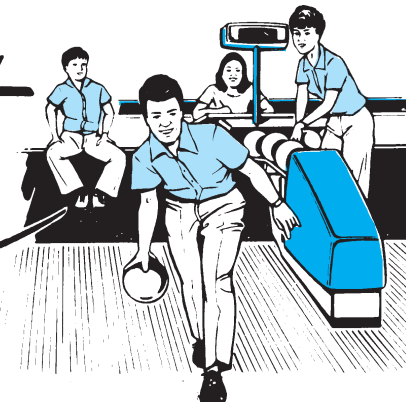


CHECK OUT 'TIPS FROM THE PROS' — PAGE 6

BOWLER'S Digest

Official 'Voice' of Bowling in the Bowling Capital of the World

• Established by Steve Cruchon in 1976 •



VOL. 37, NO. 15

Detroit, Michigan — Published Every Other Wednesday

MARCH 6, 2013

2013 USBC Open Championships Kicks Off 125-Day Run in Reno

RENO, Nev. — The 2013 United States Bowling Congress Open Championships kicked off its 125-day run Friday, March 1 as the first of more than 10,000 teams hit the lanes at the National Bowl-

ing Stadium.

The tournament is making its record 11th visit to The Biggest Little City in the World and eighth trip to the one-of-a-kind NBS, where more than 400 bowlers and

fans helped usher in the 110th edition of the storied event.

The opening-night festivities included a ceremonial ribbon cutting, traditional Mass Ball Shot, exhibition by the cast of "Magique," a show being held at the Eldorado Hotel Casino and the crowning of Joe Bowler.

Michael Mariani of Havre, Mont., earned the distinction of being named this year's Joe Bowler, a tradition started in 1951. The 61-year-old right-hander randomly was selected from the opening squad and earned the right to throw out the ceremonial first ball.

Mariani received some coaching tips from USBC Hall of Famer Bob Hart as he prepared to make his shot, and he then knocked down seven pins to mark the official start of the 2013 tournament.

"Getting picked out of all these people, I thought no way," said Mariani, who made his 12th USBC Open Championships appearance. "I knew about it but never thought it would be me. I didn't want to try and take a full approach because the cape hinders you a little, but the best part was just going out and doing it."

(Continued on Page 8)

IN THE NEWS

Chippewa Valley's Jeff Pietryka Tops MHSAA Division 1 State Singles

• JEFF PIETRYKA, a Clinton Township Chippewa Valley High School senior, defeated Alex Zarbaugh of Belleville, 49-40, in a two-frame tie-breaker, to win the Boys Division 1 Singles of the Michigan High School Athletic Association State Finals at Northway Lanes in Muskegon. Pietryka and Zarbaugh were tied after the two-game total pinfall match game finals, 368-368.

"My experience at the state finals was like no other I've had in my life," Pietryka said. "It was such a tension filled afternoon of match play with every shot meaning so much."

In the semi-final matches, Pietryka edged Brad Wozniak of Traverse City Central, 377-368, while Zarbaugh downed Derek Nyenhuis of Wyoming, 394-373.

On the girls' side, Barbara Lawson of Grand Ledge defeated Alyssa Meade of Macomb L'Anse Creuse North, 419-323. In the semi-final matches, Lawson bested Nicole Mikaelian of Macomb Dakota, 334(48)-334(26), while Meade, outlasted Heather Baur of Davison, 349-312.



PIETRYKA

Salem Boys, Davison Girls Win MHSAA Team Finals

The Salem High School boys team and Davison High School girls team were the big winners at the Michigan High School Athletic Association State Finals at Northway Lanes in Muskegon.

The top eight teams, based on total pinfall after the eight Baker games and two regular game morning qualifying block, advance to the afternoon Match Play Finals. The Match Games are decided by total pinfall of one regular game and two Baker games.

In the boys finals, Salem defeated Saginaw Heritage, 1388-1258. In the semi-final matches, Saginaw Heritage bounced Muskegon Mona Shores, 1292-1209, and Salem blasted Jackson, 1386-1172. Quarter-final results were Saginaw Heritage 1270, Canton, 1260; Muskegon Mona Shores 1461, Detroit Catholic Central 1295; Salem 1356, Roseville 1350, and Jackson 1295, Flint Carman-Ainsworth 1140.

