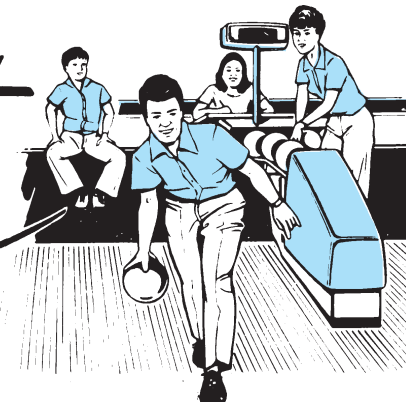


CHECK OUT 'TIPS FROM THE PROS' — PAGE 6

BOWLER'S Digest

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



VOL. 38, NO. 9 Published Every Month in Southeastern Michigan FEBRUARY, 2014

Ronnie Sparks Wins Metro Detroit USBC Masters Event at Taylor Lanes

Ronnie Sparks Jr. of Ecorse won the Metro Detroit USBC Association Masters Tournament at Taylor Lanes in Taylor when he defeated Ken Wyatt of Sterling Heights, 796-658, in the three-game championship match to win the \$3,500 first prize and the title. Wyatt settled for the second-place

check of \$1,800.

Sparks qualified fifth with a 10-game total of 2,158. He averaged 221.8 for 43 games of tournament competition. In match play he defeated Kyle King of Sterling Heights, 621-464, before losing to Justin Neiman of Warren, 632-620.

In the losers bracket Sparks

beat David Rokicki of Warren, 591-584; Jonathan Murphy of Warren, 557-466; William Kandilian III of Highland, 621-494; Jason Lewis of Sterling Heights, 708-529; Eddie Grace of Howell, 703-620; Chris Neilson of Livonia, 714-709 and Randy Warnken of Clinton Township, 732-548, to advance to the finals. Once in the finals he beat Wyatt, 717-653, to force the overtime match.

Sparks ties the record for the maximum of 11 matches in the Masters and also becomes the first winner to emerge from the losers bracket to win the event since Jef-



SPARKS

frey Austreng of Waterford Township turned the trick in 2007.

"I feel blessed," said Sparks. "I just kept trying to stay strong and persevere. Falling into the losers bracket didn't give me much time to think about things."

Wyatt shot 2,065 to qualify 19th. In match play he remained undefeated with triumphs over Jonathan Murphy 652-628, Kevin Trumbull of Romulus 609-562, Corey Miller of Grand Blanc 658-537, Chris Neilson 759-669 and Randy Warnken 618-585 to remain undefeated before sustaining the two losses to Sparks. Wyatt av-

(Continued on Page 5)

Jason Belmonte Wins Barbasol PBA Tournament of Champions

Australia's Jason Belmonte, with a strike on his final ball, defeated Wes Malott of Pflugerville, Texas, to win the Barbasol Professional Bowlers Association Tournament of Champions by a single pin Sunday at Thunderbowl Lanes.

Belmonte, a 30-year-old two-handed player, defeated Malott, 219-218, after earning the top berth in the stepladder finals by 363 pins over England's Dom Barrett, but he escaped with his one-pin victory when Malott left an 8 pin on his first shot in the 10th frame.

Belmonte collected his eighth career victory and second PBA major title just a week after being named 2012-13 PBA Player of the Year. He also earned \$40,000 and a celebratory Barbasol shaving cream pie-in-the-fame from close friend and fellow competitor Bill O'Neill.

"I got extremely lucky," Belmonte said. "When it really counted, I didn't throw a good shot and gave Wes a chance. I was pretty sure he

(Continued on Page 6)

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Jason Belmonte
 '13 PBA 'Player
 of the Year'

Australia's Jason Belmonte was named the 2012-13 Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year during a special live presentation on PBA's online bowling channel, Xtra Frame.

In earning his first Player of the Year honor, Belmonte won two titles, including the USBC Masters — his first major — and had runner-up finishes in three other major championships: the 2012 PBA World Championship, U.S. Open and 2013 PBA Tournament of Champions.

He won the George Young High Average Award, scoring at a 228.81 pace over 422 games, and the Harry Smith Point Leader Award with 238,903 points. The only major statistical category he didn't win was earnings, where his \$186,465 total ranked third behind 2011-12 Player of the Year Sean Rash's \$248,317 and Mika Koivuniemi's \$227,851.

Belmonte, known for his unique two-handed delivery, joined Venezuela's Amleto Monacelli and Finland's Koivuniemi as the only foreign-born players to win the PBA's highest annual competition honor. He was also the first two-handed player to win the award.

YAHOO!

