



STARS & STRIKES

AMERICA'S BOWLING NEWSMAGAZINE

Koivuniemi Wins Japan Cup

PBA Tour Season Underway



O'Keefe and Asbaty Bring Home Women's World Gold



Lillard Celebrates National Bowling Week at the Ballpark





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

PBA Tour – Three Steps Forward, One Back

Step One – Tournament of Champions Restored

Entering its seventh season under the ownership of Chris Peters and partners, the Professional Bowlers Association appears to be stabilizing, and in this pivotal year, the tour is itching to see a payoff to the foundation they have been building since rescuing the tour from oblivion in 2000.

Few would argue that the first five years were tumultuous under the leadership of dynamic President Steve Miller. While much was accomplished, it seemed as if Miller believed that everything built by his predecessors since Eddie Elias founded the group in 1958 was flawed, and he appeared to be on a mission to erase or deny that history. His constant battles with the industry, the media, and the players grew tiresome.

By contrast, current President Fred Schreyer has done a good job repairing the fences broken by Miller, and improving the programs started in those first few years. If Miller was the 'bad cop,' then Schreyer plays the role of the 'good cop' very well. He seems to have the ability to get things done without unnecessarily ruffling feathers, and this season, he may achieve the ultimate goal Miller couldn't reach – turning a profit.

Schreyer doesn't always agree with the way the industry treats the tour, but he stays deeply involved and keeps the lines of communication open. He also listens to players and others in the industry when they point out problems and make suggestions for improvements.

One of those suggestions shouted from the rooftops was to restore the integrity and prestige of the PBA Tournament of Champions. The Tof C was the crown jewel of the PBA for a quarter century, and when the tour changed the format five years ago and reduced the field from 52 to 32, cries of outrage and disappointment rained down from fans, media, and especially traditionalists who valued the rich history of the event.

This coming season, the Tournament of Champions field will be restored to 52, and not only that, a new doubles event will be added to the week. Both events roll at the incredible new Red Rock Lanes in Las Vegas January 20-27, 2008.

The new PBA Exempt Doubles Classic featuring 59 exempt players and five qualifiers will roll January 20-22 prior to the new Tournament of Champions. The T of C field will be made up of the 37 most recent tour Champions, two senior tour champions, and the winners of the two major regional events. Past Tournament of Champions winners and Hall of Fame members will fill the remaining spots.

To name a few of the legends likely to compete because of the new eligibility are Mike Aulby, David Ozio, Del Ballard, Mark Williams, Marshall Holman, Johnny Petraglia, Mark Roth, and Dave Soutar. What a treat it will be to see these men and others who wrote bowling's history book back on the lanes in this event.

The contentious format of the T of C has also been revised from one where a hot player could sprint to the crown in only 11 games to a true test of talent and stamina. The 52-player field will now bowl 14 games of qualifying after which the top 32 will bowl round-robin matchplay. The final four will bowl on TV for the \$60,000 top prize. The winner will bowl at least 33 games – it's not an All Star marathon, but it sure is a welcome change from the megabuck sprint of recent years.

Step Two – Fixing the Player of the Year Selection

Another very wise move by the PBA this season is the revision of the Point System to determine Player of the Year. For the first time ever, the Player of the Year will be based strictly on points instead of the old system of having membership and media voting.

Although I am one of those media members who will give up this privilege, this is a far

better way of picking the winner, and it removes any possibility of it becoming a popularity contest. In my opinion, this is a performance award, and it should be earned by performance. As much as I respect my peers, I know that some have voted in the past based on likes and dislikes, and I'm happy to see those days are over.

"This new formula takes advantage of the drama already associated with the end of the season and should create an exciting climax as we will now have an immediate resolution to the award," said Fred Schreyer. "Fans can follow the standings all season and will know the results at our culminating event – the 65th Denny's US Open."

I totally agree Fred. . .good call.

Step Three – Women on Television

The PBA continues to do its part in bringing women's professional bowling back into the sport. In 2005, two years after the PWBA ceased operation, they opened their membership to women. This year, in conjunction with the United States Bowling Congress Women's U.S. Open, they held the first PBA Women's Tour Trials, which drew a respectable 65 entries.

From the WTT, 16 women qualified for the PBA Women's Tour Series, which will begin on Halloween. This women's 'mini-tour' begins in Taylor, Michigan October 31-November 4. The following two weeks, the ladies will travel to Cheektowaga, New York and Merrville, Indiana. After a one week break for Thanksgiving, the series will conclude November 28 – December 2 in Wyoming, Michigan.

All four events will use the same format as the men's events that will be held in the same centers at the same times, and will conclude with the women's championship match being live on ESPN as part of the men's finals. The men's winners in these events will earn \$25,000, and the women's champions will take home \$10,000 from a total purse of \$51,000. Not yet equality, but it's a start, and a

whole lot better than 25k and Zero.

One interesting rule that was changed after the women's events were announced was that the player does not have to give up their amateur status and join the PBA to participate. It seems that they discovered what those of us who follow women's bowling already knew – that the number of 200+ average women is relatively small (less than 5000 women compared to over 150,000 men) and very few women desire to compete on the pro level.

Those that do, however, have done very well. Recently, California's Missy Bellinder became the first woman to win two PBA regional events, and in Colorado, Amy Stoltz joined Bellinder, Liz Johnson, and Kelly Kulick as PBA regional champions. All four will compete in the Women's Tour Series.

Adding the PBA shows to the five USBC Women's US Open shows, it will be nine television appearances for women – a very welcome sight, and long overdue.

UH OH –

Nobody's Perfect

While the above-mentioned items are very positive steps forward for the PBA, there is one little step backwards that must be mentioned. The recent "Show Us Your Finish Work Contest, won by two morons from Toledo, was embarrassing. We don't like to stoop to name calling, but in this case, becoming morons was the objective, and these two guys took 'dumb and dumber' to a new level of the basement.

We've heard the clip has become popular on YouTube. We were hoping that the days of flopping on the lanes and throwing balls over chairs and standing on ball returns were over, but apparently not. But at least it's not the pros doing it this time.

Did I hear somebody say 'lighten up, dude?' OK, we'll try. **XXX**

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WE SUPPORT OUR PRESIDENT AND OUR TROOPS



Chuck Pezzano is the dean of bowling writers. His columns have appeared in newspapers and magazines nationally for over 50 years. He is a charter member of the Professional Bowlers Association, and is enshrined in both the PBA and USBC Halls of Fame.

PEZZANO

Bowling remains an amazing sport

It serves tiny tots to polished pros to ageless wonders. Rules and specifications have been around for more than a century, yet some never have changed while additions and modifications have kept the game in step with sophisticated advances in high tech and computer advances.

Bowling survives because its people work hard to make it roll. Its volunteers are among the most dedicated in any field. It is full of controversy, and because a long list of organizations are necessary to make it click, there are constant irritations, tiffs, and battles in the inner and outer circles.

Bowling's appeal is universal, and so is its acceptance. Yet, like air or water or sunshine, it is generally considered the old reliable.

And nowhere is its reliability more evident and outstanding than in its record in charitable enterprises.

It is awesome what bowling does for others, small associations raising hundreds and thousands for good individual and local causes, from burned out families to needed equipment for volunteer forces of all kinds, and national drives presenting checks in the millions.

All charities know they have a friend

in bowling. Bowlers get tapped at work, at home, at church, and at their bowling centers. They don't rebel, they respond. The total numbers are staggering, and more than \$100 million might be a conservative estimate.

But, though all this is evident, you seldom hear about it, and the reality seems to be that bowlers are called upon to do more and more, and receive less and less credit. Organized major charities take every advantage of the numbers in bowling, its organizations and the helpful cooperation of the nation's bowling centers.

Some charities are supported by payroll deductions, fancy, high priced dinners, expensive entry fee golf events, fashion shows and other events that make big splashes on front pages as well as the society and sports pages.

Bowling has its buck or two a shot tournaments, kids and adults collecting a penny a pin for scores rolled and similar down to earth methods, effective, but not headline grabbing. League officers, association officials on all levels, bowling proprietors and their staffs, and the bowlers all do great.

But maybe the bandwagon's being overloaded by those seeking to take advantage of the generosity of bowling.

There is a saturation and annoyance point.

Many charities have big names involved. Our big names in bowling, the well known pros and the top executives, have been a source of pride for as long as there has been bowling. But don't forget the almost no names in bowling who get the job done in the trenches. They are not looking for their pictures in the paper or special citations.

They get their heart warming rewards from the smiles of almost forgotten hospitalized veterans, adults and children with a long list of afflictions, and that inner satisfaction that they have helped someone is some way.

Maybe bowling should check out the story of bowling and charity more closely. Maybe there should be a national clearing house, at least to more accurately document the saga. Maybe there should be a central charity and bowling foundation with funds that can be dispersed where needed most at a given time.

The full story of bowling and charity never has been told, but it proudly can be said that when it comes to charity, bowlers stand so tall they already have one foot in heaven.

PBA Expands Tournament of Champions Field and Lengthens Format

Event Moves to Red Rock Lanes in Las Vegas and Will Include Past Champions and Hall of Famers, and a New Doubles Event

The PBA announced it has changed the selection criteria for the 2008 H&R Block Tournament of Champions, one of four Major events on the Denny's PBA Tour, which will take place January 23-27 at Red Rock Lanes in Las Vegas. Additionally, the PBA announced details of the new PBA Exempt Doubles Classic, which will run the same week as the H&R Block Tournament of Champions, and will also take place at Red Rock Lanes.

