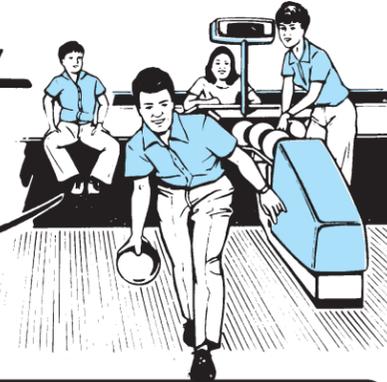


CHECK OUT 'TIPS FROM THE PROS' — PAGE 6

BOWLER'S Digest

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



VOL. 39, NO. 2 Published Every Month in Southeastern Michigan SEPTEMBER, 2014

U.S. Wins Three Team Titles at 'Tournament of the Americas'

ARLINGTON, Texas — The United States captured three team titles as the 52nd Lee Evans Tournament of the Americas came to a conclusion with the final games of the team competition on Saturday.

In addition to the three team

titles, the U.S. squad had the all-events winner in nine of the 10 divisions and took the National All-Events title in four of the five divisions of the week-long tournament held at Strikers Lanes.

The tournament had divisions for Adult, Senior (ages 50-plus for

men, 45-plus for women), Super Senior (ages 60-plus for men, 55-plus for women), Junior A (ages 16-19) and Junior B (ages 12-15) players.

The Junior Team USA squad of Julia Bond of Aurora, Ill., Breanna Clemmer of Clover, S.C., Andrew Anderson of Holly, Mich., and Ronnie Fujita of El Sobrante, Calif., posted a 7,769 pinfall total to easily outdistance Venezuela (7,122) in the Junior A division.

USBC Hall-of-Famers Tish Johnson of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Rick Steelsmith of

Wichita, Kan., joined with Karen Bacall of Albuquerque, N.M., and Larry Porter of Whitesboro, N.Y., in capturing the Senior team title ahead of Mexico.

The Lee Evans Tournament of the Americas featured players from countries in the Pan American Bowling Confederation (PABCON), the American Zone of the World Tenpin Bowling Association, competing for medals in singles, doubles, mixed doubles, mixed team and all-events. It is the oldest annual international tournament in the American Zone.

IN THE NEWS



'Gavie' Event Kicks Off Season

• The 78th John P. Gavie Memorial Tournament officially kicked off the 2014-15 bowling season and featured 105 teams at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park. Honorees this year included (from left) Michael Derousie, immediate past president of Metro Detroit USBC, Anita Maiorana, Vice-President Metro Detroit USBC, and Dave Eatmon. See page 5.

Detroit Area Bowling Community Mourns Death of PBA Hall-of-Famer Gene Stus

The entire Detroit area bowling community is mourning the recent death of PBA Hall-of-Famer and Senior Tour standout Gene Stus of Allen Park, who passed away at the age of 74.

As a competitive bowler for most of his adult life, Stus had always wondered how he might have done on the PBA Tour. But the opportunity to compete in Tour competition didn't present itself until he was able to retire from General Motors after 32 years at the age of 50 and he became a regular on the Senior Tour, now called the PBA50 Tour.

Even as a late-bloomer in the professional ranks, Stus' career on the Senior Tour would ultimately lead to his induction into the PBA Hall of Fame in 2012.

Stus' 11 PBA50 Tour titles ranks fifth on the all-time list behind fellow Hall of Famers John Handegard with 14 titles and Gary Dickinson, Dale Eagle and Tom Baker, each with 12.

In 1992, Stus 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 Lakewood, Calif.

Stus had 50 top-five finishes in 173 PBA50 Tour Tournaments.

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PBA Moves
Administrative
Headquarters

Effective Sept. 2, the Professional Bowlers Association entered into a shared services agreement with Luby Publishing, publisher of *Bowlers Journal International* and other periodicals, and moved its operational headquarters to Luby's home in Chicago, Commissioner Tom Clark announced.

The move, Clark said, is designed to improve the organization's operational efficiencies, taking advantage of Luby Publishing's expertise in membership services. The PBA will sub-lease space in the Luby Publishing offices and use Luby's staff for many of the PBA's day-to-day operational needs. The PBA will retain its IT staff and services in Seattle.

