

BowlersJournal

JANUARY 2022

INTERNATIONAL

FAMILY TIES

These legends' kids are making names for themselves on the lanes.

BREAKDOWN:
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POY COTÉ
PG 28

MARK ROTH'S
ENDURING LEGACY
PG 38

PARA BOWLING
HIGHLIGHTS
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PG 62



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The Sheet

On the Cover

Clockwise from left: Alyssa Ballard, Cayden Russell, Sydney Bohn, Brandon Bohn, Jordan Malott, Camden Malott, Natalie Kent, Justin Bohn.

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Drew Endicott

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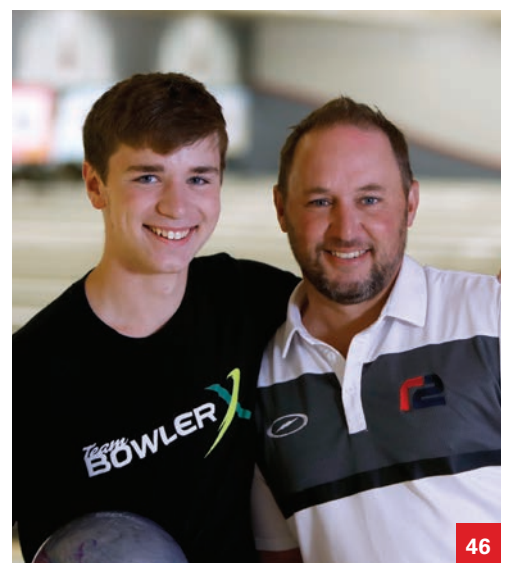
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GIANMARC MANZIONE | Editor

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Bowlers Journal 2.0

One of the more memorable reinventions in 21st-century publishing history occurred in 2005, when famed literary journal *The Paris Review* brought on author and New Yorker staff writer Philip Gourevitch as its new Editor.

George Plimpton, the larger-than-life literary colossus behind the “Sidd Finch” baseball hoax piece that famously ran in the April 1, 1985, issue of *Sports Illustrated*, was the first Editor of *The Paris Review* upon its founding in 1953 and continued in that role for the ensuing half-century. When his long tenure at the vaunted publication’s helm ended with his death in 2003, it left the journal listless and in need of a leader.

Gourevitch had huge shoes to fill and a weighty task before him when he took over. *The Paris Review* had become a bloated relic of its former glory, publishing brick-thick issues hundreds of pages long that left some wondering if, truly, every voice featured therein deserved such notice.

Gourevitch promptly slimmed down the journal to a fraction of that size while literally changing its shape from a fat brick to a taller, slimmer, sleeker journal that was every bit as disciplined editorially as its new physical form implied.

Though Gourevitch moved on to other endeavors in 2010, today the journal still has its groove back and remains a beacon on the literary landscape.

It is my hope that at least some of the daring Gourevitch flaunted in reimagining an historic publication is evident in this, the debut issue of the redesigned *Bowlers Journal*. The art is bigger and better, the instruction is more plentiful, and the longform features reaffirm this magazine’s commitment to deep storytelling.

Additionally, the scope of the new-and-improved *Bowlers Journal* comprises a forward-looking spirit while also staying mindful of this sport’s rich and storied past. This issue embodies that very ambition. See our deeply reported feature on the unprecedented number of children of bowling legends all ascending the competitive ranks simultaneously, coupled with our tributes to greats who departed the bowling stage since our last issue — namely two colorful legends in Mark Roth and Teata Semiz.

Whether you like what you see or you have suggestions for further tinkering, feel free to share your feedback with me at the email address above. In the meantime, I wish you a great and successful new year.

BOWLERS JOURNAL INTERNATIONAL

DAVE LUBY (1857-1925) Founded *Bowlers Journal*, 1913. Inducted into USBC Hall of Fame, 1969.

MORT LUBY SR. (1897-1957) Publisher, 1925-1956. Inducted into USBC Hall of Fame, 1974.

MORT LUBY JR. Publisher, 1956-1994. Inducted into USBC Hall of Fame, 1988.

MIKE PANOZZO Publisher, Keith Hamilton President, 1994-2020

Bowlers Journal International is a partner of the Annual Sustaining Membership Team of the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame.

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BOWLERS JOURNAL INTERNATIONAL 621 Six Flags, Dr. Arlington, TX 76011 | 800.514.BOWL(2695) | BowlersJournal.com. Nothing may be reprinted without the expressed written consent of *Bowlers Journal International*.

PERIODICAL #372-400 is published monthly by *Bowlers Journal International*. Periodicals postage paid at Chicago, IL and other mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send new as well as old address to *Bowlers Journal International*, 621 Six Flags, Dr., Arlington, TX 76011. If possible, furnish address mailing label.

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES

SUBSCRIPTION RATES in the U.S. and possessions: 1 year, \$36; 2 years, \$54; 3 years, \$70. Non-domestic subscription rates: 1 year, \$61; 2 years, \$104; 3 years, \$145. Non-domestic subscriptions should be remitted by International Money Order in U.S. funds.

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The Shape of Things to Come



Monster revs generated by the likes of Sweden's Jesper Svensson, shown here during the 2021 Weber Cup in Leicester, United Kingdom, can appear to distort reality.

photography
Taka Wu/Matchroom Multi Sport

Fuel

5 Tips for Success with Your Health-Related New Year's Resolutions

by VALERIE BERCIER

Did you know that 80 percent of individuals quit on their new year's resolutions within the first six weeks? We bowlers are no different than others when it comes to that track record.

There are several reasons for this, but the main one is that most of us set such big, hairy, audacious and often unattainable and/or unsustainable goals.

The alternative is what I used to do: Because I knew that most people failed at sticking to their resolutions, I avoided resolutions entirely.

If you have been pondering the start of the new year and what you would like to accomplish in 2022 and beyond, my hope is that you find value

in setting a resolution or two, and that you use the tips below to stick with and accomplish them.

While those five tips will help you succeed with your new year's resolutions, let's first address the mindset required to embrace and enact those tips in your own life.

It is best to first evaluate what you truly want. Most of the time, we put limitations on ourselves based on either our history of not having what we want, or what I call "past programing" — the little voices of doubt that creep into our heads and tell us that we can't do it, or that what we are striving to accomplish is not possible.

Forget all of that for a second. Instead, take time to determine exactly what you want your health, and your bowling game, to look like in 2022 and beyond.

As you do so, here are some questions you might want to ponder: Do you desire to bowl pain-free? Do you want to have the energy and stamina to bowl in longer-format tournaments? Do you want to have the strength to post more of your shots and improve your consistency? Do you desire to bowl professionally? Once you have decided what you are working toward, you will then be able to take these tips and come up with a plan to make your goals and dreams happen...



1 Nutrition

Now that you have set an overarching goal as your target, decide on 2-3 small, process-oriented tasks to commit to for the next 3 months. From a nutritional perspective, for example, try creating a checklist to increase your vegetable intake to five servings per day (1 serving = 1/2 cup of cooked, 1 cup raw); drink eight cups (64oz) of water per day; reduce your soda intake to two per week and then down to nothing, as sugar-sweetened beverages provide little-to-no nutritive value; decide on a practice schedule ("I am going to practice for at least 45 minutes on Wednesdays and Fridays, and when I am feeling extra motivated, on Sundays").

2 Exercise

Start slowly with exercise so that it can become a sustainable habit, something that becomes woven into your lifestyle. The last thing you want to do is hit the gym and go too hard with your workouts, get injured, and not be able to exercise — or, worse, not be able to bowl — for a few weeks. Maybe start by planning to walk for 10 minutes, five to seven days per week, for two to four weeks. Then increase it to 15-20 minutes.

3 Accountability

Recruit either a coach or an accountability buddy. We are less inclined to let someone else down than we are to let ourselves down.