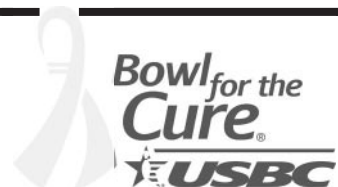
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IN THE NEWS



MMBA OPENS 47th YEAR

• THE BUDWEISER Michigan Majors opened its 47th year at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park. Hall-of-Famer and Executive Director Ken Wyatt of Sterling Heights started off his 30th year of MMBA competition in style, winning his 11th title. Pictured above are tournament runner-up Craig Nidiffer (left), Thunderbowl's Tom Strobl and Wyatt. See page 7.



YOUR ROLL TO A MILLION

February is 'Bowl for the Cure' Month — See Page 2 for USBC's Unique Fundraiser

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, birthday and anniversary parties are the best! We have full catering service for any type of party. Call (248) 585-3132.

• **THUNDERBOWL LANES**, 4200 Allen Rd., Allen Park. The 2-hour party includes: bowling, unlimited FREE arcade play, pizza, pop, pa-

per 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

• **IMPERIAL LANES**, 44650 Garfield, Clinton Twp. "Best Cosmic Show" with two giant video screens. Every other Friday at 9:30 p.m. - 1 a.m. at \$20 an hour per lane. Saturday night at 11:30 p.m. - 3 a.m. at \$20 an hour per lane. Additional time is discounted. Saturday afternoon from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at \$3.50 per game, per person. 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.

Bowl for the Cure Month Features 'Roll to a Million'

February is "Bowl for the Cure" month, and the United States Bowling Congress once again is encouraging USBC members, their families and friends to take part in the "Your Roll to a Million" effort.



The "Your Roll to a Million" initiative kicked off during Breast Cancer Awareness Month last October and through merchandise sales, special tournaments and donations seeks to raise \$1 million for "Susan G. Komen for the Cure."

During "Bowl for the Cure" month, USBC will have several ways for bowlers to help the "Your Roll to a Million" campaign reach its goal: Shop — At USBCBowlingStore.com, there is great new merchandise for bowlers to show their support in the fight against breast cancer. USBC donates 25 percent of all "Bowl for the Cure" purchases to Susan G. Komen for the Cure." Donate — Big or small, all donations go directly to support breast cancer research and awareness. Go to BOWL.com/BFTC to donate online. Participate — "Bowl for the Cure" events will take place throughout the country in February, and bowlers are encouraged to take part in a local event. BOWL.com/BFTC has a list of events in each state and also has the tools for bowlers who might want to host an event.

"Bowl for the Cure" also is launching the Fabulous Four essay contest. The contest, open to any female who has been impacted by breast cancer and/or who has been involved in supporting the fight against breast cancer, will give four winners the ultimate bowling experience.

Winners will receive a trip to the Dallas/Fort Worth area to visit the International Bowling Campus and Susan G. Komen's International Headquarters, and they then will travel to Reno, Nev., to take part in the USBC Women's Championships.

The winners also will receive bowling equipment and lessons during their time at the IBC. Contest details, rules and how to enter are available at BOWL.com/FabulousFour.

During "Bowl for the Cure" month, keep track of what's happening in the bowling community by following "Bowl for the Cure" on Facebook (facebook.com/bowlfortheCure) and Twitter (twitter.com/BowlfortheCure).

"Bowl for the Cure" is a year-round fundraising and breast cancer awareness initiative sponsored by USBC. Since its inception in 2000, people from across the country have hit the lanes to raise more than \$10 million for breast cancer research and awareness.

Go to BOWL.com/BFTC to learn more.

Dancing/Video Fun Night

• **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.

Moonlight Doubles

• **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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Bowler's Digest is the official publication and "voice" of bowling in Southeastern Michigan. Serving more than 250,000 men, women and youth bowlers in and around the Bowling Capital of the World and many parts of Michigan. Bowler's Digest appears every month in leading bowling centers, bowling supply stores, etc., compliments of the proprietors.

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MDUSBC Annual Meeting Details Progress

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



• THE ANNUAL meeting of the Metro Detroit USBC was held on Sunday, Jan. 12 at DeCarlo's Banquet and Convention Center in Warren.

Reports were given by President Mike DeRousie, outlining the progress of the association; Association Manager Mark Martin reporting statistics; Finance Committee chairman John Vorpapel with the financial report; Libbi Fletcher reporting progress on awards; Anita Maiorana reporting on tournaments and Ann Block with Youth Committee activities.

All members of the association were invited to attend the meeting and the attendance was as expected. The meeting lasted one hour and 23 minutes.

After the business portion of the meeting was concluded elections were held for six adult Directors, three Youth Representative Directors, delegates to the various state meetings and delegates to the USBC

Convention.

George Bresinski, Mike DeRousie, Libbi Fletcher, Celeste Forsythe, Mark Hurttgam and Kurt Suokas were elected as adult directors. Ann Block, Ashley Krywy and Randy Tambourine were elected as youth representative directors.

