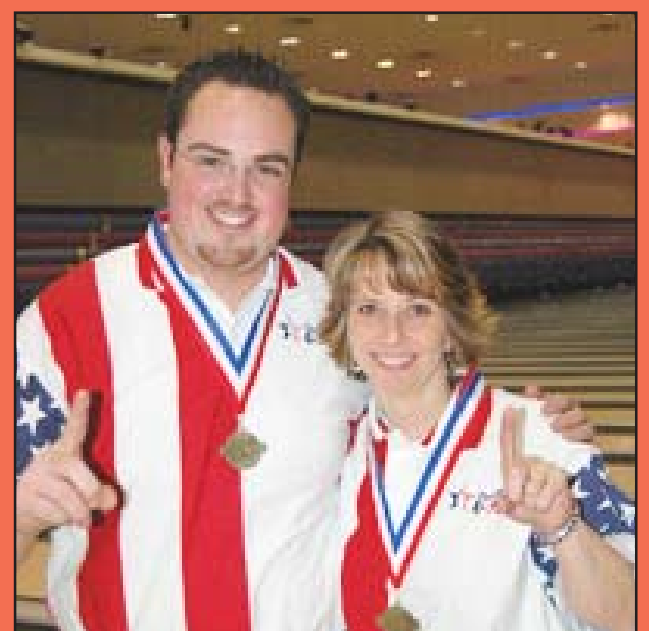
Loves that Chameleon
Oil Pattern

**SEAN
RASH**

Three for three on TV

**JASON
COUCH**

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U S AMATEUR CHAMPIONS

David O'Sullivan & Lynda Barnes

Lynda Elected to World Bowling
Writers Hall of Fame

2007 TEAM USA



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

HEAVEN HAS A NEW HEADLINER - After 8 year battle, cancer finally claims Dick Stoeffler

Bowling lost one of its true treasures January 14. Dick Stoeffler passed away, with his wife Susie by his side, at their home in Las Vegas. His years of bravely fighting cancers and seemingly unending medical procedures are over, and the legends above have a new friend with which to share stories and laughter.

Steff was a great bowler, a great bowling center operator, a great husband, and a great friend to me and so many others who were lucky enough to know him. He was also a very good writer who had the rare ability to make his point with just the right dose of humor and humility.

I didn't simply like Steff - I loved him and admired him. His second best friend Jim Dressel (Susie is #1) introduced us several years ago during one of our trips to Vegas, and we have

shared a wonderful friendship ever since. Actually, I was a big fan of his *Mountain Time* column in the *California Bowling News* long before we met.

Steff's prose had a unique style that was honest and straightforward, but never too offensive because of his incredible sense of humor. For example, here's an excerpt from a thank you note he sent me after I wrote a column about him a few years ago:

"Jim, I am deeply humbled by your words, I thank you so much. Anything I write at this point seems totally inadequate . . . BUT, Yes, there is always a but! I'll likely never write another column! You see, now folks will EXPECT it to be some sage, brilliant bit of wit, possibly akin in knowledge and facts to, maybe, the Ten Commandments. All these years, I have simply sat down in front of my typewriter, gone brain dead and blathered on for about 25 minutes . . . and called it a column. NOW, I'll have to think . . . or be speech-

less. I wonder what the going rate is for 15 inches of blank white space!?" Methinks retirement has finally arrived . . . but on the highest note anyone could hope for. In all sincerity, Jim, THANK YOU!!!"

That thank you note, which I will keep forever, was 'Classic Steff stuff'. Of course, he did write many more fantastic columns to go with the hundreds he penned for more than 30 years. He wasn't afraid to



This photo of BJ Editor Jim Dressel, Stoeffler, and Stars & Strikes Publisher Jim Goodwin was taken several years ago in Las Vegas by Susie Stoeffler

call bowling officials "dunderheads" and other steffisms when they deserved it, and he had the credentials to back up his opinions and musings.

In 1956, he averaged 212 as the highest from California. By comparison, Don Carter and Dick Weber averaged 210 and 208 that year in St. Louis. In 1968, he became only the fourth bowler in history to roll back-to-back 300 games in an ABC sanctioned league. He added a 225 for a huge (in those days) 825 series.

Steff was a PBA member for many years, but was always too busy running centers or tournaments to become a touring player. He made the TV finals in the 1964 PBA Southern Cal Open, finishing third behind Billy Hardwick and Bud Horn. One of his proudest achievements was his "TV Bowling Tournament" that aired on Los Angeles station KTLA for 344 live shows for more than six years in the 1960's.

His 40-lane Kona Lanes bowling center in Costa Mesa, Califor-

nia was one of the busiest 24-hour facilities anywhere for many years, and it was Steff's innovative management style that made him one of the most successful proprietors in the nation. It was there he met Susie, the love of his life.

Before retiring to Las Vegas, he and his beloved Susie bought a place in the mountains in Big Bear, California, where he ran a lucrative paint contracting business. Vegas was the perfect place for Steff,

and he was very happy to be able to keep up with some of the biggest events that visited the bowling hotspot. For CJ and I, dinners with Steff and Susie have been a mainstay of our many trips to Vegas these past years.

In the summer of 2003, Steff was the winner of one of bowling's most prestigious awards - The Sam Levine Flowers for the Living Award. The tradition of the award, which started in 1961, is to keep it a secret until the moment of presentation, and with the help of Susie and the Stoeffler's good friend Sandra Wong, we successfully surprised Steff with the award in front of 1000 people at Bowl Expo. The other conspirators in the award party were CJ and I, Jim Dressel, and Bob Johnson. It was a wonderful day for all of us. Steff thought he was coming to see Dressel get an award, and he was totally surprised when we turned the tables on him.

Some of the winners of the Flowers Award include Joe Norris, Marion Ladewig, Chuck

Pezzano, Dick Weber, Don Carter, Earl Anthony, Chris Schenkel, Joe Lyou, Jeanette Robinson, and Glenn Allison to mention a few, so Steff is in very good company. He sent his typical incredible thank you note to the committee:

He said *"I had a modicum of ability on the lanes, and being inducted into two Halls of Fame was great . . . but to be honored by one's peers with the Flowers Award . . . He who simply mangles a typewriter, he who pretty much flunked English in high school and didn't do much better in college . . . THIS was the greatest of all, and a tremendous surprise . . . I can never possibly thank you all enough. My gratitude is unending . . . the ultimate award in a long career. Thank you, thank you, thank you."*

Now is the time for us to say thank you. Thank you Steff, for being a wonderful friend, a mentor, for loving our sport and industry, and for making all of us a little better for having known you. Thank you for making us laugh, even when we didn't feel like laughing.

Fritz Howell, who inspired the creation of the Flowers Award with a poem, wrote another poem called *Musings At 83*. Steff didn't quite make it to 83, but I think he would enjoy Howell's words from the first and last two stanzas -

Today I am 83, and of the lessons learned in all those years my faith in two great truths still clings.

Those truths are, nothing matters except the ones we love, nothing is worthwhile except simple things.

I've no desire to be remembered for some astounding deed, or as the hero of some momentous day.

My simple wish, is that sometime, somewhere, someone smiles as he recalls that once I passed this way.

Somewhere, many people are smiling as they recall that Dick Stoeffler passed our way.

Stars & Strikes

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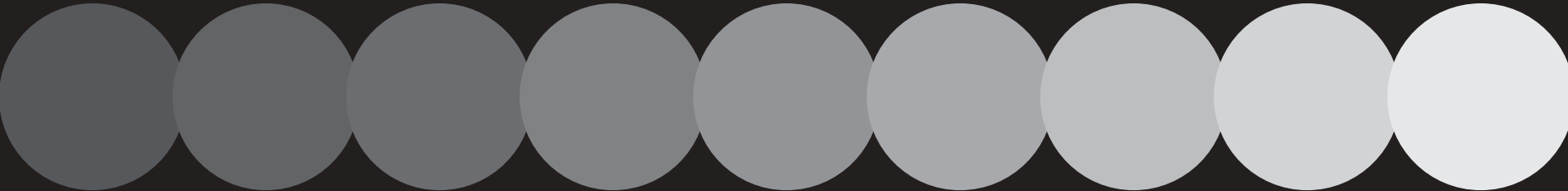
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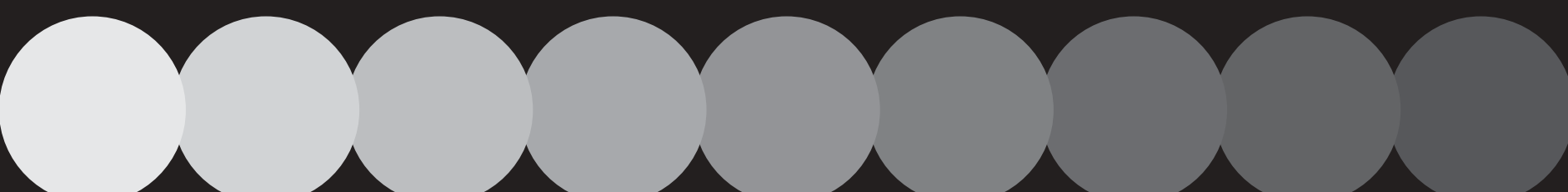
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Chuck Pezzano is the dean of bowling writers. His columns have appeared in newspapers and magazines nationally for over 45 years. He is a charter member of the Professional Bowlers Association, and is enshrined in both the PBA and American Bowling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

PEZZANO

A PEZZANO CLASSIC

Are pro bowlers athletes?

You've heard that one before, and you'll hear it again and again.

Dictionaries inform us that an athlete is one who contends for a prize. The word books also define an athlete as anyone trained or fit to contend in exercises requiring physical agility, stamina, and often strength.

The pro bowler fits.

Though strength is important and helpful, it isn't vital. The type of strength necessary in pro bowling is not the brute strength so essential in the heavy contact sports.

In pro bowling, timing, coordination and a delicate touch add up to a high degree of finesse needed to go along with some force to score consistently. Pro bowling demands rhythm, balance, and skilled muscular effort. The muscles must be supple and toned, always in shape, strong, but not rock hard.

A pro bowler must be competitive. He pays to play, unlike baseball, football, basketball and other players who are paid to play. The pro bowler's pay is what he wins, and he cashes only with superior performances.

