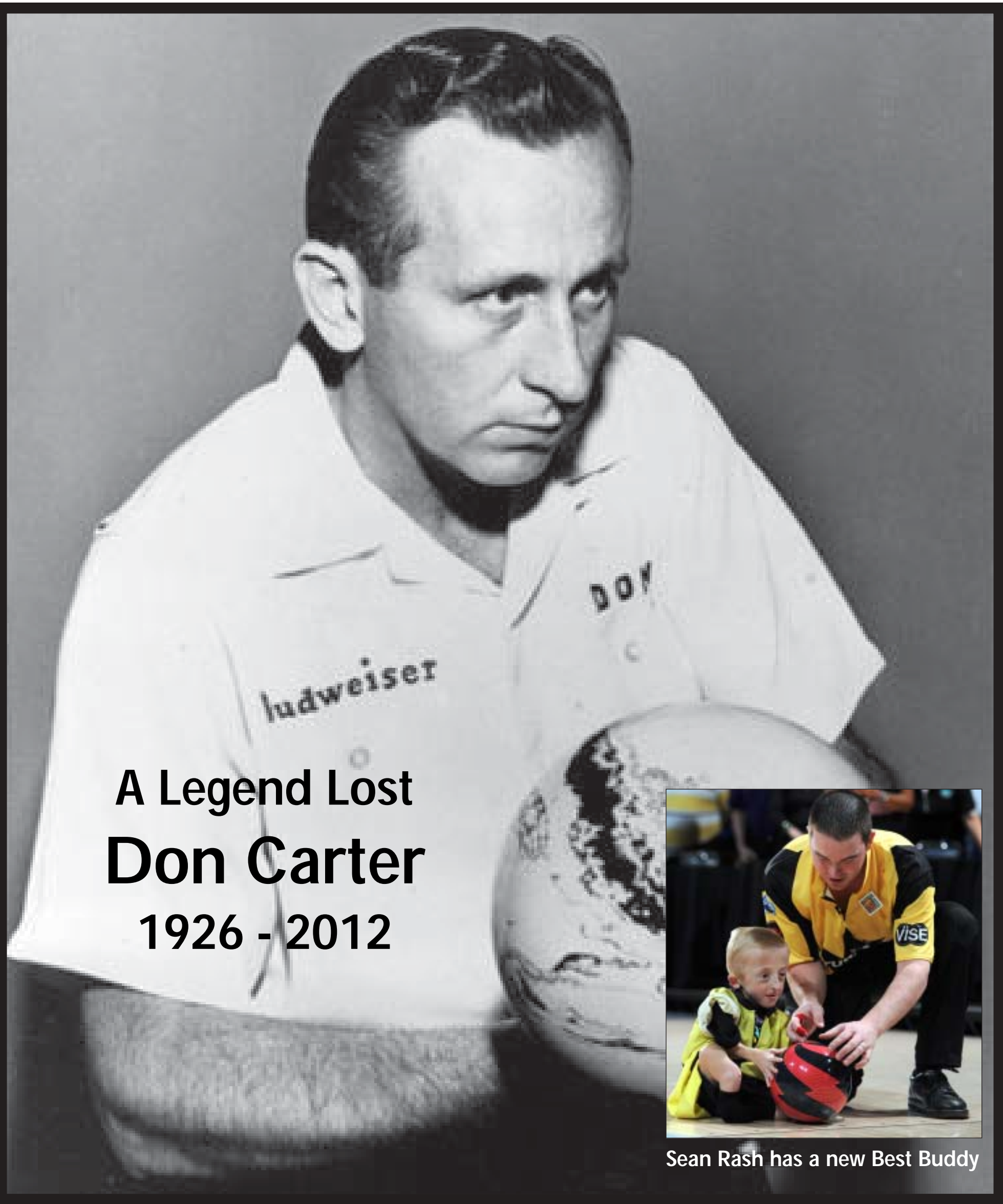




# STARS & STRIKES

AMERICA'S BOWLING NEWSMAGAZINE



A Legend Lost  
**Don Carter**  
1926 - 2012



Sean Rash has a new Best Buddy



# B. WL • • P<N<ON

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

## Has the Gold Standard Been Raised - or Lowered?

Recently, we received a USBC press release announcing that two guys, Hank Boomershine and Joe Slowinski had earned the status of USBC "Gold" Coach (see page 12), which, according to the release, brought the total of Gold Coaches to 16. When we saw that, we thought 'Great. They are very deserving. 'But our second thought was "16?!" – We thought there were more than 30 Gold coaches. . .so we did a little research. . .

. . . Turns out it was one of those rare occasions when we were right; there were 36 Gold Coaches until USBC decided that all of them had to "re-certify." And only 16 have done so thus far.

Before going any further, please allow me to say that this column is not to bash USBC in any way, shape or form. I've never been a coach myself, but I have kept up with the program since the 1980's, and I have the privilege of being the chair of Bowling's Coaches Hall of Fame committee, so I know a little about it and why coaches, both certified and non-certified, are a tremendous asset in the industry.

If anything, maybe this is a case where people just need better communications. As this is being written, two major events are underway – the BPAA Summit in California, and the USBC Masters in Vegas, so it is a bad time to get

official comments. But when everyone gets back to Arlington, I will speak to them and write another column; hopefully next month. Then, if any bashing is required, we will try to do it in a constructive way.

Right now, we just have a lot of questions . . . like "Why should a Gold Coach have to re-certify?" We thought it was the pinnacle of the profession; a lifetime achievement. It seems to us that asking Gold Coaches to "re-up" is the equivalent of the PBA asking legends of the game like Dick Weber, Earl Anthony and Don Johnson to go to the PBA School to keep their membership.

For you youngsters out there, that actually happened when the PBA started their Players School in the early 80's, and some folks are still complaining about it today. "An insult!" they shouted.

Does the same principle apply to coaches? Airline Captains have to get re-trained every few years and are forced to retire at age 60. On the other hand, if someone earns a black belt in Karate, do they take it away when they get old or their skills diminish?

And what happens if the 'former' Gold Coaches decide to take a hike? Will they be sued if they don't stop using the title fast enough? Will they have to tell students that they are "Former USBC Gold Coaches?" Won't the program lose credibility without their

names and reputations?

When we looked at the list of the 16 "new" Gold Coaches, and the 20 who have until August to re-join the club, we are impressed by both lists. Among the sweet 16 are names like Rod Ross, Lou Marquez, Richard Shockley, Bill Spigner, Randy Stoughton, and Gordon Vadakin.

But yet to earn their new stripes are equal or even bigger names in coaching – Fred Borden, Sam Baca, Pat Costello, Jeri Edwards, Palmer Fallgren, Ron Hoppe, Mike Lastowski, Susie Minshew, Michelle Mullen, Susie Reichley, Del Warren, Carmen Salvino, and others.

Carmen Salvino?! If he doesn't qualify to be a Gold Coach, then who does? And wasn't Fred Borden the original USBC (USA Bowling at the time) coach; and didn't he write the original curriculum? Are they asking these legends to prove in a few tests what they have already proven in a lifetime of achievement with integrity and credibility beyond question?

And not only that, but it is my understanding that they must pay USBC a substantial amount of money (if they re-qualify) to keep the title most of us thought was theirs forever.

I plan to speak with Carmen about this soon; because I know he is a man of unwavering principle. I can't imagine him paying USBC for this – based on his stand regarding the annual Hall

of Fame ceremonies (he won't come unless they pay his expenses, and they won't) it seems unlikely. He probably thinks USBC should pay him for use of the name Salvino – and many might agree.

Other great coaches have refused to get involved in USBC's program altogether; coaches like Tom Kouros, Dick Ritger, Bob Strickland, Jeanette Robinson, Bob Rhea, the late great Bill Taylor, Jeanette Robinson, and John Jowdy to name a few.

I remember when the program first started there was talk of "Grandfathering" well known coaches into the ranks, but for whatever reason, it did not happen. Jowdy says that he was once offered a free pass to become a USBC Gold Coach, but he turned it down because he thought the program needed him more than he needed it.

Having said all that, there is nothing wrong with USBC making money on their Coaching Program. Capitalism is the American Way; even though they are classified as a non-profit organization. But wouldn't it be wiser to make the money from the silver and bronze coaches? There are more than 2500 of them.

As I said, there are two sides to this story; and we will bring more next month . . . and hopefully, satisfactory answers to many of the questions posed herein. **XXX**

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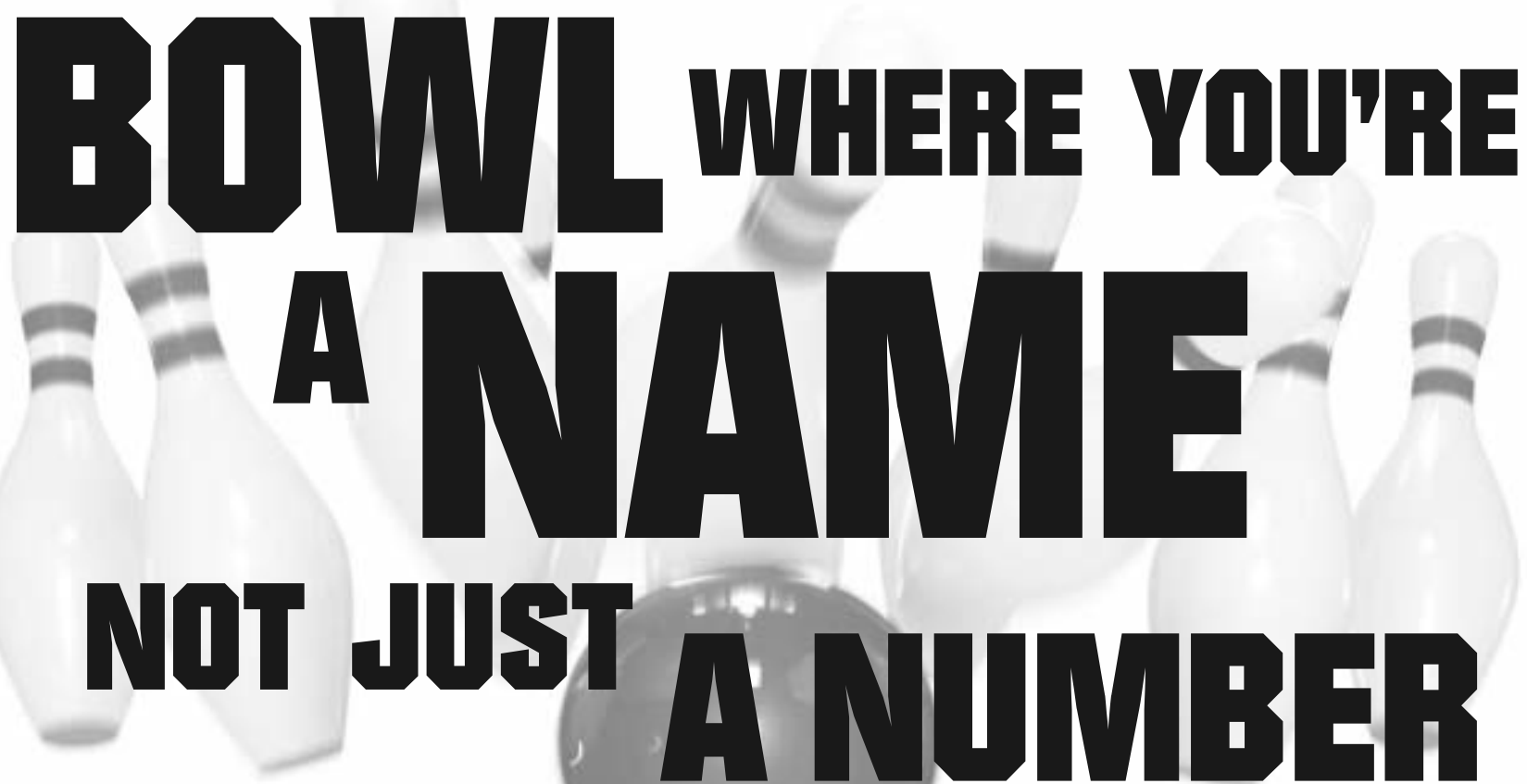
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photos courtesy of: PBA, USBC, BPAA,  
ESPNmedia

www.starsandstrikesbowling.com



# PEZZANO

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.