4 Follow Through

Stick to your word! Following through with those two to three tasks each day will not only have a compound effect and bring you closer toward your big goal, but it also will build your confidence.

5 Abandon Perfection

Detach from the all-or-nothing mentality. If you happen to miss one of the tasks for the day, your instinct will be to say, "Forget it all. I failed." But goals do not require perfection; all they need is progress and forward momentum. We simply learn from our mistakes and keep reminding ourselves of our big, overarching goals as our motivation to keep moving forward.

Lastly, a note on that 'Forget It' button: A couple of probing questions that will help when you feel like hitting the "Forget It" button include: What caused you to miss the task? Do you need to plan better in advance? Did something unexpected happen? If something like that were to happen again, how can you plan around it?

Your goals and your future desires matter. Schedule time this week to ponder your 2022 New Year's Resolutions, write them down, and come up with a plan to stick to it for at least 90 days.

Valerie Bercier, MS, RDN, a PWBA Tour standout and former collegiate national champion with Nebraska, also is a Registered Dietitian and Certified Health Coach with Berberry Health & Wellness, LLC.

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**OCOOPA RECHARGEABLE HAND WARMER**

If you ever have found yourself sitting in the stands at a pro tour event and spotted a player clutching what appears to be a computer mouse, it might have made for a puzzling spectacle — particularly with no laptop in sight. Well, here's the thing: It's actually an **electronic hand warmer** (\$30), and four-time PWBA Tour champion **Diana Zavjalova** swears by hers. "My hands are always cold, and I hate that feeling when I bowl, and especially when the AC is quite high, which is typical in the United States," explains the Latvian. "I hold my hand warmer between shots to keep my hands warm. I started using them a few years ago because when my hand is cold, it also shrinks, which means I need to put more tape in the thumb. That's just too much hassle."

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The One Board

22 Guarantees for 2022

BY JEF GOODGER



IN THE ONE BOARD'S sixth annual year-start countdown, we greet the new year with ardor and guarantee* 22 bowling-related happenings.

*Based on number of entries

1. François Lavoie enters and wins the Team USA Trials. He becomes the first player ever to be removed from the team due to résumé when his résumé, in addition to his two U.S. Open wins and three BJI All-American Team selections, reveals he was born in Canada.
2. The amazing thing isn't that a Canadian is able to enter or win; rather, the amazing thing is that someone figures out the points system to determine who wins.
3. The PBA Players Championship further establishes itself as the perfect PBA season-opening event, mixing new and familiar faces into the telecasts to generate immunity against both "I'm sick of seeing the same faces" and "Where are the superstars?" complaints.
4. Tom Daugherty, tired of his name being misspelled so frequently ("Daughtry," "Daughtery," or, in the case of the BJI All-American Team, "Belmonte,") legally changes his name to Rebel. Players refuse to accept it and continue calling him Ritchie.
5. A player on a brief hiatus "can't wait to get back to competing again." When he returns to competition, he's asked how it feels to be back to competing. He says, "I don't care what anyone else is doing and I only focus on my own game." He's glad to be back to competing so he can ignore the competition.
6. That player stuns everyone when, prior to bowling in the stepladder finals, he states, "It's great to be on the lanes today, but I'd rather be in the booth with you guys."
7. During the semifinal match, that player employs a radical strategy and refuses to trust the process. Miraculously, he wins, but the victory fools him into trusting his mistrust of the process, leading to a blowout loss in the championship match. He's named to the BJI All-American Team.
8. A fan, after paying nothing to get in, buying no merchandise and eating no concessions, asks, "Why aren't the prize funds bigger?"
9. The prize funds are bigger than ever.
10. High-fives are banned in college bowling.
11. Free of incessant hand slapping, averages, graduation rates and viewership soar to new highs.
12. History is made when, three hours into qualifying, after many promises of what will be interesting to see, that interesting thing is, indeed, seen.
13. It's quickly forgotten in favor of prognosticating what will be interesting to see during B squad.
14. A local tournament flier finally achieves the ultimate goal: absolutely no white space whatsoever. It's simply a giant blob of ink.
15. The event receives record entries despite no one knowing the non-guaranteed guaranteed first-place payout, the convoluted format or which free bowling ball they get just for entering. A PBA Tour superstar wins.
16. Mookie Betts challenges local softball players to homerun derbies around the country between Dodgers games. Betts loses to a librarian who swings one-handed.
17. The librarian's bat becomes the talk of the baseball industry.
18. Airports finally reconfigure their parking rates to match USBC's definition of short- and long-duration events. Short-term airport parking lots are now available for anyone traveling for 127 days or fewer.
19. The Matrix of Fairness returns to the PBA50 Tour, now with even more fairness. In addition to the top 32 players plus the next eight super seniors, the first eight non-super-seniors outside the cut from the previous event also make it to cashers round. If one of those previous-event-non-super-seniors makes the real cut in the current event, he's issued two entries into cashers round and gets to bowl double the games.
20. The ball rep who most closely predicted the cut in the previous event is enlisted to determine the next four super seniors who will miss the cut in the subsequent event. Those players are also entered into cashers round. Cashers round is expanded to 56 games and also allows open entries to any fans who can name at least three bowling balls released more than a year ago. After the 56-game cashers round, all scores are dropped and the names of the top 24 advancing to match play are drawn from an old fishing hat.
21. Walter Ray Williams Jr. wins.
22. Attendance and ratings for professional bowling reach all-time highs. It's a good time to be a bowling fan and a good time to be a bowler. Unless the humidity rises overnight.

Happy New Year, bowling fans. Wishing you happiness, prosperity and a mastery of subtle hand-position adjustments in 2022.

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Generation Next

Ellie Kate Murray

ORLANDO, FL.

AGE 7

2021 FLORIDA STATE PEPSI CHAMPION



Tiny Titan

This pint-size tyke has the heart of a lion.



DON'T GET THE WRONG impression from this pint-sized 7-year-old product of a bowling family. She may be tiny, and with her hair often donned with a huge bow of a color to match the jersey she is wearing at a given time, she most definitely is adorable. But she also, tiny frame and all, is tough as nails.

"Ellie is the littlest spitfire you've ever seen in your life," says mom Amanda. "She is 44 pounds soaking wet, throws a 12-pound bowling ball two-handed because she has no other way to throw the ball, and she has every bit as much sass as a 17-year-old girl."

Make no mistake: She also can bowl. At age 6, Ellie Kate became the youngest bowler ever to medal in a Storm Youth Championships event, and she already has amassed four medals overall in that tournament circuit.

The tiny prodigy also is a 2021 Florida State Pepsi champion, a 2021 Greater Orlando Singles/

Team/All-Events champion, and, along with brothers Gavin (14) and Dylan (16) with mom in the role of coach, won a U15 USA Bowling Regional title with her Sir Peanut squad.

Ellie is one little peanut likely to see her name in bowling headlines for years to come, particularly given her pedigree. Dad Aaron was a Junior Team USA member in 2004. He, Amanda, and 14-year-old son Gavin all own Southern Scratch Junior Bowlers Association titles, while Gavin helped Cotton Candy Chaos win the 2021 U.S. National Junior Team Challenge title.

Dylan, for his part, already is a USBC Level 1 coach, a Florida Junior Gold champion, and has youth titles in numerous states including Georgia, Tennessee and Florida.

The brothers might want to look over their shoulder now and then, though, as those tiny footsteps of one Ellie Kate Murray are catching up quickly.



Taking Aim

Ellie Kate has her aim fixed on the same bowling glory her bigger brothers enjoy.



Know of a promising youth bowler who belongs in **GENERATION NEXT**? Let us know! Email the editor at Gianmarc.Manzione@bowl.com.