On the girls side, Davison blasted Walled Lake Central, 1347-1189. In the semi-final matches, Davison defeated Sterling Heights Stevenson, 1306-1224, while Walled Lake Central defeated Macomb Dakota, 1215-

(Continued on Page 7)

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TEAM USA TO CONDUCT ADDITIONAL TEAM TRIALS

In order to give players an additional way to earn spots on Team USA in 2014, the United States Bowling Congress will conduct the inaugural Summer Team USA Trials this July.

The limited-entry event will award two men's and two women's spots on Team USA in 2014 and will be conducted at the International Training and Research Center, which is the home of Team USA, from July 5-7.

"Holding Team USA Trials exclusively in January creates schedule conflicts for some top bowlers, so we thought it was important and worthwhile to offer another opportunity to compete for a place on the team," USBC Managing Director of National Governing Body Neil Stremmel said.

The field for the Summer Team USA Trials will be limited to 40 men and 40 women. Invitations will first go out to current Team USA and Junior Team USA members, Team USA members from the past three years, and the top 25 men and women at the 2013 Team USA Trials.

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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
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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

• **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.

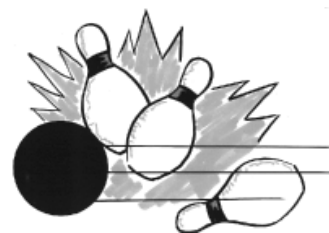
• **THUNDERBOWL LANES**, 4200 Allen Rd., Allen Park. "Cosmic Bowling" is available on Friday and Saturday nights. Cosmic pricing includes 3 hours of bowling, unlimited FREE arcade play and music videos on large screen TVs. Sessions start at 10 p.m. The price is \$15 per person plus \$3 for shoes. For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

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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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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 two weeks in leading bowling centers, bowling supply stores, etc., compliments of the proprietors.

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Rick Strobl Editor-in-Chief

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USBC Annual Convention in Reno May 1-3

METRODETROIT USBC NEWS

By Association Manager
Mark A. Martin

For more information about
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Representing the MDUSBC at the annual convention will be Katrina Banks, Richard Banks, Jordan Barber, Shirley Beard, Terrance Bell, Ann Block, George Bresinski, Miquelle Christian, Clifford Davis, Michael DeRousie, Debra Dickerson, Eric Fisher, Constance Fordyce, Ina Herbert, Lavern Hester, Alisa Hudgins, Mark Hurttgam, Vera Johnson, Patricia Klix, Anita Maiorana, Diane Maluzhinsky, Rose McCall,

Jeanette Myers, Tammy Quinn, Rosie Sawyers and John Vorpagel.

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

More to come...
* * *

MDUSBC BOWL FOR THE CURE FUNDRAISER

• THE METRO Detroit USBC hosted Bowl For The Cure fundraisers at May-

• THE UNITED States Bowling Congress annual convention will be held from May 1-3 in Reno, Nev.

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.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

- THE METRO Detroit USBC will award four \$1,000 scholarships this year to two male and two female bowlers. Applicants must be at least 14 years of age and can only win once.

The scholarships are a result of the Greater Detroit Bowling Association, Detroit Women's Bowling Association and Pontiac Women's Bowling Association restricting funds for this purpose.

Applicants must write a minimum 100-word essay about their future educational plans and submit a completed application signed by their coach.

Applications must be submitted to the MDUSBC office by April 5, 2013.

Applications can be obtained by calling the MDUSBC office or visiting www.mdusbc.com and clicking on forms.

flower Lanes and Astro Lanes during the month of February.

Thanks to both centers for their support of this worthy cause.

While the final numbers are not in, over \$14,000 will be raised and sent to Bowl For The Cure as a result of the efforts.