Over the past five seasons, the Tournament of Champions has been open to just 32 bowlers, however this season's H&R Block Tournament of Champions field will expand to 52 participants. Previously, the most recent 28 Denny's PBA Tour champions were invited, along with two champions each from the PBA Senior Tour and PBA Regional Tour's Major events.

This season, the field will be open to the 37 most recent Denny's PBA Tour champions, with priority on the list given to bowlers currently exempt on the 2007-08 Denny's PBA Tour. Two spots were available to PBA Senior Tour champions, but Tom Baker won both the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) Senior Masters and the PBA Senior Dick Weber Invitational, giving an extra spot to a Denny's PBA Tour champion. Two additional spots will be given to the winners of the two PBA Regional Tour Major events.

The remaining spots up to 52 will be filled by past Tournament of Champions winners in order of most recent Tournament of Champions win. If the field still does not reach 52,

the roster will open up to PBA Hall of Famers based on most recent Denny's PBA Tour win.

Should a bowler not already eligible for the 2008 H&R Block Tournament of Champions win one of the 12 events leading up to the event, they will replace a non-exempt Denny's PBA Tour champion from the list of 36.

The H&R Block Tournament of Champions will also switch from a single elimination match play format to one with 14 games of qualifying and round robin match play. All 52 competitors will bowl 14 games of qualifying on Thursday, January 24, with the top 32 advancing to match play. Those 32 will bowl nine games of round robin on Friday, Jan. 25, after which the field will be cut to the top 16.

Those 16 will bowl an additional nine games of round robin to determine the final four bowlers for the live ESPN televised finals on Sunday, January 27 at 12:30 p.m. ET. The finals will feature two semifinal matches and a one-game title match, with the winner earning \$60,000 and a two-season Denny's PBA Tour exemption.

In the days leading up to the H&R Block Tournament of Champions, a new Denny's PBA Tour event will take place at Red Rock Lanes, the PBA Exempt Doubles Classic, January 20-22. The tournament will run similar to a standard Denny's PBA Tour event except match play will feature a round robin doubles format.

The event starts with a Denny's PBA Tour Qualifying Round on Sunday, January 20 where non-exempt bowlers and amateurs will

battle it out for spots in the Round of 64. The top four PBA members and top amateur will advance to Monday's qualifying.

On Monday, January 21, the 59 exempt bowlers and five qualifiers will bowl two seven-game qualifying blocks with the top 32 advancing to match play on Tuesday, January 22.

The top 32 will then team up for round robin match play based on qualifying position with all pinfall carrying over. The top bowler from qualifying will team up with the No. 2 qualifier, No. 3 will team with No. 4 and so on. The 16 matches will feature both a singles and doubles component.

Within each match, each bowler's game score counts toward the team's total pinfall. The bowler with the highest score between the leadoff bowlers will receive 10 bonus pins, while the bowler with highest score between the anchor bowlers' scores will also receive 10 bonus pins.

The team's combined score is also accounted for and the team with the highest combined score will receive an additional 30 pins, giving each team a potential 50 pins for each match on top of their total pinfall.

The top four teams will advance to the championship round, where a Baker format will be used. The finals will be taped Sunday, Jan. 27 following the completion of the live ESPN televised finals of the H&R Block Tournament of Champions and will air tape-delayed on ESPN Sunday, February 3 at 2 p.m. ET as the Denny's PBA Tour will be on hiatus that week.

TRUE AMATEUR TOURNAMENTS BETTER THAN EVER !!



Jowdy's Journal by John Jowdy

Better Bowlers . . .

EBONITE - TAT AMATEUR NATIONALS FEB 1 - FEB 8:

The 5th Amateur nationals will be held at the beautiful Orleans Hotel/Casino/Bowling Center in Las Vegas.

For years we've tried to figure out how to get all the bowlers expenses back by making the finals. We have finally figured a way to do it on the bowlers behalf.

We've also been striving to increase prize funds, the good news for bowlers is you will be able to get up to **\$1,000 for making the finals** with very minimal increases in entry fees.

The TAT events feature **Amateur only** bowlers with multiple ways to win in 10 separate events, it's a single scratch event with 5 separate qualifying divisions for **Amateur's only**, with over **500 ways to cash** TAT is put on by Bowlers for Bowlers with over a 100% prize fund pay-back with all Prize Funds Guaranteed. 4 Separate entries to choose from, all entrants receive **Free** Ebonite's latest high performance ball with 1st entry.

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\$21,000 in prizes, the Free sweepers with 85 plus winners and \$35,000 in prizes approx 1000 Free balls and the popular \$30,000 Ebonite Challenge with a 1 in 6 cash ratio with all qualifiers receiving a second Free Ebonite performance ball will remain intact along with their prize funds) The Ebonite Pro Shop prize fund will also stay intact. The top 6 prize's of 1st \$25,000, 2nd \$15,000, 3rd \$10,000, 4th \$5,000, 5th \$3500 and 6th \$2500 will remain the same. Daily leaders can now win up to \$1250 minimum guaranteed in all divisions along with bowlers who make the finals winning up to \$1,000.

FREE SQUADS - DOUBLE YOUR CHANCE WIN- NINGS:

Bowlers staying at the Orleans will receive an extra Free Chance Squad and be able to double their winnings in Chance Tournament #1 it will have a prize fund (not including the double) of \$6,000 and 39 Prizes. w/ 33 cash spots that can be doubled. Bowler must be registered at The Orleans and staying there. If you stay at the Orleans and receive a check for \$350 we'll double it to \$700. Bowlers who stay at The Orleans

will receive \$100 in match play chips (\$50 to all others). We have secured a room block with great rates over the Super Bowl week - Fri \$80 - Sat \$130 - Sun \$80 and only \$50 during the week call **1 800 675 3267** must say for the True Amateur Nationals event to get these rates.

NEW BOWLER FRIENDLY CHANGES: \$5000 ADDED MONEY

\$1,000 for making just finals!! This Tournament will have added another Free Sweeper for those who purchase any multiple entry #2, 3, or 4. We are adding \$5,000 to the Sunday Sweeper Feb 3rd, it will have 3 squads re-entries are allowed and a bowler will be allowed to cash twice, it will have a guaranteed 1st place of \$1500 with last cash of \$100 and a cashing ratio of 1 in 5.

BOWL EARLY - 20 FREE BYES:

Bowlers who Qualify for the finals in the first 3 days will be put in the drawing for the 20 Free byes. The drawing will be done by the bowlers on the concourse at noon on Tuesday February 5th (less daily leaders).

For brochures or any questions please call **1 888 828 2695**.

Although bowling has experienced a gradual decline for the past 15 years, a bright future looms over the horizon. There is bad news and good news

First, let's face the bad news.

Membership in the the USBC tapered off at an alarming rate.

Phony high scores made a mockery of the game. 300 games, 800 series and averages ranging from 220 to 250 became routine. 900 series were being recorded regularly. Worse though, the ABC sanctioned these scores by mere average bowlers, yet refused to accept a 900 series by Glenn Allison, a Hall of Fame bowler.

The professional women's bowling tour lost its TV package.

Popular tournaments such as the High Roller and the Eliminator experienced huge drop-offs in entries.

Steve Sanders, one of the game's premier promoters, tarnished his reputation by defaulting on the guaranteed payoff of the Mini-Eliminator megabucks tournament. Furthermore. Mr. Sanders' Generations Senior Tour was a total disaster and in jeopardy of total extinction.

With all due respect to Steve Sanders, he was simply a victim of the times. In addition to the decline in megabuck tournaments, entries in amateur tournaments like the NABI and ABT have sagged, as much as 50%.

Bowling centers have been closing at a disturbing rate...for several reasons. First, some centers became dilapidated and were unable to compete with modern bowling establishments. Second, and more important, property values have become so attractive, proprietors are practically forced to accept "offers they can't refuse".

That's the bad news. Now let's exam-

ine the GOOD news.

The dwindling membership has slowed down.

The USBC has done a remarkable job of addressing and attempting to harness outlandish high scores. The USBC Sport Bowling program enjoyed explosive growths across the board this past season, due principally to the remarkable popularity of PBA Experience leagues, which allow Sport members to compete on the same oil patterns as professional bowlers. The number of Sport bowling members rose 120 percent over the previous season. Sport Bowling leagues were up 134 percent while centers holding Sport events increased 155 percent.

Although the PWBA vanished, the PBA opened its doors to top female bowlers. In doing so, the PBA and bowling overall, gained national attention when Kelly Kulick succeeded in qualifying for the PBA Tour through the Tour Trials. Additionally, Liz Johnson became the first female to appear on the PBA TV show by gaining a spot on the tour through the Pro Tour Qualifier. Moreover, female performers like Liz Johnson, Carolyn Dorin-Ballard and Missy Bellinder made their marks on the PBA Regional tours. As of this date, Missy Bellinder has annexed TWO Regional titles.

Furthermore, all female bowlers were give an additional opportunity to appear on PBA television by qualifying through the 2007 Women's US Open at Reno. Ladies had to pay an additional \$750 to qualify for 16 spots.

Although many bowling centers have closed, a majority of existing establishments have increased their incomes with

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3rd Annual Chris Barnes Thanksgiving Youth Classic Rolls November 21-25

Holiday event sponsored by Denny's and Columbia 300

PBA star Chris Barnes believes in giving back to the bowling community, and one of the ways this pro champion shares his success is lending his name and efforts to youth bowling. This Thanksgiving, his third annual Youth Classic Tournament will roll in his home State of Texas.

