

## Tulsa Time

As we traveled from North Texas up the highway toward Oklahoma, the daffodils and bluebonnets faded into Indian blankets and paintbrushes. Springtime in this region of our beautiful country is fragrant and colorful; an awakening that sends the message 'all is well' . . .

. . . and when we arrived at WIBC's final convention and tournament in the beautiful green rolling hills of Tulsa, we knew that all is well in our bowling world. Attending both the opening ceremony of the WIBC tournament and the convention assured us that good times are coming for our game.

Indeed, one chapter of bowling's rich history is closing, but the game is strong and vibrant, and it has a long history and a solid foundation upon which to build a brighter tomorrow.

The WIBC Convention was billed as 'Celebrate WIBC', and 4000 women had the time of their lives saying so long to WIBC and hello to USBC. They laughed, they cried, they sang and danced. They hugged each other, embraced their bountiful history, and said collectively, 'bring it on' to whatever the future will provide.

After seeing the emotion and hearing the heartfelt thanks of two young WIBC members, WIBC President Sylvia Broyles said, 'If this is an example of our future, we have absolutely nothing to worry about.' Her comment followed very poignant speeches by Bev Ortner Award winner Jada Mocaby and Alberta Crowe Star of Tomorrow honoree Cassie Leuthold. These two young women from the heartland of America (Indiana and South Dakota) were inspiring. They will never forget their walk down

the center isle in Tulsa, and those of us fortunate enough to witness it will long remember their genuine gratitude and pride.

Imagine being a young person in front of 4000 people for the first time. Jada handled it with good humor and was amazingly funny and sincere – she may have a future in public speaking. "I looked on the internet for a bowling joke, but I couldn't find one. I guess no one thinks bowling is funny," she said.

Cassie read her well thought out speech between tears and strong words of thanks for family and the sport. "Bowling has given me a purpose in life," she said. She wants to be a pro someday. I hope the tour returns for her, and others like her.

Many more memories of this final WIBC celebration will stay with us for a long time – the sincere thanks from Leanne Taylor, Mistress of Ceremonies at the opening of the tournament at Riverlanes. Taylor, local television anchor and a recent breast cancer survivor (she was proud to show off her new hair), thanked WIBC for its part in helping the Susan G. Komen foundation.

We'll also remember Tulsa WBA President Brenda Marshall's incredible effort and enthusiasm. She was the driving force behind Tulsa's bid for the event.

Watching 4000 delegates twirl pink light sticks in the darkened auditorium to symbolize that there is a light of hope for breast cancer victims was also very moving, as was the tribute to those lost in the past year, and the presentation of this year's \$810,000 check to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, bringing the WIBC total for the past five years to almost \$4 million.

The final WIBC Hall of Fame ceremony honored two outstanding women – Sylvia Broyles and Anne Marie Duggan. Broyles, the last WIBC President, was instrumental in

the creation of the new USBC, and Duggan, who won her first tournament as a pro and 15 titles during her career, may be the most versatile player ever in the women's pro ranks.

"Never, never, never in my wildest dreams did I ever think something like this could happen for me," Broyles said in her speech. Her WIBC career has been relatively short compared to other WIBC presidents, but she had the courage to change the status quo for the greater good of the game, and her strong leadership has made bowling better. She thanked her family for allowing her to pursue her dreams for bowling, and her extended bowling family for their support along the way.

Duggan also spoke of family. She said she got her natural talent from her mom who was also a good bowler, and her dad made her believe in herself. "My father always spoke the truth, and he told me I could be here one day, and I believed him," she said. She also thanked her husband Pat for teaching her the finer points of the game and for coaching her. "My father convinced me I had talent, and my husband brought it out," she said.

The final part of the WIBC Convention officially closed an 88-year history of women's bowling as seen through the minds and hearts of thousands who have contributed to WIBC's success. The ABC and WIBC flags are now retired and the new USBC banner waves over the game for the future. The goodbyes have been said, the tears have been shed, and now a new era begins.

What does the future hold for our great game? No one can predict exactly, but with over a century of experience as a foundation to build on, bowling's leaders are prepared and willing to face all challenges that lie ahead.

Bring It On!