Thanks to all that participated in the events or otherwise contributed time and/or money to the cause.
* * *

AWARDS DEADLINE APPROACHING

• EACH YEAR the Metro Detroit USBC Association selects deserving individuals for a number of year-end awards. Those awards include the Secretary of the Year, Coach of the Year and Volunteer of the Year. Selections are made from the nominations received from anyone who sees a

deserving person from within the association. All applications are due to April 1, 2013.

To be eligible for Secretary of the Year a person must be a current league secretary in the MDUSBC. To be Coach of the Year the coach must be a current youth coach in the MDUSBC.

To be considered for Volunteer of the Year a person must be a MDUSBC Board Member or Officer; or Association Representative Coordinator or Association Representative.

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- Ladies Night Out Trio at 7:00 p.m. • \$13 Per Person
- Tuesday Men's Classic Trio at 7:00 p.m. • \$15 Per Person

WEDNESDAY (Starts May 8th)

- Senior Mixed at 12:30 p.m. • \$12 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 9th)

- Summer Swingers at 7:00 p.m. • \$14 Per Person

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Barmatic Wins Second Ebonite All-Stars 'Third'

• WHEN WE last discussed the second third of the season, Thunderbowl Lanes had a half a point lead over Barmatic, with one week to go in the second "third" of the Ebonite All-Stars at Thunderbowl Lanes.

It obviously was a position night and Thunderbowl Lanes, without their esteemed captain Ronnie Sparks who was bowling in the U.S. Masters in New Jersey, laid a royal egg and lost four points to Barmatic. The only point they won was by three pins in the last game when it really didn't matter.

Not only that, Downriver Bowlers Pro Shop with the contingent of Thunderbowl based bowlers, Chuck Graddick, Keith Caldwell, Jim Naughton, Mark Cassise and Larry Wilson won four points over Team Bud Light and moved into second place.

Barmatic was led by Dave Forfitt who posted a 698 series followed by Rick



By TOM STROBL

Bowler's Digest Contributor

Goyeau at 659 and Steve Trimble at 647. Captain Charlie Cassise Jr. had 244 in the first game, to set the stage, so to speak. Greg Daniels was steady as goes posting 614. There were five teams within 5-1/2 points of the final points won total of Barmatic. It was close right down to the end.

During that week Brian Odom had the high men's game at 280 and high scratch series at 797, followed by Keith Caldwell at 783.

In the first week of the last third of the season, coincidentally Barmatic and Thunderbowl Lanes again met. This time the roles were reversed as Thunderbowl Lanes took four out of five points.

As they say, timing is everything. Ronnie Sparks was back in the lineup and matched his average at 699, while Trey Raynes had the high series for Thunderbowl Lanes at 708. Team 8, captained by Mason Brantley

and having a power-packed lineup of Brian Odom, Jeff Hicks, Ken Rogers and Imari Allison, took five points from the newest addition to the league, captained by Randy Churchhill Jr. Brian Odom came through again with a 718 series and Imari Allison had a 300 game in the second game.

The high scratch game for the ladies was 247 by Angela Wilt while Julie Hilton had the high scratch ladies series at 702.

Romulus Auto Supply was not fooling around either as all five of their bowlers had a 700 or better series. They posted the high scratch game of the year at 1305 and the high scratch series of 3655. Their leadoff man, Terry Haines had 735, senior extraordinaire Mike Chapman 728, Jeff Hayes 708, Jeff Roche 717 and lefty Rick Wayne 767.

USBC Announces Future Championships Host Cities

ARLINGTON, Texas - The United States Bowling Congress has selected two future sites for the Open Championships, including a move to the east, while the Women's Championships is heading to the Midwest and Gulf Coast.

The USBC Open Championships will return to the Oncenter Convention Center in Syracuse, N.Y., in 2018, and the Baton Rouge River Center in Baton Rouge, La., will host the 2025 tournament as part of a multi-year agreement also involving the USBC Women's Championships. Syracuse last hosted the Open Championships in 1999, and Baton Rouge welcomed the event in 2005 and 2012.

"We understand the importance of bringing the Open Championships east and feel our bowlers will be very happy with these selections," USBC Executive Director Stu Upson said. "Syracuse and Baton Rouge have been great partner cities, and we are thrilled to have the event visit these regions once again."