The event starts on Wednesday, November 21, and after taking a day off Thanksgiving Day, concludes Friday through Sunday November 23-25. It will be held this year at AMF Showplace Lanes, only a few minutes from DFW International Airport in the heart of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

The event is a scratch tournament with divisions. The High School Division, for grades 9-12 is broken down into two average groups – 181 or better, and 180 and below. The second division is for players in grades 5-8.

This USBC Sport Bowling Certified event will guarantee two \$1500 Smart Scholarships in each of the two High School Divisions, and a minimum of \$500 in the younger division. A minimum of one in ten will win Smart Scholarship awards.

Entry fees are \$49 for each squad bowled in this multi-squad event. Re-entries are \$45, and a special marathon entry for three squads is \$130. From each entry, \$30 will go to the scholarship fund.

A total of nine qualifying squads will be held on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. The top eight in each division will advance to the Sunday morning finals.

For an additional \$25, bowlers can use their qualifying scores toward qualifying for the 2008 USBC Junior Gold Championships. Separate Junior Gold qualifiers will be held each day.

Coaching is also on the agenda. On Friday and Saturday, USBC Gold Level Coach Susie Minshew will be offering 30-minute lessons for only \$25.00. Players can sign-up when they arrive, or walk-in if space is available.

This year's CBTC is sponsored by Denny's and Columbia 300. For more information, or to obtain an entry form, contact tournament director Sharion Harwell at (214) 334-6797 or email sharionharwell@yahoo.com.

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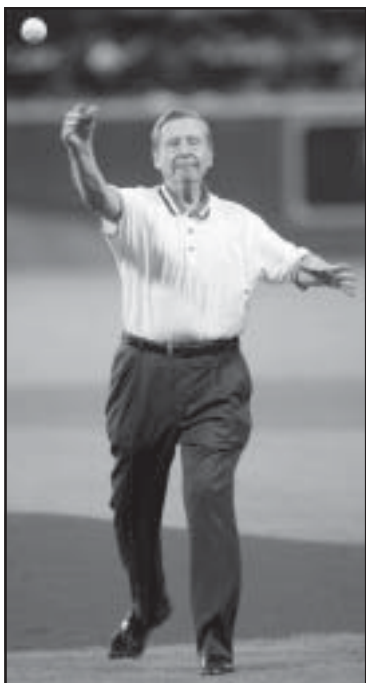
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Bowling Legend Bill Lillard Pitches National Bowling Week In Houston



As part of National Bowling Week celebrations, United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer and Houston bowling proprietor Bill Lillard threw out the first pitch at the Houston Astros/St. Louis Cardinals game at Minute Maid Field on August 30. The eight-time USBC Open Championships titlist admitted to being somewhat nervous for the occasion. "I put it right over the plate - on the second bounce," Lillard joked. "I havent been so nervous since I needed two strikes in the 10th frame to win the 1966 Miller Open (PBA Tour) stop in Milwaukee." Lillard's first pitch was a featured segment on CBS affiliate KHOU-TV in Houston.

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THE LUCK FACTOR?

By Brian Voss

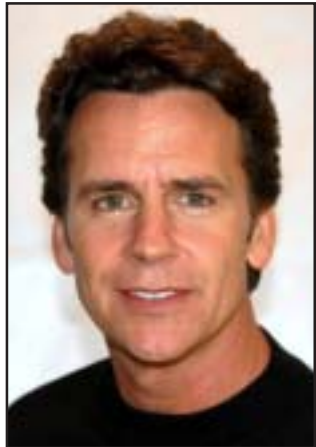
In just about every post-game interview with athletes in any sport, you hear some mention of luck playing a role in the outcome of the competition. "It was just my week." "The breaks all went my way today." "It was just my day to win today." It is almost enough to make you wonder why these athletes spend the countless hours training and practicing for success in their chosen sports, isn't it?

Bowling is no different and, in fact, I believe suffers from an even more biased perception that luck (rather than skill and athleticism) is a factor in determining the outcome of a competition than almost any sport today. Director of Sport Bowling, Steve Wunderlich, a highly accomplished PBA Tour player in the '80's and '90's once said after losing a close match for the title, "It's unfortunate that I've chosen a profession where luck plays such an important factor." (No wonder that he ended up as the head of the group probably most dedicated to rebuilding the integrity of the sport!)

The question is, then, how much of a factor does luck play in our sport? Are Walter Ray Williams and Earl Anthony and Pete Weber and Mark Roth and Parker Bohn just luckier than all of the other great players who have competed on Tour just because they were able to win more than 30 titles? How much of their success is simply because they were better than, or more talented than or simply work harder than, their competition?

You might be surprised to hear me admit that luck certainly does play a huge role in the success of these and countless other players. In fact, one could argue that the entire system is based upon luck. From a cer-

tain standpoint it is. The way I see it, bowling, like every other sport, boils down to a game of chance. I mean sure, there are fundamentals to master, training techniques to practice and knowledge to accumulate, but at the end of the day (or the week, in bowling) the one who wins



is the guy (or gal) who has less than a 27% shot at him, who doesn't leave that stone-8 at the wrong time to cost him a match, and who maybe carries that one extra Brooklyn strike. But the thing about that which keeps us die-hard bowlers from going completely insane is that the better you get at bowling the more chances you give yourself to take advantage of those opportunities when they do arise.

There is a reason why Walter Ray has won 42 titles in his career - and it isn't because he's lucky. It's because he's made 160 shows in his career - in 664 career events that means he makes it to TV almost 25% of the time. But even then he only wins the title 25% of those times. But he's given himself so many opportunities to win that over time, he's won more than anyone else. But one might argue that Walter Ray has actually been incredibly unlucky in "only" winning 42 times. Compared

to Tommy Jones, who's qualified for TV 17 times in 132 events (a TV percentage just better than half of Walter Ray's) and won 10 (a 58% conversion rate), Walter Ray has been downright snakebitten.

But taking it to another level of detail, it is also not a coincidence that Walter Ray gives himself so many opportunities to win. For those of you who don't know, Walter Ray actually tracks every frame of every game in competition, and breaks down his pocket percentage, his strike percentage, his split percentage and his spare percentage. (He also tracks his opponents as well!) The advantage to all of that extra work is that Walter Ray has the perspective that the breaks will eventually even out, and that as long as his pocket percentage and strike percentage and spare percentage is better than his competitors - all measures of skill and talent - that he'll win out in the end. And his results prove it.

I believe that is a great lesson to all bowlers out there, those who want to pull out their hair or threaten to quit the game every time a ringing ten pin costs us a point in our Monday night league. As long as you keep it in the pocket, and keep giving yourself chances, eventually you will hit the jackpot. And hitting the jackpot is the best feeling in the world. It's why we keep coming back to the sport that we all love despite the pain it sometimes causes us. At the end of the day, practice and learning and training is our way of giving us those chances and increasing our odds of hitting the jackpot. As long as we all accept that, then the rough patches of "bad luck" are a lot easier to swallow.

contributed by
Bowlersparadise.com

Stricter Eligibility, & Lower Entry Fees In February High Roller

Look for cut scores to be lower!

Las Vegas - Effective for the 2008 February High Roller, the "A Game" & the Las Vegas Red Hot, many of the world's top amateurs won't be present.

New eligibility rules now disallow men and women players from any country's national team, including TeamUSA, going back to 2003. Also, players that have won titles from many of the world's most prestigious tournaments will no longer be allowed to compete.

Sam's Town again hosts the February High Roller Triple Header February 2nd through the 9th featuring the lowest room rates in town! Call them by January 16 for these great rates at 1-877-593-5993.

What does this mean to many players? First of all, the largest guarantee in town although the entry fees are lower than this past July. Your 1st High Roller entry is now \$260, down from \$300 and re-entries are \$175 each, down from \$200. And gone is the \$10 for using a re-entry that you won in the popular \$20 Insurance Program.

Also - due to popular demand, the 39 & Under and 40 to 49 Age Divisions are now combined in qualifying. However, once in match play of the Grand Finals, there will be a separate division for the 40 year olds so that a player from that age group will be guaranteed at least \$10,000 as in the other divisions!

Also - in the new 49 & Under division, look for the cut scores to be lower! High Roller has the best cuts in town as 1 in 8 from each

division wins \$1,000 each day! And you can win \$1,000 TWICE EACH DAY! But without many of the world's best amateurs competing, the cut scores will be lower.

A study from July showed that a squad with cuts of 226 in the "39" and 228 in the "40" would now be 218!

That also means lower cuts to reach the Grand Finals!

Never bowled a High Roller? Have a re-entry on us - a \$175 savings. Keep that in your pocket as you try to qualify for the Grand Finals!

Storm Bowling Products is the Bowlers Company! Receive a new high performance ball each time you bowl 4 qualifying entries.

Other savings this year? You bet! Players entering the Triple Header plus at least one Sweeper can save over \$100 if you enter by October 31st! You get to bowl 12 games in 4 events for just \$730 and save money on re-entries as well during the week!

More savings? All entrants of the High Roller receive a free re-entry into the Las Vegas Red Hot to bowl for \$12,000 - a \$100 value!

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Radio

Mika Koivuniemi Wins Japan Cup

His eighth PBA tour title giving him titles in 11 different countries

TOKYO, Japan – Mika Koivuniemi became the first European player to win the Japan Cup and solidified his standing as one of the world's top bowlers, defeating fellow Denny's Professional Bowlers Association Tour star Mike Wolfe, 200-178, to win the Dydo Japan Cup 2007 at the Tokyo Metro Gymnasium.