## Don Carter Always #1 in My Book

Don Carter died on January 5 and with him passed an era never to be matched or forgotten.

Carter's long and productive life of 85 years leaves a legacy of changing not just the face of bowling but the heart and soul of bowling as a sport.

Carter was known by many nicknames, ranging from Bosco, his favorite drink, to the King of Bowling, because Carter was so often photographed with a crown of triumph. The most fitting was Mr. Bowling.

That says it all, and he did it all.

Carter first got into bowling when he turned 13 and among his gifts from Mom Carter was a free game of bowling. He liked it, became quickly involved. Mom's home became the home of

Don's trophies and awards. Mom Carter created bit of bowling history when she took the backs of her son's bowling shirts and created bowling quilt.

Much has been said and written about his bowling style, a low crouch to the foul line, what seemed like a shove or push of the ball at the delivery. In his early days he used large finger holes and that necessitated the pushy technique.

Why didn't more bowlers copy his ways? Simple, as his fellow Hall of Famers Carmen Salvino and Nelson Burton Jr. pointed out, he was an exceptional athlete, always in top physical shape, a rugged six footer in the 200 pound area with exceptional, wrist, arm and shoulder strength and coordination.

He knew his game, and practiced his game, and was a true pro in every sense of the word.

He played minor league pro baseball after a stint in the Navy, batted more than 300 and pitched well, but the pay scale was minor and he seized every opportunity in bowling, culminating with a sponsorship by Budweiser when team bowling was a big attraction and every major city had classic leagues.

The Budweiser team listed Carter, Dick Weber, Ray Bluth, Tom Hennessey and Pat Patterson, generally considered the greatest team of all time, all future Hall of Famers. Whitey Harris, a dedicated bowler, helped guide the team, and the Budweiser team's bus, a home away from home, was a high status sign for bowling, as were their

spotless uniforms.

Over the years many top names graced the Bud lineup but the Carter name and feats led all the rest. The team won four straight national team titles and piled up the other championships available.

Carter amazed with his versatility. He won the All-Star, now U.S. Open four times, the World Invitational five times, every major individual title up for grabs, was a six-time Bowler of the Year.

Carter excelled in tournaments that tested mind and body for 100 games in less

than a week. Yet, he gained as much fame and notice, and excellent prize checks on such featured bowling shows as *Jackpot Bowling* on NBC, which allowed bowlers nine balls, for strikes only, and ABC's *Make*

*That Spare*, a mere five shots at selected spares followed by a bonus spare conversion try.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s the inner battle in bowling was whether the newly formed Professional Bowlers Association or the ambitious National Bowling League would receive a major TV contract with rights money for each show that wouldn't guarantee their survival, but almost assure their success.

Carter decided to go with the PBA and did not sign with any of the NBL teams that made him fabulous offers. His famous teammates and associates also declined bids. That decision of Carter is given credit for the PBA's decades of success on TV and his help in so many ways to founder Eddie Elias.

Carter went into the bowling center business and he and his associates insisted on the best of modern facilities, pro shops, and anything necessary to enhance the appeal of bowling as a sport with many appeals. Carter centers became the bowler's country clubs whether you were a kid or a grandparent.

Carter, an astute observer of everything to do with bowling, from rules to equipment to promotions, lit up every room or bowling center he ever entered without ever attempting to be flashy or flamboyant.

To many he was the greatest bowler who ever performed. To all, he is a shining example of bowling history's brightest all-around star.



### Shorts . . .

- A loser is the bowler who insists on telling fellow bowlers what they did wrong after every shot, and end up losing a bowling friend.

- A loser is the bowler who knows that all the bad breaks he gets in bowling will be evened out by good breaks, but he's also sure that he won't live that long.

- A loser is the tournament bowler who is too busy checking out the average book without checking his checkbook.

- A loser is the bowler-golfer who shoots in the 120s in both sports.

- A loser is any bowler who can't come up

with a new excuse for bad bowling without thinking about it.

- A loser is the bowler who insists on tight finger and thumb holes, tight bowling shirts and shoes, and then gains 10 pounds.

- A loser is the bowler who tells his mate that he is going to a short bowling meeting.

- A loser is the person who reported that the results of his survey showed that it doesn't take too much in the way of brains to be a bowler. We took a survey too. It showed that it takes less brains to take surveys than it does to bowl.

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#### MARCH

Storm Bowling  
Ted Thompson  
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## Husted, Monacelli, Baker, Davidson Elected to USBC Hall of Fame

ARLINGTON, Texas - Dave Husted, Amleto Monacelli, Tom Baker and Dede Davidson have been elected to the United States Bowling Congress Hall of Fame in the Superior Performance category.

The four players join wheelchair bowler Al Uttecht (Pioneer), Lennie Boesch Jr. and Gary Daroszewski (Outstanding U S B C



Dave Husted

Performance), and Joan Feinblum and the late Kerm Helmer (Meritorious Service), who were elected in November by the USBC Hall of Fame Committee.

The induction ceremony will take place April 26 at the USBC Convention in Arlington.

Husted, 51, of Milwaukee, Ore., won 14 Professional Bowlers Association Tour titles between 1982 and 2000. He won three U.S. Open titles (1982, 1995, 1996), the Showboat Invitational twice (1990, 1995), and the Brunswick Memorial World Open in 1993.

He was the first player in PBA history to win back-to-back U.S. Open titles, and he was ranked No. 23 on the list of the 50 Greatest Players in PBA History in 2008.

"I am of an age where the history of the game means a lot to me," Husted said. "I have a lot of respect for the Bill Lillards and all those greats. So to be able to say that I am in the PBA Hall of Fame and the USBC Hall of



Amleto Monacelli

Fame is pretty strong and very humbling." Husted, who owns 26 PBA regional titles and was the ninth player to reach \$1 million in career earnings, was inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame in 1996. He earned back-to-back Steve Nagy Sportsmanship awards in 1988 and 1989, and was a four-time Bowling Magazine first-team All-American. He is a member of the Portland BA and Oregon BA Halls of Fame.

Monacelli, 50, of Venezuela, won 19 PBA Tour titles from 1987-2005. In addition to the Touring Players Championship title in 1989, he won the Japan Cup twice (1987, 1995). He is among the 50 Greatest Players in PBA History (No. 21) and was elected to the PBA Hall of Fame in 1997.

"This definitely is something I wanted to achieve at some point in my career," Monacelli said. "Now my dream is to win the USBC Masters in the same year as my USBC Hall of Fame induction."

Monacelli won back-to-back PBA Player

of the Year awards in 1989 and 1990, and has totaled more than \$2 million in PBA earnings. In 1999, he was ranked fourth among Venezuela's top athletes of the century.

Baker, 57, of King, N.C., won 10 PBA Tour titles between 1980 and 2004, including the PBA World Championship in 2004. On the PBA Senior Tour, he has won nine titles, including four majors. He won back-to-back Senior U.S. Open titles in 2005 and 2006 and back-to-back USBC Senior Masters titles in 2006 and 2007.

"I've done a lot in my career, but this is one thing I was really hoping to get," Baker said. "I've been doing this for so long, so to be recognized by my peers as one of the best just feels great."

Baker, who was voted the 40th Greatest Player in PBA History in 2008, was the PBA Senior Tour Rookie of the Year in 2005. He won four consecutive PBA Senior Tour Player of the Year awards from 2005-2008. He is a member of the Buffalo (N.Y.) BA Hall of Fame as well as the Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame.



Tom Baker

Davidson, 45, of Buellton, Calif., won nine Ladies Pro Bowlers Tour/Professional Women's Bowling Association titles from 1988-2003, including the 1991 USBC Queens, the 1993 U.S. Women's Open, and the Sam's Town Invitational in 2000. Her Sam's Town Invitational title completed the PWBA's "Triple Crown" of major victories. She was named PWBA Rookie of the Year in 1985.

"I am really touched by this," Davidson said. "Throughout my whole career as a pro, this is where I wanted to end up. Knowing you're in the Hall of Fame for the rest of your life is just amazing. So I am extremely excited and happy."

Davidson has six top-10 finishes at the USBC Women's Championships, where she won the 2011 Scratch All-Events title. She



Dede Davidson

is the only woman to shoot both an 800 series and a 300 game at the Women's Championships. She is a member of the Southern California BA Hall of Fame. The USBC Hall of Fame was created in 2005 by merging the former ABC and WIBC Halls of Fame. With the nine new inductees, there will be 394 members of the USBC Hall of Fame - 262 in Performance, 114 in Meritorious Service and 20 Pioneers.

## Kelly Kulick Lands Role In Bridgestone America's Ad Campaign

PBA Tournament of Champions titlist Kelly Kulick has landed a prime-time role in a new Bridgestone America's advertising campaign, in which the company is poised to utilize its tire technology revolutionize the world of sports as we know it. The Union, N.J., resident will represent bowling alongside athletes from a variety of other "ball" sports - plus hockey - in the campaign.

And rumor has it the Bridgestone spot may be included in the Super Bowl advertising lineup.

"It's an ad campaign for Bridgestone tires that relates the performance of their products to different sports, and they use athletes to get their message across," Kulick said. "I'm



Kelly Kulick

very excited to be asked to represent the PBA and bowling in the campaign."

Bridgestone has prepared a series of teaser ads, including a 60-second "Press Conference" introduction that debuted during Monday's Bridgestone National Hockey League Winter Classic telecast from Philadelphia. (A link to the introductory commercial is available on pba.com under the "In The News" tab).

While the debut "Press Conference" commercial only includes a unique bowling ball that appears to be made of Bridgestone tire material, and a "cameo" head shot of Kulick, "There's more to come," she said.

## USBC President Jim Sturm Steps Down From Board to Assume New Reno Executive Position

ARLINGTON, Texas - United States Bowling Congress President Jim Sturm has stepped down as president of the organization and from the USBC Board of Directors to assume a new position as Executive Director of Bowling Operations for the Tri Properties Hotel and Casino group in Reno, Nev.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to join a team dedicated to renovating the National Bowling Stadium in Reno for future generations," Sturm said. "I felt stepping aside was necessary to avoid any



Jim Sturm

appearance of a potential conflict and for the protection of USBC."

Sturm's role will be to bring corporate groups and conventions to Reno and the Tri Properties that have an affinity towards bowling such as Bowl for the Cure, Bowlers to Veterans Link and International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame related events. Sturm, a nationally known instructor, also will run a training academy in Reno using USBC coaching and development programs.

## Entry Deadline Extended for 2012 USBC Women's Championships

ARLINGTON, Texas - There's no experience like competing on the lanes at the National Bowling Stadium, and more than 30,000 bowlers already are scheduled to be in Reno, Nev., for the 2012 United States Bowling Congress Women's Championships.

Those who have not yet entered still have time to be part of the action as the entry deadline has been extended to April 1. There are even some weekend spots available for the event, which begins April 14 and will run for 86 consecutive days, concluding July 8.