Three sites have been decided for the Women's Championships. The 2017 tournament will be held at the Baton Rouge River Center, and in 2019, Northrock Lanes and Thunderbird Bowl in Wichita, Kan., will host the tournament. The 2021 Women's Championships will take place in Mobile, Ala., at the Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center.



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2013 SCHEDULE

DATE	CENTER	TIME
1/5/2013	OAK LANES	10:00 AM
2/23/2013	PLAZA LANES	10:00 AM
3/30/2013	CHERRY HILL LANES	10:00 AM
4/27/2013	BOWL ONE LANES	10:00 AM
5/18/2013	THUNDERBOWL LANES	10:00 AM
6/15/2013	SUNNYBROOK LANES	10:00 AM
8/31/2013	NOVI BOWL	10:00 AM
9/28/2013	DRAKESHIRE LANES	10:00 AM
10/26/2013	HAZEL PARK BOWL	10:00 AM
11/23/2013	FIVE STAR LANES	10:00 AM
12/7/2013	WAYNE BOWL - FINALS	10:00 AM

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- Write a short, titled essay about the sport of bowling, not to exceed 500 words
- Include at least one reference letter, no more

than three

Applicants are encouraged to submit any published work however, should NOT include stories, articles, or press clippings that may have been written about them.

If the preceding requirements fit your interests or academic pursuits the application must be postmarked by May 15, 2013. Dear readers, if this scholarship sounds like a fit for a young person you know please consider sharing the information with them.

The Michigan Women's 500 Bowling Club will be having their annual tournament in June. The tournament will be hosted this year by 300 Bowl in Waterford.

The event is slated for competition on Saturday, June 1, 2013 and will offer two squads. The tournament is divided into four average classes and is handicapped 90% from 210 scratch. Membership in the Michigan Women's 500 Bowling Club is available to any certified USBC female bowler who has bowled a certified 500 series in league or tournament play.

Initial membership is \$5 and annual dues are \$2. Membership forms and additional tournament information can be obtained by contacting the club secretary Ann Block at www.michwomens500club@gmail.com or by calling 313-292-6538.

• ARE COMMUNICATIONS your cup of tea? The International Bowling Media Association (IBMA) has a scholarship for you. The scholarship is available to high school seniors, vocational school seniors, or current college students. There are up to three scholarships that could be awarded this year. Winners also receive a one-year complimentary student membership in IBMA.

The scholarship(s) is named for the Hall of Fame Bowling Writer Chuck Pezzano. His name should be familiar by readers of this publication, as he has appeared in it for years. Applications for the scholarship are available on the IBMA website at www.bowlingmedia.org.

The applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Involved in the study of communication (any student who communicates with words or images). For example; writers, journalists, television, radio, web broadcasters, and designers, public relations, or pub-

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Georgia's Sterner Rolls 299 to Win First Title in PBA Don Carter Classic

ALLEN PARK, Mich. - Jason Sterner of McDonough, Ga., who had never finished higher than seventh place in a Professional Bowlers Association Tour event before the 2012-13 season, won his first PBA Tour title in the Don Carter Classic with a nearly-perfect 299-235 victory over top qualifier Wes Malott of Pflugerville, Texas, at Thunderbowl Lanes.

The Don Carter Classic and PBA League Carter team finals aired Sunday on ESPN.

Sterner, who lost a 199-177 decision to eventual champion Tom Daugherty in his only previous PBA television appearance in the Bowlers Journal Scorpion Championship during the GEICO PBA World Series of Bowling earlier in the season, lost his chance at the 23rd nationally-televised 300 game in PBA history when he left a solid 10-pin on his final shot.

He also lost a bid to join Bob Benoit of Topeka, Kan., as only the second player to win his first PBA Tour title with a 300 game. Benoit won the 1988 Quaker State Open in Grand Prairie, Texas, for his first title in his first PBA television appearance.

"The biggest thing I learned from my first show was getting rid of the nerves, and to trust your decisions," Sterner said. "It's a little added pressure to bowl on TV, but once you get comfortable, and trust your decisions, it's a lot easier.