Brady Longenecker

WICHITA, KS

AGE 16

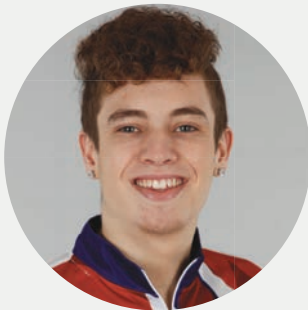
2019 KANSAS STATE PEPSI CHAMPION

This midwest youth-bowling standout is on a roll, having bowled his first 800 series, an 824, at Northrock Lanes in Wichita in November — getting his own cake from center staff with that total emblazoned across it in icing to boot! — and he enjoyed a top-10 finish in the Storm Youth Championships in Kansas in September, finishing seventh. His average in SYC events has improved significantly year to year, standing at 192 now from 173 for the 2019 season. The 2019 Kansas State Pepsi champion has qualified for the high-school state championships every year bowling for Trinity Academy, where the junior's performance earned him a berth onto the All-Kansas Bowling First Team. Longenecker does have some colleges on his radar, including Newman University and Oklahoma Christian University, and he hopes to study business or accounting. "He's just a lot of fun to watch, and always supportive of his teammates, which I like to see," says mom Kristen, who is the Director of Youth Development at Northrock.



Piece of Cake

Brady Longenecker got to have his cake and eat it too, literally, after shooting his first 800 set in November.



WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

TREY FORD III

21 | Bartlesville, Oklahoma | **GENERATION NEXT DEBUT** February 2016

When Bowlers Journal readers last saw this standout's name in the Generation Next department, he was a 15-year-old phenom fresh off of distinguishing himself as the youngest competitor in the field at the World Series of Bowling VII. The two-hander from the right side did not stop there. Since his Generation Next debut, he won his first PBA Regional title at age 17 in the 2018 PBA FireLake/Grand Casino Resort Southwest Open, a feat that made him the youngest PBA Regional champion at the time. The prior year, he nearly made the big show when he narrowly missed the 2017 PBA Oklahoma Open telecast, finishing two spots off the show. And just last year, he fell just short of a PBA Tour telecast again, this time the 2021 PBA Players Championship Southwest Region Finals, finishing one spot off the show in sixth. "I'm just going to keep doing the best I can. I know more titles and more success are going to come, but I just want to keep going out there and trying, keep getting my name out there more," Ford says. "I am not going to give up anytime soon, no matter how bad it goes or how good it goes." He's not kidding. Ford says the only time he has not bowled two-handed was when he broke his right arm... because he bowled left-handed instead. "I'm actually pretty good at it," says the right-hander.



2016

Conversation

Cody Schmitt

This operator of Firehouse Pro Shop at Anchor Lanes in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, became the 37th bowler to shoot a USBC-certified 900 series on Nov. 16, when the 26-year-old right-hander achieved the feat in the Tuesday GFL League at that center. His family has owned the center since 2013, and he had grown up bowling there long before then. Schmitt spoke with us about the surreal experience, what it was like shooting 900 at his longtime home center before family, and much more.



On Fire
Volunteer fireman Cody Schmitt enjoyed a red-hot performance as the country's 37th 900-series bowler.

Q 'Firehouse Pro Shop' is an interesting name for a pro shop. What's the story there?

A Yeah, so actually firefighting has been a big part of my life. My grandpa was a volunteer firefighter, my dad was a volunteer firefighter before me for 32 years, so I followed in their footsteps and I'm a volunteer firefighter with the Elkhart Lake Fire Department. Currently, I'm a captain with the department, so I'm like sixth in line. I've been firefighting since I was 16 years old. I came up through the cadet program, got learning a little bit more, and then once I graduated high school, I was a full-fledged member.

Q All good reasons to name your pro shop 'Firehouse,' for sure.

A Yeah, I grew up at the firehouse, so when it came to naming a pro shop, what better way to combine both my passions and kind of twirl it all under one name?

Q What spurred your family's passion for firefighting?

A You know, honestly, that's a really good question. I guess I never really thought about what drove that passion

through the generations. I guess for me, it's mainly a tradition but also it's nice to be able to help people, and obviously it's quite the adrenaline rush too. I just enjoy going out in the middle of the night and helping people on their worst days.

Q Well then, you know what the next question will be: Which is the bigger adrenaline rush, fighting fires or throwing that 36th strike for a 900 series?

A You know, I would honestly have to say the 36th strike, but it's definitely close when you're standing next to a building with 40-foot flames coming out of the top.

Q Right. Are there any firefighting experiences that have lingered with you?

A There definitely are a lot of fires that stick with me, and, I mean, obviously when you're dealing with some sort of tragedy, those stay more prevalent in your mind. But there was a restaurant fire a couple years ago that my department had and I just remember I was in the first truck that got there and I looked up and saw 40-foot flames coming out of the roof and



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Road to 900
Cody Schmitt had been bowling at Anchor Lanes all his life by the time he shot 900 there.

thought, 'Oh, my gosh. How are we gonna stop this?' I mean, obviously, there's no stopping it. Once you've got flames that high, you're not going to stop any sort of fire.

Q So has the 900 helped business at the pro shop?

A I honestly haven't seen too much of a difference among my customer base since shooting 900, but there have been a lot of jokes about, 'Okay, when you drill my ball, is there going to be a 900 in that ball?'

Q Did you shoot 853 two days after your 900?

A Yeah, I did (chuckles). I think it helped that it just didn't feel real to me. It's not really something that you ever dream about doing. I don't know if it's ever going to sink in that I shot 900. So to get back to it like that, I don't think it was extremely difficult. And it helps that I've been throwing the ball really well. I kind of went through a little bit of a mechanics change, trying to keep my weight a little bit more over my leg and bending my knee a little bit more. I think it's definitely helping.

Q Among the messages you received after shooting 900 was one from Jason Belmonte, is that correct?

A Yeah, he put something out on his Facebook page sharing Roto Grip's picture of the 900, so it wasn't a private message or anything like that, but even a public shout-out from Jason Belmonte is something that helps you understand the gravity of what you have done, to see arguably the best bowler ever share one of your accomplishments. That is something

that I think is incredibly special.

Q So, for those who never will know, what is it like standing on the approach having tossed 35-bagger and needing one more for 900?

A It's indescribable. You're never prepared for that kind of pressure. You're kind of content with 35 strikes. You don't really want to go up there for your 36th. But, you have to go up there and you have to pry the ball off your hand. Lucky for me, that was maybe not necessarily one of my better pitches of the night, but it definitely was better than the previous shot, that's for sure. It was a halfway decent shot. After I struck, I remember turning around and just seeing a bunch of hands in my face, waiting for high-fives. It's just an indescribable feeling, just standing up on the approach throwing the ball in those circumstances to begin with.

Q Anchor Lanes was basically your childhood bowling center, right?

A Yeah. I mean, the amount of money my family spent in there before we bought it probably was enough to buy it two times over. That's how much time we spent in that place.

Q So how old were you when you first started bowling there?

A I started bowling there when I was 4, in the bumper program. Then I moved up to the bantams and started bowling a little better. And one thing that stands out to me looking back is that I was never the best bowler on my team, I was never the best bowler in the program or in the center, so

that's something that made me strive a little bit harder and push to bowl an extra game or two a week to get a little better.

Q So what do you make of having done this in a center you grew up in?

A It certainly is special, very special. Now, you also see the criticism, 'Of course he's going to do it there because that's the place he bowls. He doesn't venture outside of his house.' That sort of thing. You have people like that, and you have people who are like, 'So what? It's still a 900 series. It's still something special.' I wouldn't say I have mixed feelings about it, because it's certainly special, but I strive to do better outside of my center and bowl better in those tournaments.

Q You also got to shoot this 900 in front of family, correct?

A Yes, to do it in front of my mom (Linda) and my dad (Dan) is something really special. Pretty much all the memories I have of doing anything great on the lanes, I have done it in front of my dad. He definitely helped me stay loose. He's a jokester. So, after I threw that second ball in the 10th in the third game, he's like, 'Every second ball of the 10th frame, you always throw like trash. Let's throw a better one here.' I don't even think my mom knew I was going for 900 until my dad kind of went up to her because we're short on help at the bowling alley, like I think everyone is, so she was busy in the back making pizzas, and I kind of watched my dad go up to her and mention something to her. But having them behind the lanes made it really special.