The win was the eighth Denny's PBA Tour title of Koivuniemi's career, and gave him a title in 11 different countries. The Finland native has been bowling on the Denny's PBA Tour for nine years after spending 10 years with Team Finland.

"It's great to win anywhere, but to win in Japan and to win in an arena atmosphere makes it even more special," Koivuniemi (Hartland, Michigan) said. "I have bowled in a few arena finals but never won until now so it's just a great feeling to do it in front of a big crowd like this."

Koivuniemi and Wolfe were the only two PBA stars to advance to the eight-bowler finals after a format change which featured single elimination, best-of-three games match play through the Round of 16 as opposed to the round robin format used in years past. Last season, all nine finalists were from the PBA.

This year's finals had an international flavor as five Japanese bowlers, one Korean, one American and one Finish bowler made up the final eight. The home crowd in Japan was hoping to see a Japanese bowler win the Japan Cup for the first time since 1988.

Wolfe (New Albany, Indiana) started the finals with a 220-212 win over the 64th-seed Shigeo Saito of Japan, advancing to face another Japanese bowler, Yoshiaki Ohsawa in the semifinals. Ohsawa had defeated three American players – including Norm Duke and Walter Ray Williams Jr. – in the Rounds of 64, 32 and 16, but Wolfe stopped the string with a 237-212 win to advance to the finals.

Koivuniemi, meanwhile, took his dominance of left-handed bowlers overseas as he defeated the Japan Professional Bowlers Association's top young star, Isao Yamamoto, 217-205, in the Round of 8. Koivuniemi, the self-proclaimed "lefties' worst nightmare," improved to 13-2 on television in his PBA career against lefties.

It was a heartbreaking loss for Yamamoto, who left seven 7-pins in the match, five of which came on the right lane. The 25-year-old had a chance to win the match with a double in the 10th, but he left a 7-pin to allow Koivuniemi to advance.

Koivuniemi then defeated Japan's Masao Uehara, 235-201, to set up the all-PBA final.

Wolfe struggled in the final, unable to strike until the ninth frame as he left four 10-pins in one five-frame stretch, which included a crucial failed 10-pin conversion in the seventh frame.

Koivuniemi couldn't pull away, opening in the fourth frame and alternating

unable to strike," said Koivuniemi, who has now appeared in a televised championship round in 17 different countries. "Unfortunately for him, he got some really bad breaks and left a lot of 10-pins."

One of Wolfe's bad breaks came in the fourth frame when he knocked the 7-pin out but the 8-pin slid all the way over into the 7-pin's place and stood up. The 30 year old was unable to win his third career title in his first championship round appearance since December 2005.

Koivuniemi took home \$50,000 for the win, while Wolfe earned \$26,000. Uehara and Ohsawa took home \$10,000 for third and fourth, respectively, while Yamamoto, Takashi Masuda, Korea's Byun Yong Hwan and Saito each earned \$5,000 for fifth through eighth.

The championship round of the Dydo Japan Cup 2007 will air tape-delayed on ESPN Sunday, Oct. 21 at 1 p.m. ET.



Mike Koivuniemi

but after two strikes he left yet another 10-pin, meaning the "Big Finn" only needed a mark to win.

"Of course, I was happy that he was

Dydo Japan Cup 2007

Shinagawa Prince Hotel Bowling Center, Tokyo, Japan - September 23, 2007

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND		Totals	Prize
1. Mika Koivuniemi, Hartland, Michigan	652 (3 games)	\$50,000	
2. Mike Wolfe, New Albany, Indiana	635 (3 games)	\$26,000	
3. Masao Uehara, Japan	447 (2 games)	\$10,000	
4. Yoshiaki Ohsawa, Japan	450 (2 games)	\$10,000	
5. Isao Yamamoto, Japan	205 (1 game)	\$ 5,000	
6. Takashi Masuda, Japan	192 (1 game)	\$ 5,000	
7. Byun Yong Hwan, Korea	205 (1 game)	\$ 5,000	
8. Shigeo Saito, Japan	212 (1 game)	\$ 5,000	

SCORES – In the first match, Wolfe def. Saito, 220-212; in the second match, Ohsawa def. Masuda, 238-192; in the third match, Koivuniemi def. Yamamoto, 217-205; in the fourth match, Uehara def. Hwan, 246-205; in the first semifinal Wolfe def. Ohsawa, 237-212; in the second semifinal, Koivuniemi def. Uehara, 235-201; and in the title match, Koivuniemi def. Wolfe, 200-178.

This is Koivuniemi's eighth Denny's PBA Tour title.

ROUND OF 16 - (Losers eliminated, earn \$2,500)

Shigeo Saito, Japan, def. Yasuyuki Sadamatsu, Japan, 2-1 (224-202, 211-226, 268-246); Mike Wolfe, New Albany, Ind., def. Sean Rash, Wichita, Kan., 2-1 (179-212, 246-198, 285-224); Yoshiaki Ohsawa, Japan, def. Chris Loschetter, Avon, Ohio, 2-0 (235-225, 232-226); Takashi Masuda, Japan, def. Tamiki Milke, Japan, 2-0 (196-179, 203-178); Isao Yamamoto, Japan, def. Toshio Umeda, Japan, 2-0 (258-156, 213-187); Mika Koivuniemi, Hartland, Mich., def. Hiroshi Nagatani, Japan, 2-1 (232-259, 246-221, 202-196); Byun Yong Hwan, Korea, def. Takashi Kudo, Japan, 2-0 (218-164, 258-207); Masao Uehara, Japan, def. Yukio Yamazaki, Japan, 2-1 (208-168, 173-226, 227-200).

ROUND OF 32 - (Losers eliminated, earn \$2,000)

Shigeo Saito, Japan, def. Takeo Sakai, Japan, 2-0 (234-214, 259-213); Yasuyuki Sadamatsu, Japan, def. Susumu Nakazawa, Japan, 2-1 (213-222, 160-149, 212-172); Mike Wolfe, New Albany, Ind., def. Yoshihiro Sakuraba, Japan, 2-0 (223-162, 267-205); Sean Rash, Wichita, Kan., def. Tony Reyes, San Bruno, Calif., 2-0 (207-198, 232-195); Yoshiaki Ohsawa, Japan, def. Walter Ray Williams Jr., Ocala, Fla., 2-0 (245-220, 257-201); Chris Loschetter, Avon, Ohio, def. Yoshimi Kitaoka, Japan, 2-1 (248-208, 247-268, 256-226); Takashi Masuda, Japan, def. Doug Kent, Newark, N.Y., 2-1 (221-177, 214-242, 212-187); Tamiki Milke, Japan, def. Ryan Shafer, Horseheads, N.Y., 2-0 (219-182, 238-224); Isao Yamamoto, Japan, def. Syuichi Heki, Japan, 2-1 (244-212, 253-276, 237-191); Toshio Umeda, Japan, def. Daiki Ikeda, Japan, 2-0 (194-190, 203-203*); Mika Koivuniemi, Hartland, Mich., def. Tommy Jones, Simpsonville, S.C., 2-1 (255-223, 204-263, 246-246**); Hiroshi Nagatani, Japan, def. Shigeo Mizuno, Japan, 2-1 (178-188, 192-183, 247-218); Takashi Kudo, Japan, def. Katsuya Kamida, Japan, 2-0 (233-213, 202-201); Byun Yong Hwan, Korea, def. Toshifumi Kojima, Japan, 2-0 (204-193, 204-188); Masao Uehara, Japan, def. Hisayoshi Nishida, Japan, 2-0 (219-206, 235-216); Yukio Yamazaki, Japan, def. Toshohiko Takahashi, Japan, 2-0 (215-204, 234-220).

*Umeda won in a one-ball roll-off, 54-55. **Koivuniemi won in a one-ball roll-off, 20-19.

ROUND OF 64 - (Losers eliminated, earn \$1,000)