"I felt very confident," he added. "I had the right ball, I knew what moves I needed to make and it was just a matter of going through my routine and believing in it. After the first couple of shots, I could see how the lanes were changing, and it just came easy. It was definitely a great feeling.

"When I realized the match was done, I realized I had a shot at 300, and the pins just kept falling," Sterner continued. "I don't think I've ever bowled that good of a game under pressure, ever.

"The last shot, I liked. I thought it was a great shot, but at that point I was so ready to celebrate the win, the 300 game wasn't even important."

With his first title, Sterner also earned his first opportunity to compete in the Barbasol PBA Tournament of Champions, March 26-31 at Woodland Bowl in Indianapolis.

The Don Carter Classic was the third of four PBA Tour events held during the PBA Detroit Winter Swing. The Earl Anthony PBA Players Championship will conclude the Winter Swing on ESPN on Sunday, March 24 at 3 p.m. when top qualifier Sean Rash of Montgomery, Ill., meets challenger Scott Norton of Mission Viejo, Calif. The telecast also will include the PBA League Earl Anthony round, the final qualifying round heading into the Elias Cup finals.

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Tuck Your Elbow to Improve Armswing

TIPS FROM THE PROS



By CHERYL DANIELS

Member of the Professional Women's Bowling Association

• WE HAVE talked about the swing in previous articles. This week we will revisit the swing and focus on tucking our elbow in the stance.

I see many bowlers who let their elbows float in their stance (elbow away from body). In other words, their elbow is away from their body as they begin their approach. This makes it more difficult to achieve a good solid push away and armswing.

If you do not set up properly in your stance it makes it very difficult to correct a problem later in your approach. Think of the center of the ball as swinging under your shoulder or armpit during your swing.

In order to keep your swing in close, dig your elbow into your side in your stance position or tuck your elbow in front, resting on your hipbone. This also allows you to use your body to support some of the weight of the ball in your stance.

As you begin your pushaway, concentrate on your elbow staying in close and inside the ball. You might want to feel like the elbow brushes against your body as you place the ball into the swing. Incorporate this tip into your routine, and I am sure it will improve your armswing.

◆ *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.*

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DETROIT ALL-STAR CLASSIC

Storm Products/Thunderbowl On Top

• THE DETROIT All Star Classic, into its 78th season of competition, is witnessing a rare feat. Storm Products/Thunderbowl Lanes who finished on the bottom in the Winter Season has vaulted to the top so far in the Spring Season. Jeff Hicks returned from the USBC Masters to lead Storm over Cozy Inn at 300 Bowl in Waterford on this past Thursday night.

Jeff stroked 740, but had plenty of help from teammates Tim Bishop 733, Craig Nidiffer 729 and Scott Jones 716. Jim Grant 734, Rick Wayne 730 and Jon Murphy 726 paced Cozy Inn in a tightly congested match. High series for the night went to Ansara's Restaurant Groups Harry Sullins who walloped out an impressive 804 set. Ansara's knocked down 3714 pins as Sullins' teammates all rolled 700 or better.

Ken Wyatt 734, Abed Daher 733, Chris Nielson 724, and Steve Mrakitsch 719 led the onslaught of Red Robin Restaurants/Sunnybrook Lanes who also knocked down 3707 pins led by Bob Learn Jr. 790, Ron Napiewocki 771 and Derek Thompson 751. Unfortunately they were only able to sneak one game from Ansara's.

Plaza Lanes, winners of the Winter Season, rolled into second place behind red hot Eddie Grace, who left a solid 10-pin in the 10th frame of the third game for a strong 799 series. Eddie, just two weeks ago in the Classic, rolled 820. Pretty easy to figure Eddie Grace will capture bowler of the month honors for February. Larry Walker 782 and Mitch Jabczenski 727 helped out the cause for Plaza Lanes. Ronnie Sparks Jr. rolled 769 to pace 2 Booli/Maximum Potential Pro Shop to a three-game sweep over Red Robin/DBT/Charrette State Farm despite Mike Lee 730 and Frank Snodgrass 720.