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Action

Jones Continues Scorching Run with Barnes Thanksgiving Classic Triumph



Distinguished Duo

Eric Jones and Garrett Andrus, winner and runner-up respectively, held off another talent-rich field at the Chris Barnes (center) Thanksgiving Classic.

ERIC JONES is the son of a sax player, and by now the scholarship money he is hauling in with his sensational run through the youth-bowling ranks has to be music to dad's ears.

The 16-year-old high-school junior out of Edmond, Oklahoma, where dad Heath teaches music at Oklahoma Christian University, became the youngest bowler to win a PBA Regional tournament when he did so at age 15 in the PBA Oklahoma City Southwest Open in October 2020 for a \$2,500 deposit into his SMART account.

The two-hander from the port side nearly repeated that performance in the same event last year, finishing third for another \$1,400 scholarship haul. Weeks later, he finished runner-up to fellow teen Deo Benard in the PBA Odessa Southwest Super Open to bank another \$2,500 scholarship prize.

Not content to be confined to regional success, Jones made the show on the regular tour in August, finishing fourth in the 2021 PBA Jonesboro Open for another couple grand in scholarship money.

And now, after winning the 185 & Over Scratch Division in

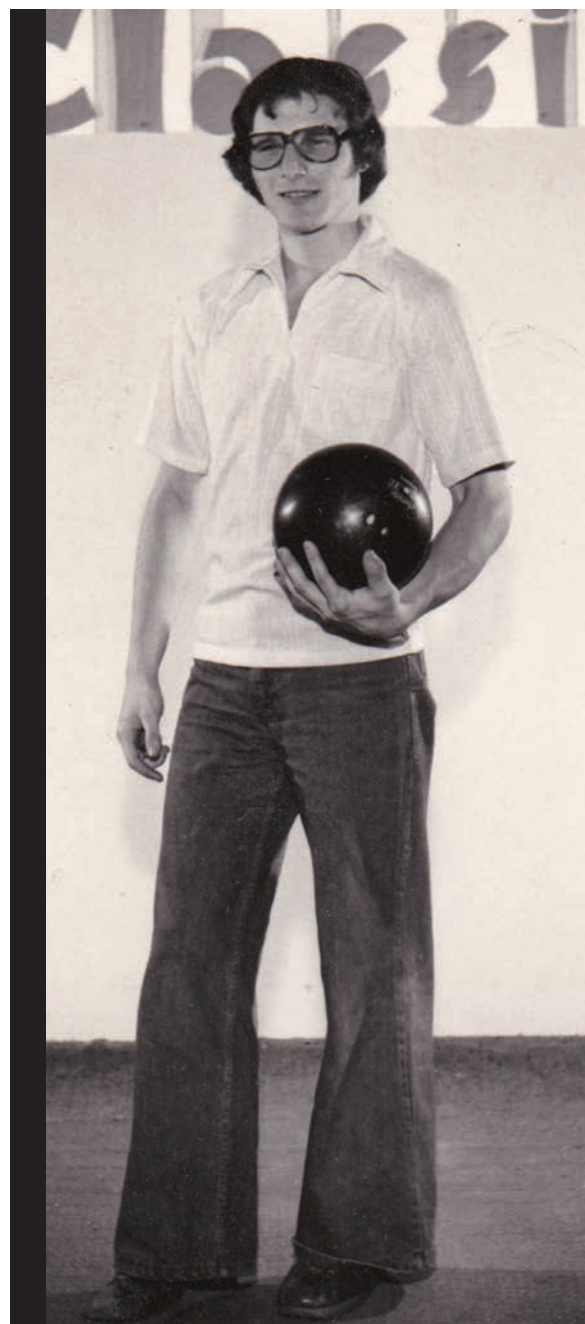
the 2021 edition of the Barnes Thanksgiving Classic at Plano Super Bowl in Plano, Texas, he has earned the notice, and the praise, of one of the greatest ever — the tournament's namesake himself, who marvels at Jones's versatility.

"There are some things about his game that are going to travel well. Sometimes [with two-handers] they're good at certain things but their swing isn't straight and they're not going to be able to do a lot of things ... Well, Eric is 6 foot 2, has a pretty athletic body, his swing is straight," said 19-time PBA Tour champion Chris Barnes. "I mean, his biggest problem is he throws it too hard, but that's like saying you hit it too far in golf. That can be dialed back."

Joining Jones, whose win scored him another two grand in scholarships, were runner-up Garrett Andrus, third-place finisher Alyssa Ballard, and outright phenom Keegan Alexander in fourth, followed by Nolan Walters, who rounded out the top five. Mariah Bell won the 184 & Under Handicap Division, while Reid Jimenez topped the 13 & Younger Division standings.

— Gianmarc Manzione

MILESTONE



Hugh Miller

Milestone

Hugh Miller's 46th PBA Regional title rounds out an exclusive club of two dozen PBA greats.

WHEN HUGH MILLER entered the 2021 PBA50 Gary Mage Classic in the PBA's Northwest Region at Paradise Lanes in Tacoma, Washington, he did so a win away from joining one of bowling's most exclusive and prestigious clubs — bowlers who have at least one PBA title, be it regional or national, in each of at least five decades.

For Miller, a seven-time PBA Tour titlist who went on to win three PBA50 Tour events for a combined 10 national PBA titles, the win in the PBA50 Gary Mage Classic on Oct. 17 was his 46th combined regional title between his PBA and PBA50 Regional victories.

Ever the athlete, Miller, 64, hardly had bowled at all in 2020. But some nagging injuries, and higher stakes for him on the lanes, changed things.

"Both my hips are so bad that I didn't play in the [Men's Senior Baseball League] World Series this year, so I decided to do a bit of bowling," Miller said. "My friends have been encouraging me to do so, as my name has been in the mix for the USBC Hall of Fame."

It helped that Justin Kostick, Miller's stepson and the head coach of the Arkansas State women's bowling team, hooked Miller up with some new equipment.

Miller staged an encore the following weekend when he won his 47th regional title overall in the PBA50 Northwest Legends Classic on Oct. 25 at Epicenter Family Entertainment Complex in Klamath Falls, Oregon. The Oct. 17 victory made him the 24th player to win at least one PBA regional or national title in each of five decades, and it casts a fresh spotlight on that elite cadre of PBA competitors.

Here is our rundown of the first national PBA title Johnny Petraglia won in each of six decades — he stands alone in that regard and likely will for some time to come — followed by the nine players who won national titles across five decades, and lastly the rest of the pack — 14 additional players who won PBA titles in each of five decades.

▶ **ONE AND ONLY:
JOHNNY PETRAGLIA'S
SIX DECADES OF
NATIONAL PBA TITLES**
Johnny Petraglia

▶ **NINE PLAYERS WITH
NATIONAL PBA TITLES
ACROSS FIVE DECADES**
Parker Bohn III
Norm Duke
Dale Eagle
Amleto Monacelli
Dave Soutar
Wayne Webb
Dick Weber
Pete Weber*
Walter Ray Williams Jr.

▶ **14 PLAYERS WITH A
NATIONAL OR REGIONAL
PBA TITLE ACROSS FIVE
DECADES**
Tom Baker
Darryl Bower
Roy Buckley
Jason Couch*
Dave Davis
Henry Gonzalez
Eugene McCune
Hugh Miller
Gary Morgan
Ross Packard
George Pappas
Teata Semiz
Ryan Shafer
Chris Warren

*Includes one regional title won as a non-member

(Compiled by Eric Hartman and Gianmarc Manzione, with special thanks to John Weber)

Action

Jay Watts Never Will Forget How He Won Ron Mohr's Senior Shootout

JAY WATTS of Omaha, Nebraska, knew that Thanksgiving week 2021 stood a chance of being one he never would forget. He never could have imagined just how memorable a week it would be.

