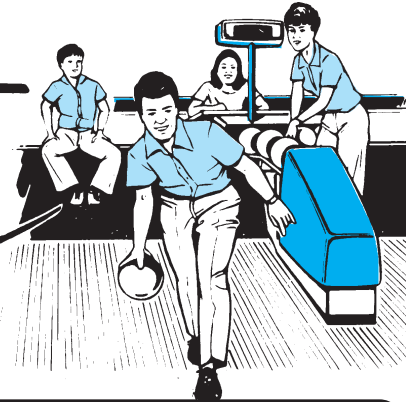


CHECK OUT 'TIPS FROM THE PROS' — PAGE 8

BOWLER'S Digest

Official 'Voice' of Bowling in the Bowling Capital of the World
• Established by Steve Cruchon in 1976 •



VOL. 36, NO. 17

Detroit, Michigan — Published Every Other Wednesday

APRIL 18, 2012

Birch Run's Brian Waliczek Wins Mich. State Masters at 300 Bowl

• BRIAN WALICZEK of Birch Run won the Michigan State Masters at 300 Bowl in Waterford Township Sunday, April 15 when he defeated Jeff Edwards of Sterling Heights, 356-343, in the two-game match to win the \$3,600 first

prize. Edwards settled for the second-place check of \$1,800.

Waliczek qualified 29th in the field of 160 with a six-game total of 1,218. He remained in the winner's bracket with victories over Mason Brantley of Detroit,

382-320, Jason Stephenson of Davison, 438-406, Brian Thompson of Flat Rock, 400-398, J.R. Raymond of Saginaw, 453-406, and Edwards the first time, 461-429. He also won a paid entry into the 2013 United States Bowling Congress Masters tournament.

"What can I say? Tough lanes. Great turnout. I'll take it," said Waliczek. "I was fortunate to sneak in, then overnight I developed a new lane play strategy and it worked." Waliczek averaged 206

for 18 games of competition.

Edwards qualified seventh with 1,283. He also remained in the winner's bracket with triumphs over Angelo Newby of Waterford Township, 364-350, Jeremy Dixson of Saginaw, 481-399, Bo Goergen of Sanford, 371-353, and Jeff Suma Sr. of Auburn Hills, 437-409, before getting knocked into the loser's bracket by Waliczek, 461-429. In the loser's bracket he beat LeRoy Anderson of Saginaw, (Continued on Page 12)

IN THE NEWS

Gene Stus, Jason Couch Join PBA Hall of Fame

• ELEVEN-time PBA Senior Tour winner Gene Stus and 16-time Pro Tour titlist Jason Couch were inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame during ceremonies Saturday, April 14 at the Red Rock Resort.

As a competitive bowler for most of his adult life, the 71-year-old Stus wondered how he might have done on the PBA Tour. But the opportunity to compete in Tour competition didn't present itself until he retired from General Motors after 32 years at the age of 50 and became a regular on the Senior Tour.

Stus' 11 Senior Tour titles rank fourth on the all-time list behind fellow Hall of Famers John Handegard with 14 titles, and Gary Dickinson and Dale Eagle each with 12.

In 1992, Stus, who currently resides in Taylor, earned Senior Player of the Year honors thanks in part to winning two titles. In July of that year he became the first Senior Tour player to bowl a 300 game on national television, defeating Don Gilman, 300-188, in the Pacific Cal Bowl Senior Open in Lake-

(Continued on Page 4)

USBC Women's Championships Underway at Reno-Sparks

RENO, Nev. — The 2012 United States Bowling Congress Women's Championships kicked off with a bang Saturday as the first of more than 30,000 bowlers took to the lanes at the National Bowling Stadium.

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority Chairman of the Board Dwight Dortch and local and bowling-industry dignitaries helped welcome the participants and their guests back to The Biggest Little City in the World.

The festivities featured a ribbon-cutting ceremony, the traditional Mass Ball Shot and live entertainment, which included "The Man in the Mirror," a theatrical tribute to the music of Michael Jackson. The show will be running at Eldorado Hotel Casino throughout the duration of the USBC Women's Championships.

"We look forward to bowling on the opening squad every year and had a lot of fun today," said Vella Edwards from Azle, Texas, who made her third tournament appearance. "I really enjoyed the performance. It was very entertaining and memorable."

The opening squad saw 74 teams make their way down Center Aisle to usher in the 2012 event, which will run for 86 consecutive days, concluding July 8. During that time, more than 6,100 five-player teams will compete in the 93rd running of the world's largest participatory

(Continued on Page 12)

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Carleta Poydras Wins State 'Queens' Tiara

Carleta Poydras, bowling in her very first Michigan State Queen's tournament, went undefeated in match play to return the "Tiara" to the Detroit area.

— See page 5



Sean Rash Tops PBA 'T of C'

Sean Rash won the PBA Tournament of Champions, ending a five-year, 14-tournament television drought with a 239-205 victory over Ryan Ciminelli.

— See page 11

YAHOO!

You can now e-mail the Bowler's Digest at bowlersdigest@gmail.com

Annie's Mixed Team Tournament

AT WAYNE BOWL — Every Weekend Through June 24, 2012 — See Page 4

WHERE TO FIND IT

Directory charge is \$12 per issue (Limit 50 words). FAX (586) 286-5877, or send to: "Where to Find It," c/o Bowler's Digest, P.O. Box 96, Fraser, MI 48026
 bowlersdigest@ymail.com

PLEASE NOTE: Because of an agreement with Detroit area bowling centers, Bowler's Digest does not publish open bowling or "Rock 'n Bowl" rates.