They said it well. (With comments)

"We all live under the same sky, but we don't all have the same horizon." —KONRAD ADENAUER (That's why, though they essentially compete in the same sport, some bowlers are happy in their so called fun league, while others strive for nothing less than a national pro championship)

"We cannot advance without experiment in living, no wise man tries every day what 'he has proved wrong the day before.'" —JAMES ADAMS (Don't make the same mistake over and over again, make new ones)

"Make the most of yourself, for that is all there is of you." —RALPH WALDO EMERSON (Don't try to copy others too closely, work with what you have)

"Don't part with your illusions. When they are gone you may still exist but you have ceased to live." —MARK TWAIN (You can roll a 300 game or 900 series or be another Earl Anthony, at least in your fondest dreams)

"Although men are accused of not knowing their own weakness, yet perhaps few know their

Dedication and patience are musts for any successful athletes. A pro bowler must spend many hours for many years perfecting, developing and maintaining his skills. Too many times a pro bowler is classed with the average fun bowler. That's akin to equating a touch football game at a picnic to the Super Bowl.

A pro bowler regularly spends more time in actual competition than almost any other sports performers. They fire away on the lanes six or more hours a day. The total time involved, back and forth between squads, preparation (checking equipment and studying lane conditions) registration and the like can more often than not add up to 8 to 12 hours a day. There are miles of walking and tons of lifting.

There's no relaxing at any stage. There must be the ability to concentrate under constant pressure, on TV, and in a sport where you're always in a crowd, yet always all alone.

Spectators are only a few feet away from the competing bowlers. You sit next to other bowlers, but it's you against the conditions and the pins, no teammates to help, no coaching once you're on that approach. You roll your way out

own strength. It is in men as in soils, where sometimes there is a vein of gold which the owner knows not of." —SWIFT (And that's why unknowns and underdogs can upset the form and why some who always seemed to fold, turn around and come up' with an unexpected, but inspired performance)

"It is not by the gray of the hair that one knows the age of the heart." —SIR HENRY BULWER (Don't ever count those seniors, veterans, elders, whatever you call them, out)

"The winds and waves are always on the side of the ablest navigators." —EDWARD GIBBON (And so it is that the first thing a bowler must learn is how to adjust and adapt to varying lane conditions)

"What is defeat? Nothing but education, nothing but the first step to something better." —WENDELLPHILLIPS (When you lose, there is nowhere to go but up, and that fits most bowlers because there will always be so many more losers than winners)

"Nobody's perfect, and I'm the perfect example." —SUZY SUTTON (Could have sworn

of trouble or wait until the next time.

Pro bowling is a sophisticated and scientific sport. You must adjust every game to every lane. You must learn about equipment, lane surfaces, lane finishes, lane dressings and other variables, each in themselves worthy of deep study and plenty of homework.

The sport looks simple. It is, simple to play, yet difficult to master, impossible to conquer. Each higher average plateau is a new challenge, a tougher climb, and the pro side is the highest peak.

There are millions upon millions of bowlers. Only thousands boast high averages, and those skilled enough to make a good living at the performance end can be counted in the hundreds.

Is a pro bowler an athlete? If you rate physical contact and brute strength as the most important attributes, the answer is no.

But if you add up the definitive skills and knowledge, physical and mental, necessary for success, the answer is an emphatic yes, and leaves little doubt that pro bowlers are outstanding athletes.

Marshall Holman said that)

"A vacation is what you take when you can no longer take what you've been taking." —EARL WILSON (And it's what you do when you're in such a bad slump that you count splits and misses in your sleep when you're supposed to be adding up strikes and spares)

"Practice courtesy. You never know when it might 'become popular again.'" —BILL COPELAND (Do it in bowling all the time and your opponent will become flustered and confused)

"If all the year were playing holidays, to sport would be as tedious as to work." —SHAKESPEARE (A good argument to cut down on some of those long league schedules)

"There's a funny thing about trouble. It starts out as being fun." —NONNEE COAN (And so do bowling troubles)

"If you can meet with triumph and disaster, and treat those two imposters just the same. . . then you are a man, my son." —RUDYARD KIPLING (And, man or woman; if you can do just that, you're a bowler's bowler)

BARNES, O'SULLIVAN WIN U.S. AMATEUR TITLES

Lynda Barnes elected to World Bowling Writers Hall of Fame

RENO, Nev. - David O'Sullivan of Orlando, Fla., and Lynda Barnes of Flower Mound, Texas, topped a field of the nation's top amateur bowlers over four days to earn U.S. Amateur titles at the 2007 USBC Team USA Trials.

Barnes, a 10-time Team USA member, won her third U.S. Amateur title by shooting 8,816 for 40 games, an average of 220. She also won titles in 1995 and 2005.

O'Sullivan, a two-time All-American at Morehead State University, earned a spot on Team USA for the first time by totaling 8,841 for 40 games, an average of 221 per game.

Heading into the final day, O'Sullivan trailed Rhino Page of Fresno, Calif., by 275 pins. O'Sullivan averaged just over 237 to pass the left-hander.

"This means absolutely everything to me," said the 22-year-old O'Sullivan, a 2004 Junior Team USA member who won two medals at the 2004 World Youth Championships. "I've wanted to be on Team USA for as long as I can remember. Winning is a bonus but making Team USA is the biggest thing. Every ounce of practice, every minute, every shot in my career has finally paid off."

Barnes, meanwhile, trailed three-time U.S. Amateur champion Shannon Pluhowsky of Phoenix by three pins heading into the final game. Barnes fired 227 to Pluhowsky's 181 to secure the victory.

"All I kept thinking about was the team gold medal that's coming in August, and that's what kept me focused," said Barnes, speaking of the upcoming Women's World Championships. "I wanted to keep working hard so I can be a part of the team that gets to stand on the gold medal stand."

The top four men and top four women who were

not already on Team USA 2007 earned automatic spots on the team. O'Sullivan is joined on the men's side by Page, Cassidy Schaub of Polk, Ohio, and PJ Haggerty of Clovis, Calif.



David O'Sullivan and Lynda Barnes

Barnes is joined by Tennelle Milligan of Costa Mesa, Calif., Amanda Burgoyne of Newport, Minn., Shannon O'Keefe of Rochester, N.Y., and Rose Brown of Modesto, Calif.

The National Selection Committee also selected four men and women from the field to join the team. John Janawicz of Winter Haven, Fla., Mark Siders of Westerville, Ohio, Scott Pohl of Burnsville, Minn., Derek Eoff of Greenfield, Wis., Marcia Kloempken of Pleasant View, Utah, Brenda Viator of Lake Wales, Fla., Ashly Galante of Palm Harbor, Fla., and Tina Stickney of Goodyear, Ariz., were all picked.

Bill Hoffman of Columbus, Ohio, David Haynes

of Las Vegas, Dan Patterson of Buffalo, N.Y., Fero Williams of Dayton, Ohio, Diandra Asbaty of Chicago, Stefanie Nation of Orlando, Pluhowsky and Barnes bring the total number of Team USA members to 12 men and 12 women for 2007.

The National Selection Committee also awarded two-year Team USA spots to Hoffman, Haynes, Page, Pluhowsky, O'Keefe and Milligan. O'Sullivan and Barnes automatically earned two-year spots by winning.

Lynda Barnes was elected to the World Bowling Writers Hall of Fame. Barnes and fellow Team USA member Diandra Asbaty are the only two American women to earn the honor.

"It's a little overwhelming," said Barnes, who has been a member of Team USA 10 times since 1989. "Being selected for the World Bowling Writers Hall of Fame is very much an honor and something I will always treasure."

Barnes was selected by earning two-thirds of the votes of the World Bowling Writers selection panel.

In 2005, Barnes, 39, turned in several stellar international performances and was selected as the World Bowling Writers Female Bowler of the Year.

She won the prestigious QubicaAMF World Cup and brought home four medals in the Women's World Championships in Aalborg, Denmark. However, at the World Championships, Barnes and her teammates settled for the silver medal in team event, an event Barnes wants to win before she retires.

"Winning the team gold medal at the World Championships is everything to me," said Barnes, who will get another shot at the 2007 Women's World Championships in Monterrey, Mexico. "It's the reason I came back to start with and it's a goal I know everyone on Team USA shares with me."



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FIVE DECADES OF GREATNESS

For John Petraglia, character is the key

Johnny Petraglia has seen it all as a professional bowler. His career has now spanned five decades. He joined the PBA in 1965. He will be 60 in March, and he's still rolling, and still striving to serve the sport that he loves.

Johnny has made more than a million dollars rolling a bowling ball, but his career is not simply measured by earnings or titles. He owns plenty of championships, including 14 during his touring years, 5 on the senior tour, and 9 regional crowns. He is a Triple Crown winner; but it is his work and life off the lanes that defines him as a man of char-

acter and substance.

After winning his first pro title in 1966, he spent the next two years with the US Army in Viet Nam. It was an experience that made him a man very quickly. It changed his perspective, instilled a greater sense of purpose in him, and caused him to appreciate life, family and friends, and his country more than most.

Today, he is one of the spokesmen for bowling's official charity, Bowlers to Veterans Link, and he never misses the opportunity to help BVL help America's veterans. Recently, one of the new Generations tour events

was named for Petraglia, and a substantial amount was raised for BVL during the pro-am and tournament.

He is also loyal. To his friends, to his family, to the sport and industry, and to the company he has proudly represented for almost four decades. When Brunswick signed Johnny to their pro staff in 1971, they were looking for much more than just a great bowler, and 36 years later, both parties will say they are still very happy with the relationship.

Because of his intense desire to make the sport better for future generations, Petraglia has been very outspoken over the years. And

he always backs up his sometimes critical observations with ideas for improvement. He did it during his three terms as PBA President, and he is still doing it today.