"Walking down Center Aisle at the National Bowling Stadium is something every bowler should experience, and Reno has proven to be an enjoyable vacation destination for people of all interests," said Brian Lewis, USBC's Managing Director of Tournaments. "We're on track for another successful tournament in 2012, but we've chosen to extend the entry deadline to give

any bowlers who may be undecided a chance to enter."

The USBC Women's Championships is open to any female USBC member and features a much different look than when it last was held in Reno.

The tournament now features a three-division, 100-percent-handicap format that was introduced in 2010. The divisions based on skill level: Diamond for bowlers with averages of 180 and above (handicap is based on 220); Ruby for averages of 150-179 (handicap based on 180) and Sapphire for averages of 149 and below (handicap based on 150). Prizes also are awarded for the top overall scratch scores.

There's a place for everyone at the 93rd Women's Championships, but spots are filling quickly.

For more information on the Women's Championships, visit BOWL.com/womenschamp or call (800) 514-2695.

"I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them."

-- Thomas Jefferson

## Mother & Son Win \$11,111.00 at January Madness



l to r: Storm Rep Lee Upp, Winner Ludee Masangcay, and Santa Fe Bowling Center Manager, Joy Francomano

Las Vegas, NV: What are the odds a mother and son could finish first and second in a tournament? Well the impossible happened at the January Madness event in Las Vegas as Ludee and Jderick Masangcay, from Vallejo, CA, finished in the top two spots at Santa Fe Station. Ludee, who is an accountant for a bank, won \$7,777 for her victory while Jderick, who is a 21 year old student, earned \$3,333 for second.

The January Madness tournament drew a record crowd of 357 entries and paid out over \$20,000 in prizes. A total of 46 bowlers advanced to the finals which came from all over the country to compete. Storm/Roto Grip donated balls that were raffled off in every squad.

The January Madness event, which is owned and operated by Station Casinos and

sponsored by Storm Bowling, was the fourth in a series of Madness Tournaments. The next Madness Tournament will be held at Sunset Station May 10-13. Details for the next event will be released shortly.

Since Station Casinos created the Madness Tournaments over 1,400 entries have been recorded and more than \$70,000 has been paid out. All amateur bowlers are welcomed to compete in this fun handicap tournament with serious prize money. The Madness events even include a squad that is bowled with the lights out.

For complete results of January Madness please visit [www.pinaclevents.com](http://www.pinaclevents.com) and click on the Madness Tournament icon. If you would more information you can call the tournament office at 1.877.900.6464.

## Veteran ESPN Sportscaster Gary Thorne to be PBA Tour Play-by-Play Announcer for Remaining Majors in 2011-12 Season

Thorne replaces Rob Stone who moves to anchor FOX Sports Network soccer coverage

The Professional Bowlers Association has announced that veteran ESPN sportscaster Gary Thorne will replace Rob Stone as ESPN's play-by-play voice for the three remaining PBA Tour majors during the 2011-12 season.

Stone, the originator of the famous "hambone" for four strikes in a row and other bowling colloquialisms to describe the action on the lanes, leaves ESPN to join FOX Sports primarily as lead studio host for FOX's soccer coverage.

Thorne is currently a play-by-play announcer for ESPN, working Major League Baseball. He is also the television play-by-play voice of the Baltimore Orioles and is best known for his work on ESPN's coverage of the NHL.

"I've actually bowled most of my life and have also done bowling telecasts before," said Thorne. "It's an assignment I'm looking forward to because it is such a great pastime that also has a great tradition."

Thorne will do play-by-play for the three remaining PBA majors beginning with the Alka-Seltzer Plus Liquid Gels United States Bowling Congress Masters later this month in Las Vegas, continuing with the U.S. Open in February and the Tournament of

Champions in April. Stone will continue to work the remaining World Series of Bowling ESPN-taped telecasts this season and will also do play-by-play for taping of the Chris Paul Celebrity PBA Invitational presented by Sheets™ Brand in Los Angeles.

PBA Hall of Famer Randy Pedersen will remain as ESPN PBA Tour color analyst.

"My time with the PBA Tour has been an absolute and unexpected blast," said Stone. "There have been so many memories and friendships over the last five years that it's a grueling effort to call it quits with PBA and ESPN. I will really miss everyone."

"We are glad to have Rob continue to call the remainder of the World Series of Bowling events this year and wish him well in his new position with FOX," said PBA Commissioner Tom Clark. "Over the past five years Rob has provided the soundtrack for some of the greatest moments in PBA Tour history and we are thankful for the passionate approach he took to the position."

"We are very fortunate to have, and look forward to working with, Gary for the rest of this season's majors," Clark added.



Gary Thorne

## ALL IN for Bowling's Xtravaganza Event

Bowling groups and sponsors solidly behind IBMHF effort

Qualifying is underway in bowling centers across the nation for the newest national bowling event, the Xtravaganza, presented by the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame and supported by all of the major industry groups, and many sponsors. The goal is to provide an annual major fund raising event for the IBMHF, create business for bowling centers and provide a fantastic Vegas vacation filled with fun and competition for bowlers everywhere.

As the event gets rolling, bowlers can look for promotional posters, flyers and other information in participating BPAA centers. The Bowling Proprietors' Association of America and the United States Bowling Congress share a building in Arlington, Texas with the Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame, and they all have the same goal of building the sport and business of bowling.

"Any event that helps our Hall of Fame is great for bowling, and we are behind it 100%," said Steve Johnson, Executive Director of BPAA. "We encourage all of our member centers to get on board to make the Xtravaganza a special event that will become an annual tradition."

USBC Executive Director Stu Upson echo's Johnson's sentiments. "What we especially like about the Xtravaganza is that

it involves bowlers of all skill levels; and it brings them together in a national finals where they all have a fair chance for success" said Upson.

Joining USBC and BPAA on the Xtravaganza promotions team are industry sponsors Station Casinos Lanes of Las Vegas, Jack Link's Beef Jerky and Musselman's Applesauce. The host center for the national finals will be Red Rock Lanes, one of 18 Station properties in Las Vegas.



*The Xtravaganza is a new annual bowling event designed for BPAA member centers across the globe to benefit the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame. Local champions will win paid vacations to the fabulous Red Rock Resort in Las Vegas where they will compete in the finals for an additional \$25,000 in prizes May 31 - June 3, 2012.*

*The event is presented by the IBMHF and sponsored by the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA), the United States Bowling Congress (USBC), Station Casinos Lanes of Las Vegas, Strike Ten Entertainment (STE), and industry sponsors Jack Link's Beef Jerky and Musselman's Applesauce.*

*For additional information, visit the websites [bowlingmuseum.com](http://bowlingmuseum.com), [bpaa.com](http://bpaa.com), or [bowl.com](http://bowl.com).*

## BATON ROUGE WELCOMES USBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

With help from Mayor Kip Holden, construction on the venue that will be home to the 2012 United States Bowling Congress Open Championships got underway in Baton Rouge, La., in January.

Holden and Baton Rouge Area Convention and Visitors Bureau President and CEO Paul Arrigo helped snap the official string line and turned over the keys to the Baton Rouge River Center as dignitaries, supporters and media got their final look at the empty convention center before construction crews turn it into a state-of-the-art bowling stadium.

"We are excited to welcome the 2012 USBC Open Championships back to Baton Rouge," Arrigo said. "It is a pleasure to host the largest indoor participatory sporting event in the world. We look forward to the bowlers and their families returning to our city to enjoy our culture, cuisine and hospitality."

The USBC tournament crew welcomed the first of more than 40 truckloads of materials needed to transform the River Center into the biggest stage in bowling. Construction is scheduled to be complete during the first week of February.

The finished venue will include 48 tournament lanes, four showcase lanes, squad room, locker room, concession area, offices and vendor space that will be bustling with nearly 60,000 bowlers during the tournament's 151-day run from Feb. 11-July 10.

So far, more than 11,300 teams are registered to compete in the 2012 Open Championships, which will be the event's second visit to Louisiana. It first was held there, also in Baton Rouge, in 2005.

"We're excited about being back in Baton Rouge, and we can't wait for the bowlers to see all of the changes to the city and the River Center since we were here in 2005," said Brian Lewis, USBC Managing Director of Tournaments. "We truly enjoyed the southern

hospitality the first time around, and the community has rolled out the red carpet for us again this year. It has been nice to see some familiar faces, and it has been even better to see the trucks rolling in."

**WEBCAMS MOUNTED AND READY**

Since being introduced in 2004, one of the most popular features of the USBC Open Championships page on BOWL.com has been the unique interactive webcams that are mounted in the rafters above the tournament lanes and give friends and family members a chance to watch the bowlers in action.

Traditionally, there have been five webcams capable of taking live (still) pictures of the tournament action as it happens. Beginning in 2012, two of the cameras will be replaced with streaming cameras that will sweep the venue throughout the day and provide non-stop live video footage. The other three cameras will maintain the same capabilities bowlers and fans are used to.

Viewers will be able to manipulate the three point-and-click cameras from home, allowing them to zoom in or out to photograph different parts of the venue.

Currently, one of each type of camera is up and running, so visitors can stop by and check out how the construction process is unfolding at the River Center. The webcams can be accessed by visiting the Open Championships page on BOWL.com.

**ENTRY DEADLINE EXTENDED**

The entry deadline for the 2012 USBC Open Championships has been extended to March 1, 2012, so interested team captains have time to sign up their teams. There still are some prime times available, but spots are filling quickly.

For more information on the Open Championships, or to register a team for 2012, visit [BOWL.com/openchamp](http://BOWL.com/openchamp) or call 800-514-BOWL.

## England's Stuart Williams Wins First PBA Title

LAS VEGAS – England's Stuart Williams, a third-year Professional Bowlers Association competitor, defeated Venezuela's Ildemaro Ruiz, 246-194, to win the PBA Bayer Viper Open at South Point Casino and Hotel, becoming the first English bowler ever to win a PBA Tour title.

The finals of the Bayer Viper Open, the first of four PBA "animal pattern" championships contested during the PBA World Series of Bowling, aired on ESPN.

Williams, 30, started the title match with a spare and then reeled off five strikes in a row, building an insurmountable 44-pin lead when Ruiz failed to convert the 3-10 "baby split" in the fifth frame and missed a 10 pin in the sixth. Along with his first PBA Tour title, Williams earned \$15,000 and an automatic berth in the Round of 36 for the end-of-season PBA Tournament of Champions, April 8-15 at Red Rock Lanes in Las Vegas.

"This is the best. It's great. I'm really excited," Williams said. "Once you've won, it makes it easier the second time. It certainly loosens up the arm swing.

"Bowling on the PBA Tour is all about

learning the different moves you have to make. I had one full season, and half a season last year, and I feel like I learned a great deal," he continued. "I spoke to the right people and they helped me out a lot. I throw many less bad shots per game now. I try to throw at least nine good shots a game, rather than six or seven. When you're playing against the best players in the world, you can't get away with throwing those bad shots.

"Today you had to be more conscious about using your speed adjustments rather than opening up angles. That's one of the attributes of my game, so I felt comfortable that if I could just get through two games and the lanes didn't get too easy, I felt like I had a pretty good chance."



Stuart Williams

Williams established himself in the first game of the three-game eliminator finals, throwing nine strikes in 12 attempts for a 238. Ruiz was next with a 213, Sean Rash of Montgomery, Ill., posted a 203 and qualifying leader Mike Fagan of Dallas was eliminated with a 192 for the round's lowest score.