Bowling Parties

• **ASTRO LANES**, 32388 John R, Madison Heights. Come have an "Astro Experience" with us. Our fundraisers, class reunions, company,

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• **THUNDERBOWL LANES**, 4200 Allen Rd., Allen Park. The 2-hour party includes: bowling, unlimited FREE arcade play, pizza, pop, paper products and a cosmic bowling pin

for the birthday child. \$12 per person with a 6-person minimum. For more information, call (313) 928-4688.

Cosmic Bowling

• **CONTINENTAL LANES**, 31055 Gratiot, Roseville. Cosmic Glow Bowling. By the hour, up to 5 people on a lane. \$15 one hour, \$25 two hours, \$32 three hours. Friday 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. and Saturday 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Call (586) 293-2300.

• **IMPERIAL LANES**, 44650 Garfield, Clinton Twp. "Best Cosmic Show" with two giant video screens. Every other Friday night 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m., every Saturday night 11:30 p.m. to 3 a.m. at \$20 an hour per lane for 1st hour and \$18 an hour per lane for any additional time. Saturday daytime from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at \$3.50 per game. Call (586) 286-8700.

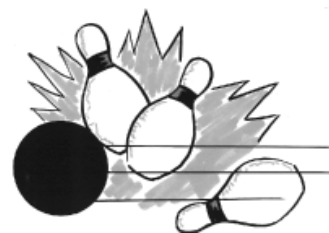
• **THUNDERBOWL LANES**, 4200 Allen Rd., Allen Park. "Cosmic Bowling" is available on Friday and Saturday nights. Cosmic pricing includes 3 hours of bowling, unlimited FREE arcade play and music videos on large screen TVs. Sessions start at 10 p.m. The price is \$15 per person plus \$3 for shoes. For more information, call (313) 928-4688.

Extreme Bowling

• **THUNDERBIRD LANES**, 400 W. Maple Rd. Troy. "EXTREME Bowling." Metro Detroit's best! High Tech Lights, Music and Huge Video Screens. Friday nights 10 p.m. to midnight. And for the family "PINDEMONIUM" with family-friendly music and music videos. Sunday afternoons. 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For information call (248) 362-1660.

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• **THUNDERBOWL LANES**, 4200 Allen Rd., Allen Park. Watch music videos on a 160" screen as well as on over a dozen large screen TVs while you're bowling. Videos are played nightly. Call Thunderbowl Lanes at (313) 928-4688 to get complete details.



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• **SUNNYBROOK LANES**, 7191 East 17 Mile Rd., Sterling Heights. "9-Pin, No Tap" Moonlight Doubles. Saturdays at 11:30 p.m. Check-in at 10:45 p.m. \$25 per couple includes three games of bowling, first and second mystery games and prize fund. We guarantee a minimum of five places paid. Additional jackpots available. For more info, call (586) 264-2700.

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Secretaries! '11-12 Average Sheets Due April 1st

METRODETROIT USBC NEWS

By Association Manager
Mark A. Martin

For more information about
the Metro Detroit USBC,
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or visit www.mdusbc.com



• AVERAGE REQUEST forms have been sent to league secretaries and at this point over 476 of 973 leagues have turned in their April 1st averages.

These averages were requested to be turned in by April 15th. Notices have been sent to the league secretaries who have not fulfilled this very important duty. Also a list of leagues which have not turned in their

averages is listed on www.mdusbc.com.

Your help is needed to complete this task. You can help by sending us the first league sheet after April 1 from your league. This can be faxed to our office at (248) 443-2690 or mailed to MDUSBC, 28200 Southfield Rd., Lathrup Village, MI 48076.

YOUTH AWARDS BANQUET

• THE METRO Detroit USBC Youth Awards banquet will be held on Sunday, May 20 at DeCarlo's Banquet Center at 1 p.m.

The banquet will honor youth tournament award winners, honor scores, scholarship winners and all-city recipients.

Tickets are \$15 and can be ordered from the Association office at (888) 753-6350.

AWARDS RECEPTION

• THE METRO Detroit USBC Association will conduct their adult awards ceremony at DeCarlo's Banquet Center on Tuesday, June 19.

Dinner will be served first, buffet style, from 5:30 until 7 p.m. followed by the

awards presentations.

Tickets are available for \$15 by calling the Association office at (888) 753-6350.

ALL-CITY TEAMS BEING FINALIZED

• THIS IS the time of year that we work on and finalize the process for the men's, senior men's, women's and senior women's all-city teams. This is a very laborious task and your help is needed.

For the men's and senior men's categories games of 298, 299 and 300 receive points as does all 800 series.

For the women's and senior women's categories games of 279 and better and series above 700.

In order that we don't miss any honor scores in the calculations please contact the MDUSBC office if you think we're missing some of your scores.

TOURNAMENT CHECKS IN THE MAIL

• PRIZE CHECKS for the Women's and Open Championship were mailed to the team captains on April 4. The prize list will be posted on www.mdusbc.com.

In the past, some of the calls we've gotten are from bowlers who placed high in both the actual and handicap prize lists. According to tournament rules, except for the Division 1 Team event in the Open Championship, if a team or individual qualifies for both actual and handicap, they can

cash for the higher amount only. In the event both amounts are the same, the prize will come from the actual prize list.

Also, if a bowler or team wins the actual division of an event but received a prize check from the handicap division, the bowler or team will be honored as the association champion in that event.

Congratulations to all of the winners.

USBC CONVENTION APRIL 25-28

• THE UNITED States Bowling Congress annual convention will be held from April 25-28 in Arlington, Texas.

During this time delegates elected from their respective local and state associations will vote on legislation affecting leagues, tournaments and bylaws in addition to electing four new members of the board of directors. Additionally there will be several workshops to inform the delegates about happenings at USBC.