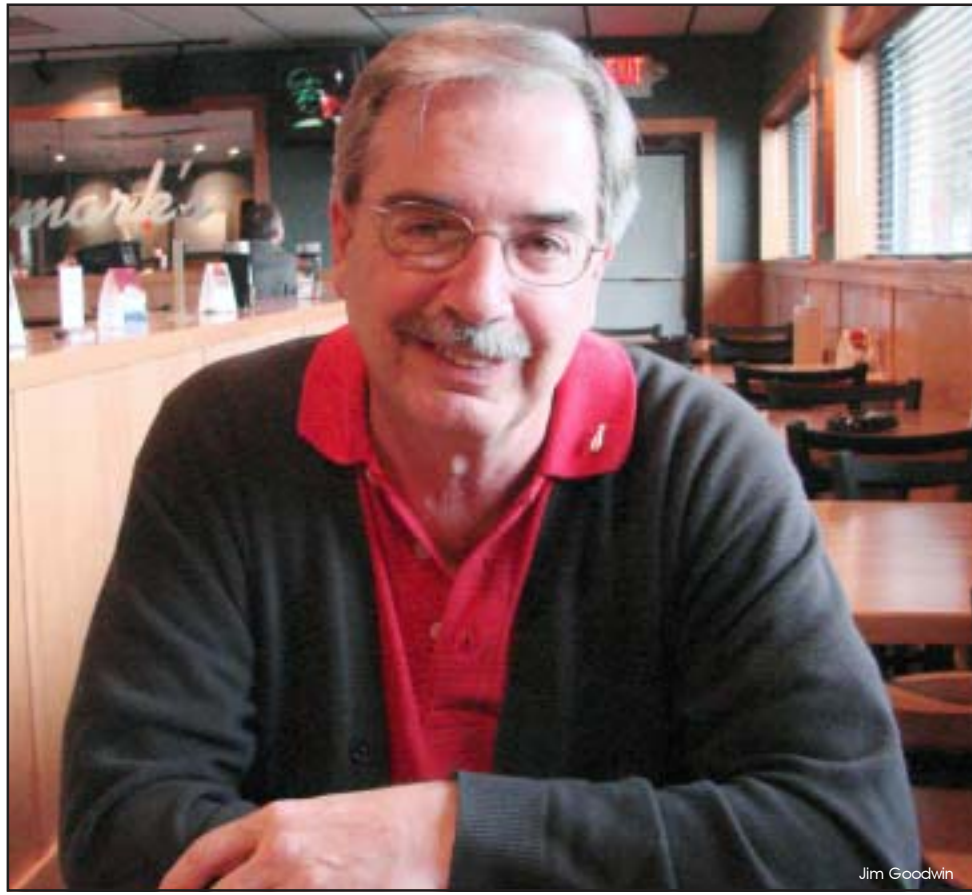
No true bowling fan will ever forget the day in 1994 that he tossed that \$100,000 perfect game in Toledo and said "Thank God, now my son can go to college." Today, John Petraglia Jr. is a member of the bowling team at Moorhead State University, and guess what - he wants to be a pro bowler and follow in his dad's footsteps.

Good luck, JP Jr.! You have some very big footprints to follow.

We've had a few conversations over the years about Halls of Fame. You are in the PBA, the New Jersey Sports, and the Italian-American Halls, but in spite of your illustrious career, you are not in the USBC Hall; nor is Mark Roth, Marshall Holman, and several others. Is the USBC "20 year rule" requiring 20 ABC/USBC national tournaments the only thing keeping you and others out of the USBC Hall? Does this bother you? How many ABC Tournaments did you bowl, and why did you stop before getting 20?

I'm also in the N.J. Sportswriter's Hall of Fame, the N.Y. Bowling Hall of Fame and the PSAL (Public School Athletic League) Hall of Fame. The qualification for Bowling Hall of Fame has been a sore subject for me on many levels. First of all, you will notice I'm in the N.J. Sports Hall of Fame, but not the N.J. Bowling Hall of Fame. I was inducted into the N.J. Sports Hall of Fame in 2002 with Tom Kelly (Manager of the Twins) Willie Wilson (center fielder for the K.C. Royals) and Lou Lamoriello (owner of the Nets and Devils.) The qualifications are simple; you either have to be born in the state or live in the state or compete on a state team for a certain number of years, and then you're judged on your accomplishments.

But in bowling, you have to have X number of years in league, and X number of State Tournaments just like you do the USBC Hall, and that's so ludicrous because one contradicts the other. I'll explain - for years I didn't bowl in league because it wasn't fair to my teammates. Because I was a touring Pro 1, I had to miss half the season, but that's the small portion of the problem. The big problem is that because I was a touring 1 I wasn't allowed to go to the national tournament with my team. I could bowl in the city, county and state tournaments with them, but when it was time to go to the Nationals they had to get a sub. Incredible!! So, for 30 years, because I wasn't allowed to bowl in the team event, the Masters counts as a national tournament toward my 20. So I pay the same dues as everybody else, but I can only bowl the Masters, and only if I bowl the pro-am. But if you're going to do things right you don't put in a letter that says - if you don't show up for your Pro-Am squad you can't bowl the Masters. We're not children, all they had to do was ask. What is truly amazing is once you're not a touring pro 1 or the current ranking (exempt player) then you HAVE to bowl in the team event. Bowling in just the Masters doesn't count. Theoretically, a person can bowl in



JOHNNY PETRAGLIA

30 Masters, win it 3 or 4 times and never be eligible for the USBC Hall of Fame. The solution is simple; pay your dues and be a USBC member in good standing for 20 years and you're eligible. Then judge the person on their bowling accomplishments. For me there is a simple way to judge if a Hall of Fame is good or bad. Make believe that you know nothing about a sport, go into a Hall of Fame and when you come out ask yourself "Who are the best to ever play in their sport?" If I come out of the golf Hall of Fame I know Jack Nicklaus and Bobby Jones were two of the best ever. If I come out of the baseball Hall of Fame, I know Babe Ruth and Willie Mays were two of the best. Can you imagine coming out of the Football Hall of Fame and still not know who Jim Brown is? At the bowling Hall of Fame? Well, in the case of Mark Roth, 34 titles, 4 time bowler of the year, 5 time high average winner, bowled for a PBA title 33 times in 3 years, and if you know nothing about bowling when you come out, you still don't know that Roth is possibly the best ever. And in the State of N.J. Hall of Fame he doesn't even exist. That I was locked out for 30 years. Because I was a touring pro really hurt. I can bowl the team event again now, but after 30 years. I've lost the desire to do it.

Not very many people know that in addition to your 14 PBA Tour titles, 5 PBA Senior Tour titles, and 9 PBA regional

titles, you also own 2 ABC Eagles and 4 Eastern Opens. Describe how these other titles stack up compared to your achievements in the PBA.

It's the Newsday Eastern Open. This is one of the best tournaments I've ever bowled in. 516 entries, 85 games (21 in qualifying) 64 in the finals. It was a true test of bowling, the lanes were resurfaced three days before the tournament started. Brand new pins were put in the first day. Finalist were given uniforms to bowl in and they were cleaned each day, and you were treated like royalty. Many great players bowled in it, Dick Weber won it twice, Mark Roth, Teata Semiz, Mike Limongello and Rudy Revs have won it. Bowlers like Carmen Salvino, Billy Hardwick, Andy Varipapa, Chuck Pezzano, Ernie Schlegel and Lou Campi bowled in it but never won. It is a shame it came to an end. Bowlers don't want to spend two weeks at one tournament anymore. The new formula seems to be a high roller type or a one day marathon. That is fine and they're fun to bowl in, I just wish there was enough room for both. The closest type we still have today is the U.S. Open. I would rank the Newsday right up there with any tournament except the majors. It was one of the most exciting things in my bowling career.

As a PBA member since 1965, you were also very involved in the business side of the tour, serving as PBA President three

times during your career. (79-80, 89-90, and 97-98) what did the PBA accomplish during your three terms, and what are you most proud of as an achievement in the area of PBA business that you were directly involved in?

It was the tremendous amount of time and effort it took putting together the Pro Tour Qualifier, and making it fair for everybody. It's important for today's players to understand that the players from the past helped create their careers. Carter, Weber, Salvino, etc. took a big chance in starting the PBA and the rules they set up made it possible for people like me to bowl on tour. During my prime the tour got so big there were over 100 bowlers locked out of any tournament. We had to take spots away from players with seniority and give them to the PTQ. It was the only way the new guy could get started. Bowlers like Parker, Pete Weber, Voss, WRW etc. came out of the PTQ. The stars of today should realize two things 1. The powers that be will listen to you when you're on top. Tommy Jones, Chris Barnes, Wes Mallot, and even Sean Rash should be very vocal with the owners of the PBA if they see any injustices. 2. They owe a responsibility to the kids coming up behind them. The college and high school kids that want to become pros. These kids deserve a fair and equitable chance to get on tour, just like they did. They have to be the Don Carters and Dick Webers of today.

Is the TV 300 game you rolled in Toledo in 1994 to earn the \$100,000 bonus the highlight moment of your career? If I recall, you said at the time "Thank God, now my son can go to college" during that emotional moment. How did it turn out? John Jr. is now in college? How did that day affect your family's life?

The 300 game is without a doubt the most exciting moment in my bowling career. Larry Lichstein and I talked about a 300 the night before, and how it could solve the college problem. That it actually happened is unbelievable. My son is now a junior at Morehead State in college, and bowling for them.

You must be very proud that both your son and your daughter Jamie are both bowlers. Do they have pro aspirations? Did you and your wife Pat encourage them to bowl, or did they simply make their own choice? Is it disappointing that to you that a pro career is more difficult for them than it was when you were their age? Is it more difficult?

My son would like to try the pro tour after college. It's disappointing that the sport hasn't progressed to the level I thought it would be. It was so great in the 70's and getting bigger and better every year, I thought by this time it might even be on par with other sports. The PBA is doing everything it can, but unless the entire industry can come up with a plan to have the media cover us and respect us, I'm not sure we are going to grow. My daughter is on the bowling team and softball team in high school and you really see the difference in importance and press coverage. Softball gets much more attention than bowling.

What is your opinion of the job the new PBA ownership and management has done? In your opinion, have they made any major mistakes? What would be your wish for the PBA in the next five years? You bowled in the new Generations Bowling Tour events in the fall. What's your prediction for the new GBT?

The PBA Tour and Senior Tour seem to be on the right track now. I know the prize funds have gone down this year, but changes in formats, eligibility and flexibility had to change at the top; I think is a formula for success. The Senior Tour will be much better this year, and that relates directly to John Weber becoming the new Senior Tour director. In a very short time John has done a very great job. The GBT went

through a lot of growing pains the first 8 weeks. Now the formats and prize funds have changed and the first stop of the year at Kegel in Florida is full, so maybe Steve Sanders is on the right track. We'll know a lot more in 6 months. I hope he is successful because another tour can only be good for bowling.

How long have you been on the Brunswick staff, and how has your role evolved over those years?