Watts had scheduled a trip to Cancun with Cindy, his partner of 18 years, and his children and grandchildren as a Christmas present, and when Thanksgiving week emerged as the ideal time for all to go, Watts's mind went straight to a tournament he calls "the highlight of my year" — Ron Mohr's South Point Senior Shootout in Las Vegas. What if it conflicted with his flight to Cancun?

He told himself that advancing so far into a tournament with as talented a roster as this one attracts was "a pipe dream." As that dream steadily became reality, Watts pondered a nightmare: Missing his 7:30 p.m. flight from Vegas to Omaha to then board a flight with family to Chicago, where they then would hop their plane to paradise together.

In the tournament's main event, the South Point Senior Shootout I Am Bowling Championship, he defeated former Major League Baseball All-Star pitcher turned bowler John Burkett. He downed Team USA veteran Steve Smith. He held off PBA Southwest Region tournament director Pete McCordic, he of the famed \$100,000 perfect game in the 1987 Greater Los Angeles Open.

When he reached the title match, where he would bowl USBC Hall of Famer Steve Kloempken, he looked flustered, checking his phone for other flights in a panic, and calling Cindy, who kept assuring him it all will be OK.

"I called her after I defeated Steve Smith in the quarterfinals, and I was almost in tears because I didn't know how I was going to get home," he recalled. "She said, 'Don't worry about it. Just go do the best you can do. We'll figure it out.' Without Cindy, none of this

Sky High

Jay Watts had his mind on the skies while winning the Senior Shootout, and with good reason.



would have been possible."

Mohr recalls that, "After the match was over, it probably was 6:30 by that point, I'm thinking this is going to be the world's shortest trophy presentation, so I walk out, I hand him the trophy, and he goes absolutely crazy. He grabs me, picks me up off the approach, and in a Pete Weber moment, drops his trophy and breaks it."

Watts hopes it stays that way — a unique memento of a week he will talk about for years.

"Ron told me he was going to repair it, but I hope he doesn't," said Watts, who heaped praise upon Mohr for running a tournament that now ranks among the most anticipated annual events on the calendars of competitive senior bowlers nationwide.

Hugh Miller, meanwhile, won the tournament's inaugural super-senior event in spite of two hips that need replacement. The seven-time PBA Tour champion, who won back-to-back PBA Regionals in October, describes his resurgence this way: "I'll put it in racing terms, because I love racing. When you know the engine's going bad, and the vehicle is not going to go much further, you just put the pedal to the floor until it blows up."

Other winners included Wayne Garber (Steve Cook's Bowling Supply Sweeper), Tony Manna (Turbo Challenge), Michael Haggitt (Turbo Sweeper), Kloempken (900 Global Challenge), Paul Fleming (Roto Grip Sweeper/Haynes Bowling Supply Challenge), Ron Holt (Genesis Products "Under \$301" Sweeper).

McCordic earned the event's "South Point Super Senior Shooting Star" recognition for his performance throughout the event.

And for the record: Watts and family made it to Cancun just fine.

— Gianmarc Manzione

Regional Roundup

Don McCune's Grandson Highlights Generational Rarity

WHEN HE CAPTURED the Plaza Bowl Midwest Regional Players Invitational Qualifying Open in Clinton, Iowa, in November, Kevin McCune, grandson of PBA and USBC Hall of Famer Don, joined more than 600 bowlers to have earned an official PBA champions banner.

Nevertheless, since the PBA has conducted more than 6,700 such events since launching its regional program in 1969, the chances of a player breaking through for an initial title at an open-field event (as opposed competition exclusive to non-champions) stands around 10 percent. It's nearly always necessary to prevail over highly accomplished players to win a regional.

At that, there have been more than a half-dozen father/son combinations to have earned regional titles beginning with Dick and Rich Weber in the Midwest Region in 1975, through Mike and Brandon Runk in the East last fall. But McCune's title represents the first time three generations have been so credited.

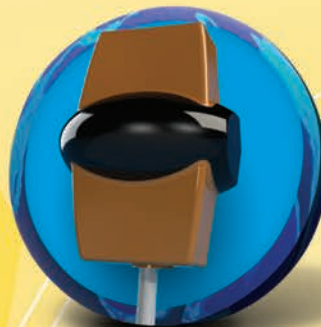
Kevin's bowling pedigree goes back to his grandfather, Don, who won seven national tour titles along with three regionals, was named 1973 PBA Player of Year, inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame in 1991, and into the USBC Hall of Fame in 2013. At last count, Kevin's dad, Eugene, had amassed 28 regional titles (including five in 2021) to go along with go along with three wins on the regular tour and two more on the PBA50 circuit.

At the Iowa regional, McCune, 22, a one-handed swinging righthander, earned the top-seeded position by 23 pins over Pete Weber. Jace Meyer eliminated Weber in the semi-final game before McCune prevailed, 242-233, in the title game.

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— Lyle Zikes



How the 'Approach Start Drill' Can Improve Your Swing

by **LYLE ZIKES**

To work on improving the beginning of the swing, use the "Approach Start Drill." Proceed with your steps, pushaway and swing start until the ball bottoms out near your knee. Then stop. Are your swing and steps timed up effectively? Is your swing path veering around your leg, perhaps headed behind your back? Was the initial downward movement of the ball constrained? Are your forward and lateral spine angles overly contorted? Answers to those checkpoints will define the correction(s) needed.

- Are your swing and steps timed well?
- Is your swing path veering?
- Is the ball movement constrained?
- Are your spine angles too contorted?

Open Your Hips to Open Up the Lane

Do you know that your ability to open up the lane and hook the ball can be enhanced before you ever take your first step toward the foul line? Here's how:

If you plan to swing the ball, set up with your feet staggered. For a right-handed player, this would mean having the toes of your right foot aligned with the middle of your left foot. This starting position naturally opens your hips toward the outside portion of the lane, which should already get you thinking about opening up and feeding the ball to the outside.

— Gene Kanak



Mind Games

Expectations Come in Many Forms. Here's Why None Matter More than Your Own.

BY DIANDRA ASBATY

THERE IS A CERTAIN magic to being the “underdog.” You don’t have to deal with the weight of other peoples’ expectations. Your swing becomes looser. You post your shots.

Such was the zone I bowled in when I was a little kid known as “Kassy Hyman’s little sister.” Back then, I was the underdog. All eyes were on Kassy. No one knew my name. I could bowl under the proverbial radar.

Then, something happened that changed all that forever. I started to win tournaments. I began shooting honor scores. I flourished. That “under-the-radar” vibe I enjoyed began to give way to life as a bowler who had a target on her back. No longer was I just Kassy’s little sister.

Now, I had to figure out one of the hardest things in any sport: How to manage other people’s expectations. It is a task that can make or break any athlete, an ordeal that sometimes feels too heavy to bear.

PWBA superstar Shannon O’Keefe, a two-time Player of the Year, knows about the pressure that expectations can impose. As she puts it, “I personally believe ‘pressure’ is self-induced based on someone’s desire to please and or impress others, and they base this solely on the outcome.”

She is exactly right. When you learn how to live in the moment, the good and the bad, being proud of how you compete regardless of outcome, to be present and love what you do — that’s where the “pressure” will dissipate and you’ll be free to be yourself and find true joy in everything you do.

It is too easy, and all too common, to do otherwise. Most people buckle under the weight of external expectations. In our sport, they are the ones who never reach their full potential because when they grab their bowling ball, quietly step up on the approach and get set to execute, they don’t hear what they are supposed to in their minds. They hear the voices of other

people waiting for them to fail. To miss that spare. To pull up out of the shot. Rather than execute the shot to their fullest potential, they freeze.

The key is to instead focus on yourself. To realize that the most important opinion is inside you. Put that before anyone or anything else. While many seek the approval of others, the truth is that how anyone perceives you is really beyond your power.