"The PBA has been a pioneer in the virtual office arena ever since it moved its administrative office from Akron, Ohio, to Seattle in 2000," Clark said.

Putting the PBA and Luby Publishing together in the same office space unites two of the oldest business entities in the sport. Luby began publishing *Bowlers Journal* magazine in 1913; the PBA has provided competitive opportunities for the best bowlers in world since 1958.

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WHERE TO FIND IT

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 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.

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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Cheryl Daniels Tips from the Pros

Ken Wyatt Michigan Majors

HOT LEAGUES FOR 2014-15 SEASON

Friday HSC Classic at Hazel Park Bowl

\$20,000 1st Place (\$5,000 Per Quarter)

\$10,000 2nd Place (\$2,500 Per Quarter)

(Based on 20 teams)

No Individual Average Cap — Team 1125 and Under

33 Week Season Consisting of Four 8-Week Sessions + Playoffs

Just \$26 Per Bowler Per Week • Starts September 5, 2014 — 6:45 P.M.

Limited Space Available!

Friday Invitational League at Harbor Lanes

\$20,000 1st Place Guaranteed (\$5,000 Per Quarter)

(Based on 20 Teams)

Great New Format — Four 8-Week Quarters

33 Week Season — 33rd Week is \$4,000 Team Tournament

Handicap - 80% of difference between the teams

Team Entering average capped at 1100 — Individual entering average capped at 225

(Entering average is composite average over last 3 years)

Just \$27 Per Bowler Per Week

Bonus — the league will pay off at end of each quarter

Sponsor fee is \$200 per team to hold your spot

Friday Invitational League at Wayne Bowl

4 on a Team (Any Combo) — **\$8,000** 1st Place (Quarters)

Just \$20 Per Bowler Per Week • Starts Sept. 5 — Meeting Early August

Team Entering average capped at 840 — Individual entering average capped at 220

(Entering average is composite average over last 3 years)

Sponsor fee is \$100 • Call Travis Willis at United Sonz Co. (734) 485-8889 or Wayne Bowl

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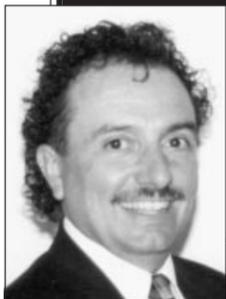
Fred Bauss • Kerry Kreft • Jen Bator • Brad Smyth

The Call for League Bowling Is in the Air!

METRODETROIT USBC NEWS

By Association Manager
Mark A. Martin

For more information about the Metro Detroit USBC, call 1-888-753-6350 or visit www.mdusbc.com



have. For an average of \$14-\$20 each league session you can enjoy the physical exercise the sport provides, the camaraderie of being with others with like interests and the competition.

Speaking of the physical exercise the game provides, make sure to stretch those muscles before competition so you don't end up on the disabled list. Be sure to get to your league session a few minutes early and throw a few

practice balls.

If you haven't bowled for a while, like since last spring, visit your local bowling center and work on your mechanics. By doing this you won't be surprised when that first league session comes.

If you are unsure about joining a league, encourage one of your friends to join with you. This can make the experience much more pleasant.

• THE CALL for league bowling is in the air!

If you are not signed up for a league as yet, why not call your local bowling center and inquire about openings. Every bowling center will help place you in a league, which matches your skill and interest level.

League bowling is the most reasonably priced recreational opportunity a person can

LEAGUE CERTIFICATIONS COMING IN

• HAS YOUR league certified on time this year? Each year a number of leagues don't attend to this requirement and lose precious benefits as a result. This is the time of year that all leagues should be sure that your certification application, membership application cards and money has been turned in to the Metro Detroit USBC Association. One of the key points for leagues to be eligible for full bonding and award protection is to file your certification application within 30 days of the league start date. If you have a question about whether your league application has been filed, please call the Association office at (248) 443-2695.

Bowling centers offer leagues at every level of competition. There are leagues for all women, all men, mixed and youth leagues at virtually all local centers.