Representing the MDUSBC at the annual convention will be Katrina Banks, Richard Banks, Ann Block, George Bresinski, Barbara Cain, Charles Cain, Michael DeRousie, Debra Dickerson, Eric Fisher, Celeste Forsythe, Mark Hurrigam, Vera Johnson, Patricia Klix, Anita Maiorana, Diane Maluzhinsky, Katherine Martin, Kurt Suokas and John Vorpapel.

Anyone else that would like to be appointed a delegate please contact the MDUSBC office.

More to come...

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DEXTER & LIND SHOES IN STOCK

GENE STUS AND JASON COUCH JOIN PBA HALL OF FAME

(Continued from Page 1)

wood, Calif.

Stus was not able to attend the ceremonies for health reasons but good friend and fellow Senior Tour competitor Dave Bernhardt accepted the honor on his behalf.

"I always wanted to bowl on Tour and it was the Senior Tour that allowed me to ful-

fill my dreams," Stus said through his video acceptance. "I wasn't able to bowl on Tour when I was younger but I was still fortunate to have the honor to bowl with the sport's greats.

"I hope that bowlers like myself who didn't have the opportunity to bowl on Tour when they were younger will give the Se-

nior Tour a try because it's a great opportunity to fulfill their dreams."

The 42-year-old Couch is the only player in Tour history to win three consecutive PBA Tournament of Champions titles, an event many players consider one of the most demanding to win because a player must win a PBA title to be eligible to compete.

In addition to his Tournament of Champions titles, which came in 1999, 2000 and 2002 (the tournament was not conducted in 2001), Couch won a fourth Tour major in the 1993 PBA Touring Players Championship. The Clermont, Fla., left-hander began his Tour career in 1992 when he earned Rookie of the Year honors. His first title would come the next season in Windsor Locks, Conn.

Couch's career path was probably a foregone conclusion as the son of parents who owned a Florida bowling center.

"I lived my life dreaming of this day," Couch said. "From the time I was a kid

bowling in junior leagues, I couldn't wait to get back home to watch the pros on the PBA Tour telecasts on Saturdays. To not only watch them, but also try to do what they did. I went out and did my best and when I achieved one milestone, I continued to work hard and went on to the next goal."

Throughout his 20-year Tour career, Couch had a string of winning at least one title in six straight seasons (1998-2004) and he won multiple titles in five seasons. Still active on Tour, he has more than \$1.6 million in career earnings and was ranked 24th among PBA's 50 greatest players in history as part of the organization's 50th anniversary in 2009. He also won 25 PBA regional titles.

The PBA Hall of Fame ceremonies were held in conjunction with the PBA Tournament of Champions at Red Rock Lanes. The TOC concludes the PBA's 2011-12 season.

New Yorker Becomes 19th Bowler to Roll 900 Series

ARLINGTON, Texas — John Martorella Sr. of Greece, N.Y., grew up around bowling and had the opportunity to experience the sport's ultimate achievement when he rolled 36 consecutive strikes for a 900 series in the Knox Amusement scratch league at Domm's Bowling Center in Rochester, N.Y., on Thursday night.

The accomplishment still is pending approval from the United States Bowling Congress, but would make the 28-year-old right-hander the 19th bowler in history to achieve the feat. It would be the 20th USBC-approved 900 series.

"I was able to shoot 300 the first game, and then things started to settle down, so I was able to stay on my pair," Martorella said. "When my son came up to me during my pre-shot swing in the ninth frame, I couldn't help but laugh. It gave me a chance to step back and start my routine all over, and it really helped. I'm glad that he and my father were able to be there with me. My brother bowls in the league, too."

The first USBC-approved 900 occurred Feb. 2, 1997 when Jeremy Sonnenfeld rolled three consecutive perfect games in Lincoln, Neb. There has never been a 900 on Sport Bowling lane conditions.

New this year... Handicap is 80% from 230, which will add an additional 8 pins per game (32 pins per set) to your score versus previous years where the handicap was 80% from 220

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For High 4 Game Score With Handicap From January 7th - February 26th
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Welcome Back! BOWLERS
During the months of January & February, bowlers who haven't bowled in the HSC tournament in the last five years and bowl the highest 4 game score with handicap for the month will win \$500.00. The prize will be paid out at the end of each qualifying month.

FIRST TIMERS
During the months of January & February, bowlers who have never bowled in the HSC tournament and bowl the highest 4 game score with handicap for the month will win \$500.00. The prize will be paid out at the end of each qualifying month.

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*** 2012 HSC entry form and complete rules on reverse side ***

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* Due to prior commitments, Saturday squads at 4:00 and 7:00 are every other week. Please call for dates & times

1st Place Guaranteed 2nd Place
\$25,000 • \$12,500

IT PAYS TO BE AN ANNIE'S EARLY BIRD!

EARLY BIRD SQUADS
1st Place **500.00** 2nd Place **\$300.00** 3rd Place **\$200.00**
For High Team Score With Handicap From December 17th - January 29th
Prizes Will Be Paid Out In February Pending Average Verification & Eligibility

LOOK OPTIONAL DIVISIONS ADDED THIS YEAR
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*** \$6,250.00 In Total Additional Squad Organizer Cash Will Be Paid To The Top 10 Organizers Who Book Squads In All 3 Tournaments ***

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Weekends October 8th - December 11th
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Carleta Poydras Returns 'Tiara' to 'D'

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Libbi Fletcher

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I enjoy going on Sunday for the round robin match play. The eight contestants bowl all seven of the others, garnering points for each pin over 200 and 30 bonus points for winning their match. It is always exciting. I was not disappointed this year.

Lisa Bishop of Belleville, shot a 296 game on Saturday — I hear it was a “bucket” for the high game of the weekend. Other high games on Sunday belonged to Carleta Poydras of Redford 278, Altramese

“Mickey” Webb 262 and 268, Lisa added a 279, Michelle Keirns, last year’s Queen, 267, Ronda Dexter had a 266, Allyse Miller had a 279 and Jody Fetterhoff had a 278 game. Nice bowling to all of these ladies!