Penny Breen, Debra Dickerson, Libbi Fletcher, Celeste Forsythe, Anita Maiorana, Tammy Quinn, Diane

Maluzhinsky and Dorothy Thompson were elected as delegates to the Michigan State WBA Annual Meeting.

Richard Banks, George Bresinski, Mike DeRousie, Libbi Fletcher and John Vorpapel were elected to represent the MDUSBC at the Michigan State BA meeting.

Penny Breen, Mark Hurttgam, Ashley Krywy, Tammy Quinn and Kurt Suokas were elected as delegates to the Michigan State Youth meeting.

The MDUSBC is entitled to 50 delegates to the USBC Convention. At the meeting 27 were elected to represent the association and the president was empowered to appoint additional eligible delegates.

The delegates elected were Richard Banks, Ann Block, George Bresinski, Michael DeRousie, Sarita Dillard, Constance Fordyce, Lavern Hester, Mark Hurttgam, June Klix, Patricia Klix, Anita Maiorana, Dorothy Thompson and John Vorpapel.

DOWNLOAD THE MDUSBC 'APP'

- THE METRO Detroit USBC Association has an app. Yes the MDUSBC app is available for iPhone, Android and other Smart Phones and Devices. The app has the rule book, map of all MDUSBC bowling centers, video and other items of interest. More is planned as time goes along. Download it today and get in on the action.



The minutes of the annual meeting along with all board and committee minutes are posted on www.mdusbc.com

DECEMBER 31ST SHEETS

- IT IS CRITICAL that league secretaries return the December 31st average sheets for adult leagues and December 1st and 31st average sheets for youth leagues to the MDUSBC office. This information is

used when verifying the results of the various MDUSBC tournaments. If you haven't sent it in yet simply mail or fax the form to us. The fax number is (248) 443-2690.

Along with the December sheets a list of bowlers registered in their league who had not paid their membership fees in any league according to our records.

While many of these have been resolved some are still lingering. There are many rea-

(Continued on Page 4)

COLLECTS TOP PRIZE OF \$500

LISA BISHOP WINS WOMEN'S SERIES EVENT AT SHELBY LANES

• LISA BISHOP of Belleville won her second Metro Detroit USBC Association (MDUSBC) Rip 10 Entertainment Women's Series event with a 229-177 triumph over Julie Oczepek of Reese at Shelby Lanes in Utica. Bishop took home the top prize of \$500, while Oczepek settled for \$250.

Bishop qualified fourth in the field of 26, with a four-game total of 899. Her consistent qualifying total included a high game of 237. In match play she beat Sandra Schultz of Macomb, 224-202, and Michelle Ewald of Clinton Township, 216-213, en route to the championship match.

Oczepek qualified sixth with 876. Her victories in match play included wins over Robin Orlikowski of Grand Rapids, 248-227, and Tanisha Burris of Lansing, 236-222, on her way to the final match.

The win by Bishop propelled her into first place in the season-long cup list with 423 points. She is followed by Oczepek, who has 411.

Complete results are available at www.mdusbc.com under "Tournaments" and Women's Series page.

The next event is March 9 at Shelby Lanes in Utica.

The Metro Detroit USBC Association serves over 50,000 adult and youth bowlers in the Metropolitan Detroit market and is the largest local association of the United States Bowling Congress.

Rip 10 Entertainment is headquartered in Utica, Mich. and operates Shelby Lanes in Utica.



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DEXTER & LIND SHOES IN STOCK

MDUSBC Annual Meeting Details Progress

(Continued from Page 3)

sons why this situation may have occurred.

One reason could be a lack of linking two bowlers with similar names together. One card may have been received with a first name of Charles, while the other may be Chuck or some other name the bowler goes by. Remember the Metro Detroit USBC Association database has over 350,000 names in it, so sometimes it is difficult for us to figure it out.

It also causes us extreme difficulty when the December 31st sheet comes in with added bowlers and no application cards for the bowler. Many times they only come in with a first initial and last name. Do you know how many J. Smith's there are in the MDUSBC? Believe it or not there are 365 of them.

League secretaries when you get this letter about the bowlers, get the information requested and mail or fax it back to us. We

want to make sure everyone is accounted for.

MDUSBC TOURNAMENTS

• **THE SENIOR Masters** will be held at Classic Lanes in Rochester Hills, located at 2145 Avon Industrial Dr. The date for qualifying is Feb. 8 with match play on Feb. 9 and 15.

Harry Sullins of Chesterfield is the defending champion. The entry fee is \$120 with a first prize of \$3,000 and a second of \$1,500 based on 140 entries.