For parents this is the chance to get your children involved in the game that you probably enjoyed in your youth. In addition to youth leagues there are also many family leagues, where youth bowl with adults. There is much flexibility built into these league structures to accommodate every family's needs.

Nearly all bowling centers offer a youth program. Even if your local center has not had one in the past, check with the center personnel about their current programs.

Local bowling centers have done a tremendous job of keeping up with the times. The summer time is when your local bowling center prepares for the busy fall winter season.

The United States Congress (USBC) offers certified organizational support for leagues. The annual cost is very nominal and

only has to be paid in one league to be covered in your other local leagues.

Annual membership in the USBC through the Metro Detroit USBC is \$20.

The USBC, through the MDUSBC, offers league structure support, standardized rules, bonding, standardization of the equipment used and recognized league averages. The MDUSBC also offers our own brand of local awards program and other opportunities only available to our members.

Your best value in sports is still certification, as it has been for over 100 years.

NEW AWARDS PROGRAM FOR 2014-15

• THE METRO Detroit USBC has developed a new awards program for the 2014-15 season to include recognition for members of all averages. This will also include an optional premium honor score awards program with crystal awards.

(Continued on Page 4)

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The Call for League Bowling Is in the Air!

(Continued from Page 3)

The following accomplishments will be recognized with a pen:

- 200 Game for bowlers averaging 150 and under
- 500 Series for bowlers averaging 135 and under
- 600 Series for bowlers averaging 165 and under
- 700 Series for bowlers averaging 200 and under

A deck of cards will be awarded for those bowlers bowling a game 75 pins over average, while those 100 pins over average in a game will receive a towel.

For those bowling a series 150 pins over average will get a key chain light and those 200 pins over average in a game will be awarded a watch.

Each of the following will be recognized with a lapel pin:

- Triplicate series
- Stepladder series
- Clean series
- Dutch 200 game
- All-Spare game
- 7-10 split conversion
- 4-6-7-10 split conversion

AMF Youth League



Saturday Youth!!

11 a.m. Saturday Youth

Registration Day: Saturday 8/23/14

11:00 a.m. Until 5:00 p.m.

League Starts: Saturday 9/6/14 @ 11:00 a.m.

5 Divisions (Based on Age)

USBC Certified

Bumpers: 7 Years Old and Under

(Bumpers Bowl 2 Games \$6 Per Child/Per Week)

Bantams: 8 to 10 Years Old

Preps: 11-13 Years Old

Juniors: 12 to 14 Years Old

Majors: 15 to 18 Years Old

(3 Games Per Person \$7 Per Week/Per Child)

League Registration Fee: \$10 Per Person

USBC Certification Fee: \$17 Per Person

* League Bowls For 32 Weeks

* Coaching

* 3 Children Per Team

* Trophies/Awards

* Use of Rental Shoes

* End of Season Party

League Benefits!

* 20% Discount on Food & Beverage

* Discounted Practice Games

* 2 Free Games Per Week Via e-mail!

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Senior Singles Open

www.ssopen.org

2014 SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CENTER</u>	<u>TIME</u>
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	10 AM
	(GRAND FINALS)	

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'Gavie' Kicks Off Season

METRODETROIT USBC SCENE

By MDUSBC Director
Libbi Fletcher

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Call 1-888-753-6350



the sport. The Gavie tournament this year was dedicated to Lou Ivancik who passed away earlier this year and has given so much to the sport of bowling at every level.

The additional honorees this year were in the Senior Division, Michael Derosie, immediate past president of Metro Detroit USBC, in the Women's division, Anita Maiorana, Vice-President Metro Detroit USBC, and in the Open division, Dave Eatmon. All of these individuals have

given so much to bowling in our area and are well-deserving of this honor.

I also had the pleasure of bowling next to some "young guns."

Andrew Anderson, who just returned home from competing in the Tournament of the Americas representing Jr. Team USA, was on the next pair. So very proud of him! I just wish I would have had him bring all of those GOLD medals to show off! Andrew won in every event at the tournament! Way to go!