It was great seeing Mickey Webb out there competing once again and boy did she ever! She was in third place going into the position round, when she shot 268 the final game to total 1871 to leap over Lisa Bishop who had 1858.

But the story of the day was Carleta Poydras who was bowling her very first Queen’s tournament. In match play, she went undefeated, tying one game of 223. Her actual totals for the eight games was 1884, averaging 235. Her high game was 278 and her low game was her first game of 203.

The left-hander throws an incredibly smooth ball and never looked nervous, even as she competed against two-time Queen’s Champion Lisa Bishop. When I asked her about her nerves, she said that she decided that working in the operating room in orthopedics at Sinai-Grace is stressful, so she used that same mentality to steady herself for her final match. It was very fun to watch!

Congratulations to all of the ladies who
(Continued on Page 10)

• THE TIARA has returned to the “D!” This past weekend, the Michigan State USBC WBA conducted the Queen’s Tournament at Century Bowl in Waterford.

The “Queens” began in 1984, with Terry Grant sporting the first “tiara” given to the champion. Since then, there have been 20 years where a member of what is now Metro Detroit USBC Association has been crowned the champion, including Jodi Woessner from Toledo who used to bowl here in the Bowlerettes, and Petesy Wray from Windsor.

The other ladies who now have a tiara in their possession are: Terry, Gerry Ritter, Cheryl Stipcak, Dina Manni-Jones (two), Linda Painter, Nicole Idziak-Owsley, Betty Trimper (two), Teri Taylor (White), Sandra Winbigler Schultz (three), Novella White (Daniels), Julie Wright and Julie Hall. There are a lot of Hall of Fame members in that list!

I love watching this tournament. The best lady bowlers from around the state compete. Although the field was only 72 this year, there was a tremendous amount of talent on the lanes.

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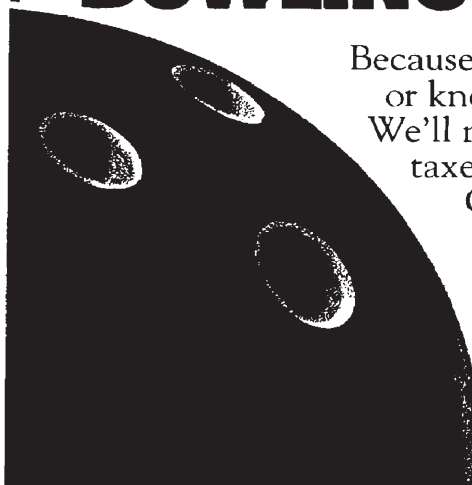
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Bowling's Past Features Many 'Strange Things'

• ONCE UPON a time. Strange things have happened in bowling's past, some lost to today's bowlers.

There was a time when, in order to speed things up, bowlers were filled out in the final frame. That happened when a game was a runaway, out of the woods, meaning all strikes could not pull out a win for the losing club. If the lead-off man recorded a spare, he would automatically be given 10 on his fill ball. Don't underestimate the effect. Even though it only meant a pin or two a game, that translated into a two or more point increase in average.

But as you went down into the lineup it got worse, for the official records, and a lot better for the bowlers in the fourth position and more so for the anchor bowlers.

They were often the recipients of a no-bowl strikeout in the 10th. Now that could turn into a gift of 20 or more pins in a single game. Think about what a difference it has made to you in the 10th frame when you ran into an open frame as compared to a triple strike in the closing canto.

Don't get me wrong. This wasn't a constant occurrence. But even if done on occasion it had an effect on all averages — team and individual — and if teams used the same lineup positions, leadoff men had the most legitimate averages and anchor men had the most inflated.

One of the key men in any lineup was the figure filbert who could quickly figure out the difference in wood, or being more precise, the exact pin difference between teams at any point.

Scorers, at the bottom of each team's



By CHUCK PEZZANO
Bowling Hall-of-Famer and Nationally Syndicated Columnist

lineup, would record the mark count, a mark being a strike or spare. If one bowler records a seven on a spare or a double strike and an opponent fells nine, that's a quick two-pin difference, and in certain games one team could be ahead of another by 30 or more pins in wood count.

For many years young bowlers, and seniors too, made some extra spending or bowling money by keeping score in leagues, and that was particularly true in California.

That is not necessary in these days of automatic scoring, but that key counter is still important because many bowlers are slow in scoring, even slower in the projection of scores and the possibilities on both sides of competition. And that even goes for some of the announcers describing games on TV.

Head-to-head match games were an important and exciting part of the sport and home-and-home matches, as few as five or 10 games, or as many as 50 to 100 games, were common, well attended, and well officiated.

Sometimes, part of the agreement called for the pinboys to wear white gloves and footwear.

Wasn't that a nice touch to the action?

No. It was simply a better way to keep an eye on the fast moving hands and feet of the human pinsetters to make sure that they always set up pins instead of somehow, by mistake of course, they either pushed or kicked a pin down here and there.

And now you know a little bit more about the ancient art of scoring.

Once upon a time.

DETROIT ALL-STAR CLASSIC

Financial Strategies/Storm Team Wraps Up Spring Season Title

• THE DETROIT All-Star Classic, sponsored by Thunderbowl Lanes, watched the Financial Strategies/Storm team wrap up first place for the Spring Season with one week left.

Financial Strategies/Storm won the one point they needed from Ansara's Restaurant Group, winners of the Winter Season, to clinch the title at Harbor Lanes. Abed Daher paced the winners with 719. Ansara's won two of three in a valiant effort to stay in the hunt as Chris Nielson with 795 led the charge. He had plenty of help from teammates Ken Wyatt 759 and Kevin Trumbull 750. Ironically, Ken and Kevin are in a four-way battle for the King of Bowlers which goes to the bowler with the highest average over the year.