So, what’s the secret to staying mindful and focused? How do we push all the expectations of other people away? Focus on what you can control. Put an insane amount of focus on execution. Focus on posting your shot. Focus on watching your ball reaction. Be so obsessed with what you’re doing that those outside voices go silent.

PWBA Tour champion Stefanie Johnson has a great perspective here. “When I was younger, I always felt I had to win anything I bowled in. But as I have gotten older, I have come to terms with it not being my job to manage other people’s expectations of me,” she says. “The only expectation I have of myself is to be better today than I was yesterday in whatever capacity that may be.”

In life, as much as in any sport, it’s very easy to get wrapped up in things that we can’t control and things that don’t matter. With family and friends, for instance, we’re often in the position where we have to manage other people’s approval or expectations of us. But really, we can never have control over any of that. And if we take a moment to think about it, we’ll realize that all that pressure we’re experiencing is just, as Shannon says, self-induced.

Diandra Asbaty is a World Bowling Writers Hall of Fame member who won the 2012 USBC Queens and amassed more than 70 medals around the world during her 15 years representing Team USA.



Pressure Point:
Two-time PWBA Player of the Year Shannon O’Keefe believes pressure is self-induced and results from a desire to please others.

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Breakdown

IN PRAISE OF THE OLD SCHOOL

Bryanna Coté's game is not as flashy as other players, but her success proves that simple still can be best.

by **BILL SPIGNER**

All of a sudden, here's Bryanna Cote, PWBA player of the year. No one heard those footsteps coming, and she was as surprised by the award as anyone.

In an era dominated by fascination with rev rate, ball speed and messengers that tear across pin decks to tomahawk corner pins, Coté has emerged out of the shadows of more celebrated names like Kulick, Johnson and O'Keefe with a decidedly less flashy game founded on hard work and a stick-with-it attitude. It gets the job done just as well as any power player and, for the 2021 PWBA Tour season at least, better than any of them.

Growing up, Coté's grandfather Ray taught her the fundamentals of the game to get her started. Ever since, Coté pretty much has been a self-made competitor. While no one can do it totally on their own, as knowledge has to be gained from somewhere, Coté has proven to be a scrupulous learner. She always keeps her ears and eyes open to ideas, but she filters out things that are not pertinent to her game while applying things that are.

That discernment is serving her well, as she now finds herself at the pinnacle of a tour loaded with talent.

Hard Knocks, in Phoenix and Beyond

Growing up in the Phoenix area, Coté bowled in the Junior Bowlers Tour throughout the southwest. These events accelerated her growth exponentially as she would bowl mostly against the boys on the scratch side of things. That meant she had to get better in a hurry to keep up, because the boys with higher rev rates and ball speed would destroy the pattern and force her to either learn to adjust or be a non-factor. Learning to survive on the lanes at a young age and refusing to take a back seat to anyone helped prepare her for her next developing journey — college bowling.

She attended the University of Central Missouri, where she bowled under the program's longtime head coach Ron Holms. Coté quickly struck him as a special talent who set very high expectations for herself and had the same expectations for her teammates. Better yet, she always was honest and candid about those expectations, which is to say she exhibited the qualities of a leader.

Her sustained level of focus and work ethic spurred the rest of the team to work harder, and they soon developed into a powerhouse during her years there.



Girl Power

Coté's growth accelerated rapidly when she battled boys with high rev rates as a youth bowler.



A True Athlete

Coté's incredible athleticism is on display here. Her very firm grip includes a cupped wrist and an arched index finger pushing down hard. Such grip pressure normally would make it difficult to execute a free swing, but Coté routinely does just that.

To top it off, she was the first bowler in NCAA history, in any division, to be named NTCA player of the year in each of her four years as a college player. If that weren't enough, she also made Junior Team USA twice while in college, in 2006 and 2007.

Staying Patient

One of the big things Coté learned in college was to control the pocket and make spares — the genesis of the ultra-successful game she now features on tour. That brand of play was as essential in college as it has proven to be in Coté's pro career, as the Baker format often utilized in five-player collegiate team play puts a premium on filling frames and having the patience that strikes will come.

Unlike Coté's individual performances before college, when she had to get striking to keep up as an individual bowling against those pattern-destroying boys with their aggressive games, this focus on keeping the ball in play and converting spares has instilled in Coté the kind of patience she needed to persevere through the end of a very tight 2021 PWBA Player of the Year race.

Team USA, an Injury, and Major Changes

Coté added six more years on the adult Team USA squad following those prior stints with the junior program, and it is there that she benefitted greatly from former head coach Rod Ross's Elite Training Assessment evaluation.

That assessment yielded data-driven, top-to-bottom appraisals of each player's game in granular detail, covering everything from physical performance and abilities to fitness and beyond. Coté readily admits she is no numbers girl, but Ross's program cast into high relief the strengths and weaknesses of her game and provided a road map for further refinement. After all, a coach can guide a player, but ultimately it is up to the player to do the work. Make no mistake: Coté is a player who puts in the work.

While she did that work, though, physical injuries interfered with her progress. Bouts with tendinitis required three cortisone shots over time. Coté got her grips reevaluated and discovered a possible culprit: Her span was too long, which caused her wrist to undergo a great deal of stress and made it harder for her to impart rotation on the ball. The solution was a dramatic one, as she shortened her span by a full inch. In an added precautionary

measure, she continues to bowl with kinesiology tape on both her wrist and hand to help reduce swelling and pain, but also to accelerate recovery time.

Further, Coté uses a Turbo Rev on her index finger, which is basically a finger insert, to help alleviate pain at the tip of that finger. She presses the tip of her index finger on the surface of the ball, which is one way to enable a firmer wrist position, tighten up the thumb side of the hand and create more axis rotation, but in Coté's case it also has resulted in a painful callus on the tip of that finger. This index-finger pressure was very common back in my day on tour.

Another distinctive feature of Coté's game is her cupped wrist; she uses a firm grip with her thumb which contributed to yet another callus, this one on the back of her thumb. She wears thumb protection tape for that. It all adds up to a very firm wrist and grip, but she doesn't let it impede the freedom of her swing or affect its direction

Staying Sharp without a Tour to Bowl

Without a tour to compete in after graduating college, Coté had to wait until 2015 for the PWBA to start up again. During that time, she kept sharp by bowling a couple of leagues a week, lacing up for every local tournament she could find, and bowling the couple of majors that were still contested annually — the Queens and the U.S. Open. She also worked fulltime in her father Dallas's janitorial business, which she still does today and keeps her mentally fresh for bowling.

When the tour restarted, that intense bowling schedule enabled her to hit the ground running. In her second year, 2016, she won her first title. But it took five long years to get title number two, the 2021 ITRC Classic during January's PWBA Kick-off Classic Series. One thing she learned to accept during that long wait between titles was that the more she fretted about standings and scores, the more her performance suffered. She put too much pressure on herself and that prevented her from staying in the moment.

These days, her advice to any player who will listen is, "The shot you just made is done. You can't change it, good or bad. The next shot is the only one that counts, so stay in the present rather than living in the past or thinking about the future." Having a short-term memory is not easy in this or any other sport, but it is absolutely essential to success. Coté,



Support System

If you ever have heard a coach tell you to use your legs, Coté's rock-solid finish position here is exactly what they mean. Her feet support her legs, her legs then support the upper body, and her upper body then supports the arm, which then supports the hand.

to her credit, learned to focus on just one thing at a time and eliminate the external things that were distracting her from the task at hand.

Keeping it Simple: Coté's Physical Game

Coté has a very simple, five-step delivery with a late pushaway that is common among women bowlers. Late pushaways can be tricky things, chiefly because the ball-side arm and the leg pass each other at the same time. This creates an unbalanced position at that moment in the approach. The key to so-called "perfect timing" early on in the approach, conversely, is that the ball passes the bowling-side leg before that leg goes forward — step two in the four-step delivery and step three in the five-step delivery.