Ruiz led the closely-contested game two with a 201. Williams advanced to the title match with a mistake-free 197. Rash was eliminated with a 186 game. A 4-6-10 split in the third frame and an unconverted 1-2-6-10 spare attempt in the ninth ended Rash's hopes.

The victory gave Williams a feeling of redemption after a disappointing 2010-11 season that began when he was denied entry

into the United States over a visa problem, causing him to miss the entire PBA World Series of Bowling.

"It comes down to what does it take to make you stronger," Williams said. "We all have to go through adversity and it was my turn. Everything has gone well since then."

A title winner in bowling competitions in nine different countries, Williams was thrilled to add the United States as his 10th.

"Being the first English title winner has become my specialty," he smiled "I was the first Englishman to win on the European Bowling Tour, too, so hopefully this will lead to a flood of English wins on the American tour."

### PBA BAYER VIPER OPEN

**South Point Exhibition Hall, Las Vegas**  
**Round One** (lowest score eliminated): Stuart Williams, England, 238; Ildemaro Ruiz, Venezuela, 213; Sean Rash, Montgomery, Ill., 203; Mike Fagan, Dallas, 192 (\$4,000).

**Round Two** (lowest score eliminated): Ruiz 201, Williams 197, Rash 186 (\$4,500).

**Championship:** Williams (\$15,000) def. Ruiz (\$7,500), 246-197.

## Resumption of Japan Cup Adds Incentive to PBA Tour for 2011-12 Season

*Sixteen PBA players will earn automatic berths; four invitational spots also to be awarded*

After a one-year absence due in great part to the massive earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan in 2011, the Japan Cup has been resurrected for the fall of 2012 and will provide additional incentive for Professional Bowlers Association players to perform at a high level during the 2011-12 season.

Sixteen PBA Tour players, based upon competition points at the close of the current season, will earn automatic berths in a field that will include top Japan and Korean PBA

competitors, and international amateurs. An additional four PBA players will receive special invitations from the host organization.

"We could not be more pleased with this renewed partnership with the Japan PBA and look forward to bringing fresh energy to one of bowling's pinnacle events worldwide," said PBA Commissioner Tom Clark. "Our players will be excited for the opportunity to compete, participating sponsors will gain great value from their association and the resulting action

on the lanes will undoubtedly thrill fans once again."

"We are very happy with the return of the Japan Cup, in a new way," said Japan PBA President Ritsuko Nakayama.

The 2012 Japan Cup will be held Nov. 29-Dec. 2 in Tokyo, with preliminary qualifying at Minami-Suna Bowling Center followed by additional qualifying, match play and television finals at Shinagawa Princess Hotel Bowling Center.

The tournament will offer a total of just over

\$285,000 in prize money, including a \$78,000 first prize and a PBA Tour title. Tommy Jones of Simpsonville, S.C., is defending champion.

The Japan Cup originated as the Japan Gold Cup in 1968. The late PBA Hall of Famer Don Johnson won the inaugural event. In the 25 years that PBA players have been invited to the event, it has been won 23 times by PBA pros and twice by Japan PBA players. Walter Ray Williams Jr. is the only player who has competed in all 25 Japan Cup tournaments.

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## Eugene McCune Successfully Defends PBA Cheetah Open Title

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. – Throwing his traditional rocket to the pocket, Eugene McCune of Munster, Ind., successfully defended his Professional Bowlers Association Cheetah Open presented by Ebonite title at Fountain Bowl. McCune was the first player to successfully defend a Tour title since Chris Barnes won back-to-back events in Columbus, Ohio, in the 2007-08 and 2008-09 seasons.



From left - Ebonite District Sales Mgr Shawn Morris, Eugene McCune, PBA HOFer Barry Asher, proprietor Dave Osborne

Association Cheetah Open presented by Ebonite title at Fountain Bowl.

McCune, who was the top qualifier for the stepladder finals, defeated PBA Hall of Famer and 35-time Tour titlist Pete Weber of St. Ann, Mo., 245-229, in the championship match for his third career win.

"Anytime I can play outside on the lane and throw it hard it plays in my favor," said McCune who estimated he was throwing the ball at a little over 20 miles per hour. "It's old school and that's where I feel most comfortable."

McCune won his second career title last season when, as tournament leader, he defeated Norm Duke, 238-237, to win the Cheetah Championship. It was during the match play round of that event that McCune broke the PBA nine-game scoring record with a 2,468 pinfall (274.22 average). In this year's Cheetah Open, conducted on PBA's Cheetah lane conditioning pattern, he averaged 253 for the tournament.

"When I bowl on this condition there's a little pressure because I know I need to take advantage of it," he added. "I was a little

worried after the first two frames of the tournament when I had open frames but I went to a different ball and made a couple of other adjustments and got back on track."

McCune was the first player to successfully defend a Tour title since Chris Barnes won back-to-back events in Columbus, Ohio, in the 2007-08 and 2008-09 seasons.

The landmark Cheetah Open was the first PBA Tour event streamed live exclusively on PBA's Xtra Frame online bowling channel. Three more Xtra Frame events are scheduled during the remainder of the season.

"It was going to be a good match because he's one of the best on this pattern and I match up real well in this house," said Weber, who was trying for his 36th Tour title. "It was a good match for a while until I had a couple bad shots."

In the semifinal match Weber defeated former Wichita State University star Josh Blanchard of Gilbert, Ariz., 248-165. Blanchard was rebounding after his fall on the approach during the PBA World Championship Mike Aubly Division final seen on ESPN two weeks ago. Blanchard went on to finish 16th in the World Championship.

In the opening stepladder match, Weber defeated fellow Hall of Famer Duke, 237-226, to advance to the semifinal

### PBA CHEETAH OPEN PRESENTED BY EBONITE Fountain Bowl, Fountain Valley, California

#### FINAL STANDINGS:

1, Eugene McCune, Munster, Indiana	one game, 245 pins	\$10,000
2, Pete Weber, St. Ann, Missouri	three games, 714 pins	\$ 5,000
3, Josh Blanchard, Gilbert, Arizona	one game, 165 pins	\$ 3,000
4, Norm Duke, Clermont, Florida	one game, 226	\$ 2,500

#### PLAYOFF RESULTS:

**Match One** – Weber def. Duke, 237-226.

**Semifinal match** – Weber def. Blanchard, 248-165.

**Championship match** – McCune def. Weber, 245-229.

**Match Play Cashers** (after 22 games)

Martin Larsen, Sweden, 9-4, 5,684, \$2,300; Michael Haugen Jr., Carefree, Ariz., 6-7, 5,651, \$2,100; Bill O'Neill, Southampton, Pa., 6-7, 5,641, \$2,100; Chris Loschetter, Avon, Ohio, 7-6, 5,620, \$1,800; Patrick Allen, Wesley Chapel, Fla., 6-7, 5,606, \$1,750; Sean Rash, Montgomery, Ill., 8-5, 5,602, \$1,800; Stuart Williams, England, 8-5, 5,596, \$1,650; Danny Wiseman, Baltimore, 8-5, 5,592, \$1,800; PJ Haggerty, Roseville, Calif., 5-8, 5,554, \$1,550; Jesse Buss, Wichita, Kan., 3-10, 5,535, \$1,700; Shigeo Saitoh, Japan, 8-5, 5,515, \$1,450; Dino Castillo, Carrollton, Texas, 5-8, 5,475, \$1,600; John Szczerbinski, North Tonawanda, N.Y., 6-7, 5,424, \$1,550; Wes Malott, Pflugerville, Texas, 8-5, 5,417, \$1,300; Chris Barnes, Double Oak, Texas, 4-9, 5,364, \$1,275; Mitch Beasley, Clarksville, Tenn., 5-8, 5,338, \$1,238; Lowell Huber, Westminster, CA, 7-6, 5,338, \$1,238; Nathan Bohr, Wichita, Kan., 6-7, 5,313, \$1,300; Ryan Ciminelli, Cheektowaga, N.Y., 6-7, 5,259, \$1,17; Takashi Kudoh, Japan, 3-10, 5,147, \$1,150.

#### Other cashers

Chris Warren, Grants Pass, Ore., 2,167, \$900; Mike DeVaney, Murrieta, Calif., 2,166, \$890; Mike Edwards, Tulsa, Okla., 2,164, \$980; Dom Barrett, England, 2,162, \$870; (tie), Dale Eagle, Laguna Niguel, Calif., and Steven Smith, San Diego, 2,159, \$955; Tommy Jones, Simpsonville, S.C., 2,158, \$840; Mike Wolfe, New Albany, Ind., 2,152, \$830; Wayne Garber, Modesto, Calif., 2,148, \$820; George Gaucin, El Paso, Texas, 2,141, \$810; Mika Koivuniemi, Finland, 2,134, \$800; Bobby Campagnale, Highland, Calif., 2,127, \$790; (tie), Kevin Gallagher, Torrance, Calif., and Jason Belmonte, Australia, 2,124, \$775; Kelly Kulick, Union, N.J., 2,122, \$760; Eddie VanDaniker Jr., Essex, Md., 2,118, \$850; Manuel Ojalora, Colombia, 2,113, \$740; Ryan Shafer, Horseheads, N.Y., 2,108, \$730; Mike Scroggins, Amarillo, Texas, 2,105, \$720; Lee Vanderhoef, Greenville, S.C., 2,103, \$710; Mike Fagan, Dallas, 2,102, \$700; Brian Valenta, Lockport, Ill., 2,098, \$700; Dave Wodka, Henderson, Nev., 2,092, \$700.

#### 300 games

Danny Wiseman (2), Bill O'Neill (2), Jesse Buss (2), Norm Duke, Michael Haugen Jr., Martin Larsen

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# Finland's Osku Palermaa Wins PBA World Championship

*European stars becomes first international and first two-handed player to win PBA World Championship*



South Point Bowling Operations Manager Mike Monyak, Champion Osku Palermaa, PBA Commissioner Tom Clark, South Point VP & GM Ryan Growney

LAS VEGAS – Finland's Osku Palermaa became the first international player, and the first two-handed bowler, to win the Professional Bowlers Association World Championship when he defeated Ryan Shafer of Horseheads, N.Y., 203-177, in the 2011-12 season's first major championship.

The PBA World Championship, which included a \$50,000 first prize and a berth in the Round of 36 for the end-of-season PBA Tournament of Champions, aired on ESPN.

Palermaa, who had battled flu-like symptoms for two months leading into the World Championship, was feeling much better after winning his second career PBA title. He saved his best for the final game after surviving two earlier elimination games that saw fellow two-handed player Jason Belmonte of Australia and top qualifier Sean Rash of Montgomery, Ill., knocked out of contention.

The 28-year-old Finn started the title

match in South Point Casino and Hotel's exhibition hall with a 7-10 split, but that was his only open frame. Shafer threw only three strikes – two of them for his only double – but his failure to convert the 3-6-10 spare in the seventh frame proved fatal, shifting the match to Palermaa's favor. Strikes in the ninth and 10th frame secured the victory for Palermaa, and extended Shafer's PBA record for television appearances in major championships without a title to 13.

"I was grateful. I knew I had the pocket, but to see all 10 pins go down, I felt grateful," Palermaa said. "The 7-10 was only one frame. After that, I threw a lot of strikes on the left lane, so it evened out. I don't know if this makes me the best in the world, but I hope so."

The anticipated showdown between Palermaa and Belmonte, the world's premier two-handed players, created some excitement, but not in the way most observers expected. Rash dominated the first elimination game with a 245, Shafer was second with a 236, and Palermaa and Belmonte rolled to a 203-203 tie, forcing a one-ball roll-off to see who would advance and who would be eliminated.