Shigeo Saito, Japan, def. Mike Scroggins, Amarillo, Texas, 2-0 (269-202, 280-234); Takeo Sakai, Japan, def. Yoichi Nakayama, Japan, 2-0 (223-162, 267-205); Susumu Nakazawa, Japan, def. Patrick Allen, Wesley Chapel, Fla., 2-0 (237-198, 235-232); Yasuyuki Sadamatsu, Japan, def. Taro Syoji, Japan, 2-0 (180-161, 193-187); Mike Wolfe, New Albany, Ind., def. Manabu Mochida, Japan, 2-0 (265-256, 238-196); Yoshihiro Sakuraba, Japan, def. Yasaharu Tsuno, Japan, 2-1 (238-200, 166-233, 238-203); Sean Rash, Wichita, Kan., def. Akio Ishihara, Japan, 2-1 (217-252, 214-190, 235-205); Tony Reyes, San Bruno, Calif., def. Hideyuki Okano, 2-0 (245-225, 253-225); Yoshiaki Ohsawa, Japan, def. Norm Duke, Clearmont, Fla., 2-0 (237-237*, 247-211); Walter Ray Williams Jr., Ocala, Fla., def. Steve Jaros, Yorkville, Ill., 2-1 (213-224, 215-197, 243-224); Yoshimi Kitaoka, Japan, def. Teruyuki Obara, Japan, 2-1 (187-189, 233-181, 269-217); Chris Loschetter, Avon, Ohio, def. Kim Young Pil, Korea, 2-0 (256-236, 256-225); Takashi Masuda, Japan, def. Nobuyuki Cho, Japan, 2-1 (278-221, 205-255, 231-202); Doug Kent, Newark, N.Y., def. Jeff Carter, Springfield, Ill., 2-0 (256-238, 197-179); Tamiki Milke, Japan, def. Yoshinori Minami, Japan, 2-0 (222-203, 233-160); Ryan Shafer, Horseheads, N.Y., def. Minoru Sendan, Japan, 2-0 (247-205, 227-199); Isao Yamamoto, Japan, def. Tsubasa Tsuchiya, Japan, 2-0 (249-237, 259-247); Syuichi Heki, Japan, def. Nobuaki Takahashi, Japan, 2-1 (201-224, 229-213, 223-189); Daiki Ikeda, Japan, def. Koichi Takahashi, Japan, 2-0 (257-213, 202-180); Toshio Umeda, Japan, def. Masaaki Takemoto, Japan, 2-0 (206-187, 212-209); Tommy Jones, Simpsonville, S.C., def. Akio Harada, Japan, 2-1 (225-214, 232-236, 180-156); Mika Koivuniemi, Hartland, Mich., def. Jeong Tae Hwa, Korea, 2-0 (289-207, 247-245); Shigeo Mizuno, Japan, def. Masahiro Suto, Japan, 2-1 (193-203, 198-158, 247-181); Hiroshi Nagatani, Japan, def. Bill O'Neill, Levittown, Pa., 2-1 (245-214, 196-226, 233-205); Takashi Kudo, Japan, def. Chris Barnes, Double Oak, Texas, 2-1 (239-258, 236-189, 200-195); Katsuya Kamida, Japan, def. Makoto Endo, Japan, 2-0 (214-199, 236-170); Byun Yong Hwan, Korea, def. Masami Matsumoto, Japan, 2-0 (190-189, 202-194); Toshifumi Kojima, Japan, def. Tommy Delutz Jr., Flushing, N.Y., 2-1 (246-245, 194-220, 233-212); Masao Uehara, Japan, def. Koji Kawazu, Japan, 2-0 (224-206, 268-214); Hisayoshi Nishida, Japan, def. Naoharu Okabe, Japan, 2-1 (245-226, 213-233, 247-211); Toshohiko Takahashi, Japan, def. Kagayuki Amano, Japan, 2-0 (255-182, 276-213); Yukio Yamazaki, Japan, def. Takashi Sugimachi, Japan, 2-1 (211-197, 216-238, 226-204). *Ohsawa won in a one-ball roll-off, 10-9.

OPINION: USBC Training Center A Good Idea?

Is this a good use of members dues?

By Juetta Holseth

The United States Bowling Congress (USBC) has great plans to build a special training facility next to their Research and Testing Facility (see separate story to the left). Why in the world would the USBC want to build a facility like this when a very small number of people will use it?

First, let's take a monetary look at this question.

A brand new 8-lane center, similar to the Training Facility, will cost between \$2.1 and \$3 million to build. That includes 8,000-10,000 square feet at \$200-\$250 per square foot and approximately \$500,000 for equipment (lanes, approaches, seating, machines and related equipment, etc.) plus CATS and other video equipment.

Using the lower estimate, payment on \$2.1 million (at 7% interest) will be \$14,800+ per month over 25 years. Add to that the salary and health benefits for coaches and a mechanic, utilities (gas, electricity, telephone, internet), lane maintenance (repairs, parts, oil, lane cleaner), insurance (general liability) plus other daily/weekly/monthly expenses.

If an off-the-street customer pays \$200 per day to be coached by the best in the country - more than 15 paying customers per day would be needed - 365 days a year for the next 25 years!

How many people will actually make use of this facility each a year?

Team USA will travel to the Training Facility perhaps four times annually (high estimate) for practice, coaching and preparation for upcoming national and international events. Their expenses (travel, lodging, food, etc.) would undoubtedly be paid by USBC because Team USA is our country's bowling representatives. No income would come from that grouping of approximately 50 people (bowlers, coaches and related officials) - so their appearances at the facility cannot be counted as income because the money will be coming from USBC coffers. Therefore, the daily 'cost of doing business' remains the same.

We must also assume that with a good lineup of coaches - bowlers from around the country and the world will travel to Milwaukee to use it, too. Not a bad idea if you want to get good coaching in a state-of-the-art facility. But, let's be realistic.

Minnesota bowlers are about five hours driving time from Milwaukee - a two-day roundtrip. If they practice for two days - their trip becomes a four-day adventure (vacation).

How many Minnesota bowlers will travel to Milwaukee each year - and pay to use the Training Facility at perhaps \$200 per day? My estimated number is less than 30. Perhaps Illinois and Wisconsin could have a few more taking advantage of the facility - but bowlers from farther away will have higher travel costs and time expenses.

How many total bowlers does USBC expect to use the Training Facility to pay for this building? Only the USBC knows that projected answer - but I don't think they're being realistic.

There are other options

Option #1: The Kegel Company (www.kegel.net) and John Davis have a tremendous 12-lane training facility at their office and plant in Florida where they manufacture state-of-the-art lane conditioning equipment and are well-known for technological advances within the industry. Their building has everything the Training Facility wants to install - and what's not in place could be added.

Davis is a strong supporter of bowling and would probably be glad to be part of this venture. He may even allow Team USA to practice there for little (or no) cost. The general public is welcome to use the Kegel facility with only a little advance notice.

Option #2: Why not travel around the country, with the CATS system, visiting centers in areas with larger bowler bases? The set-up of the computerized system (perhaps six times a year) in different locations throughout the country would be much less expensive than building a special Training Facility that has no chance of paying for itself. Local advertising could be done (flyers to bowling centers, ads in bowling newspapers, local mass media, etc.) to attract bowlers which would be less expensive.

Concerning Team USA - wouldn't it be better for the team to go to 'real' bowling centers for practice rather than to the same place every time? When a regular bowler practices - he knows it's smarter to go to multiple centers rather than risk becoming a 'house' bowler. Lane conditions can be changed - but the atmosphere cannot.

Mark Miller, from USBC Public Relations, wrote the following after I sent an email to local bowling entities about the Training Facility. One copy was forwarded to the USBC, and he responded.

"I'd like to provide you with a few facts that weren't included in the original release that further explain why we are doing this.

"First, we are one of the last, if not the last, sports national governing bodies to create such an independent venue. I say independent in reference to your point on the Kegel facility. That's a private facility for which we have little, if any, control on how it operates. The same goes with commercial centers and the same goes when Team USA travels to Colorado Springs (US Olympic Training Center), since it must use a separate bowling facility to do its on-lanes training. To have a true world-class facility with the type of amenities needed to do it right, it must be independent and run by the

Training Facility To Be Built At USBC Headquarters

Public can take advantage of state-of-the-art training center beginning in April 2008

Athletes soon will have the opportunity to vastly improve their bowling game with the construction of a state-of-the-art, eight-lane training center, scheduled to open in April 2008 on the grounds of United States Bowling Congress Headquarters.

The USBC Training Facility, which will be a stand-alone building located adjacent to the current USBC Research Facility, will feature CATS (Computer Aided Tracking System), Ebonite BowlersMAP software and other training technology currently being developed by USBC.

Camera bays will be installed for video and still photography, capturing every angle and movement of a bowler's approach and delivery.

The USBC Training Facility will be open to the public; individuals can take advantage of the world-class coaching

and training opportunities for a fee yet to be determined. Team USA and other international federations also will use the center.

"The goal of the USBC Training Facility is to be a resource in developing elite bowlers worldwide," USBC Chief Officer of National Governing Body Kevin Dornberger said. "In order to grow the sport, you have to grow great coaches and athletes. The technology available at the USBC Training Facility will go a long way in doing that."

A full-time coaching staff will manage training programs at the facility, which also will include an expanded pro shop. Groundbreaking for the training facility is targeted for fall 2007.

Visit bowl.com for continuing updates on the USBC Training Facility and its construction progress.

national governing body.

"Second, the business plan calls for the new facility to be profitable and eventually pay for itself (*Editor's note: how can it legally 'be profitable' when being owned by a non-profit organization?*). How? Through the fees that people will be charged to use the facility. Who would use this? In addition to our Team USA athletes (*Editor's note: the team would not pay. The money would come from USBC coffers - money out of your pocket.*), college and high school teams, professionals and international teams will pay to receive world-class coaching and training. And, we believe once the general public knows the facility exists, a good enough number of them will come to learn from the best how to improve their games.

"Finally, if bowling is truly to be considered a sport and wants to be at the same level as other sports, it must create facilities like this. As USBC is dedicated to growing the sport of bowling, we believe that's what we must do."

Looking at the estimates I've provided, and reading Mr. Miller's response, something is definitely wrong.

Perhaps my assessment of the finances needed to build a center and keep it running are flawed - or could it be USBC's zealous anticipation of how many paying bowlers will be passing through the doors? Either way, this will be a very costly venture for everyone who supports USBC in each and every way.

Of course, the USBC was the immediate recipient of \$1 million in savings when they disbanded the Field Representative positions earlier this year. These men and women were the go-betweens for local associations/

bowlers and national headquarters. The knowledge these people possess and the help they gave with one-on-one familiarity, will be sorely missed. It's unfortunate - but USBC didn't see a need for this type of customer service in its ranks.

In my humble opinion, the numbers just do not add up to a break-even business - and that's what USBC must strive for as they are a registered non-profit entity.

Does Team USA's current training (without an official facility) provide them with the necessary knowledge and expertise to win medals in international competition around the world? **YES - and they're doing it consistently!**

Does Team USA deserve the best coaching available? **YES**

Is there a more cost-effective way to accomplish this goal? **YES**

Our opinions will probably mean very little to the powers-that-be at the National level, but we have the right to express them. Remember, every league bowler will be paying for this facility through their sanctioning fees if the facility cannot get to a break-even point. It may be only a few cents from each bowler - but the money has to come from somewhere.