The All Stars will kick off March with a visit to Historic Garden Bowl in downtown Detroit to help celebrate the 100-year anniversary of Garden Bowl on March 7. The following week on the 14th will be at Novi Bowl and on the 21st at Wayne Bowl. All start times are 7:30 p.m.

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

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Budweiser MMBA Off to Great Start in 2013

• The Budweiser Michigan Majors Bowling Association's 47th year of competition is off to a great start in 2013. Both January and February tournaments drew 96 entries which is up from our start in 2012.

Both tournaments paid \$1,400 for first place and all tournaments are guaranteed to pay \$1,000 for first. Another positive note is there are 36 new bowlers who have become members this year, including our newest female member Jennifer Kreft. Jennifer

bowled in her first MMBA tournament in February and immediately had success with an impressive 14th-place finish.

These rookies are finding out just how difficult it is to win an MMBA title. There have been approximately 500 tournaments since the inaugural year of 1967 and there have now been 238 different champions. Ronnie Sparks Jr. was number 238 with his first win in January at Thunderbowl Lanes bowling in his first MMBA tournament.

Only five bowlers have won 10 or more titles — Dale Hofmeister (19), Dick Beattie (15), Nick Wissinger (14), Dale Strike (10) and Larry Walker (10).

The MMBA has also been a proving grounds for those bowlers with ambitions of competing on the PBA tour. Current and former members of the MMBA have enjoyed success on the tour including PBA title holders John Mazza, Harry Sullins, Kurt Pilon and Tom Smallwood, just to name a few. At this year's 2013 PBA World Series of Bowling, MMBA members Jeff Roche and Craig Nidiffer also put in a good showing against the some of the best competition in the world.

The full history of the MMBA was put together in the form of a yearbook by former Executive Director Ken Charrette. This yearbook lists every member, statistics,



By KEN WYATT

*Executive Director,
Michigan Majors
Bowling Association*

records, etc., since 1967. Don't miss out on this exceptional history of Michigan bowling. There are still a few yearbooks available for a nominal cost of \$5. Please contact the tournament office to get your copy.

The cost to join the Michigan Majors is \$60 annually. The MMBA operates on these dues during the year. All entry fees are returned, paid out in prize money by the end of the year.

The cost for each tournament is \$85 with the exception of our three majors: the Match Game in April (\$100), the Championship Tournament in November (\$105) and the Tournament of Champions in December (\$100).

Those interested in joining the MMBA, please contact the tournament office at 33127 Monticello Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48312; by phone (586) 871 7651; or visit our web site at www.michiganmajors.com.

Salem Boys, Davison Girls Win MHSAA Team Finals

(Continued from Page 1)

1139. Quarter-final results were Sterling Heights Stevenson 1270, Bay City Central 1231; Davison 1256, Westland John Glenn 1178; Macomb Dakota 1135, Flint Carman-Ainsworth 1124, and Walled Lake Central 1187, Muskegon Mona Shores, 1144.

In the Boys Division 2 finals at Century Lanes in Waterford, Sturgis defeated Lapeer West, 1326-1154, while Jackson Northwest defeated Ionia, 1262-1221 in the Girls event. In the Boys Division 3 finals at Airport Lanes in Jackson, Livonia Clarenceville defeated Ishpeming, 1235-1205, while Battle Creek Pennfield defeated Grand Rapids South Christian, 1203-1135 in the Girls event. In the Boys Division 4 finals at Sunnybrook Lanes in Sterling Heights, Riverview Gabriel Richard defeated East Jackson, 1355-1058, and Vandercook Lake defeated Sandusky, 1322-1166 in the Girls event.

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Foul Judges Needed in Bowling's Early Days

• LIKE IT OR not, third parties in almost all sports — umpires, referees and judges — make critical decisions that often change the final result of major events.

Even with the help of the latest electronic technology, the controversies live on longer than the events. The baseball playoffs have been marred by bad calls and in football the officials are getting more TV time than most of the players.

There seems to be no way out. You must have the arbiters and judgement calls in contests. Many of the Olympic sports such as boxing, gymnastics, diving and ice skating, to name a few, rely on human reactions, with

little or no help instant replay shown from various angles. The deciders have rules and guidelines to go by, but there is human error, and sports fans are almost impossible to satisfy.