The Metro Detroit USBC Association will conduct Annual Women's and Open Championship Tournaments with both starting Sat., February 8 through March 2 at Taylor Lanes in Taylor. Squad times are 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

All-events, team, doubles and singles, for both tournaments will be contested at the same site. Handicap is based on 90 percent

from 230. Squad organizers of 10 or more teams are eligible for \$10 per team organized. Spots can be paid for by check made out to MDUSBC, VISA or MasterCard. The prize ratio will be at least 1 in 10 entries.

For the Women's Championship there are two average divisions (165 and under and 166 average and up). The cost is \$25 per person per event and a \$5 all-events fee. The Women's Championship is open to all female members of the MDUSBC who bowled at least 21 games in the 2012-13 season in the Metro Detroit USBC Association or have 21 games or more in the current season in MDUSBC as of the time of bowling.

For the Open Championship the cost is \$25 per person, per event and a \$10 all-events fee. There is an optional scratch feature in all of the events at a cost of \$10 per

person, per event. The Open Championship is open to all members of the MDUSBC who bowled at least 21 games in the 2012-13 season in the Metro Detroit USBC Association or have 21 games or more in the current season in MDUSBC as of the time of bowling.

In the Open Championship bowlers can bowl as many times as they wish in the team, doubles and singles events. They can even bowl with the same exact lineup twice, but only cash once with that lineup. To bowl other times a team can compete by changing two bowlers. In doubles the same two players can bowl together twice, but only cash once. In singles a bowler can only cash once.

For more information on the MDUSBC tournaments, call the MDUSBC office at (248) 443-2695, ext. 105.

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2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	CENTER	TIME
1/25/14	PAMPA LANES	10 AM
2/22/14	ASTRO LANES	10 AM
3/22/14	300 BOWL	10 AM
4/26/14	WAYNE BOWL	10 AM
5/31/14	COUNTRY LANES	10 AM
6/28/14	OAK LANES	10 AM
JULY	STERLING LANES	10 AM
8/23/14	WONDERLAND LANES	10 AM
9/27/14	HAZEL PARK BOWL	10 AM
10/25/14	CHERRY HILL LANES	10 AM
11/22/14	THUNDERBOWL LANES	10 AM
12/6/14	PLAZA LANES (GRAND FINALS)	10 AM

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WINTER HEATS UP WITH PLENTY OF BOWLING EVENTS

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Libbi Fletcher

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• IT HAS BEEN a rough winter, for sure! But in bowling, it has been pretty good so far. Let's keep it going!

January brought the most snow ever in the Metro Detroit area during the month of January. My league had to cancel bowling one night and my team had to take a postponement on my other league... that's new!

But January also brought the PBA Tournament of Champions sponsored by Barbasol to Thunderbowl, along with pro-am tournaments and the team tournaments. Congratulations to Jason Belmonte on winning his major right after being announced as the Player of the Year.

It also brought some of our best bowlers out for the Metro Detroit USBC Masters tournament. Congratulations to Ronnie Sparks, Jr. on a great performance. I see a Hall of Fame resume being built!

Michiganbowler.tv also hosted a town hall meeting at Thunderbowl to address any and all questions that the bowlers of our great area and state wanted to ask the panel of Mark Martin, Association Manager of MDUSBC, Tom Clark of the PBA, Dave Lewis, President of the Michigan USBC BA Association, and USBC President Andrew Cain. I participated on the live streaming and I think it was an awesome venue for a

town hall during the winter weather!

As we move into February, things are still pretty busy. February 1st kicks off Bowl for the Cure month! There will be two events in our area, both of which are on Saturday, Feb. 1st. The event on the west side will be at Mayflower Lanes. Vicki Ingham and staff always do an incredible job! You can always tell when someone is passionate about their event.

Vicki has survivors in her family, and they all step

up for the event. The east side event will be at Astro Lanes at noon on the same day. Penny Breen of Astro Lanes is also a survivor, so the staff at Astro also steps up to run a great event. Whichever one you choose, you will have a great time for a great cause... EVERYONE DESERVES A LIFETIME! The forms are on the website.

The Senior Masters will be held at Classic Lanes during February.

February also is the beginning of the Metro Detroit USBC City Tournaments. Both the women's and Open championships will be conducted concurrently at Taylor Lanes. If you usually participate, ask a new team to come with you! Please see our website for forms. As you will notice on the form, squad leaders receive incentives, so make up a squad from your leagues or your friends today! There are also incentives to bowl the first squad of the tournament! Call the office to reserve squad times.

March 9th the women's series heats back up at Shelby Lanes, with the final competition slated for April 13th at Mayflower Lanes. We need more women participating in this event. There really aren't many opportunities for scratch women to bowl in an all-women event, so ladies, please support this opportunity so it isn't lost!

The next tournament of our calendar will be the Senior Team tournament in March at

Sterling Lanes. Participants must be 55 and older for this one.

I am sure right after that final tournament it will be spring, right? Well, hopefully because opening day for the Tigers is March 31st this year!