Signing with Brunswick was the best career move I ever made. I was signed by Larry Parker in 1971. Both AMF and Ebonite were interested, but Larry flew into N.Y. and took me and my parents to dinner. We never talked contract. On the way home my dad said "If they offer you a contract that's who you sign with." I asked why? He said "because this dinner was to check you out, to see if you were a good enough person to represent them. Any company doing that is the company you want to be with." My dad was right. For the past 36 years Brunswick has been my second family. Tony Mendiola isn't my immediate boss ... he's my cousin. Jim Panici isn't my boss ... he's my uncle. It's always been like that, whether the guy at the top was Jim Bennett, or Jack Reichert or Warren Hardie it's never changed, because they obviously check out the people very closely before they get hired. Recently, a position opened up in consumer products. Our boss asked for recommendations. He said remember the first priority is character, and the second is will he get along with the group. Then, obviously, he or she must have the talent for the job, but if you don't have the first two ... the third doesn't matter. I've been here 36 years, so I know I'm a little bias, but it's been a great company to work for.

How did your Viet Nam experience af-

fect your life and family? How did it affect your bowling career? Would you recommend military service to today's young people? Talk about your involvement in Bowlers to Veterans Link (BVL)

I lost 3 years of my prime to the Army, '67 and '68 when I was in, and '69 trying to get back in bowling shape. Maybe I would have five or six more titles from those years, I'll never know. Being in the Tet Offensive in '68 was very bad and something I'd rather not talk about in print. I did learn, however, through my experience in Viet Nam and the military how great this country is and how important freedom is. I don't want to get into a political debate on whether we should have been in Viet Nam or not, or Iraq or not, but there is one thing that is not open for debate. And that is you can't be free without a military protecting you. If you enjoy your freedom ... thank a Vet. This is where the BVL comes in. It started with a ladies league in 1942 raising money for care packages for our troops and continues to this day. A little know fact is when you bowl an award score, if you check the BVL box in the lower right corner you won't get the award and the money the award costs goes to the Vets. So the next time you bowl 300, 800, 299 etc. and you've already got a ring help the people in need

"The Hall of Fame solution is simple; pay your dues and be a USBC member in good standing for 20 years, and you're eligible."

that have helped protect you. A new addition to the BVL staff is Kim Terrell. This is a great addition when it comes to talent, professionalism, and class; they don't come any better than Kim.

When you became a professional bowler in 1965, bowling and golf were both mainstream sports. How frustrating is it that bowling has not been able to keep up with golf and others as a top American sport? What is the biggest reason bowling slipped? Is there anyone or any organization to blame? What would be your wish for bowling in the next five years and beyond?

Bowling dropped the ball (no pun intended) in the 80's. I think they didn't realize that people were changing. The focus was always on family fun, which is great and still is. But other sports changed in two big areas: their pros started making a lot of money and there was a big focus on the Olympics. The bowling industry didn't go after either one. Both are life-changing experiences. If you win a golf tournament for a million dollars or you sign a million dollar baseball contract it changes your life. If you win a gold medal in the Olympics, like Michael Phelps or Jenny Finch did, it changes your life. Parents want their kids to have a shot at the American dream. When I talk to parents this is what they tell me. "I've got three, and a middle class income. I can afford to have them compete in maybe two sports, so I'm going to encourage them to play the sports that can lead to a college scholarship or a seven figure salary if they happen to be one of the best." Right now bowling does not fit into that equation. Jack Reichert (former CEO of Brunswick) tried very hard but the industry didn't go along with him. First of all, we have to promote our biggest assets. 1. Bowling is the least political sport to participate in college. You

don't have to worry about being on a varsity team in high school so that a college can look at you. Most high school teams are not only how good you are (which is the only thing that should matter, and doesn't) but who you know or you could be the second best player on the team, but you don't get to play because the best player is on the team is at the same position, and most top colleges don't have walk-ons. Bowling has none of that, if you are a good bowler and you want to bowl in college, you're going to. 2. There are no ethnic or gender problems in bowling. Blacks and whites, Hispanics etc. bowl together on the same team because they want to, not because they have to. Men and women, because they want to, not because they are forced to. You're not shut out of a country club because of your race, ethnic background, or income level. Carolier Lanes, where I have been bowling for 35 years is 50% black and 50% white and I have never seen a fight. The question and statement we should be pushing is 'America ... if you want to learn how to get along - ask the bowling community'. The second thing we have to do is raise big money and put it in tournaments so the media and eventually sponsors would have to take an interest in us. Here is a plan on how to do it. This is just an idea to

get things started. Juggle it anyway you want, but this is the basic premise. 1. Raise USBC dues 10 dollars. That would raise approximately 20 million dollars. When a person gets their USBC card there would be 5 punch marks on the card for 5 free games of bowling. If where they bowl only costs 2 dollars a game they would be even. Anything above 2 dollars a game they would be getting a bigger value than their ten dollars. The money would be earmarked for TV and tournaments only. 2. Buy 20 shows of TV time 1 and 1/2 to 2 hours (on ESPN or FOX Sports or some other cable). That would cost about 250 thousand dollars per show equals 5 million dollars. 3. Open the year with a one million dollar U.S. Open, a one million dollar ladies U.S. Open, a one million dollar Masters, a one million dollar Queens, a one million dollar handicapped tournament for all averages, a one million dollar scholarship tournament with a winning boy and girl getting a full scholarship, a half million dollar senior U.S. Open, a half million dollar senior ladies U.S. Open (both on the same show), a half million dollar senior Masters, a half million dollar senior Queens (both on the same show). That would encompass everybody in the sport of bowling. That still leaves 8 million dollars and 13 shows BEFORE you have collected an entry fee or a pro-am entry or a sponsor. 4. Put the college bowling championships on TV 5. Negotiate with the PBA for 5 or 6 shows. 6. The remaining TV shows would go to ladies pro tournaments. If we open up the year with 7 one million dollar tournaments in a row the NIKE'S of the world will start taking a look at us. I may be wrong on a lot of things, but one thing I am sure of is this: If Tommy Jones is the leading money winner on tour this year with let's say 3.2 million dollars and Kelly Kulick is the leading money winner on the ladies tour with let's 1.8 million dollars, next year bowling centers will have so many juniors they won't know where to put them.

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February Schedule

Feb 7 Dick Weber Tribute Part 1
Feb 14 Dick Weber Tribute Part 2
Feb 21 Dick Weber Tribute Part 3
Feb 18 Dick Weber Tribute Part 4

March Schedule

Mar 7 Bill McCorkle
Mar 14 Jim Porter
Mar 21 Steve Wunderlich
Mar 28 Surprise Guest

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Radio

Patrick Allen Captures 8th PBA Title

RENO, Nev. – After one of the worst stretches of his career, all Patrick Allen needed to get back on track was a ball change and a week on the Chameleon oil pattern.

Allen captured his eighth career Denny's PBA Tour title – his last three of which have come on the Chameleon, one of five Tour oil patterns – defeating all-time titles leader Walter Ray Williams Jr., 255-247, to win the 2007 H&R Block Classic at the National Bowling Stadium.

Allen has won three of the last four events held on the pattern, including the last two last season. The 2004-05 PBA Player of the Year came into the week 36th in

the PBA World Point Rankings and hadn't made a championship round all season.

"There were some issues with me the first half of the season and I made a bold change. Some agreed, some didn't, but I had to do it to get back here. I didn't think it would happen this soon," said Allen, who switched ball companies over the two-week holiday break. "I've bowled a lot of TV shows, at least for my standards not Walter's, but I've never come up in the 10th frame needing a strike to win. Needing it against Walter Ray is what you dream of. Getting up and doing it is something I'll never forget it as long as I live."



Patrick Allen with PBA Commissioner Fred Schreyer

Allen tied a Tour record by going 14-0 in match play this week, equaling the standard Norm Duke set earlier this season.

In the title match, Williams took the early lead with strikes in the first four frames, but a spare in the 5th frame gave Allen an opening. After back-to-back spares in the 4th and 5th, Allen struck six consecutive times to take over. Williams could have struck out to force Allen to double, but instead Williams left a 10-pin with his second shot in the 10th and Allen's first strike in the 10th clinched the win.

Allen advanced to the title match with a 233-204 win over Pete Weber. The 36-year-old dominated from the start, striking with his first six shots. Weber, meanwhile, started with two opens and dug too much of a hole to catch Allen.

In the first semifinal, Williams defeated Jason Couch, 215-200. Couch led throughout the match until a 4-6-10 split and an open in the 9th. Williams took advantage by breaking a string of five consecutive nine-spares by striking out in the 10th frame to shut Couch out.

Allen (Wesley Chapel, Fla.) earned \$25,000, while Williams (Ocala, Fla.) took home \$13,000 for second. Couch (Clermont, Fla.) earned \$6,500 for third and Weber (St. Ann, Mo.) earned \$5,500 for fourth.

2007 PBA H&R Block Classic

National Bowling Stadium, Reno, Nevada - January 7, 2007

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND

	Totals	Prize
1. Patrick Allen, Wesley Chapel, Florida	488 (2 games)	\$25,000
2. Walter Ray Williams Jr., Ocala, Florida	462 (2 games)	\$13,000
3. Jason Couch, Clermont, Florida	200 (1 game)	\$ 6,500
4. Pete Weber, St. Ann, Missouri	204 (1 game)	\$ 5,500

SCORES – In the first match, Williams def. Couch, 215-200; in the second match, Allen defeated Weber, 233-204; and in the final, Allen def. Williams, 255-247. This is Allen's eighth PBA Tour title.

ROUND OF 8

Pete Weber, St. Ann, Mo., def. Ryan Shafer, Horseheads, N.Y., 4-2 (178-246, 189-158, 206-229, 179-166, 232-215, 199-166). Shafer earns \$5,000; Patrick Allen, Wesley Chapel, Fla., def. Chris Loschetter, Avon, Ohio, 4-0 (257-176, 239-188, 244-221, 217-153). Loschetter earns \$3,500; Jason Couch, Clermont, Fla., def. Brian Kretzer, Dayton, Ohio, 4-1 (205-186, 224-238, 236-176, 259-218, 227-205). Kretzer earns \$3,700; Walter Ray Williams Jr., Ocala, Fla., def. Patrick Flynn III, Caldwell, Idaho, 4-1 (258-225, 244-259, 239-189, 264-203, 235-181). Flynn earns \$3,500.