At some point in the future I may have to extend my apology for making incorrect assumptions about the financial stability of a bowling Training Facility when the venture proves to be successful without major corporate sponsorship (which has never been mentioned). Should I hold my breath and wait . . . ?

Juetta Holseth is a bowling center owner and the publisher of the *Metro Bowler* newspaper in Minnesota.

"Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote."

- Benjamin Franklin, 1759

Fire destroys John Davis' Valuable Collection of Cars

by Anthony Anamelechi
 Republished courtesy of The Ledger Online

The fire that consumed John M. Davis' shed destroyed more than three rebuilt stroke engines, antique cars. It destroyed his hobby, his memories and his shop manuals.



John Davis

dream of one day driving his Saabs in a parade.

"My hobby is up in smoke," Davis said Friday morning. "I used to work on them because I had to, but now since I know them so well, it was fun."

Winter Haven and Polk County Fire departments responded to a fire at 1050 Lake Otis Drive about 5:45 p.m. Thursday August 16.

The firefighters battled the blaze in the 3,000-square-foot shed to the left of the house on the lake shore, Chris Humphrey, deputy chief of Winter Haven department, said. The cause of the fire has not been determined, but investigators say it was accidental.

Smoke still rose Friday from smoldering lumber that was inside the shed.

The fire destroyed five antique Saabs owned by Davis. Two, which had fiberglass casings, now bear little resemblance to automobiles.

Three of his cars were saved when neighbors and onlookers helped him and his family push and drive them to safety before the fire reached them.

He could only watch as the rest of his vehicles were incinerated.

Davis lost a 1968 Sonett, a 1964 Model 96, which he said had only 15,000 miles, a restored 1965 Monte Carlo Model 96, a 1958 Model 93 and a 1955 Model 92.

The Model 92 is the first car Saab built, Davis said. He bought it from a guy in New York who had bought it from someone in Sweden.

Davis said he had been driving the Swedish vehicles since he was 18 years old. And, now at 59, he said he's an avid collector. It was his hobby for retirement.

"I felt nothing yesterday," Davis said.

He could not put his finger on exactly how he felt a day after the fire. He just shrugged his shoulders, still coping with the loss of not only his cars, but personal belongings as well.

Stored within the shed were car parts, which he said were more valuable than the cars themselves.

He owned wheel cylinders and

three rebuilt stroke engines, which he estimated to cost \$2,000 to \$3,000 each. He also had Saab shop manuals.

He said many of the different parts he owned were not even out of their boxes.

"You can't go to Wal-Mart to get those things," said Davis, who had been collecting these items for 30 years. "You couldn't go out and buy, for any amount of money, the parts I had for the old Saab cars."

But no collection was bigger or more valuable to Davis than his journals. Davis said every day of his life since 1970 he has written in those journals. And those memories Davis put to paper went up in flames Thursday.

"That's what p— me off more than anything," Davis said.

Police tape still surrounds the remnants of the shed.

Humphrey said the Fire Department is still investigating what caused the fire.

Davis said he's talking with his insurance company, trying to figure out what is covered in his policy.

Some of the cars were not insured because he never drove them on the street.

Davis lives with his wife, his daughter and her fiancé, and his two grandchildren.

His property, which is behind Winter Haven High School, is named "Leftfield" because of its proximity to the baseball field.

As friends drive onto his property to give their condolences, he told them: "I'm just trying to realize what happened."

John Davis is the owner of Kegel Company and Training Center located in Lake Wales, Florida.

xxx

High School Bowling Participation Numbers Up Again

Decade's fastest-growing sport up 6 percent in 2006-07 to pass ice hockey

Bowling, the fastest-growing high school sport this decade, continued its upward climb in 2006-07 and moved past ice hockey according to the newest National Federation of State High School Associations participation survey.

The 19 states offering high school varsity bowling combined for 45,064 participants, 6 percent higher than the 2005-06 total of 42,482. Ice hockey had 43,305 participants.

Since the 2000-01 season, bowling participation has more than doubled and the number of schools participating has nearly tripled. There were 20,976 total participants in the decade's first full season with boys competing in 828 schools and girls in 898.

For the first time in 2006-07, more than 2,000 schools offered boys and girls bowling programs. There were 2,137 schools and 23,705 boys' participants and 2,053 schools and 21,359 girls' participants.

States offering varsity bowling in 2006-07 were Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Tennessee with varsity boys and girls bowling, Washington and Iowa with adaptive bowling for students with physical or cognitive disabilities.

The United States Bowling Congress High School program works to continue this upward trend by guiding all levels of high school bowling, providing rules and instructional opportunities. USBC High School offers a free membership program, which enables coaches to nominate outstanding bowlers to the national Dexter/USBC High School All-American Team, and provides high-score recognition to student-athletes. Coaches also receive resource materials such as the USBC Coaches

Guidebook and USBC High School Guide.

Many high schools choose to offer bowling programs because start-up and maintenance costs are inexpensive. Bowling also gives students an opportunity to become involved with their high schools, lays the foundation for a lifetime sport and helps athletes earn scholarships and bowl in college.

The United States Bowling Congress High School program actively offers guidance to all levels of high school bowling by providing rules, instructional opportunities, awards and industry resources to ensure the success of high school bowling nationwide. USBC High School is a resource for school administrators, high school state athletic associations, state proprietor associations and industry member organizations in the creation and maintenance of high school bowling programs.



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O'Keefe and Asbaty Win Gold at Women's World Championships Team USA medals in all six events

SINGLES:

O'Keefe Triumphs for US Gold
MONTERREY, Mexico - As the final squad of singles came to a close Thursday at the 2007 World Tenpin Bowling Association Women's World Championships, Team USA's Shannon O'Keefe of Rochester, N.Y., sat nervously waiting in the stands to hear if she would hold on to win the gold medal.

As the news got to her that she indeed had become just the second American woman in World Championships history to win the singles gold, O'Keefe gasped for air, threw her hands into her face and began crying.

"I don't think I can describe this feeling, it's so surreal," said O'Keefe, who posted a six-game total of 1,362 on the third of four singles squads. "When I found out I won, I couldn't breathe and then I felt relief more than anything. There were so many good women bowling on that last squad, and I was a nervous disaster."

When the dust settled after the final squad, it turned out O'Keefe didn't have much to worry about after all. The three medalists all competed on the third singles squad.

Joining O'Keefe on the medal stand is Ann-Maree Putney of Australia, who took silver with 1,336, and Malaysia's Wendy Chai, who earned bronze with 1,302.

Since singles was added to the World Championships in 1978, the United States has had just one champion before O'Keefe's victory. Kelly Kulick won the gold medal at the 1999 championships in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

MASTERS:

Asbaty Becomes First Two-Time Winner

Team USA's Diandra Asbaty of Chicago became the first player in the history of the World Tenpin Bowling Association Women's World Championships to win two Masters titles Saturday.

Asbaty, who won her first Masters World Championship in 2003 in Malaysia, defeated Singapore's Jazreel Tan 3-2 in the championship match. The three-time U.S. Amateur champion sealed the victory with a 234-173 win in the deciding game.

"Even when I was a little girl I dreamed of one day becoming one of the best bowlers in the world," Asbaty said. "In 2003, I realized that dream and now four years later it's nice to know I've still got it."

On the way to the title, Asbaty disposed of the top two seeds in the Masters. In the semifinals Saturday, she defeated fellow Team USA player and second seed Tennelle Milligan of Costa Mesa, Calif., 3-2. In the quarterfinals Friday, Asbaty took out top seed Choi Jin-A of Korea 3-1.

"This is really more about our team than it is about me," Asbaty said. "Team USA medaled in every event in this World Championships and that's a tremendous accomplishment."

Asbaty shared the medal stand with Tan, who earned the silver, as well as Milligan and Korea's Kim Yeau-Jin, who tied for the bronze medal.

In all, Team USA collected medals in every event - the first time the Americans have done that since 1971 - and came away with seven total medals. Milligan had the high individual total among Team USA with five medals (silver in trios, team and all-events and bronze

in doubles and Masters).

The Women's World Championships featured 225 athletes from 43 countries competing in six events - doubles, trios, team, singles, all-events and Masters.

TEAM EVENT:

Malaysia Tops USA by Seven

Trailing the leaders by nearly 230 pins heading into the final round of team event,



Shannon O'Keefe



Diandra Asbaty

Team USA made a furious comeback Wednesday and settled for the silver medal at the 2007 World Tenpin Bowling Association Women's World Championships. The United States nearly snagged the gold, but Malaysia's Shalin Zulkifli converted the 4 pin in the final frame to lock up a narrow seven-pin victory and earn the gold medal. Malaysia finished the six-game event with 6,323, an average of 210.7 per game, while Team USA ended with 6,316. England took bronze with 6,197.

It was another gut-wrenching loss for the Americans, who at the last Women's World Championships in 2005 finished second behind Chinese Taipei by just 11 pins.

"We made a run at it when we were 230 pins down, and I thought we could get there," Team USA's Lynda Barnes said. "We have worked the past two years for this moment, and I feel like we did everything we could to prepare. We won today, but we lost yesterday. Next time around, we just have to win both days. It's a tough field, and you can't give up a day."

TRIOS: Final Game Fall Gives Sweden The Gold

Team USA had its highest finish in trios in 20 years, claiming the silver medal at the 2007 World Tenpin Bowling Association Women's World Championships.