There are still many events in which to participate for all averages, so please get out and support these tournaments and events — because this is the Bowling Capital of the World!

Ronnie Sparks Wins MDUSBC Masters

(Continued from Page 1)

eraged 216.2 for 28 games of competition.

"I feel like I just got ran over by a truck. Ronnie bowled great," said Wyatt.

Warnken was 29th in qualifying with 2,034. He averaged 209.2 for the entire tournament. He remained in the winners bracket by defeating Franklin Snodgrass of Roseville, 677-558, Mark Milasinovich Jr. of Macomb, 670-651, Justin Neiman 654-512, Eddie Grace 648-556, before losing to Wyatt, 618-585. In the losers bracket he lost to Sparks, 732-548, to end his day. He took home \$1,000.

Nielson qualified 15th with 2,083 and cashed for \$800 for fourth place. In match play he remained in the winners bracket with victories over David Eatmon of Ferndale, 599-589, Justin O'Hara of Westland, 570-562 and William Kandilian III, 636-543, before falling into the losers bracket with a loss to Wyatt, 759-669. In the losers bracket he knocked off defending champion Jeffrey Roche of Dearborn, 646-614, before being eliminated from the competition by Sparks, 714-709.

Defending champion Jeffrey Roche was seeded ninth by tournament rule with 2,067 and took home \$500 for sixth place. He won over David Rokicki, 600-492, and John Kelley of Sterling Heights, 616-583, before falling to Eddie Grace, 580-511. Once in the losers bracket he beat Adam Jablonski of Sterling Heights, 642-609 and Justin Neiman of Warren, 680-634, before being knocked out by Nielson, 646-614. He took home \$500 for his efforts.

Grace earned \$500 for his efforts finishing in sixth place. Neiman and Lewis took home \$400 each for seventh and eighth, respectively.

David Ewald of Macomb, the 2006 MDUSBC Masters champion, was the top qualifier with 2,245. In match play he won his first match against Glenn Pilon of Brownstown before losing to 2010 MDUSBC Masters champion Eddie Grace and Jonathan Murphy to get knocked out of the competition. He cashed for \$250.

Other former champions who fared well were Rick Capaldi (2012) of Canton finishing 32nd for \$225 and Jeffrey Austreng (2005 and 2007) of Waterford Township finished 34th for \$150.

Turbo 2-N-1 Grips and Red Robin Restaurants of Michigan are co-sponsors of the MDUSBC Masters.

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Choose the Right Equipment; Line Up Properly

TIPS FROM THE PROS



By CHERYL DANIELS

Member of the Professional Women's Bowling Association

• I DISCUSSED in some earlier issues about matching your equipment to the conditions you bowl on.

If you bowl in a bowling center that uses heavy oil you need to have the kind of equipment that works in heavy oil (particle shell coverstocks). Likewise if you bowl on dry lanes with very little oil you must use equipment designed for lighter amounts of oil (pearl reactive resin coverstocks).

Not having the proper equipment means you are not prepared for what you bowl on. Think of bowling as a puzzle in which you

must match up to the condition that is given to you. Your challenge is to choose the proper equipment and line up properly.

A golfer uses more than one golf club for a reason. If you are bowling in different centers or the lanes vary from week to week at the same center you may need to make an equipment change or have the surface on your ball altered. I hear a lot of bowlers complain about conditions, and we are all guilty of it, but remember you get back out what you are willing to put in.

If your ball is going left of the 1-3 pocket and you are standing on the center dot aiming at second arrow, move your feet left a few boards and your target left one or two boards, remember to move your target and feet in the same direction. One of the most common flaws I see bowlers make is to drift on the approach and finish at the foul line in a totally different spot.

Quick Tips:

- 1) Miss pocket to left, move feet and target left
- 2) Miss pocket to right, move feet and target right
- 3) Walk straight, If you start on center dot finish on center dot
- 4) Keep eight to 10 boards from center of body and target. e.g. stand on center dot aim at second arrow.

Before saying it is the lanes, try to match up your equipment and get in the right area.

Remember, bowling is a game and sport and requires some skill, technique and adjustments. That is the challenge.

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

Belmonte Wins PBA Tournament of Champions

(Continued from Page 1)

was going to win. I couldn't believe it when I looked up and saw the 8 pin standing."

The victory avenged Belmonte's 214-156 loss to Malott in the 2013 U.S. Open title match, another tournament Belmonte had dominated until the final game.

"Other than the U.S. Open, this was one of my best start-to-finish performances ever," Belmonte said. "I'm extremely proud to put my name on this trophy.

"To win a major championship and player of the year in the same week? That's pretty tough to beat," he grinned.