In the roll-off, Belmonte barely touched the headpin, leaving the 2-4-5-8 "bucket." Needing only seven pins, Palermaa struck to move on.

"All you can do is throw a good shot and

you get what you get," Palermaa said. "Seeing Jason leave a bucket helped. But I bowled a good game. It is what it is."

In the second elimination game, Shafer, a 25-year PBA Tour veteran, struck on his last four shots to finish with a 222. Palermaa threw three strikes in the 10th for a 217. Rash, who dominated the World Championship qualifying rounds, saw his title hopes collapse when he left a 7-10 in the ninth frame, finishing with a 193.

The finals were conducted on the PBA's Scorpion lane condition, selected by Rash as the leading qualifier in the field.

**PBA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**South Point Exhibition Hall, Las Vegas**  
**Round One** (lowest score eliminated): Sean Rash, Montgomery, Ill., 245; Ryan Shafer, Horseheads, N.Y., 236; x-Osku Palermaa, Finland, 203; Jason Belmonte, Australia, 203 (\$10,000); x-Palermaa won a one-ball roll-off, 10-6, to break the tie for third place  
**Round Two** (lowest score eliminated): Shafer 222, Palermaa 217, Rash 193 (\$13,000)  
**Championship:** Palermaa (\$50,000) def. Shafer (\$25,000), 203-177.

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## Sean Wins . . .with a Little Help from a New Friend

A funny thing happened to PBA champion Sean Rash on his way to the World Championship finals – he found a new friend that inspired him and made him realize how important it is for an athlete to be a role model, and perhaps changed his life and attitude as a professional bowler forever.

In a photo shoot arranged by Rash's sponsor Brunswick prior to the taping of the World Championship Petraglia Division finals at the South Point Hotel Arena, Rash made a special connection with young Dan McCarty. Dan was there with the local chapter of Best Buddies, an organization dedicated to creating opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

McCarty lives his life with Brittle Bone disease, but it didn't stop him from befriending Rash, and his ear-to-ear smile was testament to a day spent with pro bowlers he will always remember.

Sean and Dan were talking when Rash invited Dan to roll a few shots down the lane. "Am I allowed?" said Dan. He was allowed, and with mom's help, he went from his wheelchair to the approach where Rash introduced him to the joy of knocking down pins with a bowling ball.

Rash was so touched by Dan that he invited him to the taping of the television show, arranged a limo ride for the family, and gave Dan more joy by having him roll the first ball

to open the show. Dan then sat with his family wearing one of Sean's jerseys, cheering him to victory.

Inspired, Rash defeated three opponents to earn his spot in the World Finals, including a hard fought final victory over Pete Weber that he won 246-222.

"For me, meeting Dan and his family made my play at the World Series of Bowling even more special," said Rash. "It was very emotional to do the ceremonial roll with Dan to kick off the tournament. Throughout play, I felt his passion as he cheered for me. He was a great fan to have in the crowd and his continued support motivated me to play my best. I am thankful to Brunswick and the PBA who embraced Dan and his family. He is truly an inspiration to us all because of his charismatic personality and determination."

"It was a thrill to have Danny at the show," Rash said. "When you realize what that kid's been through, what he lives with his entire life, he's such an inspiration."

What Rash did for this little 8-year-old kid that day was heart warming; but what Dan did for Sean was something that will last forever. It appears that they both have new heroes.

*For more information about Best Buddies, visit the website [BestBuddies.org](http://BestBuddies.org).*

## Belmonte Rolls 21st PBA Televised 300 In Aulby Division Finals



Jason Belmonte

LAS VEGAS – A funny thing happened to Australian two-handed star Jason Belmonte in Mike Aulby Division telecast on ESPN. He recorded the 21st nationally-televised 300 game in Professional Bowlers Association history, but it was a sub-200 game that earned him a trip to the Jan. 15 PBA World Championship final round.

Belmonte, who won his only PBA Tour title in the 2009 Bowling Foundation Long Island Classic, followed his game-two perfect effort with a less-than-perfect 196-179 victory over Brian Kretzer of Dayton, Ohio, to capture the final berth in the World Championship finals at South Point Hotel Exhibition Hall.

Each of the divisional elimination contests consist of three one-game rounds, starting with four players. The lowest-scoring player after each game is eliminated.

Belmonte was fortunate to survive the opening game. Kretzer's 231 led the opening round. Mike Fagan of Dallas was second with a 194, Belmonte struggled through a pair of open frames for a 188, but PBA rookie Josh Blanchard of Gilbert, Ariz., had even more problems in his PBA television debut, posting a 139 game to get eliminated.

Belmonte righted his ship in game two, however, earning a \$10,000 bonus for his perfect game. Kretzer's second consecutive 231 game was enough to eliminate Fagan, who started with five strikes but failed to convert the 3-6-10 in the ninth frame and finished with

a 220.

Belmonte maintained his poise into the final game, striking on four of his first five shots. He failed to convert the 5-10 and 6-7-10 splits in the eighth and ninth frames, but by that time, Kretzer's inability to string strikes proved to be his downfall.

"The struggle was to forget about the 300 because you have one more game to bowl," Belmonte said. "You kinda want those games as your last game, not second-to-last, but I was so thrilled it was difficult to put it behind me and work on the next game. I actually thought about it in the second frame. It just popped into my head and I threw a really bad shot. But the next three or four frames were OK, so I kind of loosened up."

"Then the lanes started playing tricks with me, but Brian was having troubles as well. I was fortunate he didn't find the look that would allow him to strike. If that game had gone on another four or five frames, I don't know what would have happened."

**PBA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP  
MIKE AULBY DIVISION FINALS**  
South Point Exhibition Hall, Las Vegas  
**Round One** (lowest score eliminated): Brian Kretzer, Dayton, Ohio, 231; Mike Fagan, Dallas, 194; Jason Belmonte, Australia, 188; Josh Blanchard, Gilbert, Ariz., 139 (\$4,000)  
**Round Two** (lowest score eliminated): Belmonte 300, Kretzer 231, Fagan 220 (\$4,500)  
**Championship** (winner advances to PBA World Championship finals): Belmonte def. Kretzer (\$5,000), 196-179



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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 5-10	High Roller, The Orleans Bowling Center, Las Vegas, NV
Feb 5-11	True Amateur Tournament, Gold Coast, Las Vegas, NV
Feb 11-12	PBA Regional Players Doubles Championship, The Orleans Bowl, Las Vegas
Feb. 11-July 9	USBC Open Championships, Baton Rouge River Center, Baton Rouge, LA
Feb. 17-19	PBA Xtra Frame Don Johnson Memorial Open, Sequoia Lanes, Columbus, OH
Feb 18-19	SASBA, Sheridan Lanes, Tulsa, OK
Feb 18-Mar 26	The Southwest Tournament, (6 weekends) Northrock Lanes, Wichita, Kansas
Feb. 20-26	U.S. Open, Brunswick Zone Carolier, North Brunswick, NJ
Feb 25-26	SASBA SS Singles, University Lanes, Denton, TX
Mar 9-11	PBA Xtra Frame Detroit Open, Allen Park, MI
Mar 10-11	SASBA, All Star Lanes, Shreveport, LA
Mar 19-22	National Golden Ladies Classic, The Orleans Bowling Center, Las Vegas, NV
Mar 24-25	SASBASouth Central, Marquee Lanes, Montecello, AR
Mar 24-25	SASBA Member/Ladies Doubles, AMF Richardson, Richardson, TX
Mar 30-Apr 1	Xtra Frame Dick Weber PBA Playoffs, Woodland Bowl, IN
Mar 31-Apr 1	SASBA Member/Member Doubles, Cowtown Bowling Palace, Ft. Worth, TX
April 1-7	Senior Easter Classic, Suncoast Bowling Center, Las Vegas, NV
Apr 8-15	PBA Tournament of Champions, Red Rock Lanes, Las Vegas, NV
Apr 14-15	SASBA Annual Trio, AMF Eules, Eules, TX
Apr 14-July 8	USBC Women's Championships, National Bowling Stadium, Reno, NV
Apr 17	USBC Intercollegiate Singles Championships, Sun Valley Lanes, Lincoln, NE
Apr 18-21	USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships, Sun Valley Lanes, Lincoln, NE
Apr 19-24	USBC Queens, AMF Eules Lanes, Eules, Texas; finals at International Training and Research Center, Arlington, TX
Apr 21-22	SASBA Member/Guest Doubles, Astro Bowl, San Antonio, TX
Apr 21-24	PBA Senior Sun Bowl in the Villages, Spanish Springs Lanes, The Villages, FL
Apr 25-28	USBC Convention, Arlington Sheraton Hotel, Arlington, TX
Apr 27-28	AMF \$700,000 Nat'l In-League Tournament Finals, The Orleans, Las Vegas
April 28-May 2	PBA Senior Don Carter Open, Carter Family Bowl, Winter Garden, FL
May 5-6	SASBA, 300 Bowl, Conroe, TX
May 6-9	PBA Senior Miller High Life Classic, George Pappas Victory Lanes, Mooresville, NC
May 10-13	May Madness, Sunset Station Bowling Center, Las Vegas, NV
May 12-13	SASBA Age Bracket Tourney, AMF Showplace, Austin, TX
May 14-17	"Law Enforcement & Firefighters on the Lanes" Sam's Town Bowling Center, Las Vegas, NV
May 26-27	PBA Senior Dayton Classic, Capri Lanes, Dayton, OH
May 31-Jun 3	SASBA Member/Guest Doubles, Armadillo, Pasadena, TX
June 2-3	Hall of Fame Xtravaganza, Red Rock Bowling Center, Las Vegas, NV
June 2-3	SASBA SS Singles, USA Bowl, Dallas, TX
June 3-8	Etonic PBA Senior U.S. Open, Suncoast Bowling Center, Las Vegas, NV
June 10-15	USBC Senior Masters, South Point Bowling Center, Las Vegas, NV
June 17-20	PBA Senior Northern California Classic, Harvest Park Bowl, Brentwood, CA
June 22-29	International Bowl Expo, National Bowling Stadium, Reno, NV
June 22-29	Bowlings' U.S. Women's Open (in conjunction with Bowl Expo), National Bowling Stadium, Reno
June 22-29	Bowling's Senior U.S. Women's Open, National Bowling Stadium, Reno
June 30-July 2	SASBA Firecracker, Plano Super Bowl, Plano, TX
July 7-8	SASBA Member/Guest Recruiter Doubles, Del-Mar Lanes, Houston, TX
July 9-10	USBC Senior Championships, National Bowling Stadium, Reno
July 13-29	USBC Youth Open, Expo Bowl, Indianapolis
July 14-20	North Pointe Junior Gold Championships, Western Bowl, Indianapolis
July 21-22	SASBA Over 67/Over 60/Over 50 Trio, Cityview Lanes, Ft. Worth, TX
July 28-29	SASBA, Copperfield, Houston, TX
August 6-9	PBA Senior South Shore Open, Olympia Lanes, Hammond, Ind.
August 11-14	PBA Senior Decatur Open, Spare Time Lanes, Decatur, Ill.
Aug 18-19	SASBA Non-Champs, Cityview Lanes, Fort Worth, TX
Aug 25-26	SASBA Over 70/Over 60 Doubles, Cowtown Bowling Palace, Fort Worth, TX
Sept 1-2	SASBA SS Singles, University Lanes, Denton, TX
Sept 15-16	SASBA Member/Guest Doubles, All Star Lanes, Shreveport, LA
Sept 22-23	SASBA Over 60/Over 50/Guest Trio, Cityview Lanes, Fort Worth, TX
Sept 29-30	SASBA Over 70/Over 60 Doubles, Cowtown Bowling Palace, Fort Worth, TX
Oct 13-14	SASBA SS Singles, All Star Lanes, Shreveport, LA
Oct 27-28	SASBA Annual Championship, AMF Eules, Eules, TX
Nov 3-4	SASBA, Del-Mar Lanes, Houston, TX
Nov 10-11	SASBA Mixed Foursome, Plano Super Bowl, Plano, TX
Nov 29-Dec 2	Japan Cup, Minami-Suna Bowling Center, Tokyo
Dec 1-2	SASBA Age Bracket, Cityview Lanes, Fort Worth, TX
Dec 15-16	SASBA Christmas Team, Cowtown Bowling Palace, Fort Worth, TX

## YES Fund Partners With New York State USBC Association

ARLINGTON, Texas - The New York State United States Bowling Congress Association has announced it will partner with the Youth Education Services (YES) Fund to provide grants to schools in New York.