The United States threesome of Lynda Barnes of Double Oak, Texas, Tennelle Milligan of Costa Mesa, Calif., and Shannon O'Keefe of Rochester, N.Y., combined to shoot a six-game total of 3,928, an average of better than 218 per game.

In the final game, Sweden overcame a 43-pin deficit to top the Americans. The Swedes, who finished the event with 3,970, shot 686 in the finale while Team USA could only muster 601. Korea claimed the bronze with 3,898.

"Even though we came here to win gold medals, I'm not disappointed because we bowled really great and just hit a bad pair of lanes the last game," said Barnes, a three-time U.S. Amateur champion. "The last pair played

Things are Looking Upp for Turbo

Turbo 2-N-1 Grips is pleased to announce a new staff addition. Lee Upp, Las Vegas, has joined the sales team as Western Region Sales Manager. Upp, 51, will replace Buggy Kelly, who resigned to pursue another opportunity.

Upp was associated with the Coast bowling centers, mostly in the Orleans pro shop from 1996-2003. He then represented two bowling product distributors, Complete Bowling Supply of Las Vegas, and Cal Bowling supply before taking the job with Turbo.

In addition to his duties with Turbo, Upp also represents Storm Bowling products in the same capacity. Along with Tyler Jensen and Chris Sands, Upp is the third salesman to represent both companies. "We are proud to have Lee with us, and all three of the guys that we share with Turbo are doing a great job. It's a good arrangement for our companies, and it's good for them," said Hank Boomershine, Storm's Vice President of Sales for all product lines.

"These joint sales relationships have been very successful and beneficial to both Storm and Turbo, and more importantly to our customers," said Turbo President of Marketing and Sales Lori Tessmar.

Upp's territory is huge, and he will stay very busy covering over 500 pro shops in 10 western states and western Canada. "It is a big region, but I enjoy the travel,

and I enjoy representing two great companies," said Upp. "I have been using Turbo products for more than 10 years, and recommending them to pro shop customers. I believe in the product, so it's great to be able to represent them."

When home, Lee lives in Las Vegas with his wife Susan. They have been married for 32 years, and have two sons and one grandson. He also tries to get in a little league bowling at home where he carries a 220+ average on the lanes. Storm and Turbo have many bowlers on their staff, and Upp is a welcome addition to the team of those who not only sell the products, they actually use them.

"Lee has used and supported our products for many years," said Tessmar. His experience as a pro shop professional, and then with two of our western distributors made him an attractive candidate for the job, and an easy choice."

Since its beginnings in 1990, Turbo 2-N-1 Grips has grown to become one of the best and most innovative companies in the industry. Turbo is proud to be respected worldwide as a company that is totally committed to giving back to the global bowling community, and improving the sport on all levels with top quality grip and accessory products, and exceptional service to distributors, pro shops, and bowlers.

For more information about Turbo, visit www.turbogrips.com.

so differently than the previous lanes we were on that it took us by surprise. We just didn't get matched up quickly enough."

Barnes paced Team USA with 1,351 and was followed by Milligan with 1,315 and O'Keefe with 1,262. Sweden was led by Helen Johnsson with 1,393, Malin Glendert with 1,329 and Nina Flack, who shot 1,248.

DOUBLES:

Korea Wins; USA Third

The Korean team of Choi Jin-A and Nam Bo-Ra shot the highest doubles total in Women's World Championships history Saturday and held on after Sunday's final squad to win the gold medal.

The Koreans totaled 2,804 on the opening day of the 2007 World Tenpin Bowling Association Women's World Championships at AMF Bol Obispado in Monterrey, Mexico. They beat the previous record of 2,787, which was set early Saturday by Korean teammates Gye Min-Young and Kim Yeau-Jin.

Choi, a left-hander, fired the second highest six-game block in tournament history with 1,437, an average of 239.5 per game, while Nam contributed 1,367.

The bronze medal went to the Team USA pairing of Tennelle Milligan of Costa Mesa,

Calif., and Lynda Barnes of Double Oak, Texas, who finished with a total of 2,729. Milligan shot 1,371 while Barnes totaled 1,358.

"We bowled well but certainly not the best we could have," Milligan said. "We left an awful lot of pints out there. When the scores are this high in a six-game format like this, sometimes it's a craphshoot."

ALL-EVENTS:

Milligan Gets Silver Behind Korea's Choi

1, Choi Jin-A, Korea, 5,316. 2, Tennelle Milligan, United States, 5,282. 3, Ann-Maree Putney, Australia, 5,256. 4, Shannon O'Keefe, United States, 5,219. 5, Shalin Zulkifli, Malaysia, 5,204. 6, Lynda Barnes, United States, 5,193. 7, Jazreel Tan, Singapore, 5,185. 8, Gye Min-Young, Korea, 5,134. 9, Helen Johnsson, Sweden, 5,131. 10, Esther Cheah, Malaysia, 5,126. 11, Kim Yeau-Jin, Korea, 5,114. 12, Adriana Perez, Mexico, 5,103. 13, Michaela Gobel, Germany, 5,102. 14 (tie), Diandra Asbaty, United States, and Malin Glendert, Sweden, 5,100. 16, Diana Alfredsson, Sweden, 5,096. 17, Kirsten Penny, England, 5,095. 18, Ingellimar Contreras, Venezuela, 5,079. 19 (tie), Maria Liza Del Rosario, Philippines, and Putty Armein, Indonesia, 5,075.

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The Ladies Are Back

The start of a new season for both leagues and pro bowlers is highlighted by the talk surrounding last months restart of the U.S. Women's Open at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno. Like a fresh breeze on a hot summer day, it was welcomed back with open arms by almost everyone in the bowling community. I can't recall being asked a question more often during my time on the lanes than - 'when are the ladies coming back on TV?'

The open field of 132 featured some of the finest bowlers in the world. After 32 games, it was paired down to the top sixteen who competed in five telecasts on ESPN - Sept. 16-12-30 and Oct. 7 with the four winners advancing to the live finals on Oct. 14th. The winner will earn \$25,000. The USBC is banking on this show cast to spring board women's professional bowling back into the national spotlight.

The names of those who made the cut was kept under wraps by USBC in order to give the viewers an opportunity to feel they were watching it live. Wendy Macpherson, considered by many one of the best women pro bowlers prior to the curtain falling on the tour, made the cut, but the word in the media indicated she had joined the Japanese Women's Pro Tour and even though she would be eligible to be on the PBA telecast, she would miss the first and final events in the PBA Women's Tour Series.

The PBA is to be commended for extending a helpful hand to the USBC and the outstanding women bowlers on their path to a new beginning that will see more young players working on their game so they can be part of bowling's elite.

Hits and Misses

Unfortunately, due to health problems, I was out of the loop for three months, but my media friends, especially Jim and CJ Goodwin of *Stars & Strikes*, kept me updated on our wonderful industry. They awarded the Bowl Expo held in Las Vegas an 'A+' and they were especially pleased with several awards given out - especially the 47th Sam Levine "Flowers for the Living" award given to Lenny Nicholson, who was part of the PBA's original lane maintenance team. I had the

good fortune to watch Len in action during my 21 years at the Showboat. He was not only knowledgeable about cleaning and conditioning lanes, he always had great respect among the greatest bowlers in the world. He was wonderful to be around and knew every aspect of the game. I felt fortunate to be asked to contribute to his first book on coaching the game.

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



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

• The USBC has several important things they plan to promote in the '07 - '08 season, one of them being Sport Bowling. They feel pushing the competitive end will result in more prestige and increase the interest in tournament play. In the August *Ten Pin Alley* Rob Mautner interviewed Southern Nevada senior bowler Terry Leong who competes regularly in senior events and the High Roller and has owned pro shops and a bowling center, about the move to a tougher shot. His reply was interesting. He pointed out that the regular guy who averages 200, and works 40 hour weeks and has a family to support shoots a 640 with a 240 game and it's the highlight of his week. Terry asked how can we take the recreational side away from this fellow? On the sport shot, he averages 180 and he doesn't have the time or money to practice and buy new equipment. It's certainly worth thinking about in the overall scheme of things.

• The feedback from a staff and bowlers at the Orleans who assisted Gary Beck of Killer 'B' Promotions with the finals of the National Teen Masters were impressed with not only the outstanding competition, but the smooth flow from start to finish of this major tournament. Beck has plans to expand and make it even bigger next season. If you are a coach or parent involved with young bowlers, encourage them to get involved in the regionals next year where wonderful scholarship opportunities are awaiting.

• The 2008 National Golden Ladies Classic Tournament is set for March 10-13 at the beautiful Orleans in Las Vegas.

• I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who supported me with your cards, calls and prayers during my stay in the hospital. Looking forward to meeting and catching up in the season ahead.

These young men and women represent the future of bowling. With this in mind, bowling programs can only get better and better, particularly in view of the low cost to school budgets. Unlike football, where size and speed are an absolute must, or basketball, where anyone shorter than 6'2 is considered a midget, bowling participants are capable of competing against each other, regardless of size or gender. Consequently, bowling affords students who lack the size or talent for major athletics an opportunity to become involved with their high schools and lay the foundation for a lifetime sport. Additionally, this helps athletes earn scholarships to bowl in college.

In my humble opinion, the good news far outweighs the bad news Mistakes of the past are being addressed. As I see it, the new USBC personnel seem hell-bent on restoring the game to its creditable position in the sports world.

With this in mind, I vision a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow for bowling!