ROUND OF 16

Walter Ray Williams Jr., Ocala, Fla., def. Parker Bohn III, Jackson, N.J., 4-2 (222-225, 216-205, 257-245, 259-208, 206-244, 258-257) \$2,900; Pete Weber, St. Ann, Mo., def. Doug Kent, Newark, N.Y., 4-1 (211-203, 279-237, 202-226, 248-242, 300-203) \$2,650; Jason Couch, Clermont, Fla., def. Mike Wolfe, New Albany, Ind., 4-0 (246-199, 235-224, 248-217, 228-227) \$2,600; Patrick Allen, Wesley Chapel, Fla., def. Steve Jaros, Yorkville, Ill., 4-0 (237-201, 241-197, 244-176, 229-210) \$2,550; Ryan Shafer, Horseheads, N.Y., def. Jack Jurek, Lackawanna, N.Y., 4-0 (179-157, 209-173, 222-191, 254-209) \$2,500; Patrick Flynn III, Caldwell, Idaho, def. Chris Warren, Grants Pass, Ore., 4-3 (161-229, 203-150, 192-197, 226-179, 191-192, 268-189, 217-177) \$3,000; Chris Loschetter, Avon, Ohio, def. Tommy Jones, Simpsonville, S.C., 4-2 (208-191, 230-110, 238-226, 175-259, 233-258, 205-191) \$2,700; Brian Kretzer, Dayton, Ohio, def. Steve Rogers, Bourbonnais, Ill., 4-2 (202-201, 188-174, 191-191, 189-190, 268-224, 248-247) \$2,800.

ROUND OF 32 - (Eliminated earn \$2,200)

Tommy Jones, Simpsonville, S.C., def. Chris Collins, Savannah, Ga., 4-2 (192-188, 173-198, 264-194, 207-169, 191-221, 175-167); Chris Warren, Grants Pass, Ore., def. Brian LeClair, Athens, N.Y., 4-2 (192-201, 201-150, 166-190, 188-183, 218-203, 238-157); Ryan Shafer, Horseheads, N.Y., def. Mike Scroggins, Amarillo, Texas, 4-1 (184-192, 222-196, 211-199, 248-238, 224-207); Steve Rogers, Bourbonnais, Ill., def. Billy Oatman, Chicago, 4-2 (254-216, 204-194, 247-225, 243-254, 211-269, 195-193); Steve Jaros, Yorkville, Ill., def. David Tesslerman, Lake Placid, Fla., 4-1 (231-212, 265-247, 265-225, 235-237, 259-224); Walter Ray Williams Jr., Ocala, Fla., def. Riga Kalfas, Florence, Ky., 4-0 (235-197, 289-234, 257-244, 259-200); Pete Weber, St. Ann, Mo., def. Brad Angelo, Lockport, N.Y., 4-3 (184-191, 256-197, 249-186, 211-213, 184-286, 248-201, 236-231); Jason Couch, Clermont, Fla., def. Jeff Carter, Springfield, Ill., 4-0 (245-131, 238-216, 215-202, 264-226); Chris Loschetter, Avon, Ohio, def. Brian Himmler, Cincinnati, 4-0 (266-202, 235-182, 221-206, 267-224); Patrick Flynn III, Caldwell, Idaho, def. Tony Reyes, San Bruno, Calif., 4-2 (277-203, 234-279, 245-168, 182-183, 278-223, 230-194); Jack Jurek, Lackawanna, N.Y., def. Tim Criss, Bel Air, Md., 4-1 (200-207, 232-203, 226-164, 213-199, 196-160); Brian Kretzer, Dayton, Ohio, def. Rick Steelsmith, Wichita, Kan., 4-1 (232-166, 189-213, 193-179, 225-212, 257-249); Patrick Allen, Wesley Chapel, Fla., def. Mike Edwards, Tulsa, Okla., 4-0 (264-207, 269-156, 257-252, 213-185); Parker Bohn III, Jackson, N.J., def. Chris Barnes, Flower Mound, Texas, 4-0 (248-227, 233-232, 258-257, 245-244); Doug Kent, Newark, N.Y., def. Vayle Floria, Cerritos, Calif., 4-2 (215-247, 185-224, 258-236, 253-224, 256-213, 264-246); Mike Wolfe, New Albany, Ind., def. Richard Wolfe, Vienna, Va., 4-0 (252-192, 234-234, 233-216, 255-202).

ROUND OF 64 - (\$1,800 each)

Eugene McCune, Munster, Ind., 3,026; Dale Traber, Cedarburg, Wis., 3,011; Joe Ciccone, Buffalo, N.Y., 3,008; Kelly Kulick, Union, N.J., 3,007; Sean Rash, Wichita, Kan., 2,991; Michael Fagan, Greenlawn, N.Y., 2,986; Chris Hayden, Orlando, Fla., 2,977; Wes Malott, Dallas, 2,975; Tom Baker, King, N.C., 2,972; Mika Koivuniemi, Hartland, Mich., 2,971; Troy Wollenbecker, Toledo, Ohio, 2,961; Michael Machuga, Erie, Pa., 2,935; Bill O'Neill, Levittown, Pa., 2,933; Tommy Delutz Jr., Flushing, N.Y., 2,926; Brian Voss, Alpharetta, Ga., 2,909; Chad Kloss, Greenfield, Wis., 2,899; Liz Johnson, Cheektowaga, N.Y., 2,894; Mike DeVaney, Temecula, Calif., 2,892; Danny Wiseman, Baltimore, 2,891; Paul Fleming, Bedford, Texas, 2,890; Jason Hurd, Titusville, Fla., 2,882; Curtis Woods Jr., Santa Rosa, Calif., 2,881; Michael Haugen Jr., Cave Creek, Ariz., 2,870; David Traber, Hebron, Ill., 2,867; John May, Lincoln, N.C., 2,866; Patrick Girard, Canada, 2,856; Marv Sargent, Temecula, Calif., 2,839; Chris Johnson, Garland, Texas, 2,834; Ronnie Russell, Indianapolis, 2,833; Del Ballard Jr., N. Richland Hills, Texas, 2,798; John Slavich IV, Schaumburg, Ill., 2,665; Norm Duke, Clermont, Fla., WD.

300 games – Pete Weber, Rick Steelsmith, Walter Ray Williams Jr., Jason Couch, Brian Himmler, Eugene McCune, Steve Rogers.

Ten Pin Slants

by Joe Lyou

Ol' Steff Was The Best

A phone call I've been dreading for weeks arrived early Sunday morning, Jan. 14. The caller was Susie Stoeffler informing me that her beloved husband, Dick, had died the night before. He was 80.

Dick, or Ol' Steff as his friends called him, lost his long battle with cancer, a battle that lasted for at least three years. He was a fighter - anyone else would have given up long before he did.

Ol' Steff was a true bowling pioneer in Southern California. He was also one of the Southland's top bowlers during the late 1950s and through the early '70s.

For 21 years, Stoeffler was a bowling center owner-operator, the last 15 years at Kona Lanes in Costa Mesa, where he had the 40-lane center humming around the clock. It was the busiest place in Orange County, averaging more than 80 lines per alley bed. (Readers, that's phenomenal.)

Not many people knew it, but Ol' Steff was a PBA member for 12 years. He competed in only three tournaments annually because business priorities limited his PBA participation.

Not only was Stoeffler a fine bowler, he once bowled an 825 series that featured California's first back-to-back perfect games (300-300-225), but he was also a bowling columnist for 44 years.

A member of the Bowling Writers Assn. of America, Ol' Steff penned a weekly "Mountain Time" opinion column that ran for almost 20 years in the California Bowling News, and also in Frenchy Letourneau's Las Vegas TenPin Alley. Stoeffler's column, however, first appeared in the Pacific Bowler in the '60s and continued until he retired in 1977.

The Stoefflers "Dick and Susie" then moved to Big Bear City, where Ol' Steff started a successful construction firm. He retired (again) and in March 1997 Dick and Susie made their home in Las Vegas. "I was getting too dang old to be shoveling snow in the wintertime," he would quip.

During his long bowling career, Stoeffler garnered many awards. Here are some of them, along with his other accomplishments:

- Originated the West Coast Eliminations in 1959 as a weekly men's summer scratch event. The tournament format was highly imitated through the years.
- Averaged 212 in 1961, highest for the entire West Coast. His career high average was 221, and that was in the days when 200-average bowlers were scarce.
- In a 1964 nationally televised PBA stepladder finals, Stoeffler placed third, his best-ever PBA finish.
- Named to the Orange County Hall of Fame in 1966.
- On Jan. 4, 1968, when he rolled his 825 series, he became the sixth bowler in ABC history to record as many as 25 strikes in a row.
- The famed Helms Athletic Foundation named Stoeffler the Athlete of the Month for January, 1968. He was rightly proud of the silver cup presented to him by Helms before a host of big-name athletes.
- Elected Executive of the Year in 1975 by the SoCal Bowling Writers Assn.
- Named to the SoCal Hall of Fame in 1981.
- In a surprise presentation in 2001 at Bowl Expo in Las Vegas, Ol' Steff was selected as the recipient of the prestigious National Flowers for the Living Award by the Bowling Writers Assn. of America.

In addition to all these accolades, Stoeffler was a member of the Bowling Proprietors' Assn. of SoCal board of directors for 20 years. He was also vice president of H&S Productions, which produced "TV Bowling Tournament" for 6-1/2 years, or 344 live telecasts, shown on Channel 5 in Los Angeles

• These live telecasts, with Stoeffler doing the announcing and featuring the finest local

star bowlers, were shown on Saturday afternoons. The show dominated TV ratings for its time slot.

I knew Dick Stoeffler for almost 40 years. We became close friends when I was the owner and publisher of the Pacific Bowler.

Ol' Steff took the entire back page each week so he could run his tournament and special events ads, along with his highly controversial column. He loved to rock the boat and, in those days, was constantly badgering the ABC and Bill Taylor (Stoeffler would call him "Bull Traylor" in his columns).

After many of Taylor's theories on "Super Soft Bowling Conditions" proved to be correct, he and Ol' Steff became longtime friends.

Stoeffler's columns were so popular that bowlers could hardly wait until Friday of each week to read his fearless, often incendiary, statements. I would insert a disclaimer at the end of his column, but Ol' Steff just laughed it off.

In recent years, whenever I was in Las Vegas "and that was often" I'd always have dinner out with Dick and Susie. We had a lot of good times together as he had a great sense of humor.