The grants, which will be in the form of in-school bowling grants and high school assistance grants, will be awarded by the YES Fund to schools in New York. The New York association has donated \$37,000 toward the project.

"We are very pleased that bowling officials in New York have decided to reach out and help young bowlers in their state," International Bowling Campus Managing Director of Youth Development Chad Murphy said. "These funds will help raise awareness of the sport and help high school programs in the state of New York."

The donation will fund two in-school bowling grants and two high school assistance grants each year over the next five years. Selections will be

made by the YES Fund as qualified applications are received.

"This is a very exciting time for our state association, and youth bowlers in our state will benefit from this arrangement," New York State USBC Association President Priscilla "Pat" Zonneville said. "This will help fuel the future of youth bowling in the state of New York."

Officials in New York also have created the New York State Youth Education Services Fund and additional monies within that fund will be used to award the state's existing scholarship program.

The YES Fund is a joint initiative of the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America and the United States Bowling Congress. The YES Fund also is supported by its founding partners Brunswick, Columbia 300, Ebonite, 900 Global, Hammer, North Pointe Insurance, QubicaAMF, Roto Grip, Storm and Track.

## God Bless Don Carter

by Len Nicholson

I was contacted by Jim Goodwin to see if I was interested in writing something about the late Don Carter for Stars and Strikes.

I immediately e-mailed him back and asked him, "How many words would you like me write because I could probably write a book about the man." Jim then called me right back and he said, "I know that you knew Don - write as much as you want to."

My mind raced as I thought about all of the things that I remembered about Don....when I first saw him.... when I first met him....when I first watched him bowl, etc. There was so much.

When I was inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame in January of 2011, my very first thought was about Don Carter. In my speech that night, I referred to the famous Lou Gehrig *speech* when he said, "Today I am the luckiest man on the face of this earth." I remember saying that same thing that night and thinking about Don. WOW, I am in the Hall of Fame with Don Carter!

The very first PBA tournament that I attended was in January 1963 at the old Showboat Lanes in Las Vegas. I took my vacation from work and went to see my high school bowling doubles partner, Billy Hardwick bowl in the event. He was a big star and introduced me to all the guys. I vividly remember watching Don bowling in the practice session. He had an aura about him and it was hard to take your eyes off of him. I'm not sure if it was his unique style, his relaxed nature or the class that he exuded - but it certainly was something. Later that day, Billy introduced me to him and we simply exchanged "hellos".

The following year I went back to Vegas to see another tournament. While waiting in line to check-in, I noticed that Don was also waiting and he was about three people ahead of me. A few minutes went by and he turned around and we made eye contact. He instantly said, "Hi Len." I almost fainted. How did he remember me, we had only said hello that one time about a year ago? I truly believe that was the day that I fell in love with bowling. Don's class was second to none. It wasn't just the nice clothes that he wore, or the beautiful cars that he possessed - it was much more than that.

When I began working for the PBA in January of 1971, Don was near the end of his competitive years, but he did bowl a few tournaments to stay involved and further help to promote the PBA. I believe that it was in Fresno in 1973 that Don bowled his final 300 game in PBA competition. I was sitting behind him and the crowd was going crazy with each strike. After the twelfth shot that sent all ten pins into the pit, the crowd gave him a standing ovation. As he waved to the crowd in sincere appreciation, I remember sitting there crying like a baby. I was

43 years old.

Last January, Jim asked me if I was going to be in Florida because the Flowers for the Living Award Committee wanted to surprise his wife Paula with the prestigious "Flowers for the Living" Award. I told him that it would be an honor to do it. It was a perfect time because Don's son Jimmy was hosting a PBA Senior Tour event and that Don would be there. Who could pass up that opportunity?



Don and Paula Carter in 2011

I was there for the weekend and thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. We had a nice dinner and talked about the "old days". Even though he was in pain from a recent broken toe, he was still the Donald that I

revered and remembered.

After dinner, they drove me to the hotel to make sure I got in alright. As it turned out, they had given my reservation away and I had no place to stay. Don and Paula insisted that I stay with them at the nearby resort that they were staying at. I did. That's the kind of people they are.

As the months of 2011 went by, Don's health continued to diminish with one ailment after another. Very few people know of all the health problems that Don had gone through in his later years. Don and Paula were very private people. They were so private that very few people knew of all of the great humanitarian things that they had done over the years.

The news of Don Carter passing away was heard around the world. He was a living legend. He put professional bowling on the map. He did so much for so many people. He will be forever missed, inside and outside of bowling.

A beautiful private funeral service was held in Miami on January 8. The intimate gathering culminated with a Naval Honor Guard. The entire ceremony was held honoring Donald's wishes, which were very unassuming .....just like the man was.

As I write this through teary eyes, I notice that there are several ironic references to the month of January. I also notice that, though there is some joy to this, there is also some sadness, as well.

Being a man of faith and believing in God as I do, I am pretty sure that HE is not sad. Because as HE sees this for now, the likes of: Dick Weber, Joe Norris, Ned Day, Hank Marino, Earl Anthony, Buzz Fazio, Andy Varipapa and many, many others are going to look at January 2012 as a day that they will all re-unite, have fun and continue to get everything ready for all of us.

God Bless Don Carter.



Len Nicholson is the host of the Internet Phantom Radio Show, a member of the PBA Hall of Fame and a member of the Board of Directors of the Bowling Writers Association of America.

## KENT, McEWAN TAKE TEAM USA TRIALS TITLES

NORTHLAS VEGAS, Nev. - Marshall Kent of Yakima, Wash., and Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, N.Y., claimed titles at the United States Bowling Congress Team USA Trials, earning the right to compete in the 2012 QubicaAMF World Cup.

Kent and McEwan topped their respective fields in a grueling four-day, 28-game format in which the players in the field earned points based on their finishing position each round to determine the final standings.

With daily finishes of third, 32nd, second and sixth, Kent finished with 43 points, while McEwan had daily finishes of fifth, fifth, second and third to total 15 points at Texas Star Lanes.

The women's final came down to a single pin as McEwan just barely edged Liz Johnson of Cheektowaga, N.Y. Johnson finished with 16 points, but had she gotten just one additional pin in Friday's final round it would have been enough to win the title. Johnson finished the final game with back-to-back open frames.

"With this format and it being as close as it was, I wasn't really as nervous as I probably should have been because I wasn't exactly sure of the situation," said McEwan, who competes collegiately at Fairleigh Dickinson. "I came out here wanting to make Junior Team USA and to

make Team USA and win is a really great feeling."

With his sixth-place finish in Friday's final round, Kent was able to outdistance the men's field. Steve Smith of San Diego finished second 57 points, which was 14 points behind Kent.

"It's unbelievable to be able to come out and perform the way I wanted to," said Kent, the 2010 USBC Junior Gold champion who bowls collegiately at Robert Morris-Illinois. "My mental game this week was probably the best it has ever been in my entire life, and that is what kept me in the game."

The top three men and top three women in the standings earned automatic spots on Team USA for 2012. Joining McEwan on the women's team was Josie Earnest of Nashville, Tenn., and Diandra Asbaty of Chicago. Johnson, who finished second overall, was not eligible to occupy one of the automatic spots because she had previously been selected for Team USA 2012. On the men's side, Kent is joined by Smith and AJ Johnson of Oswego, Ill.

The National Selection Committee added two men and two women to Team USA 2012. Jarret Mizo of Honolulu, John Janawicz of Winter Haven, Fla., Tammy Turner of North Ogden, Utah, and Leanne Hulsberg of

Roseville, Calif., were selected.

The additions to Team USA on Friday bring the total roster to 20. The National Selection Committee added Patrick Allen, Chris Barnes, Tommy Jones, Bill O'Neill, Sean Rash, Liz Johnson, Kelly Kulick, Stefanie Nation, Shannon O'Keefe and Shannon Pluhowsky in November.

Junior Team USA spots were also up for grabs at the Team USA Trials with McEwan, Rachel Gittings of Glen Allen, Va., AJ Johnson and Chris Via of Springfield, Ohio, earning automatic spots. The National Selection Committee added Tyler Cruz of Tacoma, Wash., Kamron Doyle of Brentwood, Tenn., Kaitlin Quinn of Livonia, N.Y., and Kelsey Muther of Wichita, Kan.

There are now a total of 20 Junior Team USA members as 12 players got spots at the USBC Junior Gold Championships last July. The new members join Addileen Pointer, Elise Bolton, Holly Harris, Amanda Greene, Natalie Jimenez, Jessica Earnest, Kent, AJ Chapman, Andrew Koff, Gary Faulkner, Zack Hattori and Tyler Vostry.

A total of 225 bowlers are competed this week with 145 in the men's field and 80 in the women's field. It's the highest entry count for the event since 2007 in Reno, Nev., when 233 bowlers took part.

## Boomershine & Slowinski Earn USBC Gold Status

Hank Boomershine of Brigham City, Utah, and Joe Slowinski of Lake Wales, Fla., have been awarded Gold level coaching status after successfully completing certification requirements through the United States Bowling Congress Coaching Certification and Development department.

Gold level is the highest certification a coach can achieve through USBC. USBC recently conducted coaching recertification and, with the addition of Boomershine and Slowinski, there now are 16 USBC Gold coaches worldwide.

"To reach this prestigious level as a coach takes a tremendous amount of dedication," said Neil Stremmel, USBC Managing Director National Governing Body. "We congratulate Hank and Joe for their hard work and commitment to the sport of bowling."

Boomershine, 41, is vice president of sales and marketing for Storm Products, Inc. He started bowling at age 10 and began working in the industry at age 15. He has been involved in almost every aspect of the bowling industry during his career.

"This is the final piece to a puzzle," Boomershine said. "You've worked your whole life putting all these elements together. To be certified as a Gold level instructor means a great amount."

Slowinski, 44, is the administrative head coach for the Webber International University bowling program and the men's head coach. He is a Master Teaching Professional at the Kegel Training Center and is a contributing writer for Bowling This Month magazine.

"For me, it validates your hard work," Slowinski said. "I've really tried to help the sport by making people better and by contributing and sharing ideas. When I get excited about something, learn about it and share it so other people get excited - that's it. It's just validation of hard work."

His father was a youth director, and when Slowinski was 17 he decided to take a coaching course through the Young American Bowling Alliance (YABA).

"It was exciting to learn about the sport and how to coach," Slowinski said. "That's where

the seed was planted."

The process of becoming a USBC Gold coach is similar to obtaining a doctorate in a field of study. Candidates are required to demonstrate knowledge through practical application and discussion. The final review program requires a coach to conduct a class, participate in an oral exam and give lessons to bowlers of various skill levels. The final review board consists of active USBC Gold coaches and USBC staff.