Jowdy's Journal continued from pg 6

glow and cosmic bowling, birthday parties, private parties, tournaments, and ever increasing open bowling. These innovations have made up for the lack of late league structure. Nevertheless, despite the closing of many bowling centers, they are being replaced by larger/modern establishments featuring state of the art equipment. In many cases, they are part of large sports complexes financed by wise investors.

Another promising aspect for bowling is the ever-increasing acceptance of bowling as a letter sport and a credit in high schools as well as colleges.

A recent USBC news release revealed that bowling is the fastest-growing high school sport of this decade, according to the newest National Federation of State High School Association participation survey.

Since the 2000-01 season, bowling participation has more than doubled and the number of schools participating has nearly tripled

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 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
- October 14 Women's U.S. Open Finals, National Bowling Stadium, Reno, NV
- Oct 20-21 SASBA Annual Championship, Plano Super Bowl, Plano, TX
- BTM Tour, Wonderland Lanes, Livonia, MI
- Oct 21-28 USBC Masters, AMF Bowlero Lanes, Wauwatosa, WI
- Oct 27-28 SASBA South Central Team Championship, Timber Lodge Lanes, Monticello, AR
- BTM Tour, Fox Bowl, Wheaton, IL
- Oct 31- Nov 4 PBA Motor City Classic & Women's Series, Taylor Lanes, Taylor, MI
- Nov 3-4 SASBA South Central, Cumberland Lanes, Nashville, TN
- Nov 3-11 43rd Qubica/AMF World Cup, St. Petersburg, Russia
- Nov 7-11 PBA Etonic Championship & Women's Series, AMF Thruway Lanes, Cheektowaga, NY
- Nov 10-11 SASBA, Delmar Lanes, Houston, TX
- Nov 14-18 PBA Lake County Indiana Classic & Women's Series, Stardust Bowl II, Merrillville, IN
- Nov 17-18 SASBA South Central M/G Doubles, RebeLanes, Tupelo, MS
- Nov 18-25 High Roller Thanksgiving Senior Classic, Samis Town Bwl, Las Vegas, NV
- Nov 21-25 PBA Windy City Classic, Hawthorn Lanes, Vernon Hills, IL
- Nov 28-Dec 2 PBA Great Lakes Classic & Women's Series, Spectrum Lanes, Wyoming, MI
- Dec 1-2 SASBA Foursome, Plano Super Bowl, Plano, TX
- Dec 5-9 PBA Beltway Classic, AMF Country Club Lanes, Baltimore, MD
- Dec 8-9 SASBA South Central Annual Championships, Metro Bowl, Baton Rouge, LA
- Dec 12-16 PBA Spartanburg Classic, Shamrock Lanes, Spartanburg, SC
- Dec 15-16 SASBA Annual Team, Plano Super Bowl, Plano, TX
- Jan 2-6 PBA High Desert Classic, National Bowling Stadium, Reno, NV
- Jan 9-13 PBA Earl Anthony Medford Classic, Lava Lanes, Medford, OR
- Jan 15-20 PBA Dick Weber Open, Fountain Bowl, Fountain Valley, CA
- Jan 20-22 PBA Exempt Doubles Classic, Red Rock Lanes, Las Vegas, NV
- Jan 23-27 PBA Tournament of Champions, Red Rock Lanes, Las Vegas, NV
- Feb 2-9 High Roller Triple Header, Samis Town Bowling Center, Las Vegas, NV
- Feb 6-10 PBA Sun City Classic, Oasis Lanes, El Paso, TX
- Feb 13-17 PBA Pepsi Championship, Thunder Alley, Omaha, NE
- Feb 16-June 28 USBC Open Championships, Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, NM
- Feb 18-24 PBA Denny's World Championship, Woodland Bowl, Indianapolis, IN
- Feb 26-Mar 2 PBA Buckeye State Classic, Sequoia Pro Bowl, Columbus, OH
- Mar 5-9 PBA Constitution State Classic, Norwich Bowling & Entertainment Center, Norwich, CT
- Mar 10-13 National Golden Ladies Classic, The Orleans Bowling Center, Las Vegas, NV
- Mar 19-23 PBA Geico Classic, AMF Babylon Lanes, W. Babylon, NY
- Mar 23-30 Denny's 65th U.S. Open, Brunswick Zone Carolier, North Brunswick, NJ

"Just like Storm, I'm changing the game."
 — Osku Palermaa, World Bowler of the Year

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THE FUNNY PAGE

My wife and I had words, but I didn't get to use mine.

XXX

Blessed are those who can give without remembering - And take without forgetting.

XXX

God may have created man before woman, but there is always a rough draft before the masterpiece

XXX

I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.

XXX

WORDS

A husband read an article to his wife about how many words women use a day... 30,000 to a man's 15,000.

The wife replied, "The reason has to be because we have to repeat everything to men... The husband then turned to his wife and asked, "What?"

XXX

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray:

'Take only ONE. God is watching.'

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies.

A child had written a note, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples.'

XXX

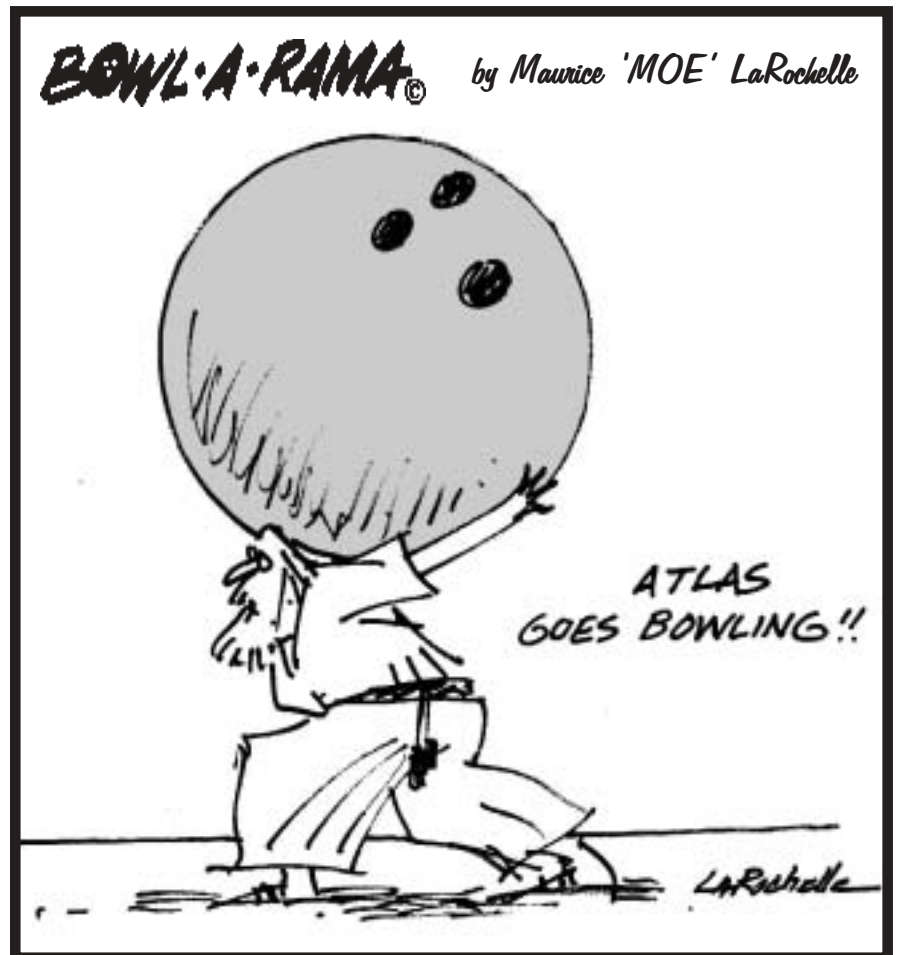
WOMEN'S REVENGE

"Cash, check or charge?" I asked, after folding items the woman wished to purchase.

As she fumbled for her wallet, I noticed a remote control for a television set in her purse.

"So, do you always carry your TV remote?" I asked.

"No," she replied, "but my husband refused to come shopping with me, and I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally."



Only a Southerner

knows the difference between a hissie fit and a conniption fit, and that you don't "HAVE" them, you "PITCH" them.

knows how many fish, collard greens, turnip greens, peas, beans, etc., make up "a mess."

can show or point out to you the general direction of "yonder."

knows exactly how long "directly" is, as in: "Going to town, be back directly."

know exactly when "by and by" is. They might not use the term, but they know the concept well.

knows the difference between "right near" and "a right far piece." They also know that "just down the road" can be 1 mile or 20.

knows that "fixin'" can be used as a noun, a verb, or an adverb.

knows that y'all is singular, all y'all is plural.

And to those of you who are still having a hard time understanding all this Southern stuff, ... bless your hearts, I hear they are fixin' to have classes on Southernness as a second language!

XXX

Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.

XXX

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, 'Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face.'

'Yes,' the class said.

'Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position, the blood doesn't run into my feet?'

A little fellow shouted, 'Cause your feet ain't empty.'

XXX

The Silent Treatment

A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment.

Suddenly, the man realized that the next day, he would need his wife to wake him at 5:00 AM for an early morning business flight.

Not wanting to be the first to break the silence (and LOSE), he wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5:00 AM." He left it where he knew she would find it.

The next morning, the man woke up, only to discover it was 9:00 AM and he had missed his flight. Furious, he was about to go and see why his wife hadn't wakened him, when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed.

The paper said, "It is 5:00 AM. Wake up."

Men are not equipped for these kinds of contests.

WALT'S WORLD

BY WALT STEINSIEK