At Stoeffler's request, there was no funeral service. In addition to his wife Susie, he is survived by three sons, a daughter, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

I miss him already.

I'd like to devote the rest of this column to one of my favorite tournaments. That would be Jeanette Robinson's National Golden Ladies Classic, to be held March 5-8 at the Orleans Bowling Center in Las Vegas.

I contacted Jeanette recently to get an update about the 17th annual event, which is exclusively for ladies 50 and up.

How many past champions have sent in their entries? I asked her. "So far, there are four," Jeanette replied. "They are Char Hammel, our defending champion; Marilyn Kreg, the 1992 winner; Dee Price, who won three times, in 1993 and again in 1999 and 2003; and Sandy Postma, our 2002 winner."

"It will be five (past champions) as soon as I get Shirley Levens' entry. She has assured me that she is going to bowl.

"Shirley also is a three-time winner of the Golden Ladies Classic," added Jeanette. "She first won in 1998, when she was Shirley Hintz, and again in 2004 and 2005. Shirley did not bowl last year because she was recuperating from surgery."

Levens, who hails from Florida, also won the USBC Senior Queens title two years ago. She was recently nominated to the USBC Hall of Fame, the highest honor in bowling.

Jeanette also announced that she has received entries from three ladies in England and one from Scotland. "Everything looks good," she said.

There is still time to enter the 2007 Golden Ladies Classic. For complete details, call Jeanette Robinson at 1-888-365-7111, Ext. 6442. Last year's event featured \$3,070 in added prize money from tournament cosponsor Storm Products and the Orleans Hotel, Casino & Bowling Center. First place was worth \$2,225 last year, but it could be more this year, depending upon the number of entries.

FINAL ITEM: The 2007 Golden Ladies Classic is guaranteed top news coverage. On hand for the tournament will be Hall of Fame writers Dick Evans and John Jowdy, who covered the tournament last year. And Chuck Pezzano, another Hall of Fame scribe, says he's going to be there for the first time because he wants "to watch the ladies bowl, see my two old friends (Evans and Jowdy) and visit with my Vegas gambling mentor."

Modesty forbids me to disclose who that person is.

The Year of Youth

It happens more often not, that, when you're searching for the 'pot of gold' at the end of the rainbow, it turns out to be right at your feet all the time. The bowling industry has always had a passing interest in youth bowling especially at the local level, but now the young USBC has made a concerted effort to jump start the overall interest in young bowlers to another level. With all the question marks about where we are going with the pros and new equipment, it's about time we spend an extra effort to keep our sport alive and healthy by building a firm foundation for the future.

A giant step in this direction is kicking off the new year with the Denny's All-American High School championships. Under the rules set down by USBC, only senior bowlers in those states with recognized varsity level bowling programs will be eligible to compete. The two day tournament will be held March 24-25 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It will feature the top girl and top boy meeting head-to-head after narrowing the field to two male and two female competitors. The top girl and boy high school champions will team with Kelly Kulick for a one-game doubles match. The finals will be broadcast on ESPN. This will surely give the varsity bowling programs across the country high visibility and may prompt other school districts to get aboard.

The Nevada regional and state high school championships will once again be held at The Orleans Bowling Center in Las Vegas. Bob McKee, coach of the defending state champs said he was encouraged by the interest and dedication to the game by the young people who are finding this to be a demanding and exciting sport.

During the holidays The Orleans hosted the Junior Wipe-Out tournament that drew over 350 entries from across the United States. The Gold division for boys was won by Reyes Juanmanuel, from California, who posted a 1286 series with games that included 259, 210, 298, 226, 285 and 218. The quality of this young field over all should warm the hearts of

Varsity and Collegiate coaches.

Speaking of youth scoring, Chaz Dennis has officially entered the USBC record book. Competing in the Hill Crest Prep-junior league at Hill Crest lanes in Columbus, Ohio, he had a perfect 300 game at the age of ten years, two months, twenty-seven days. Dennis rolls the ball with both hands, started his series with 240, followed with 300 and ended with a 232, for a 772 series. The only problem I can see, he set the bar so high - so young that the expectations, especially for him, will cause a lot of pressure.

Coaches who are involved with youth bowling, especially with the late teens, will be asked on more than one occasion by parents seeking advice on getting their youngster an opportunity to compete on the collegiate level for a bowling scholarship. I suggest you contact the USBC for a directory. You will find that many colleges only offer NCAA scholarships to women and some are restricted only to men. You can also check out www.bowl.com/college.

Dan Ottman, who specialized in developing youth bowling, as a founder of Michigan Junior Masters Association, who passed away in July 2004 at age 47 will posthumously receive the Joyce Deitch Trailblazer award. Under his leadership the MJMA was a training ground for many of today's stars.

I didn't make a New Year's resolution this year, but made a promise to myself to try to make this year's 17th Annual Golden Ladies Classic, set for March 5-8 at the Orleans, the best to date.

My one big disappointment is that two-time GLC champion, Shirley Hintz-Leven, did not receive enough votes for election into USBC Hall of Fame class of 2007.

For information on entry into this year's tournament contact me at the Orleans 702-365-7400 ext. 6442.

As we start a new year remember "It's not what happens to us, it's how we handle it."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
LIVE FROM LAS VEGAS
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Jeanette Robinson
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Jeanette Robinson is a PWBA champion and member of seven Halls of Fame

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The FUNNIEST APPROACH!
 by STEINSIEK





THE FUNNY PAGE

An Actual School Excuse Note
Please excuse Jennifer for missing school yesterday.
We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch, and
when we found it Monday, we thought it was Sunday.

XXX

Dangerous Food

A Doctor was addressing a large audience in Tampa.
"The material we put into our stomachs is enough to have killed most of us sitting here years ago.
Red meat is awful.
Soft drinks corrode your stomach lining.
Chinese food is loaded with MSG.
High fat diets can be disastrous, and none of us realizes the long-term harm caused by the germs in our drinking water. But there is one thing that is the most dangerous of all and we all have, or will, eat it.
"Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?"
After several seconds of quiet, a 75-year-old man in the front row raised his hand, and softly said, "Wedding Cake."

XXX

THE INNOCENCE OF CHILDREN

MELANIE (age 5) asked her Granny how old she was. Granny replied she was so old she didn't remember any more. Melanie said, "If you don't remember you must look in the back of your panties. Mine say five to six."

STEVEN (age 3) hugged and kissed his Mom good night. "I love you so much that when you die I'm going to bury you outside my bedroom window."

BRITANY (age 4) had an earache and wanted a pain killer. She tried in vain to take the lid off the bottle. Seeing her frustration, her Mom explained it was a child-proof cap and she'd have to open it for her. Eyes wide with wonder, the little girl asked: "How does it know it's me?"

SUSAN (age 4) was drinking juice when she got the hiccups. "Please don't give me this juice again," she said, "It makes my teeth cough."

DJ (age 4) stepped onto the bathroom scale and asked: "How much do I cost?"

MARC (age 4) was engrossed in a young couple that were hugging and kissing in a restaurant. Without taking his eyes off them, he asked his dad: "Why is he whispering in her mouth?"

JAMES (age 4) was listening to a Bible story. His dad read: "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city but his wife looked back and was turned to salt." Concerned, James asked: "What happened to the flea?"

TAMMY (age 4) was with her mother when they met an elderly, rather wrinkled woman her Mom knew. Tammy looked at her for a while and then asked, "Why doesn't your skin fit your face?"

The Sermon I think this Mom will never forget.... this particular Sunday sermon... "Dear Lord," the minister began, with arms extended toward heaven and a rapturous look on his upturned face. "Without you, we are but dust..." He would have continued but at that moment my very obedient daughter who was listening leaned over to me and asked quite audibly in her shrill little four year old girl voice, "Mom, what is butt dust?"

The Tale of Two Wolves

XXX

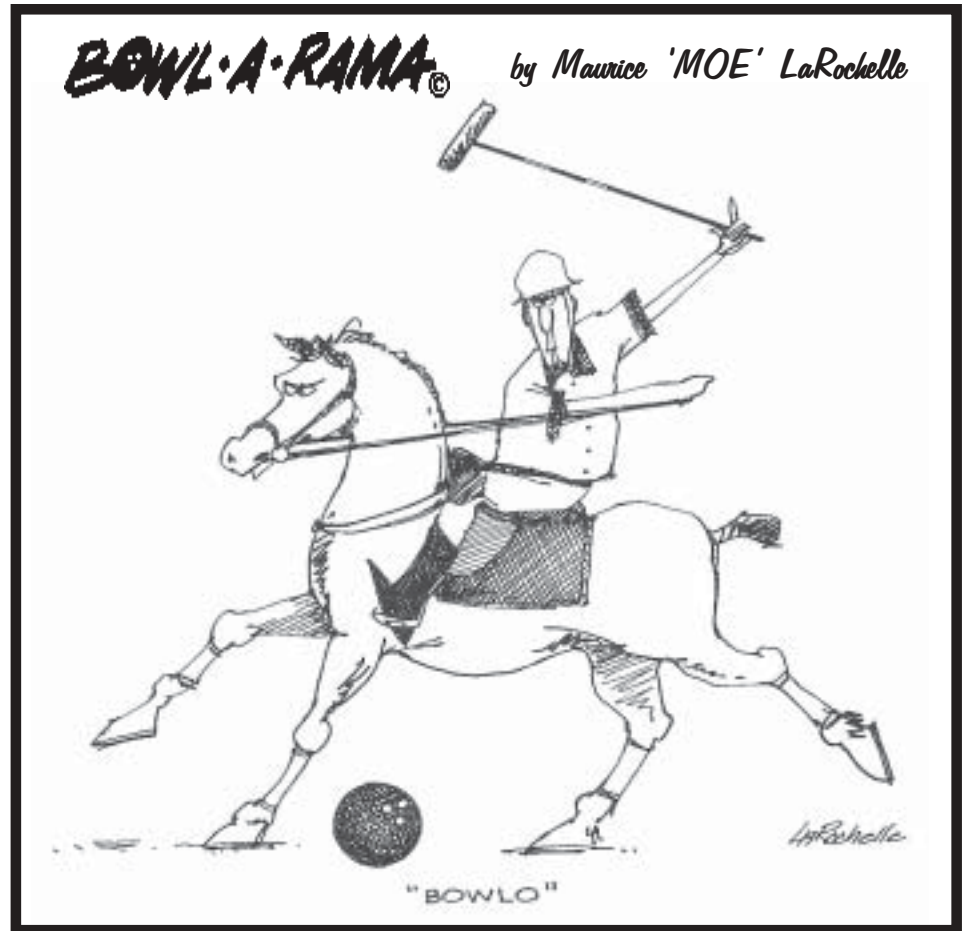
One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two wolves' inside us all.