The real battle is for the sixth and final roll-off spot in the John P. Gavie Cup Roll-Offs which are conducted at the end of the season. Cozy Inn/Bonanza Lanes has opened up a three-point lead over Eastridge Insurance entering the final week at Plaza Lanes for that coveted last spot in the John P. Gavie Cup Roll-Offs.

Other high scores from Harbor were posted by Jeff Edwards from 2 Booli/Maximum Potential Pro Shop. Jeff rolled 752 which helped his team to a sweep and a spot in the roll-offs. Bob Learn celebrated his 50th birthday by stroking 770 to lead his Red Robin Restaurants/Sunnybrook Lanes team into the roll-offs as well. Beware Senior PBA Tour, Bob is now eligible. Plaza Lanes locked up a spot in the roll-offs as Larry Walker 748, Randy Warnken 705 and Dave Tulak 704 led the way. Danny Maine 730 and Nate Adams 721 paced the Columbia 300/Premier Bowlers Pro Shop.

Big shooters from the previous week at Rose Bowl Lanes were Harry Sullins 300 in a 762 set, Kevin Trumbull 300 in 736, Ken Wyatt 739 and Steve Mrakitsch 718, all from Ansara's. George Juszczuk had 300 in 774 and Jeff Hicks 711, both from the Financial Strategies squad. Nick Wissinger had 719 from Plaza Lanes. Trey Raynes had 727 and James Koss 704 from Cozy Inn/Bonanza Lanes. Dave Silverman had 711 from the 2 Booli/Maximum Potential Pro Shop team. The High Totals of the night went to Ryan Mitter (congrats on being a new daddy) with 795 to pace his Soltz's Quality Meats/Red Robin/DBT team.

• THE JOHN P. GAVIE Cup roll-offs will take place May 1, 2 and 3. All start times at 7 p.m. May 1st will be conducted at Hazel Park Bowl, May 2nd will take place at Bonanza Lanes and May 3rd will be contested at 5-Star Lanes. Make plans to come out and watch the top six teams battle it out for the cup.

— Art Schroeder, Secretary, Detroit Traveling All-Star Classic

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Become a 'Complete Player' by Practicing on Demanding Conditions

TIPS FROM THE PROS



By **CHERYL DANIELS**

Member of the Professional Women's Bowling Association

• SHOOTING a 300 game and averaging 200 is not news anymore. Instead it is becoming the norm. I haven't said much about scoring conditions, but I believe the long range future of the game is being impacted by unreal scoring conditions that are common today. It is a Catch 22 situation — bowlers want big scores and bowling centers give them what they want.

If a center tries to put out a more challenging or honest condition, they risk losing their bowlers to other higher scoring centers. In the long run bowlers are cheating themselves because they have an inflated

unrealistic average and the game of bowling is cheapened. The USBC has recently started promoting Sport Bowling as a model for standardizing a more challenging lane condition that would require a higher skill level to average 200.

The sport pattern is a much flatter oil pattern. When you miss to the right the ball doesn't reach the head pin and when you miss to the left it hooks high. Although the sport pattern needs some tweaking, I believe they are on the right track.

I have personally lost interest in league bowling because the conditions are so outrageously easy. In my conversation with other high average bowlers, they too have lost interest because of the current situation. When bowlers are rewarded for making bad shots and penalized for making good shots something needs to change.

Maybe lane conditions should be rated like in golf. Some conditions would be 225 for par for the easy conditions — 210 for the semi-easy conditions and 200 for the tough conditions. Just a thought.

I think it would be a good idea to have a National Sport Bowling week in centers all across America so bowlers could maybe have a dose of reality and see where there game is really at. By no means am I trying to offend anyone, but I think we are cheating ourselves when we believe we are par bowlers when we are not.

Most USBC Team Challenge and High

Roller Tournaments as well as the PBA Tour compete on much tougher conditions and that separates the solid par players from the inflated average players. In fact on the PBA Tour the average guy who carried a 225 average in his leagues averaged only 189 on tour.

If you want to be a complete player and a serious competitor who has aspirations of being better than just a great house bowler,

you should try to practice on more demanding conditions or possibly join one of the leagues in the area that puts out a more challenging condition.

◆ Send Questions to Cheryl Daniels, P. O. Box 252, Novi, MI 48376 or e-mail me at "shebe@freeway.net" or visit my website at www.cheryldaniels.com.

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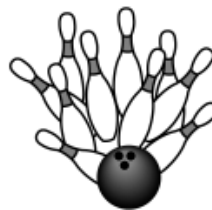
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46 Years and Counting for Budweiser MMBA

• THE BUDWEISER Michigan Majors Bowling Association is still going strong going into the 46th year of bowling excellence. There were three different winners starting the 46th year — Duane Henderson at Thunderbowl, Matt Randall at Sterling Lanes and Corey Miller at Plaza Lanes.



By KEN CHARRETTE
Member of the Greater Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame

The first jewel of the MMBA "Triple Crown" is next — the 37th Annual Match Game Championship on April 21-22 at Wayne Bowl. Craig Nidiffer is the defending champion. The start time for both Saturday and Sunday is 10 a.m. There is a guaranteed \$1,500 first-place prize.

The cost for joining the Budweiser Michigan Majors is \$60 yearly dues. This

is what the MMBA operates on. The cost for each regular tournament is \$80. The entry fee for each three Championship tournaments is \$100.

The MMBA tries to pay out all entry fees taken in by year's end. The MMBA collected \$64,100 in entry fees and paid out \$63,850 in prize money.

The format is all entrants bowl a six-game qualifying round. The semi-final cut is a 1-in-4 ratio to the entry. They bowl additional three games. The top five nine-game totals advance to the stepladder final.