Candidates recently went through the final review at the International Training and Research Center in Arlington.

"You put so much effort and time into building the presentation - your philosophy and your thoughts on teaching," Boomershine said. "Then presenting it, defending it, knowing you are going to be graded on your output. And then everything else that went with it - all the certifications you had to do over your career, the long hours of coaching, teaching and doing lessons. It's a long process."

## ODE TO THE SECRETARY

by Jim Margueratt

I took the job as secretary.  
For reasons I don't know,  
I thought I'll take it for just one year,  
That was 15 seasons ago.

I kept this position all these years,  
I'm never voted out,  
No one else wants the job,  
It's a scam, no doubt.

Taking care of averages,  
Triples and high scores,  
Sanctions must be in on time,  
If you think that's all, there's more.

Looking after re-cap sheets,  
Mailing out for crests,  
Final averages must be in,  
We never seem to rest.

Getting blamed for everything,  
Our skin must be made of leather,  
Lane conditions are our fault,  
Bowlers blame us for the weather.

We post the standings every week,  
Bowlers look and stare,  
Last place teams sometimes say,  
There's been a mistake somewhere,

Banquet plans must be met,  
Prizes to be bought,  
Figuring out the handicaps,  
Our scores have gone to pot.

After bowling we go home,  
Our minds are tired with fatigue,  
Now I know why we're called,  
The workhorse of the league,

So hats off to all the secretaries,  
For a good job so well done,  
And if by chance you get elected again,  
It's just another year of fun.

To see bowlers try their best,  
To know everyone by name,  
And it makes the job all worthwhile,  
When they bowl their first 200 game.

So when you see your secretary,  
Shake their hand and smile,  
Let their efforts and hard work,  
Make it all the more worthwhile.

## KOIVUNIEMI, ANDERSSON Lead World Bowling Tour Rankings

ARLINGTON, Texas - Finland's Mika Koivuniemi and Sweden's Sandra Andersson lead the World Tenpin Bowling Association World Bowling Tour points list after the opening event of the 2012 schedule.

Andersson has moved into the women's lead for the first time with 151 points, while Koivuniemi leads the men's rankings with 233 points. The World Bowling Tour points system is based on a continuous two-year cycle, so points earned in 2011 are added to points earned in 2012 to determine the points list.

At the 42nd Brunswick Ballmaster Open in Helsinki, Finland - the opening event of the 2012 season - Andersson picked up 40 points for a second-place finish among the women's field. The United States' Carolyn Dorin-Ballard, who did not compete in Finland, is in second with 145 points.

Sweden's Nina Flack remained in the top three by earning 15 points to bring her total to 135, while Finland's Krista Pollanen won the women's rankings at the Ballmaster for the second straight year, bringing her fourth-place total to 130 points.

On the men's side, Koivuniemi picked up 35

points to increase his lead on the men's field. Sean Rash of the United States added six points to his total in Finland to bring his total to 148 for second place. The United States' Mike Fagan is third with 140 points after finishing second at the Ballmaster and adding 40 points.

The World Bowling Tour is made up of various events around the world and players earn points based on how they finish in each event. The current points system is based on a continuous two-year cycle, so points earned in 2011 are added to points earned in 2012 to determine the points list.

The top three men and top three women will be invited to compete in the World Bowling Tour Finals presented by the Professional Bowlers Association at the end of 2012.

The World Bowling Tour Finals will feature a total prize fund of \$70,000. The top three men and top three women will bowl a stepladder finals format in their respective divisions. The prize money for each division is the same, with the winner taking \$20,000, second place earning \$10,000 and third place winning \$5,000.

The World Tenpin Bowling Association, which is made up of 115 bowling federations, governs the sport throughout the world. For

more information on WTBA and the World Bowling Tour, visit [WorldTenpinBowling.com](http://WorldTenpinBowling.com).

### WORLD BOWLING TOUR POINTS Top 25

MEN	
1, Mika Koivuniemi, Finland, 233.	
2, Sean Rash, USA, 148.	
3, Mike Fagan, USA, 140.	
4, Jason Belmonte, Australia, 120.	
5, Osku, Palermaa, Finland, 112.	
6, Chris Barnes, USA, 92.	
7, Dominic Barrett, England, 90.	
8, Tommy Jones, USA, 82.	
9, Dan MacLelland, Canada, 82.	
10, Su Hong Wu, Hong Kong, 77.	
11, Bill O'Neill, USA, 76.	
12, Chris Loschetter, USA, 71.	
13, Paul Moor, England, 66.	
14, Norm Duke, USA, 65.	
15, Tore Torgersen, Norway, 65.	
16, Martin Larsen, Sweden, 59.	
17, Ronnie Russell, USA, 55.	
18, Tom Hess, USA, 54.	
19, Syafiq Ridhwan, Malaysia, 50.	
20, Jeong Seung-Soo, Korea, 50.	
21, Martin Paulsson, Sweden, 48.	
22, Kimmo Lehtonen, Finland, 45.	
23, Karl Wahlgren, Sweden, 44.	
24, Jack Jurek, USA, 40.	
25, Thomas Larsen, Denmark, 40.	

WOMEN	
1, Sandra Andersson, Sweden, 151.	
2, Carolyn Dorin-Ballard, USA, 145.	
3, Nina Flack, Sweden, 135.	
4, Krista Pollanen, Finland, 130.	
5, Kelly Kulick, USA, 100.	
6, Liz Johnson, USA, 70.	
7, Elin Adolfsson, Sweden, 51.	
8, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 50.	
9, Helen Johnsson, Sweden, 50.	
10, Kim Min-Hee, Korea, 50.	
11, Angkana, Netviseth, Thailand, 50.	
12, Shannon Pluhowsky, USA, 50.	
13, Jazreel Tan, Singapore, 46.	
14, Darya Kovalova, Ukraine, 44.	
15, Cassie Staudinger, Australia, 43.	
16, Jeon Gui-Ae, Korea, 40.	
17, Rocio Restrepo, Colombia, 40.	
18, Tannya Roumimper, Indonesia, 40.	
19, Yaneae Saebe, Thailand, 40.	
20, Nicki Ainge, England, 38.	
21, Marjo Pontinen, Finland, 37.	
22, Heidi Manninen, Finland, 36.	
23, Mai Ginge Jensen, Denmark, 35.	
24, Veronika Lantto, Sweden, 35.	
25, Lexi Nicoll, Australia, 35.	

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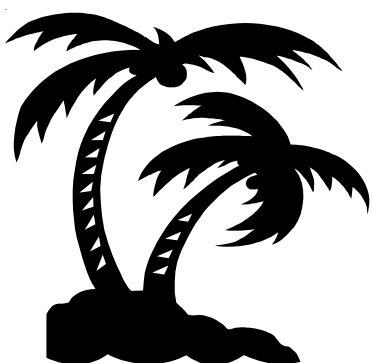
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XXX

A turtle was walking down an alley in New York when he was mugged by a gang of snails.

A police detective came to investigate and asked the turtle if he could explain what happened.

The turtle looked at the detective with a confused look on his face and replied "I don't know, it all happened so fast."

XXX

SCOTCH?

On the first day of school, the children brought gifts for their teacher.

The supermarket manager's daughter brought the teacher a basket of assorted fruit.

The florist's son brought the teacher a bouquet of flowers.

The candy-store owner's daughter gave the teacher a pretty box of candy.

Then the liquor-store owner's son brought up a big, heavy box. The teacher lifted it up and noticed that it was leaking a little bit. She touched a drop of the liquid with her finger and tasted it.

"Is it wine?" she guessed. "No," the boy replied. She tasted another drop and asked, "Champagne?"

"No," said the little boy..... "It's a puppy!"

XXX

You know why a banana is like a politician?

When he first comes in he is green, then he turns yellow and then he's rotten.

XXX

A drunken cowboy lay sprawled across three entire seats in the posh Amarillo Theater.

When the usher came by and noticed this, he whispered to the cowboy, "Sorry, sir, but you're only allowed one seat."

The cowboy groaned but didn't budge.

The usher became more impatient.

"Sir, if you don't get up from there I'm going to have to call the manager."

Once again, the cowboy just groaned. The usher marched briskly back up the aisle, and in a moment he returned with the manager.

Together the two of them tried repeatedly to move the cowboy, but with no success.

Finally they summoned the police. The Texas Ranger surveyed the situation briefly, then asked, "All right mister, what's your name?"

"Fred," moaned the cowboy.

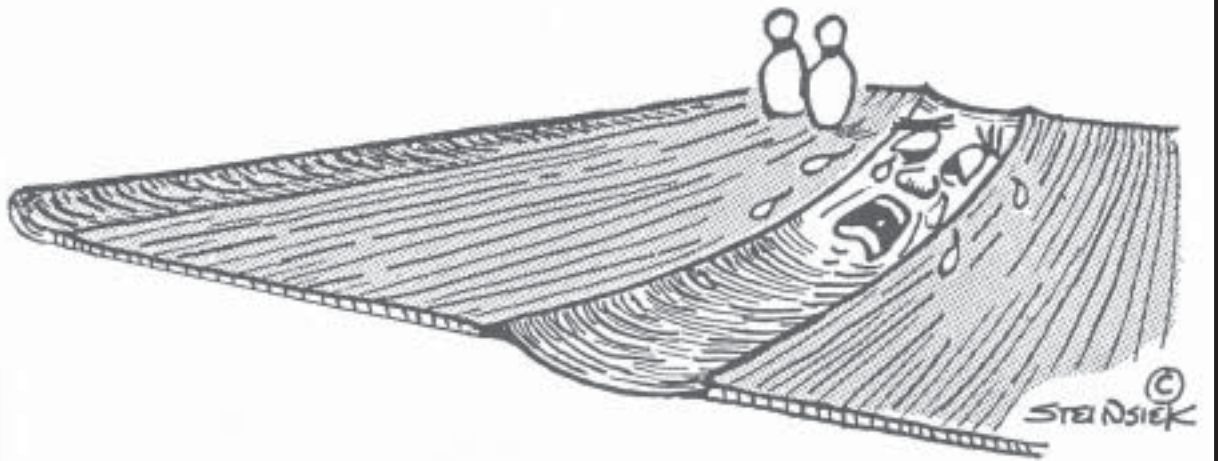
"Where ya from, Fred?" asked the Ranger

With pain in his voice, and without moving a muscle, Fred replied, "...The Balcony..."

# THE FUNNY PAGE

## Walt's World

by Walt Steinsiek



DID YOU EVER SEE A GUTTER BAWL?

A football coach of an all Redneck team walked into the locker room before a game, looked over to his star player and said, "I'm not supposed to let you play since you failed math, but we need you in there. So what I have to do is ask you a math question, and if you get it right, you can play."

The player agreed, and the coach looked into his eyes intently and asks, "Okay, now concentrate... what is two plus two?"

The player thought for a moment and then he answered, "Four?"

"Four?!?" the coach exclaimed, excited that he got it right.

At that, all the other players on the team began screaming, "Come on coach, give him another chance!"

XXX

**The STUDENT WHO WROTE THIS EXAM OBTAINED 0%  
I would have given him 100%  
His answers are pretty astute**

Q1. In which battle did Napoleon die?  
\* his last battle

Q2. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?  
\* at the bottom of the page

Q3. River Ravi flows in which state?  
\* liquid

Q4. What is the main reason for divorce?  
\* marriage

Q5. What is the main reason for failure?  
\* exams

Q6. What can you never eat for breakfast?  
\* Lunch & dinner

Q7. What looks like half an apple?  
\* The other half

Q8. If you throw a red stone into the blue sea what it will become?  
\* It will simply become wet

Q9. How can a man go eight days without sleeping ?  
\* No problem, he sleeps at night.