Malott advanced to the title match with a 205-202 victory over Barrett, the 2013 PBA World Champion, in a contest where strikes were hard to come by late in the game. Barrett failed to convert the 2-8-10 split in the seventh frame, giving Malott the edge. But Malott was unable to take advantage, leaving four consecutive 10 pins to keep Barrett in the match. Needing a strike on his first shot in the 10th frame to win, Barrett also left a 10 pin.

In the second match, Dan MacLelland made a fatal mistake when he left the 4-6-7-10 split in the fourth frame and failed to convert. Malott struck on eight of his final nine shots to race away with a 248-199 win to end MacLelland's hopes of becoming the first Canadian to win a PBA Tour title.

In the opening match, MacLelland, a fifth-year PBA player making his seventh career television appearance, eliminated defending Tournament of Champions winner Pete Weber of St. Ann, Mo., 259-211. Weber, a 37-time PBA champion who was making his 133rd television appearance, made two uncharacteristic mistakes — failing to convert the 3-10 split in the first frame and missing the 3-6-10 in the fifth — and MacLelland answered with a string of eight strikes to end the 51-year-old Weber's bid for a record 11th PBA major title.

• PBA COVERAGE continues on ESPN next Sunday, Feb. 2 at 4 p.m. with the PBA Super Clash featuring a showdown match between 2011-12 PBA Player of the Year Sean Rash of Montgomery, Ill., vs. newly-named 2012-13 PBA Player of the Year Jason Belmonte of Australia followed by a CP3 PBA Remix at 5:30 p.m. Coverage of the 2014 PBA League season begins on ESPN on Sunday, Feb. 9, at 3 p.m.

THURSDAY NIGHT MEN'S LEAGUE

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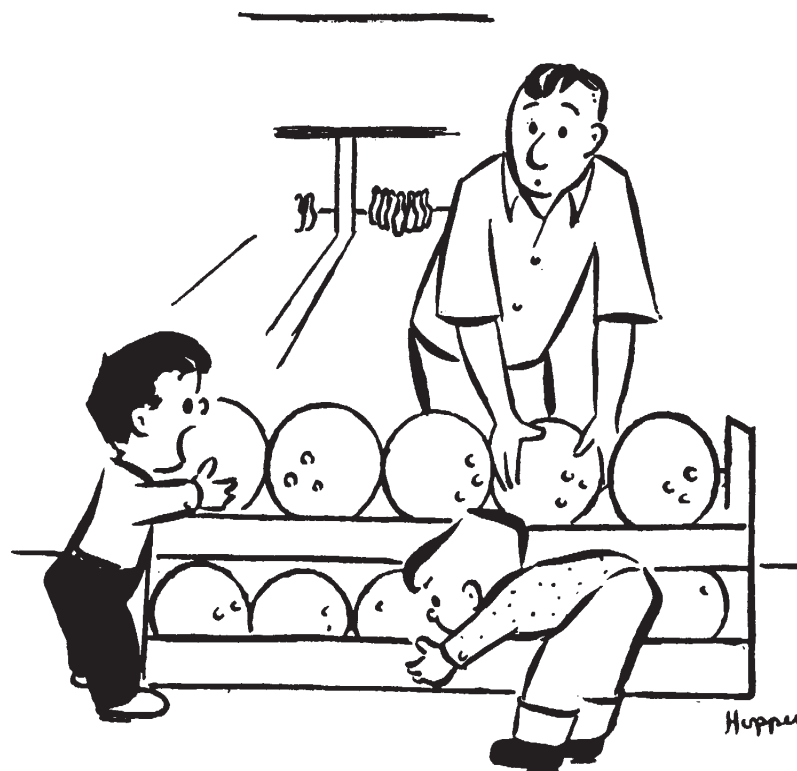
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BOWLING LAFFS



"Which balls have the hooks in them, mister?"

Ken Wyatt Captures His 11th MMBA Title at Thunderbowl Lanes

• THE BUDWEISER Michigan Majors Bowling Association's opened its 47th year of tournament action at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park on Jan. 11. Hall of Famer and Executive Director Ken Wyatt of Sterling Heights started off his 30th year of MMBA competition in style winning his 11th title, defeating Craig Nidiffer of Trenton, 238-209. Wyatt received a check for \$1,000 along with the championship trophy while Nidiffer settled for 2nd place and received a check for \$500.



By KEN WYATT

*Executive Director,
Michigan Majors
Bowling Association*

Wyatt paced the field of 52 bowlers with a six game qualifying round of 1467. The cut score to make the 14 man semi-final round was 1273. This month's tournament featured Kegel's Broadway lane condition, part of Kegel's Challenge series. This lane pattern proved to be a good test for all of the players.

The stepladder finals began with fifth seed Justin Neiman of Warren facing fourth seed Mike Bradfield of Lansing. Bradfield, bowling in only his second MMBA tournament, showed no signs of being nervous as he defeated Neiman in a tight match, 226-225.