As I heard cheering about six lanes down, I looked and could see Mason Brantley's team. I for sure thought Mason was putting a big one together but no, it was Jordan Hornes, a 20-year-old, two-handed bowler on Mason's team, with 299 and eventually 817 series. This young man is a great bowler and proved it by winning the MDUSBC Jr. Masters in the past. Jordan, your future is bright. The past was kind of bright too, as Julie (Wright) Halstead was on the pair the other side of us, and shot a 299 — leaving the head pin!!! Her dad, Mr. Ed Wright, who has coached many of the great bowlers as youth bowlers in our area, was on our pair, so we blamed him! Nice bowling, Julie!

A special congrats to the winners:

Women: 1st place — Monopoly Ladies #1 3438 (Theodora Boyd, Linda Thomas, (Continued on Page 6)

• THE THIRD Monday in August is all about kicking off the season in the bowling capital of the world. The 78th John P. Gavie Memorial Tournament did not disappoint.

Unfortunately, the festivities began on a sad note as we learned that earlier that day we lost one of our bowling greats, Gene Stus. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

This year the tournament welcomed a total of 105 teams at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park. Many bowlers, proprietors, and friends of bowling some to bowl, visit, and HUG people you haven't seen either all summer or longer. It is definitely both a great bowling tournament, as well as a social event for me personally.

This tournament originally used to showcase both the All-Stars League and the women's Bowlerettes. It was such an honor to even be in the same building with some of the greatest to ever throw a ball, let alone bowl with them!

This year is no exception. I was on the pair with Detroit and Michigan Hall of Fame member Michelle Ewald. But as I walked down the concourse, there was greatness everywhere!

This year, greatness also came in the form of honorees who have dedicated so much to

AMF LEAGUES

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2014-2015 SEASON!!

Meeting: Friday August 22nd @ 6:30 p.m.
Starts: Friday September 5th @ 6:45 p.m.

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(Two Halves of 16 Weeks & Roll Off/Doubles)
USBC Certified • \$20 Per Person/Per Week

Men's League (But Women Are Allowed to Join)

5 People Per Team • Handicap 90% of 1050
(Lane Conditions Change Every 5 Weeks)

20% Discount on Food & Beverage
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Getting Your Equipment Ready for League Play

TIPS FROM THE PROS



By CHERYL DANIELS

Member of the Professional Women's Bowling Association

• THIS WEEK's tip column is covering equipment for league play. Obviously depending on your skill level and the type of competitive situation you are in will determine how much and what kind of equipment you will need. The higher the stakes the more demanding your knowledge of equipment will become.

In most league situations, three to four balls is enough if the lanes you bowl on are fairly consistent. I usually keep a few more in the car, just in case. I suggest always having a harder plastic or shiny regular, less aggressive urethane ball for 10-pins for righties and 7-pins for lefties.

Today's reactive resin and now particle shell balls dominate the market. In terms of reactive resin and particle shell balls, they come in either solid coverstock or pearlized coverstock. Reactive resin balls have a very aggressive back end reaction, whereas particle shell balls tend to roll heavier in the mid-lane (the area just past the arrows and before the backend). The pearlized coverstock balls are naturally more shiny in appearance with swirls and give you more skid in the front of the lane.

When there is less head oil in the heads (first 15 feet), you will probably want to use a pearlized shell to get more length before it starts hooking. If you bowl on very oily lanes, you will need a more aggressive ball in a solid shell coverstock that is dull to semi-dull.

In the final analysis, your choice of equipment should be determined by the lane

conditions you bowl on. I suggest: one reactive resin in a solid shell, one particle shell in a solid shell, one pearlized reactive resin and one plastic or hard shell urethane.

Q: How do I keep from getting nervous when I am on a string of strikes and have a chance to shoot 300?

A: We all get nervous, it is a natural human reaction. The key is to remain in the same frame of mind you were in when you threw the first few strikes. Everyone has keys to their game, such as staying down,

extending through your target, etc. Try to concentrate on what helps you to make good shots and let that be your focal point. Replay in your mind your good shots and capture what it feels like to your body. Don't focus on whether or not you carry your next shot, but on your execution of that shot. That you can control.