Coté says she has always had problems slowing down her feet, which makes sense because of her timing and super-free,

fast-moving backswing. With this timing, you have to really let the swing go totally free, which she does. This ensures that the weight of the ball doesn't pull her off balance, among other bad things that could happen if she were to grab the ball as it passed the bowling-side leg on the backswing. Another important attribute that enables her to stay balanced is her leg and core strength, which for Coté is the benefit of working with a personal trainer three days a week specifically on strength and endurance training.

Trail-Leg Dilemma

Coté sets her hand in the stance, takes very little time there, and goes. She then always sticks the finish. Her finish position has been an ongoing project over the past five years, and the challenge here has been her trail leg. She used to finish with the medial side/arch of her trail foot on the floor, like PBA Tour champion Jakob Butturf does as he enters the



Swinging Free, and with Power

While this technically is an unbalanced position with all Coté's weight and the ball right off her left leg and her right foot off the floor, it's also a testament to the strength of Coté's legs and core. Most others who stood this way with a 14-pound ball in their hand wouldn't be able to do it without leaning to the left to counterbalance their right side.

release zone. This type of foot position keeps the hips open and, with the trail leg behind the sliding leg, it can cause the bowler to release the ball like they are standing on a balance beam — a weak position.

In order to make better use of her legs during the release and finish, Coté has been working on getting the trail foot to the lateral side/pinky-toe side of the foot. When she was releasing the ball from the old trail-foot position, she would constantly pull up out of the shot. Working on the trail foot/leg has helped her tremendously with staying down through the shot during the release and finish, hence using her legs better. This change of the trail-foot position is very difficult; after five years of working on it, it is an aspect of her game that remains a work in progress.

Why Coté Uses a 14-Pound Ball

Another major change Coté made was with her ball weight, as that work she has been doing on her trail leg caused her to lose some ball speed. After the Queens in 2017, Rob Gotchall, her tour rep at the time, proposed a solution: Try going down in weight from a 15-pound ball to 14 to get her speed up and increase her rev rate. As Coté was already using a 14-pound spare ball, the weight change wasn't an issue feel-wise, and it really did help with speed and revs. Meanwhile, the resultant increase in hook, ball speed and revs ensures that she loses little, if any, carry going to lighter equipment. There is one drawback to her increase ball motion, however: She has a little more trouble playing straighter, outside angles. But, as her 2021 PWBA Player of the Year award makes clear, freeing herself up to play more open angles has paid big-time dividends.

On Target

Coté's targeting system is very normal and old school; she looks at the area around the arrows, and she will fix on a target a little closer than that to get the ball to roll earlier and a little past the arrows. This helps her project the ball farther down the lane. She likes to keep things simple and repeatable. Even with all the modern-day hocus-pocus, Coté's game, and the tremendous success it has brought her, proves that high achievement in this sport still boils down to old-school, solid fundamentals to make good, consistent shots and knowledgeable decisions on ball selection and lane play. Indeed, Coté is one of the premier shot makers on tour today, with a well-balanced overall physical and mental game. ■

Lesson Plan

by **Bill Spigner**

We always hear coaches and bowlers say to use your legs more. It's very true, sure. You need to use your legs. But what does that mean, really?

Well, your feet are of primary importance in your approach because they support everything from the ground up. The way that chain of support works is as follows: The feet support the legs, the legs support the upper body, which in turn supports the arm and then the hand, which in turn supports the ball. It starts right at the beginning, building your stance from the feet up, culminating with the finish position. The best finish position will vary relative to style from one bowler to the next, as will the use of the feet and legs.

For the past five years, Coté has been working on the position of her trail foot, which affects her trail leg. The pictures here show her and Jakob Butturff (with Butturff's pictures reversed to show a right-handed position like Coté's) entering the release zone, and again after the release. There is one huge difference between the two, their trail foot. Butturff is on the medial side of his foot, while

Coté is on the toe and finishes on the lateral side. She used to be more like Butturff. The problem she was having doing this, however, was that she couldn't stay down through the finish. Instead, she would constantly pull up, even trying to stay down.

In Coté's finish position after the release, you can see how low she stays now. Butturff's sliding leg has straightened out after the release; coming up out of the shot is very normal with the trail foot in his position. The sliding leg straightens out, which in turn raises the upper body, and the trail foot lifts off the floor after the release and the shot is finished in what looks like an out-of-balance position. But for many, including Butturff, they really are in balance at the release, which is the most important thing.

Coté grew up bowling with the foot more on the medial side, which developed her into a harder, straighter player. She started working on her trail foot to get her leg in a better position to post her finish better, which is using her trail leg differently than she did until she was almost 30. This was, and is, a very

hard change for someone who has been doing this for a long time, which is evidenced by her still working on it after five years. This change has opened up her game, resulting in her PWBA Bowler of The Year.

Today, with the more powerful releases featured at the sport's highest levels, the lower body is more open going into the slide, especially with two handers. This is why we see many more bowlers entering the release zone with the medial side of the foot on the floor. If you do this, let your sliding leg straighten after the release through the finish, but don't lose your forward spine tilt, which will help the upper body and arm continue its forward momentum to better complete the shot. Trying to stay down with knee flex will result in a loss of leverage and momentum.

The moral of the story is this: Never stop learning about what you have, and making what you have better. If ever there were a case in point here, it's that Coté, here in the middle of her pro career at age 35, and even fresh off a PWBA Player-of-the-Year season, continues to refine this important element of her game.



Footloose

Entering the release zone, Butturff's trail foot is on the medial side of his foot, while Coté's is on the toe and finishes on the lateral side. She used to be more like Butturff.

BALL MOTION POTENTIAL

Hook Potential	Breakpoint Shape															
	10	11	12	12.5	13	13.5	14	14.5	15	15.5	16	16.5	17	17.5	18	
Very Dry to Lighter Volume Oil Patterns	40															
	40.5															
	41															
	41.5															
	42															
	42.5															
	43															
	43.5															
	44															
	44.5															
45																
45.5																
Light: Medium and Medium-Heavy Volume Oil Patterns	46															
	46.5															
	47															
	47.5															
	48															
	48.5															
	49															
	49.5															
	50															
	50.5															
51																
51.5																
52																
52.5																
Medium-Heavy to Heavier Oil Volume Oil Patterns	53															
	53.5															
	54															
	54.5															
	55															
	55.5															
	56											2				
	56.5															
	57															
	57.5												5			
	58															
	58.5															
	59															
59.5																
60																
60.5																
61																
61.5							3		1							
62																
62.5																
63																
63.5												4				
64																
64.5																
65																

Balls with higher breakpoint shape ratings have the potential to react more quickly & angularly when encountering friction areas on the lane. Balls with medium to lower breakpoint shape ratings tend to react more evenly & slowly when encountering friction areas on the lane.

JANUARY 2022

- MOTIV: Trident Odyssey
- Swag: Graffiti Pop
- Swag: Fantasy Daze
- Storm: Nova Scotia
- Storm: Spectre

RECENTLY REVIEWED

DECEMBER 2021

- 900 Global: Wolverine
- 900 Global: Altered Reality
- Hammer: Black Widow Ghost Pearl
- Track: Heat

NOVEMBER 2021

MOTIV: Iron Forge	58 / 17
ABS: Nanodesu 9	61 / 14
DV8: Medusa	60 / 16
Brunswick: Quantum Evo Solid	64.5 / 15.5
Brunswick: Quantum Evo Pearl	59 / 16
Radical: Payback	62 / 16
Radical: Trail Blazer	58.5 / 17
Roto Grip: Idol Helios	62.5 / 15.5
Roto Grip: Rubicon UC3	58 / 14.75

OCTOBER 2021

Roto Grip: Hyped Pearl	57 / 16.5
Roto Grip: Hyped Hybrid	58 / 16.5
Storm: Trend 2	58.5 / 16.5
Ebonite: Polaris	64 / 15.5
Columbia 300: Power Torq	62.75 / 15
MOTIV: Pride	58.5 / 15
MOTIV: Supra Enzo	56 / 17

THE BJI BALL CHART/BALL REVIEWS

METHODOLOGY

The *Bowlers Journal International* Ball Motion Potential chart is designed to help bowlers understand which lane conditions are best suited for the most recently introduced bowling balls in the marketplace. Placement positions on the chart are based on the “out of box” surface from the manufacturer. Surface adjustments can impact a ball’s performance and, thus, its position on the chart.