The Match Game Championship is the only two-day tournament with a different format. There is still a six-game qualifying round. The top 32 scores (based on 90 entries) advance to the semi-final.

They are paired off and bowl a three-game match. The first to win two games eliminates his opponent.

The eight remaining winners on Saturday return on Sunday. They are again a best of three game matches until only two are remaining. The final match is five games with the first to win three games is the Match Game Champion.

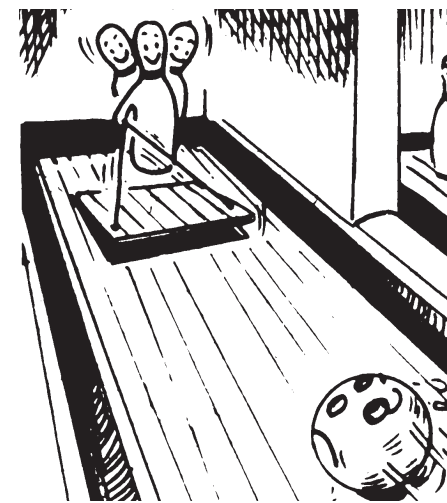
The competition and talent has been constant for over 45 years. No one can dispute the Michigan Majors has the best bowlers in the state performing each tournament. Many of the Hall of Fame members such as Mitch Jabczynski, Ken Kossick, Larry Walker, Mike Lee, Dale Strike, Ken Wyatt, Scott Weston, Dave Tulak, Harry Sullins, Nick Wissinger, Dale Hofmeister, Nunzio Marino, Rick Schultz, Kerry Kreft, Troy Stus, Joe Manor and Jeff Roche are still performing. Plus many good and up-and-coming young bowlers are still joining.

The Michigan Majors is more than just a monthly tournament. There is the all ready mentioned Hall of Fame, which I am proud to be one of the 62 members now enshrined. There are Bowler of the Year and Rookie of the Year awards. There is a Championship banquet to honor the previous Championship tournament winner, plus Sportsman of the year award and the induction of any new

hall of fame members.

There have been 522 tournaments held with 235 different winners. Dale Hofmeister is the leader with 17 titles. Dick Beattie has 15, Nick Wissinger 14 and Dale Strike 10.

• FOR MORE information about the Budweiser Michigan Majors, contact the tournament office at (586) 775-2414 or visit the web site at www.michiganmajors.com.



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2012 Schedule

Date	Bowling Center	Time
Feb. 25	300 Bowl - (over/under 50)	12:30
Mar. 24	Bowl One Lanes	12:30
Apr. 14	Cherry Hill Lanes - Mixed	12:30
Sept. 29	Plaza Lanes	12:30
Oct. 13	Pampa Lanes	12:30
Oct. 27	Westland Bowl	12:30
Nov. 24	5 Star Lanes - (over/under 50)	1:00
Dec. 22	Merri Bowl Lanes (Grand Finals)	12:30

All tournaments are without average cap

ALL DATES, CENTERS, AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE IF NEEDED.

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Romulus Auto Supply Widens Thunderbowl All-Star Classic Lead

• WITH TWO weeks left in the last third of the Ebonite Thunderbowl All-Star League season, Romulus Auto Supply has widened their lead to five points and look unbeatable. In the past week they threw another 3600 series at Red Robin Restaurants.



By TOM STROBL
Bowler's Digest Contributor

Although Red Robin put up a good fight in the first game, they still wound up losing by seven pins after having a 60-point lead in the ninth frame. Four out of five bowlers from Romulus struck out with Terry Haines in anchor needing two strikes to win the point, which naturally he got as he buried both balls.

In the series Nate Adams posted a 725, Jeff Hayes 762, Jeff Roche 728 and Richard Wayne 759, with a 300 game in the second game. Terry Haines relaxed after his two

clutch strikes and posted a 653 series.

In a second-place tie is Northridge Insurance and Strike It Rich Pro Shop. High games for the night were Richard Wayne with a 300, Darrin Greene at 299 and Ken Rogers at 290. Bob Slayden took the high scratch series at 790.

On the ladies side Josie Bashara shot 238 for the high game and had the high series for the evening with 640. With the easier shot in the last third of the season, the 75 bowlers in the league posted an average score in the past week of 222. That brought up the league average for the season to 211. High individual averages belong to Jake Monto at 229, Jeff Roche at 229 and Bob Slayden at 227. Sara Litteral leads the ladies at 212.

• BY THE TIME of the next edition of this column, the season will be over and a report can be made as to the winner of the last third of the season. If Romulus Auto Supply is successful this third, it will mean the league had a different winner in each third of the season. It is interesting how it works: Team 3, who took the first third, is now in 11th place with a 23-27 record and Thunderbowl Lanes, who won the second third, is in ninth place with a 24-26 record. With the quality of each of the teams, it

takes skill and luck to wind up on top. Financial Strategies, sponsored by Rick Flatt, has won the most overall points with 109, followed by Team 3 with 104, then it drops off with Barmatic and its solid team of

Cassise, Forfitt, Daniels, Kandes and Trimble next in line at 100 points. Although steady through the season, Financial Strategies and Barmatic never got close to the top rung.

Carleta Poydras Wins 'State Queens' to Return 'Tiara' to Detroit Area

(Continued from Page 5)

competed. It was great to watch the best, but there is no reason this tournament should not be filled next year! I know in Metro Detroit USBC alone, we have over a hundred ladies averaging 200 or better that should give this tournament a try. It is great competition and it is for women!

I had several discussions with President Pat Russell and Association Manager Sharon Schildroth about allowing walk-ins to this tournament. I think in today's economy, ladies are making choices a little later than the deadline allows, and maybe that will help next year.