One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego.

The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith.

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."



GOOD QUESTION

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?

Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Why do doctors leave the room while you change? They're going to see you naked anyway.

Why is "bra" singular and "panties" plural?

Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?

Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in the carpool lane?

If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?

Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs!

If Wiley E. Coyote had enough money to buy all that ACME crap, why didn't he just buy dinner?

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?

Do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?

Why did you just try singing the two songs above?

Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are getting weak?

Why do banks charge a fee on "insufficient funds" when they know there is not enough?

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

Why doesn't glue stick to the bottle?

Why do they use sterilized needles for death by lethal injection?

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?

Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

Whose idea was it to put an "S" in the word "lisp"?

If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?

Why is it that no matter what color bubble bath you use the bubbles are always white?

Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?

Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?

Why do people keep running over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?

Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the end on your first try?

How do those dead bugs get into those enclosed light fixtures?

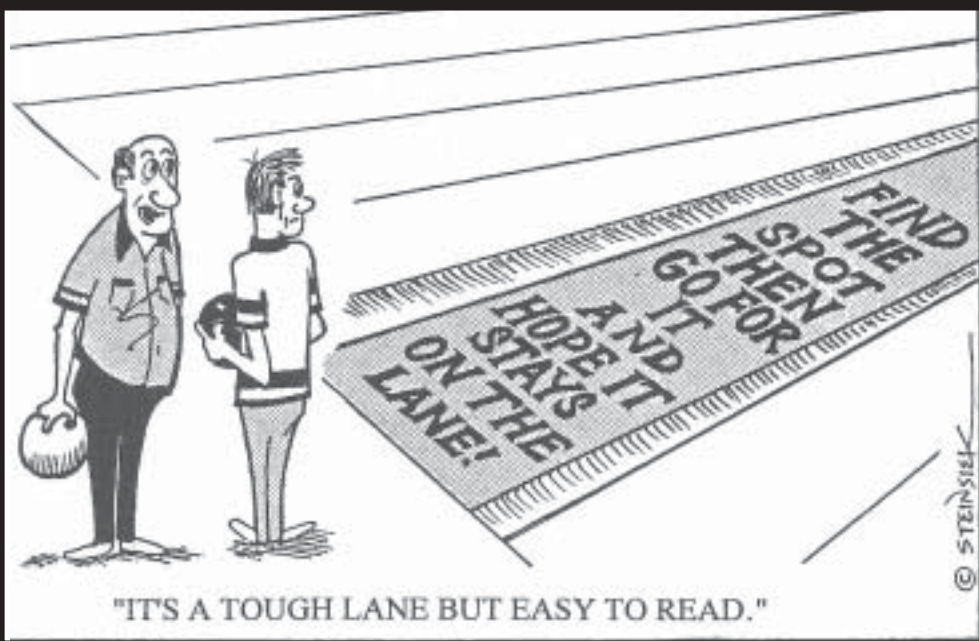
Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?

In winter why do we try to keep the house as warm as it was in summer when we complained about the heat?

How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?

The statistics on sanity are that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends -- if they're okay, then it's you.

WALT'S WORLD BY WALT STEINSIEK



Sean Rash Wins Earl Anthony Classic

MEDFORD, Ore. – Sean Rash became just the second bowler in Denny's Professional Bowlers Association Tour history to win a title in his first three TV appearances, defeating Brian Himmler, 262-190, to win the 2007 Earl Anthony Medford Classic at Lava Lanes.

The 24-year-old won his first career title last season, becoming the first bowler in history to go from the Denny's PBA Tour Qualifying Round to the title. He won his second title earlier this season in the Beltway Classic.

Rash nearly made more history, as he started with the title match with eight consecutive strikes

and looked like he might become the 18th bowler in history to bowl a televised 300 game. He opened in the 9th frame to end the string, but cruised to improve to 6-0 on TV in his short career.

"This one means a lot. Earl Anthony and Dick Weber were two of the greatest bowlers of all time, and to win the tournament named after Earl means a lot," said Rash (Wichita, Kan.). "Hopefully us young guns can win as many times as they did. I'd like to win the Dick Weber event next week as well."

Last season's PBA Rookie of the Year run-



Sean Rash

pba photo

ner-up joined Hugh Miller as the only other bowler to win his first three TV appearances. Miller won titles in his first four TV appearances.

Rash advanced to the title match with a 232-227 win over Patrick Healey Jr. Healey held the early lead after striking in five of the first six frames, while Rash had four consecutive spares in frames 4-7, including a crucial 4-9 split conversion in the 5th. Healey had back-to-back nine-spares to let Rash back in the match, and Rash took advantage with a double in the 8th and 9th. Healey still could have shut Rash out with a double in the 10th, but he had

another nine-spares and Rash struck with his first ball in the 10th to win.

In the first semifinal, Himmler defeated the No. 1 bowler in the PBA World Point Rankings Wes Malott, 209-183. Malott had back-to-back opens in the 4th and 5th and struck just twice the rest of the match. Himmler's double in the 8th and 9th all but wrapped up the match.

Rash earned \$25,000, while Himmler (Cincinnati) took home \$13,000 for second. Malott (Argyle, Texas) earned \$6,500 for third and Healey (Denton, Texas) earned \$5,500 for fourth.

2007 PBA Earl Anthony Medford Classic Lava Lanes, Medford, Ore. - January 14, 2007

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND

	Totals	Prize
1. Sean Rash, Wichita, Kansas	494 (2 games)	\$25,000
2. Brian Himmler, Cincinnati, Ohio	399 (2 games)	\$13,000
3. Wes Malott, Argyle, Texas	183 (1 game)	\$ 6,500
4. Patrick Healey Jr., Denton, Texas	227 (1 game)	\$ 5,500

SCORES – In the first match, Himmler def. Malott, 209-183; in the second match, Rash defeated Healey, 232-227; and in the final, Rash def. Himmler, 262-190. This is Rash's third PBA Tour title.

ROUND OF 8

Sean Rash, def. Ronnie Russell, 4-1 (214-214, 220-152, 258-196, 202-247, 253-252). Russell earns \$3,500; Patrick Healey Jr, def. Jeff Carter, 4-2 (204-190, 244-257, 233-214, 268-192, 195-217, 213-187). Carter earns \$5,000; Brian Himmler, def. Del Ballard Jr., 4-1 (247-252, 235-222, 225-190, 289-248, 258-248). Ballard earns \$3,700; Wes Malott, def. Jason Couch, 4-1 (245-248, 246-192, 250-248, 247-213, 278-192). Couch earns \$4,000.

ROUND OF 16

Wes Malott, def. Mika Koivuniemi, 4-1 (248-225, 279-230, 183-247, 205-194, 247-225). Koivuniemi earns \$2,500; Ronnie Russell, def. Steve Weber, 4-3 (235-247, 163-201, 196-180, 197-223, 228-195, 265-237, 227-222). Weber earns \$2,800; Brian Himmler, def. Patrick Allen, 4-2 (278-160, 195-212, 237-233, 247-203, 235-269, 247-226). Allen earns \$2,650; Patrick Healey Jr., def. Steve Jaros, 4-3 (201-226, 300-225, 300-203, 232-216, 190-258, 188-286, 278-248). Jaros earns \$3,000; Sean Rash, def. Dino Castillo, 4-2 (265-172, 233-209, 245-278, 234-181, 205-213, 246-202). Castillo earns \$2,600; Jason Couch, def. Troy Wollenbecker, 4-3 (247-197, 278-279, 200-235, 277-213, 279-258, 214-268, 212-201). Wollenbecker earns \$2,900; Jeff Carter, def. Chris Barnes, 4-1 (258-220, 240-216, 254-257, 221-194, 300-172). Barnes earns \$2,550; Del Ballard Jr., def. Mike Machuga, 4-2 (192-204, 268-196, 229-228, 238-257, 257-205, 266-188). Machuga earns \$2,700.

ROUND OF 32 - (Eliminated earn \$2,200)

Chris Barnes, Flower Mound, Texas, def. Marv Sargent, Temecula, Calif., 4-1 (226-176, 238-206, 206-215, 288-213, 300-237); Troy Wollenbecker, Toledo, Ohio, def. Jason Hurd, Titusville, Fla., 4-1 (234-179, 247-244, 200-190, 173-180, 236-226); Dino Castillo, Carrollton, Texas, def. Joe Ciccone, Buffalo, N.Y., 4-2 (223-213, 232-214, 246-269, 227-235, 223-203, 300-258); Del Ballard Jr., N. Richland Hills, Texas, def. Bryon Smith, Roseburg, Ore., 4-1 (214-213, 204-197, 223-267, 256-247, 250-223); Patrick Healey Jr., Mexico, def. Ryan Shafer, Horseheads, N.Y., 4-3 (247-225, 176-218, 233-224, 197-238, 214-213, 206-243, 247-215); Mika Koivuniemi, Hartland, Mich., def. Tommy Jones, Simpsonville, S.C., 4-3 (198-300, 231-220, 278-212, 246-263, 224-253, 242-203, 246-238); Ronnie Russell, Indianapolis, def. Doug Kent, Newark, N.Y., 4-3 (258-167, 240-243, 212-246, 213-208, 277-236, 217-289, 256-195); Brian Himmler, Cincinnati, def. Tim Criss, Bel Air, Md., 4-2 (204-245, 212-236, 279-204, 289-225, 216-212, 224-180); Jeff Carter, Springfield, Ill., def. Bill O'Neill, Levittown, Pa., 4-2 (235-235, 247-208, 258-257, 217-243, 201-224, 217-181); Jason Couch, Clermont, Fla., def. Chris Loschetter, Avon, Ohio, 4-1 (235-189, 211-204, 236-207, 222-268, 255-227); Sean Rash, Wichita, Kan, def. Chris Collins, Savannah, Ga., 4-1 (268-233, 233-214, 277-259, 214-259, 279-185); Mike Machuga, Erie, Pa., def. Tony Reyes, San Bruno, Calif., 4-3 (213-226, 215-243, 236-185, 217-178, 300-214, 235-265, 255-239); Steve Jaros, Yorkville, Ill., def. Mike Scroggins, Amarillo, Texas, 4-1 (209-213, 198-186, 210-202, 259-238, 247-228); Wes Malott, Argyle, Texas, def. Brian Kretzer, Kettering, Ohio, 4-1 (228-219, 237-246, 289-221, 246-209, 223-180); Steve Weber, Buford, Ga., def. Brad Angelo, Lockport, N.Y., 4-3 (227-279, 164-205, 207-191, 236-206, 171-213, 255-191, 247-169); Patrick Allen, Wesley Chapel, Fla., def. John May, Lincolnton, N.C., 4-0 (237-192, 243-211, 214-204, 278-231).