Q10. How can you lift an elephant with one hand?  
\* You will never find an elephant that has only one hand..

Q11. If you had three apples and four oranges in one hand and four apples and three oranges in other hand, what would you have ?  
\* Very large hands

Q12. If it took eight men ten hours to build a wall, how long would it take four men to build it?  
\* No time at all, the wall is already built.

Q13. How can u drop a raw egg onto a concrete floor without cracking it?  
\* Any way you want, concrete floors are very hard to crack.

**BOWL-A-RAMA**

by Maurice 'MOE' LaRochelle



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A BOWLER ?  
HOW LONG YOU BEEN BOWLING ?

# Bowling Legend Don Carter Dies at Age 85

*PBA Hall of Famer and founding member was bowling's first television star*

MIAMI, Fla. – Bowling's original superstar, Professional Bowlers Association and United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer Don Carter, died at his home in Miami January 5th. Carter, who had recently been hospitalized with pneumonia complicated by emphysema, was 85.

Carter rocketed to fame during bowling's so-called golden era of team bowling in the 1950s, but at that same time he was a dominant figure in the emerging world of sports television. He is widely remembered as a member of fabled Budweisers of St. Louis, but most of the world got to know him through his appearances on television shows like Jackpot Bowling, Make That Spare, Championship Bowling and numerous others. He also traveled the world making appearances for Brunswick and Budweiser.

In great part due to his high standing among his fellow competitors, Carter became a leading force in the formation of the PBA in 1958. After appearing on an Akron, Ohio, radio program hosted by attorney Eddie Elias where he talked about the importance of building a professional bowling tour similar to what golf had created, Carter and his fellow Budweisers' teammates (Dick Weber, Ray Bluth, Tom Hennessey and Pat Patterson) convinced a group of other players to pledge \$50 each to back Elias' plan and get the PBA off the ground.

The PBA was launched in 1959 with three tournaments, but only three years later it had a schedule of 32 events and Carter was one of

its stars, eventually winning seven PBA titles including five major championships.

Carter won two of the seven PBA Tour events conducted in 1960 including the PBA



National Championship. His other major wins were four BPAA All-Star titles (the forerunner of the PBA U.S. Open) and the 1961 American Bowling Congress Masters. He also won a record five World Invitational titles – a grueling 100-game marathon – and he won four ABC

Tournament titles.

The St. Louis native first experienced the sport at age 13.

"We were very poor but my mother managed to give me one game of bowling for my 13th birthday," Carter said in an article written by the late Hall of Fame bowling writer and long-time friend Dick Evans. "That was the biggest birthday present of my life. I enjoyed that one game so much that when one of my teachers started a bowling club after school, I signed up. Then I started setting pins so I could bowl and practice for free."

It was at that early age that he also developed his unique, unorthodox bowling style, using a bent elbow and a deep knee bend to almost push the ball down the lane. Carter later said his technique evolved because he started bowling with balls that had very large finger holes, and that's the only way he could hold onto the ball.

Carter also was a good athlete in other sports, including baseball. After serving a tour of duty in the United States Navy during World War II in the South Pacific, Carter signed a minor league baseball contract with the Philadelphia Athletics organization as pitcher-infielder. But after a year he returned to St. Louis and took a job at Golden Eagle Lanes where he began taking up the sport seriously.

His bowling career gained momentum in 1951 when he was invited to bowl on the Pfeifer Beer team in Detroit. Then his long-time St. Louis bowling friends, including Bluth, Hennessey and Whitey Harris, convinced Anheuser-Busch to sponsor their team. With the brewery's financial backing secured, the group lured Carter back to town and their Budweiser team became arguably the most famous bowling team in history. A great deal of the team's fame came after it recorded a 3,858 five-player team series in 1958, a record

that stood until 1994.

At the height of his fame, Carter was as recognizable among American sports heroes as Mickey Mantle, Johnny Unitas and Arnold Palmer. And he accomplished something none of those sports legends had ever done when he became the first athlete in American sports history to sign a \$1 million sports marketing endorsement contract with bowling ball manufacturer Ebonite in 1964.

Carter received virtually every honor available within the sport. He was voted Bowler of the Year six times (1953, 1954, 1957, 1958, 1960 and 1962). He served as the PBA's first president. He was inducted into the ABC Hall of Fame in 1970, alongside his close friend and teammate Dick Weber, and he was a charter member of the PBA Hall of Fame in 1975, also joined by Weber, Bluth, Carmen Salvino, Harry Smith and Billy Welu.

Carter was selected as the Greatest Bowler of All-time in a 1970 Bowling Magazine poll, ranked second in Bowling Magazine's "20 Greatest Bowlers of the 20th Century" poll in 2000, and he was voted the 11th greatest PBA player of all-time as part of the organization's 50th anniversary celebration in 2009.

Because of deteriorating knee injuries, Carter retired from PBA competition in 1972 and settled in Miami, Fla., with wife and fellow hall of fame bowler Paula Sperber where he owned a chain of bowling centers bearing his name.

Because he hated to fly, and didn't like public speaking, Carter rarely ventured far from home in retirement, although he did regain widespread public exposure in the 1980s when he appeared in a series of Miller Lite commercials featuring retired sports stars.

"I really don't think anybody under the age of 65 remembers me," Carter said about his Miller Lite appearances. "I'm really big with senior citizens. I'm famous because I'm the only guy to have two wives (Paula and first wife Laverne) in the (Women's International Bowling Congress) Hall of Fame."

I never knew Don Carter when he was at the peak of his abilities. But all you needed was a peek at the record book and you could see what kind of phenomenal athlete he was. That, and the reverence his peers had for him was inescapable. He was the Arnold Palmer of bowling when Palmer was golf's first TV icon, and someone who grabbed the golf world by its eyeballs and wouldn't let go. Carter was that kind of riveting talent on the lanes. However, Carter's career was in decline when PBA was the new kid on the TV sports block, but just ask those who bowled against him, like Dick Weber, who said, "Don was the most miserable individual I ever faced on the lanes." It was the ultimate compliment. Carter was a great friend off the lanes, but he was the one guy you didn't want to face when everything was on the line. -- **Jim Dressel**

Don Carter's unique bowling style was absolute proof of the cliché 'It's not how - it's how many.' The first time I ever saw him was in the 1964 All Star in Dallas. He didn't bowl well, but was there to coach and watch his wife LaVerne win the women's title. I only spoke with him twice. He and Paula drove the motor home to Vegas many years ago; I think he just came to see his buddies in the Senior U.S. Open at Sam's Town; and we met again when Bowl Expo was in Orlando a few years back. On both occasions he was warm, friendly and unpretentious. It was at that trade show where he had a booth selling memorabilia, and two fellows asked me to take their photo with Don - Billy Hardwick and Dave Davis. I've never been much of an autograph seeker; but I thought at the time how much respect these guys had for Carter - they were Hall of Famers themselves; but they thought of Carter as the "King" of Hall of Famers. He was a hero to them, me, and many others. -- **Jim Goodwin**

It is impossible to put into words what Don Carter meant to the PBA and sport of bowling. There is no way to fill the void left by his passing. Our deepest sympathies to his wife Paula and his family. He was a pioneer, a champion and will never be forgotten. -- **Tom Clark**

He'll be missed. He was a great guy; he was hard to get to know, but once you did, he was your friend forever. They always ask who was the best bowler ever. There wasn't much difference between some of the top guys, but Don beat me relentlessly, so in my eyes, he was the greatest ever. Carter and (Dick) Weber were a lot alike in that they knew they were going to win. They didn't always win, but they knew they had the opportunity and the ability to win. He may have been a slow starter in a 100-game tournament, but he wound up grinding, and usually found his way to the top. He was just the man. -- **Bill Lillard**

It's a sad day. You're never really prepared, and when you think of how many guys we had on our team over the years, I'm the only original and Bill (Lillard), who joined later, are the only ones left. Don was the greatest bowler of his era. There was no one like him. Don was the star of the (Budweisers). He was our leadoff man. He wasn't too gung-ho about that role, but he kept getting strikes and so did the rest of us, so he stayed there. It was just a great experience bowling with Don. -- **Ray Bluth**

Don was one of the greatest bowlers who ever lived, but he had some other things that made him great. He was a great athlete. He won two 100-game tournaments in one year and I don't know how many other bowlers could take that kind of punishment. And he had the ability to focus better than anyone I've ever seen. On the lanes, he was in his own world, but off the lanes, he was a true gentleman. I had a lot of respect for him, as a bowler and as a man. -- **Carmen Salvino**

He was the greatest in that 100-game grind at the All Star. For that period of time at the World's Invitational and the All Star he was practically unbeatable. But he also was a wonderful human being, a good friend, and just a great guy. -- **Glenn Allison**

In my opinion Earl Anthony, Dick Weber and Don Carter are the three iconic people in the history of our game, and you can flip that order any way you want it. Don was that good. Back when he was in his prime, he was the rock star of bowling. He was hanging out with the Mickey Mantles and stars of that caliber. He was a larger-than-life figure. -- **Marshall Holman**

I have often said that what made me come a pro bowler was when I was 13 years old and I went to Madison Square Garden to watch Dick Weber and Don Carter do an exhibition. From that day on, I wanted to be like them, I wanted to be a pro bowler. And through the years Carter has always been such high class. He was really a great guy who never lost his temper or treated you any differently than anybody else. Just 100% class. -- **Johnny Petraglia**

I first met Don in 1963, and the aura surrounding him was very evident. Years later when I became a pro myself it hadn't changed a bit. In fact, to me, it seemed stronger. Later when I became involved with Contour Power Grips and I called Don to sign him to the staff, I could just hear and feel the class and the humor that I always heard about. He was the first superstar of the game, the first millionaire, and his memory of only meeting you once and remembering your name a month or year later was amazing. -- **Ernie Schlegel**

When you're my age and you grew up wanting to be a bowler, the man you recognized the most was Don Carter. The reason I signed with Ebonite when I was on tour was because of him. There has only been one rock star in bowling, and that was Don Carter. -- **Barry Asher**

I got to be around Don a lot when I was just out of my teens and bowling the ladies' tour, and I was in awe of him because he was just so fantastic and such a wonderful man. He just reached out to me and made me feel very comfortable as a young lady bowling the tour. -- **Judy Soutar**

Don helped me out a lot with my bowling game. When I first came out on tour I think I averaged about 160; I couldn't figure anything out. Then Don came up to Paramus, New Jersey to fill in for someone on the league I was bowling one night and he gave me some tips that really turned my game around, and I became a pretty decent bowler in life. He was a great guy and I owe a lot to him. -- **Teata Semiz**

I just can't begin to tell you the influence Don had on me as a young man. I became entranced by bowling while watching the Championship Bowling TV programs as a kid, and the more I watched the more I realized that Don Carter was the greatest bowler in the world. This was the most influential man in the history of our sport. Back in the 1950s, the combination of the advent of the pinsetter, television, and Don Carter brought the sport of bowling into the modern era. -- **Larry Lichstein**

I remember watching him bowl on Championship Bowling when I was a young child of about 9 or 10. I, too, had a crooked arm and wanted to bowl like him. I never could. He was a God to me. Then I tried to bowl like Dick Weber. They were both my idols. If it wasn't for them, I would never gotten into bowling. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family. -- **John Davis**

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