Neiman had a chance to close out Bradfield with three strikes in the 10th but left a pocket 7-10 on his second ball to finish with 225. Bradfield needed to fill at least 19 pins to close out the match and did just that with a strike on his first shot in the 10th and filling 9 on his next two shots. Neiman received a check for \$300 with his fifth-place finish.

Bradfield then met fellow Lansing native Robert Mireles. Mireles struggled to find the pocket, opening with splits in the third and fifth frames while Bradfield was solid the whole game defeating Mireles, 227-155. Mireles, owner of three MMBA titles, received \$350 for his fourth-place finish.

Next up for Bradfield was qualifying leader Ken Wyatt. This was a great match as both players were in the pocket all game

long. Wyatt used a six-bagger in frames five through 10 while Bradfield failed to strike on the left lane twice down the stretch, losing, 249-237. Bradfield received a check for \$400 for his efforts.

Wyatt then met 2011 Bowler of the Year Craig Nidiffer. Nidiffer, already with eight MMBA titles in his young career, started the match slowly, failing to strike until the fifth frame. Wyatt started the match with a spare and three strikes, taking an early 38-pin lead. Nidiffer threw strikes in frames 5 -7, however failed to strike in the eighth and ninth frames leaving the door open for Wyatt. Wyatt closed the door with a three bagger in frames 6-8 to go on and win, 238-209.

Thank you to Tom Strobl, proprietor of Thunderbowl Lanes, and General Manager Charlie Cassise along with the rest of the staff for again opening a new season for the MMBA. We're proud to have Budweiser as our major sponsor. A big thank you to A.J. Mathews and West Side Distributing for sponsoring another successful tournament.

Again for 2014 Storm is our ball sponsor — thank you to Chris Sand for his continued support of the MMBA.

We also welcome a new sponsor in 2014 — General Maintenance Works. MMBA member Bill DeFrance is owner/operator so please visit his website at generalmaintenanceworks.com for a great list of services.

Our next tournament will be held at Sterling Lanes in Sterling Heights on Feb. 15 with a start time of 10 a.m.

• THE FINAL standings at Thunderbowl — Ken Wyatt (Sterling Heights) \$1,000, Craig Nidiffer (Trenton) \$500, Mike Bradfield (Lansing) \$400, Robert Mireles (Lansing) \$350, Justin Neiman (Warren) \$300, Pete Brown (Holt) \$200, Mason

Brantley (Detroit) \$180, Bill DeFrance (Clinton Township) \$160, Mike Calhoun (Wyandotte) \$150, Gerry Lobdell (Jackson) \$140, Dale Hofmeister (Essexville) \$130, Jeremy Dixson (Bay City) \$120, Rick Gregor (Sterling Heights) \$110, Mark

Milasinovich (Macomb) \$100.

For information on participation or joining the Budweiser Michigan Majors, contact the tournament Office at (586) 871-7651 or visit the official website at www.michiganmajors.com.

PBA BOUND? TAKE A LOOK AT THE MICHIGAN MAJORS

By BILL DeFRANCE, *Bowler's Digest Special Contributor*

Does any of this sound familiar?

You bowl three-four nights a week. You refer to the jackpots as "your money." You don't need to buy strike ball tickets since half the house will ask you to throw it for them anyway. You win totals by shooting average. You watch the pros on TV and say, "I could mix it up with them."

Well, my friend, I suggest you take a look at the MMBA! The Michigan Majors is a 12-stop TOUR around the state. Got a decent job and not sure about risking it for a bowling career? The MMBA tourneys are mostly one-day events, under \$100, and run on Saturdays.

On the other hand, if you are PBA bound, there is no better place to hone your skills than the Majors. You will compete against past and present PBA players, regional pros, all the local pro staff members (ever wonder how to get a ball contract?) and all the top amateurs statewide. Not to mention rookie of the year, bowler of the year and hall of fame honors. Did I mention a 1-in-4 pay-out?

Look close at all the flyers promoting local tourneys, most are 1-in-8. If you do come out, don't do the "once and done" technique. These guys are great shot-makers, give yourself a chance. I'd say three-four tournaments in a row at least. Learn the "double jump" rule. Change lanes every game. Bowl on challenging shots. Bowl with bowlers who show real sportsmanship.

Best of all, a trustworthy tournament staff that doesn't loot the prize fund. So the next time you tag third game special, king of the hill, best two and totals, come see me out there! All the details at www.michiganmajors.com, and good carry!



USBC to Offer Short-Season Membership

ARLINGTON, Texas — Bowlers competing in short-season leagues that begin March 1, 2014, or later can purchase a United States Bowling Congress membership at a reduced price.