Round of 64 - (\$1,800 each)

Brian LeClair, Athens, N.Y., 3,127; Richard Wolfe, Vienna, Va., 3,126; Chris Johnson, Garland, Texas, 3,110; Mike Edwards, Tulsa, Okla., 3,109; Mike DeVaney, Temecula, Calif., 3,106; Michael Haugen Jr., Cave Creek, Ariz., 3,090; Chris Hayden, Orlando, Fla., 3,077; Michael Fagan, Greenlawn, N.Y., 3,075; Tom Baker, King, N.C., 3,066; Riga Kalfas, Florence, Ky., 3,065; Parker Bohn III, Jackson, N.J., 3,062; Pete Weber, St. Ann, Mo., 3,047; David Tessman, Lake Placid, Fla., 3,036; Chris Warren, Grants Pass, Ore, 3,035; Rick Steelsmith, Wichita, Kan., 3,021; Tommy Delutz Jr., Flushing, N.Y., 3,012; Walter Ray Williams Jr., Ocala, Fla., 3,010; Patrick Girard, Jonquiere, Quebec, 2,992; Billy Oatman, Chicago, 2,989; Eugene McCune, Munster, Ind., 2,988; Danny Wiseman, Baltimore, 2,962; Jack Jurek, Lackawanna, N.Y., 2,961; Marshall Holman, Medford, Ore., 2,961; Dale Traber, Cedarburg, Wis., 2,954; Mike Wolfe, New Albany, Ind., 2,945; Matt Freiberg, Somerset, N.J., 2,944; Matt Ellenberger, Central Point, Ore., 2,911; David Traber, Hebron, Ill., 2,901; Paul Fleming, Bedford, Texas, 2,882; Brian Voss, Alpharetta, Ga., 2,864; Kelly Kulick, Union, N.J., 2,848; Norm Duke, Clermont, Fla., 0 (WD).

300 games – Tommy Jones, Chris Barnes, Dino Castillo, Mike Machuga, Patrick Healey Jr., Jeff Carter.

Jason Couch Defends Dick Weber Open Title

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. – The streak is over.

Jason Couch became the first No. 1 seed to win a stepladder final since February 2005 and he did it in style, repeating as the Dick Weber Open champion with a 258-236 win over Patrick Allen at Fountain Bowl.

The left-hander became the first bowler to defend a Denny's Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) Tour title since Tommy Jones in the Dydo Japan Cup 2005 and just the fourth in history to defend a title in two different events. The three-time Tournament of Champions winner captured his 14th career title, pulling him even with PBA Hall of Fame left-hander Johnny Petraglia.

In a tournament dominated by lefties - four of the five finalists were southpaws - Couch was far and away the most dominant. He led the field from the end of qualifying through three rounds of match play, breaking a nine-match losing streak by top seeds in stepladder finals.

"We all know the problems the top seeds have had and I said last night 'I'm going to shoot 250 and win tournament. 'I didn't think I was actually going to (shoot 250) but I certainly did,'" Couch (Clermont, Fla.) said. "To win the Dick Weber Open last year was just an honor because the Weber's are such a great family. To win two consecutive years is very special. Pete and Tracy treat me like family."

Couch has rebounded from a lackluster first half of the season when he did not make a

TV appearance and was 27th in points to make the finals in two of the three events in the second half.

"I wasn't very pleased with myself the first half of the season," Couch said. "I had a couple good weeks but I didn't bowl like I expect myself to. I told my wife at the break I was going to come back with a positive attitude and it's paid off."

In the title match, the two fiery lefties traded strikes through the first three frames before Allen had trouble in the middle frames. The 2004-05 PBA Player of the Year had four spares in frames 4-8, while Couch had a big strike in the 8th after a nine-spares in the 7th. Couch then struck in the 9th and 10th to clinch his first title this season.



Jason Couch

pba photo

The No. 2 seed Allen advanced to the title match with a 249-245 win over all-time titles leader Walter Ray Williams Jr. Williams had a chance to win with a strike in the 10, but he left the 4-pin, giving Allen his second win over the PBA Hall of Famer on TV in three weeks.

The fifth-seed Williams advanced with wins over No. 4 Parker Bohn III, 227-225, in the first match and No. 3 Andrew Cain, 216-205, in the second match.

Couch earned \$25,000 and an exemption for the 2007-08 season, while Allen (Wesley Chapel, Fla.) took home \$13,000 for second. Williams (Ocala, Fla.) earned \$7,000 for third, Cain (Scottsdale, Ariz.) earned \$6,000 for fourth and Bohn (Jackson, N.J.) earned \$5,000 for fifth.

2007 Dick Weber Open

Fountain Bowl, Fountain Valley, Calif. - January 21, 2007

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND

	Totals	Prize
1. Jason Couch, Clermont, Florida	258 (1 game)	\$25,000
2. Patrick Allen, Wesley Chapel, Florida	485 (2 games)	\$13,000
3. Walter Ray Williams Jr., Ocala, Florida	688 (3 games)	\$ 7,000
4. Andrew Cain, Scottsdale, Arizona	205 (1 game)	\$ 6,000
5. Parker Bohn III, Jackson, New Jersey	225 (1 game)	\$ 5,000

SCORES – In the first match, Williams def. Bohn, 227-225; in the second match, Williams defeated Cain, 216-205; in the semifinal, Allen defeated Williams, 249-245; and in the final, Couch def. Allen, 258-236.

MATCH PLAY ROUND CASHERS

Mike Scroggins, Amarillo, Texas, 15-9-0, 9,365, \$4,000; Dennis Horan Jr, Temecula, Calif., 12-11-1, 9,297, \$3,700; Tommy Delutz Jr, Flushing, N.Y., 13-11-0, 9,284, \$3,400; Billy Oatman, Chicago, 15-8-1, 9,183, \$3,200; Mika Koivuniemi, Hartland, Mich., 15-9-0, 9,147, \$3,000; Joel Reyes, Chula Vista, Calif., 8-16-0, 9,123, \$2,900; Steve Gurrieri, Rowland, Calif., 13-11-0, 9,117, \$2,800; Richard Wolfe, Vienna, Va., 9-13-2, 9,056, \$2,750; David Tessman, Lake Placid, Fla., 12-11-1, 9,055, \$2,700; Sean Rash, Wichita, Kan, 13-11-0, 8,939, \$2,650; Riga Kalfas, Florence, Ky., 11-13-0, 8,877, \$2,600; Mike Machuga, Erie, Pa., 11-13-0, 8,859, \$2,550; Joe Ciccone, Buffalo, N.Y., 10-14-0, 8,800, \$2,500; Chris Barnes, Flower Mound, Texas, 10-14-0, 8,741, \$2,450; Bill O'Neill, Levittown, Pa., 7-17-0, 8,609, \$2,400; Tom Baker, King, N.C., 7-17-0, 8,487, \$2,350; Brian Voss, Alpharetta, Ga., 8-16-0, 8,451, \$2,300; Michael Fagan, Greenlawn, N.Y., 10-14-0, 8,440, \$2,250; Jason Hurd, Titusville, Fla., 4-20-0, 8,052, \$2,200.

Other Cashers

Dave D'Entremont, Middleburg Heights, Ohio, 3,257, \$2,000; Pete Weber, St. Ann, Mo., 3,245, \$1,950; Dino Castillo, Carrollton, Texas, 3,243, \$1,875; Tony Figuiera, Gardena, Calif., 3,243, \$1,875; Steve Weber, Chalmette, La., 3,240, \$1,800; Brian LeClair, Athens, N.Y., 3,237, \$1,750; Chris Collins, Savannah, Ga., 3,221, \$1,700; Danny Wiseman, Baltimore, 3,212, \$1,650; Jeff Carter, Springfield, Ill., 3,209, \$1,600; Jack Jurek, Lackawanna, N.Y., 3,206, \$1,500; Chris Warren, Grants Pass, Ore, 3,204, \$1,450; Tony Reyes, San Bruno, Calif., 3,192, \$1,420; Lonnie Waliczek, Wichita, Kan., 3,191, \$1,390; Chris Hayden, Orlando, Fla., 3,189, \$1,360; Liz Johnson, Cheektowaga, N.Y., 3,187, \$1,330; Ronnie Russell, Indianapolis, 3,185, \$1,300; Steve Jaros, Yorkville, Ill., 3,173, \$1,280; Ryan Shafer, Horseheads, N.Y., 3,172, \$1,260; Jim Tomek Jr., Camp Hill, Pa., 3,170, \$1,240; Mike Wolfe, New Albany, Ind., 3,166, \$1,210; Mike Edwards, Tulsa, Okla., 3,166, \$1,210; Doug Kent, Newark, N.Y., 3,163, \$1,180; Brian Himmler, Cincinnati, 3,160, \$1,160; Edward VanDaniker Jr., Essex, Md., 3,155, \$1,145; Brian Kretzer, Kettering, Ohio, 3,155, \$1,145; Dale Traber, Cedarburg, Wis., 3,152, \$1,130; Del Ballard, N. Richland Hills, Texas, 3,151, \$1,120.

300 Games – Parker Bohn III, Joel Reyes, Brian Voss, Ritchie Wolfe, Liz Johnson.

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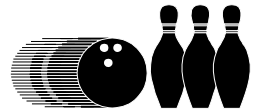
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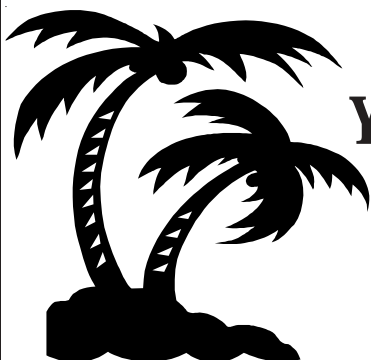
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