Bowling is fortunate. There is less controversy and less third party decisions in years of bowling than there is in any major sports playoff where moderators have the final call.

Bowling is a simple game. You must stay behind the foul line. The pinfall must be legal, without any help from anything but the bowling ball or rolling pins. The lanes, the playing surfaces, must meet equipment

specifications, all done before the playing starts. From local league bowling to the richest tournaments, most of the same rules are used around the world.

In the early days of bowling, humans, seated at strategic positions, called the fouls. In many early centers the foul judges were seated above the line or in a special alcove, the booth being erected in the wall with perfect vision of the foul line.

One of the first modern improvements in the sport came with the invention of the electric eye foul lights, a beam that crossed the foul line and triggered an alarm plus a red light over the pins to alert the players.

In more than 1,000 TV bowling shows I have been involved with over the years, only six times has instant replay been used, and those instances were used to determine whether the automatic pinspotter had knocked down a pin when it was in the re-



By **CHUCK PEZZANO**

Bowling Hall-of-Famer and Nationally Syndicated Columnist

setting process. That's in more than 5,000 games, probably more than 40,000 tosses.

Joe Norris, the late super star who rolled well into his 90s, also participated in many head-to-head matches.

"We always had contracts as to number of games and other stipulations and I always added one extra, that the pinboys wear white gloves and white footwear," said Norris.

I thought that was pretty classy until Norris explained that he insisted because the white showed up clearly when the pinboy used hands or feet

to help nudge a pin down.

Every major tournament has at least one director who decides, with the help of the bowlers involved and the mechanics who man the foul lights, pinsetting machines and other details, when any questionable incident takes place.

That tournament director is usually the least busy person at the site.

2013 USBC Open Championships Kicks Off 125-Day Run in Reno

(Continued from Page 1)

Following the ceremony, Custom Decks of Northfield, Ohio, wasted no time racing to the top of the leaderboard, taking the early lead in Regular Team with a 2,733 total. The team members used a session on the new 900 Global Showcase Lanes earlier in the day to help solidify the strategy that catapulted them into the top spot.

Chuck Lewis led the way for Custom Decks with a 602 series and was joined by Kyle Oleksy (573), David Oleksy (535), Gene Klonowski (524) and Phil Klonowski (499).

"We practiced for an hour on the Showcase Lanes today, and they seemed to be a tad drier down there," said Lewis, who made his 19th tournament appearance. "We talked about it and tried to tighten up each other's games. Spare shooting is essential. It was very challenging, but it's nice to be on top at the end of the first day."

In the Classified Division, Fran-Way Tree Moving of Pella, Iowa, grabbed the lead with a 2,388 effort. Rod Blunck paced the group with a 518 set and was followed by Wayne VanMersbergen (511), Kyle Blunck (488), Jeff Blunck (471) and Nathan Blunck (400).

"We actually thought we struggled, but it turns out we must have done fairly well," said Rod Blunck, who made his 20th Open Championships appearance. "I told the guys that if we finished first on the squad, we would be leading. It was a good time. We're pretty pleased with the results."

Competition at the 2013 Open Championships will continue until July 7. For the first time, the Storm Bowlers Journal Championships presented by USBC is being held in the same venue and will be held at the high end of the 78-lane venue.

The newly-added 900 Global Showcase Lanes on the ground floor of the building will be available for team practice sessions, coaching sessions with USBC-certified coach Matt McNeil and two new side tournaments — the 900 Global Two-Game Challenge and Who's Got the Look Baker Bonanza presented by 900 Global.

Also a first this year, the USBC Women's Championships will be held in the same host city at the same time. The 2013 tournament will be contested on 44 specially-constructed lanes at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. The event will kick off April 12 and run for 81 consecutive days, concluding July 1.

* * *

• FOR MORE information on the Open and Women's Championships, visit BOWL.com. Presenting sponsors for the 2013 USBC Open Championships include Circus Circus Reno, Eldorado Hotel Casino Reno and Silver Legacy Resort Casino Reno.

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