The new USBC Adult Basic membership will be available for bowlers who compete in leagues that have 16 or fewer sessions. The membership will cost \$10, not including state dues, and it provides a USBC-certified average so bowlers can compete in local, state and national tournaments.

In addition to the league having 16 or fewer sessions, the league must designate as a short-season league; the league's prize fund will be bonded. Each USBC Adult Basic membership will be good only for that league, which means if a bowler wants to participate in another short-season league, they would have to purchase another USBC Adult Basic membership.

High score achievements will be recognized and officially recorded by USBC, but awards such as rings and plaques are not included in the USBC Adult Basic membership. Members do have the option to purchase high score awards. Membership cards will be electronic only for the USBC Adult Basic membership.

Bowlers with a current Adult Standard membership would not be required to purchase a USBC Adult Basic membership to compete in a short-season league and would be eligible for honor score awards earned in the league.

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Bowling Through the Alphabet A Through Z

• **THE ALPHABET** of bowling, daffynition style.

Alley — A little street on the side of a factory. Was at one time a thing you bowled on, but now that's a lane. Made of hard wood or synthetics that won't break but break

bowler's hearts in many ways.

Bowler — Any person who at any time rolled a bowling ball and had a reason why it didn't go where it should have gone.

Cherry — A delicious fruit, but poison-

ous to bowlers. Also known by alias names of "pick" or "chop," and a number of others rated PG, R and X.

Down — What the pins won't go.

Easy — What you think the other team or individual is — before the match.

Foul — When the lights go on, usually happens when you finally roll a good ball and register a strike.

Game — This is what bowling is supposed to be, but it often turns into a personal war, bowler against pins, bowler against lanes, bowler against bowler, bowler against himself.

Home — The place you get away from by bowling, and the place you run back to in order to get away from bowling.

Inside — Opposite of outside. An angle you switch to because you heard a pro mention it on TV.

Jerk — What you feel like when you do it to your bowling ball in a clutch situation.

Kitty — A fat cat from all the money you feed it because of bad shots and low scores.

Leave — Pins left after your first ball. Also what you want to do when you see them.

Match — When a couple of bowlers who didn't want to bowl end up bowling each other because the bowlers who did want to bowl in the first place decided they didn't want to bowl.



By CHUCK PEZZANO

Bowling Hall-of-Famer and Nationally Syndicated Columnist

Never — When you will finally quit bowling.

Oil — What one bowler gives to another who has trouble because of same on lanes.

Pin — Bowlers almost all agree... That they will sometimes see... That thing that won't let them score free... And should have remained a tree.

Quick — How soon the news about your bad game gets around.

Rap — What you want to do to something when you run into one.

Six — When there's that many on a five-person team it means only one thing — trouble. That's six, not to be confused with sex. Also a lousy count on the first ball.

Tenpin — The only thing some women lose an argument against more than once.

Useless — Trying to tell another bowler how many strikes you were robbed of on perfect hits.

Vile — The language you'd like to use at the pins.

Worse — What your bowling seems to be getting with each passing year.

X — A strike or a kiss. "X X X" — A striking kiss, a turkey, a miracle.

Young — Any bowler who hasn't reached 100, in age or score.

Zany — Anyone who had the guts to read this all the way through.

Sean Rash, Kelly Kulick Win World Bowling Tour Finals

LAS VEGAS — After two years and more than 400,000 miles of global competition, reigning Professional Bowlers Association Player of the Year Sean Rash of Montgomery, Ill., along with PBA Tour titlist Kelly Kulick of Union, N.J., have won the World Bowling Tour Finals.

Rash, a seven-time PBA Tour title winner, defeated Mike Fagan of Fort Worth, Texas, 255-231, to win the WBT Men's Finals presented by the PBA during the PBA World Series of Bowling V, hosted by South Point Hotel, Casino and Spa, while Kulick, the 2010 PBA Tournament of Champions winner, raced away from defending champion Missy Parkin of Laguna Hills, Calif., 267-194, to win the WBT Women's Finals. Both events aired Sunday on ESPN.

Rash, who entered the WBT event as the leader in a two-year rolling points competition involving a series of WTBA/PBA International Tour tournaments held around the world, started his match against Fagan with seven strikes and was never challenged.

"Anytime you have a chance to compete, whether it's in the U.S. or around the world, it's fun," Rash said. "That's why you're an athlete. You love to compete."

In the all-U.S. women's preliminary match, Parkin held off Liz Johnson of Cheektowaga, N.Y., 198-195, but was no match for Kulick, who struck on every shot except for leaving a 10-pin (which she missed) in the eighth frame.

"The question I've been asking myself is 'Am I still good enough to be out here? Should I keep doing this?'" Kulick said. "The WBT event was just reassurance of my confidence level and my ability as a player. I came out to prove something to nobody except myself today. It was just sheer determination to beat whomever I had to face. It's almost a relief knowing I won again."



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