Thanks, ladies, for a very well-run tournament. Carleta, thanks for a great show! I will be watching for you in other tournaments, including the Metro Detroit USBC Queen's, as well as the USBC Queen's and Women's U.S. Open... there is still time... some smart person should probably sponsor this very talented lady in Reno in June! Just sayin'...

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2012 Schedule

Date	Bowling Center	Time
Mar. 3	Sterling Lanes	10 am
Apr. 7	Thunderbowl Lanes	10 am
May 5	Sunnybrook Lanes	10 am
June 2	300 Bowl	10 am
Aug. 4	Plaza lanes	10 am
Sept. 22	Mayflower Lanes	10 am
Oct. 6	Cherry Hill lanes	10 am
Nov. 3	5 Star Lanes	10 am
Dec. 1	Sunnybrook Lanes	12 pm

(Grand Finals)

ENDS TV 'DROUGHT' WITH VICTORY OVER RYAN CIMINELLI

Sean Rash Wins PBA Tournament of Champions for Fifth Title

LAS VEGAS — Sean Rash of Montgomery, Ill., won the PBA Tournament of Champions at Red Rock Lanes Sunday, April 15, ending a five-year, 14-tournament television drought with a 239-205 victory over Ryan Ciminelli of Cheektowaga, N.Y.

Rash, who hadn't won a title since the 2007 United States Bowling Congress Masters, started the title match with four strikes and bowled an almost error-free game to win the \$80,000 first prize and the fifth title of his career.

"This one ranks right up there with the most important titles I've ever won," Rash said. "Your first title is always special, and so is your first major, but this tournament is special because everyone who bowls in it is a champion. The other guys in the finals are all great young players."

"The biggest thing is learning from your failures. I learned that a long time ago, and I've worked hard to overcome my mistakes," the 29-year-old said. "The great thing about winning a title like this is we're all family out here. Every other player wants the other guy to succeed. It really feels good."

With his title, Rash also inserted himself into the PBA Player of the Year chase. He unofficially led the Tour in earnings, average and competition points while finishing in the top 10 in 11 of 14 tournaments.

Ciminelli had nothing but praise for Rash's performance after eliminating two PBA Player of the Year candidates in his first two matches.

"I'm disappointed I didn't win, but Sean bowled a great game. He earned it," Ciminelli said. "Getting to the title match was another step in my career. I won by far the biggest check I've ever gotten (\$40,000), I qualified for the Japan Cup and I'll get to bowl in the PBA Summer Series, so it was a big week for me."

"And I think I handled the pressure well," the 26-year-old left-hander said. "I usually beat myself up, but this week I'm proud of myself. There are going to be many, many more opportunities. I'm very young."

In the semifinal match, Ciminelli missed a 7-pin in the first frame but raced away to a 257-223 victory over Australia's Jason Belmonte, striking on nine of his next 10 shots. Belmonte couldn't solve the right lane until the 10th frame and by then it was too late. Belmonte came into the finals with three victories during the 2011-12 PBA Tour season and was considered a leading contender in the PBA Player of the Year race.

In the opening match, Ciminelli defeated another Player of the Year contender, Mike Fagan of Dallas, 190-182, in a mistake-filled match. Fagan opened in three of his first five frames before rallying with a late turkey.

Ciminelli also survived a pair of unconverted splits, throwing the first string of three strikes in the match to protect his slim lead and converting a 7 pin in the 10th frame to lock up the win. Fagan had won a pair of 2011-12 titles including the United States Bowling Congress Masters, one of the PBA Tour's four major championships.

With Ciminelli's loss, the PBA Tour

completed its first season since 1962 without a left-handed title winner.

• WHILE the PBA Tour's regular season ended with the Tournament of Champions, a special post-season PBA Summer Shootout is planned for Memorial Day weekend in Chicago. Details will be announced soon.

Belmonte Wins Third 2011-12 Title in Pepsi PBA Elite Players Championship

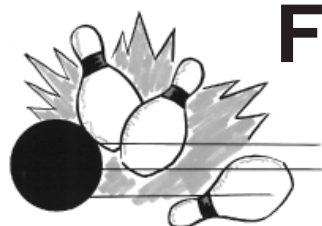
LAS VEGAS — Australia's Jason Belmonte won his third Professional Bowlers Association Tour title of the 2011-12 season, and the fourth of his career, when he defeated Mike DeVaney of Murrieta, Calif., 255-238, to win the Pepsi PBA Elite Players Championship at South Point Casino and Hotel.

The victory tied Belmonte with PBA Hall-of-Famer Norm Duke for current season titles as the PBA Tour heads into its final event of the 2011-12 season.

Belmonte, whose only PBA Tour title prior to this season was in the 2009 Bowling Foundation Long Island Open, wrapped up a stunning PBA World Series of Bowling performance with his Elite Players Championship. He won titles in three of his six WSOB television finals, plus he had a third-place finish in the World Bowling Tour Finals presented by the PBA which kicked off the World Series.

In a classic title-match battle, Belmonte and DeVaney both pounded the pocket, but DeVaney left an 8-pin in the fifth frame, a 9-pin in the seventh and a 10-pin on his first ball in the 10th, and Belmonte capitalized with a late string of five strikes to take charge of the contest.

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MADE IN THE USA

Birch Run's Brian Waliczek Wins Mich. State Masters at 300 Bowl

(Continued from Page 1)

458-370, then tried to avenge the earlier loss to Waliczek to no avail, 356-343. Edwards averaged 208 for 20 games of competition.