◆ *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.*

'Gavie' Tournament Kicks Off Season

(Continued from Page 5)

Lori Atkins, Roslyn Reese, Charlita Brantley).

Seniors: *1st place* — Dunbar's 5 3454 (Freddie Dunbar, Leonard Hampton, George Reeves, Bobby Christian, Nate Wilkerson).

Open: *1st place* — Young and Talented 3505 (Alex Robinson, Trisha Reid, Anthony Wright, Jordan Hornes, Mason Brantley).

It was great to see everyone come out and kick off the season and raise money for MJMA. Special thanks to Charlie Cassise and the staff of Thunderbowl, Lori Mraz with Turbo Grips, Lew Ansara, the Gavie Committee, and all of the sponsors who make this opening event a great one.

Cannot wait for next year!

Bonanza Lanes — 2014-15 Fall Leagues Looking to Expand

24600 Hoover Rd. in Warren

Contact Bonanza Lanes at 586-756-3000 or Our Website — www.bonanzalanes.net

Day	League Name	Number of Bowlers	Time
Sunday	Sunday Gents — Mens (Individual Cap — 227)	3	9:45 a.m.
	S.A.M.T. — Mixed (Individual Cap — 210)	5 (2 Females Required)	1:45 p.m.
Monday	Local 961 — Mixed (Individual Cap — 210)	5	5:45 p.m.
Tuesday	Tuesday Night Mixers (Individual Cap — 210)	5	6:15 p.m.
	Post Office — Mixed (Team Cap)	5 (Any Combination)	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Mod Squad — Ladies	3	9:15 a.m.
	Pinstrikers — Seniors	4	9:45 a.m.
	Wednesday Night Mixed	4	6:30 p.m.
Thursday	Early Risers — Seniors	4	9:45 a.m.
	Thursday Mixers — Mixed	4	
Friday	Silver Streaks — Seniors	4	12:45 p.m.
	Vegas — Mixed (Individual Cap — 205)	4	7:00 p.m.
Saturday	Strike Force — Mixed	3-4	11:00 a.m.
	Metro Caum — Mixed	4	3:15 p.m.
	Saturday Special — Mixed	4	6:45 p.m.

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PRIME SPOTS ARE
FILLING UP!!!**



IT'S TIME TO BOWL

FALL BOWLING LEAGUES

MENS LEAGUES

MONDAY ST. ANTHONY MEN
@ 6:30 PM
5 MAN
(50 years running)

TUESDAY CORPUS CHRISTY
@ 6:45 PM
5 MAN - 30 TEAMS

WEDNESDAY TRI-COUNTY MENS
@ 6:15 PM
5 MAN - 30 TEAMS

THURSDAY NIGHT MENS
@ 6:45 PM
5 MAN
(GREAT LEAGUE)

**KEGEL CHALLENGE SERIES
(THURSDAY INVITATIONAL)**
@ 7:15 PM
4 MAN

FRIDAY NIGHT SPORTSMEN
@ 6:30 PM
5 MAN
(Well Established)

SENIOR LEAGUES

MONDAYS
@ 9:30 AM & 10:00 AM

TUESDAYS
@ 10:00 AM

THURSDAY SENIORS
11:00 AM



LADIES LEAGUES

TUESDAY AFTERNOON
@ 12:30 PM
LIBERATED WOMEN
TRIO

TUESDAY LADIES
@ 6:30 PM
5 LADIES

WEDNESDAY MORNING
@ 9:30 AM
LADIES SUBURBANITES
TRIO

WEDNESDAY EVERY OTHER WEEK
@ 7:15 PM
TRIO

THURSDAY NIGHT LADIES
@ 6:30 PM
5 LADIES
(Fun Night Out!!!)

YOUTH LEAGUES

YOUTH CHALLENGE
MONDAY - 3:45 PM

FREAKY FRIDAY YOUTH
@ 4:15 PM
(INCLUDES FOOD *FUN!!!)

SATURDAY YOUTH ALL
@ 10:00 AM
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It Takes Work, Hard Work, to Reach the Top

• THERE ARE few, if any bowlers who can't improve their game, and I write that even with the full knowledge that there are bowlers averaging better than 230 and 240 and even higher.