Anderson had to win a one-game roll-off defeating James Koss of Brighton, 214-194, to secure the 32nd and final spot. His qualifying score was 1,207. In match play he beat top qualifier Nathan Hause of Charlotte, 372-370, before falling into the loser's bracket with a loss Bob Chamberlain Jr. of Holly. In the match against Chamberlain they tied at 390, then tied in a ninth and 10th frame roll-off at 26 before winning, 48-39. Anderson then lost the next match to J.R. Raymond of Saginaw, 365-355. Once in the loser's bracket he knocked out Andrew Burke of St. Clair Shores, 477-467, Brian Thompson, 403-364, and Jeffrey Suma Sr., 402-346, before avenging his earlier loss to J.R. Raymond, 404-392, and finally falling to Jeff Edwards, 458-370, to end his day. Anderson averaged 199 and took home \$1,500.

Raymond qualified eighth with 1,283. In match play he remained undefeated with wins over Joey Saccucci of Eastpointe, 415-403, defending champion Jeff Austreng of Waterford Township, 416-391, LeRoy Anderson of Saginaw, 365-355, before losing to champion Waliczek, 453-406. In the loser's bracket he knocked Austreng out of the competition, 444-438, before getting knocked out by Anderson, 404-392. He averaged 203 while cashing for \$1,250.

Top qualifier Nathan Hause led qualifying by 79 pins with 1,450. He lost his first two matches to LeRoy Anderson, 372-370, and Aaron Lorincz of Saginaw, 472-332. He settled for \$300 plus \$100 as the high qualifier. Defending champion Jeffrey Austreng finished fifth cashing for \$1,000 while averaging 212.

The field of 160 bowlers averaged 184.5 during the six games of qualifying. The top game in qualifying was recorded by Mason Brantley of Detroit with 300. The top 32 qualifiers averaged 208.6 during qualifying and 198.9 in match play.

USBC Women's Championships Underway at Reno-Sparks

(Continued from Page 1)

sporting event for women.

USBC Hall-of-Famer Flora Mitchell, who will be making her 50th Women's Championships appearance Sunday, rolled out the ceremonial first ball. The bowlers then participated in the Mass Ball Shot Ceremony, and 74 bowling balls simultaneously rolling toward the pins signified the official start of the tournament.

The Women's Championships is making its record seventh appearance in Reno, with six of those being held at the 78-lane Stadium. "It's always a great feeling to get the event underway," Women's Championships Tournament Manager Eric Pierson said. "The ladies were energetic and ready to hit the lanes and have a good time. Our staff is excited and ready to welcome all of the bowlers back to the tournament."

The Women's Championships includes three average-based divisions and a 100-percent handicap format. The divisions are: Dia-

mond, 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 will be awarded for the top overall scratch scores.

• FOR MORE information on the Women's Championships, visit BOWL.com/womenschamp.

Presenting sponsors for the 2012 USBC Women's Championships are Circus Circus, Eldorado Hotel Casino and Silver Legacy Resort Casino in Reno, Nev. Other sponsors include Harrah's Reno Casino, official brackets sponsor, Kegel, official lane maintenance provider, Humana, official registration sponsor, Steltronic, official scoring system, and supporting sponsors Storm Bowling Products, Nationwide Insurance, Sands Regency Casino Hotel and Atlantis Casino Resort and Spa and MyBowlingVacation.com.

SUMMER SIZZLERS

at **COUNTRY LANES**

JOIN A SUMMER LEAGUE AND RECEIVE UP TO 2 GAMES OF OPEN BOWLING A DAY FREE!

(May Through August)

BEGINS WEEK OF MAY 9th • ENDS WEEKS OF AUG. 8th

MONDAY (Starts May 7th)

- Youth PBA Singles at 7:00 p.m. • \$12 Per Person
- Adult PBA Doubles at 7:30 p.m. • \$12 Per Person

TUESDAY (Starts May 8th)

- Lunch Bunch/Short Season Ladies at 12:30 p.m. • \$10 Per Person
- Ladies Night Out Trio at 7:30 p.m. • \$13 Per Person
- Tuesday Men's Classic Trio at 7:30 p.m. • \$15 Per Person

WEDNESDAY (Starts May 9th)

- Senior Mixed at 12:30 p.m. • \$10 Per Person
- Youth Scholarship Trio at 7:00 p.m. • \$13 Per Person
- Parent-Youth League at 7:00 p.m. • \$10 Per Person

THURSDAY (Starts May 10th)

- Summer Swingers at 7:30 p.m. • \$14 Per Person

FRIDAY (Starts May 11th)

- Mixed Trio (No-Tap) at 7:00 p.m. • \$12 Per Person

Contact Jim During the Day and Tom in the Evening

COUNTRY LANES

30250 W. 9 Mile Rd. in Farmington

248-476-3201

www.bowlatcountrylanes.com

Mayflower Lanes Sizzlin' Summer Line-Up

MONDAY

Adult-Youth at 6:30 p.m. • Starts May 14

(Each Youth Will Receive a Ball & Bag or \$50 Gift Certificate!)

TUESDAY

'Baller League' at 7 p.m. • Starts May 15

(Choose from One of 3 Levels and Your Choice from 3 Storm Balls!)

Detroit Tigers P-a-r-t-y Lge. at 7:30 p.m. • Starts May 22

(Guys or Girls • A Trip to the Park on the Party Deck — Awesome!)

WEDNESDAY

Over '40' Mixed Trio at 6:30 p.m. • Starts May 9

(Competitive League With Every Member at Least 40 Years of Age)

King of the Hill... Sweepers at 10:45 p.m. • Starts May 9

(Scratch Sweepers All Summer • 3-Game Qualifier on Tough Condition)

THURSDAY

Men's Classic Trio at 6:45 p.m. • Starts May 10

(Competitive League • USBC Certified • 20+ Teams Every Year!)

FRIDAY

Mixed Doubles at 6:50 p.m. • Starts May 18

(\$1,000 1st Place • Competitive But a lot of Fun! • Battle of Sexes)

SATURDAY

'Summer Splash' • Dates to Be Announced

(Mixed Doubles Tournament Returns!)

Mayflower Lanes • (313) 937-8420

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