And yet there are many who never rolled

a 240 game, much less attain a 240 average.

And there are many, no matter how many games they roll, no matter how much instruction they take, backing, personal and financial, who can attain professional pro-

ficiency.

Pros come in assorted ability. Some have great physical games, others great mental attitude. Most a combination of the various factors that make for a pro in any endeavor. With that goes the hard to rate heart and desire to attempt what is a changing scene a continuing challenge and a long shot gamble.

You don't see it, but one thing they all have in common is that not a single one arrived there easily and without work — hard work.

You don't inherit bowling ability, even though the genes might be there for starters. There are no silver platters full of strikes and spares for the asking or buying. Time, effort, money, personal sacrifice of not only the bowler, but of others close to him or her, family, friends and fans, old and new, all figure in the picture.

At times the chase is more interesting and rewarding than the capture, even when you are fully serious. When you aren't really serious then the talk of the chase is the thing, and oddly, might even bring the same satisfaction as making the try. If you can't do your thing, then you can enjoy talking about



By CHUCK PEZZANO

Bowling Hall-of-Famer and Nationally Syndicated Columnist

why you can't do your thing.

We are all frustrated in some area of life, regardless of how successful we might be in another.

It isn't all bad to suffer some frustration. Then you can better evaluate the high hopes we harbor, the ones that might be dashed should be given the full opportunity to do what we think we can do. If you are never given or able to take a chance, what could have been always remains and you really don't have the answer.

Many who try pro bowling don't make it and had little chance from the start but they did get an answer. We should never knock those who don't make it. They will always outnumber those that do succeed. It comes down to those who try and succeed or fail, but either way they learn that elusive answer.

And they well know that a star pro bowler, those just below and those who on the border line of making it or not are true athletes, worthy of every consideration.

People don't always like to look in mirrors, and at times don't want answers.

Aspiring pro bowlers do look in mirrors and for career answers.

Duke PBA50 Player, Rookie of the Year

SEATTLE — It didn't take long for PBA Hall of Famer Norm Duke to make an impact on the PBA50 Tour. In his rookie season on the tour for players ages 50 and older, the 37-time PBA Tour champion from Clermont, Florida, became only the second player to earn PBA50 Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year in the same season.

Despite the great season Duke had, it was two other PBA greats — Walter Ray Williams Jr. and Pete Weber — who led the PBA50 Tour statistical races, claiming the top spots in average, earnings and competition points over the course of the 11-tournament campaign.

Duke, who won two titles in 2014 including the Suncoast PBA Senior U.S. Open presented by Dexter for his first major, joined fellow hall of famer Tom Baker (2005) as the second player to earn the PBA50 Tour's top awards in the same year. Pete Couture, Mark Roth, Wayne Webb and Williams have also won both honors, but not in the same year. Duke also joined Webb, Williams and Roth as players who have earned both the PBA Tour and PBA50 Tour Player of the Year crowns.

In addition to his two victories, Duke had three other top-five finishes in the seven tournaments he entered, including second-place finishes in the Dayton Classic presented by Roto Grip and Pasco County Open to win Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year which are based on points awarded for championship round appearances. He finished second in average (233.63), fourth in competition points (141,226) and fourth in earnings (\$33,940).

Williams, another two-time winner in 2014 including the USBC Senior Masters for his first PBA50 major title, fell short of his third straight PBA50 Player of the Year title, but he did manage to repeat as earnings (\$45,313) and competition points leader (196,062) for the third consecutive year.

Weber, who won one title and had seven other top-10 finishes including runner-up finishes in the Senior U.S. Open and Miller High Life Classic presented by Columbia 300, led the average list for the second year in a row, scoring at a PBA50 Tour-record 234.79 pace for 268 games for a one-plus-pin lead over Duke (233.63). Weber finished second in competition points (178,220) and third in earnings (\$35,145).

Baker, who made a run at a record fifth PBA50 Player of the Year crown, also won two titles, but a second-place finish to Williams in the season-ending PBA50 Treasure Island Resort & Casino Open presented by Hammer ended his bid to overtake Duke.

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