The chart’s horizontal axis displays a ball’s approximate total hook in the presence of oil. While some coverstocks may have similar maximum, dry lane, or coefficient-of-friction measurements, their ability to traction in oil can vary significantly.

Balls with minimal hook potential are placed on the far left side of the chart. Balls offering a moderate degree of hook are placed in the chart’s middle section. Balls with the greatest hook potential in heavy oil are placed on the right side of the chart.

The chart’s vertical axis displays a ball’s breakpoint shape. Balls offering more skip/snap reaction are placed higher on the chart. Balls offering a smoother, more arcing motion are placed lower on the chart.

Chart placements are based on testing by BJI ball reviewer Vernon Peterson, selected bowlers with varying release styles, C.A.T.S. results, PBA player input, and discussions with ball company representatives.

HOOK POTENTIAL

35-45: Balls with lower total hook ranges, best suited for lighter oil concentrations. Players with slower speeds or higher rev rates may also prefer balls in this range for medium oil applications.

45-51: Balls with medium hook ability, best suited for the vast majority of “typical house shots” and some lower-volume Sport patterns. This hook range should be represented by the “centerpiece” ball in most arsenals.

51-60+: Balls with greater total hook, designed for heavier oil volumes. Players with higher speeds or lower rev rates, who need added lane traction, may also prefer balls in this range.

LENGTH RATINGS

8-12: Earlier rolling balls that read the lane sooner. These products generally come factory-sanded with lower grit surfaces, and match up well with speed-dominant styles and those bowling on longer patterns.

12-15: Medium-length balls that produce easier length through the midlane. Good for most house shots and medium-volume Sport patterns.

15-19+: Balls offering extra length for those bowling on lighter oil concentrations. Also beneficial for slower speed players, or those with higher rev rates needing added push downlane.

BREAKPOINT SHAPE

10-13: Slower-response balls that read the friction areas more gradually. This range may include balls with a urethane or mild reactive cover, designed for a smooth arc to the pocket. Can also help those with higher rev rates control motion and match up well from outside angles of attack.

13-15: Balls rated for slightly stronger and quicker reactions when encountering friction areas (as when the ball leaves the oil pattern). This range offers a balance of control and back-end angularity.

15-18+: Balls that respond more quickly and aggressively to friction areas. This range can help those with less hand action create more angularity near the pocket. Also preferred when playing deeper inside angles, which generally require more entry angle for above-average pin carry.

**NO HOLES
BARRED**

5 New Options for a New Year

by **VERNON PETERSON**

WELL, 2021 was a year to remember for so many reasons.

While much of the bowling world recovered from 2020 with record years in sales and winnings, we also lost too many people that made a major impact on the bowling world both on the lanes and off: Mark Roth, Mo Pinel, Teata Semiz, and a number of others. We owe a lot to these pioneers who made our sport better in so many ways.

We hope 2022 is better in so many ways both on and off the lanes, and this month’s harvest of new pieces promises to kick off the new year with plenty of strikes. Here is the lowdown on those new options for your arsenal...

THE TESTING: Thomas Watson and I threw each ball more than 25 times on two patterns: Stone Street, which is similar to what most readers face when bowling in league, and BJ, a modified version of the 2019 USBC Open Championships Team event pattern with more volume, but still falling within the “sport” category. Watson was a member of the 2018 national championship McKendree University team, and now works in R&D at Kegel, a job that includes research in bowling ball oil absorption, oil pattern depletion, lane topography, ball “lifespan” and ball motion. His PAP is 6 inches right and 5/8 inches up, with a rev rate of 430-rpm and launch speed of 18.5-mph. His base axis rotation is 40 degrees. Watson’s favorite and testing dual-angle layout is 65 x 5 x 45. I used the same strong layout I have used for all balls reviewed in this column, but it now has a dual angle of 50/4/35 (4 x 3 x 2.5 in the VLS system). My axis point has evolved to 3/4 over and 5/8 up.

MOTIV TRIDENT ODYSSEY

61.5 Hook 15.5 Length
15.5 Breakpoint Shape

Manufacturer's Intent: "Designed for control in medium-heavy oil conditions, the Trident Odyssey is a necessary addition to the bag of any bowlers encountering higher volumes of oil because it combines the new Coercion FYS (Full Yield Solid) reactive coverstock with the fast-spinning, high-flaring Turbulent core," says MOTIV Vice President of Marketing, Scott Hewitt. "It was selected because, for the purposes of this ball, a lower RG core performs the best. The Trident Odyssey features the most recent update to the Coercion technology with the introduction of Coercion FYS (Full Yield Solid). The uniqueness of this coverstock is that it creates vast amounts of hook for the bowler without reading so early that it loses down-lane continuation."

Core: Turbulent. Asymmetric. RG: 2.49. Diff: .054. Intermediate Diff: .017. Flare: 5-6 inches.

Coverstock: Coercion FYS. Solid. Colors: navy, blue and red. Finish: 2000 grit LSS. Scan Numbers: 2130 grit, 11.50 RA.

Overview: The Trident Odyssey doesn't start at your toes, but it reads the midlane clean with a strong overall down-lane predictable motion. It created a good motion on Stone Street with a lot of area. We crossed 16 to 17 at the arrows with a breakpoint between 6 and 12 at the 43-foot mark on SPECTO. In the same location as the Trident Horizon (May 2021), the Odyssey read the pattern a foot sooner and went through the face. The Odyssey was lined up three to four left with our feet and one to two left at the arrows and was stronger down-lane. On the BJ test pattern, we had to try to be EJ Tackett with our lofting skills. The Odyssey didn't lose power or energy at the pocket despite our tweener rev rate, nor did it start up in the heads. We crossed 25 to 26 at the arrows with a breakpoint between 9 and 13 at 45 feet. In the same location as the Trident Horizon, the Odyssey read the pattern two feet sooner, creating a Brooklyn reaction. The Odyssey was lined up six to seven left with our feet and three to four left at the arrows. This Trident complements the Horizon with a stronger overall hook when the Horizon isn't enough. It is cleaner than the Jackal Legacy (February 2021) or Ghost (February 2017) with more down-lane motion. Low-rev players will like the free hook on medium to heavier patterns.

SWAG GRAFFITI POP

56 Hook 16.5 Length
16.5 Breakpoint Shape

Manufacturer's Intent: "This ball's weight block is very well-balanced in spite of being an asymmetrical ball. It is easy to control and maintains energy well into the last part of the lane," says California Bowling Vice President Yun Jung. "The Graffiti POP will provide great length with a skip/flip back-end motion on medium to heavy oil conditions."

Core: Ballistic. Asymmetric. RG: 2.491. Diff: .053. Intermediate Diff: .033. Flare: 5-6 inches.

Coverstock: RVR4. Pearl. Colors: pink, purple and white. Finish: 1000 sanded, factory polish. Scan Numbers: 5100 grit, 2.10 RA.

Overview: The Graffiti Pop has a strong asymmetric core for medium lane conditions and is clean through the fronts with a strong down-lane motion. On the BJ test pattern, it created a good line to the pocket close to the track with hold and strong back-end motion. We crossed 16 to 17 at the arrows with a breakpoint between 6 and 13 at 45 feet. In the same location as the Fantasy Daze (reviewed next), the Graffiti Pop was cleaner through the fronts with a three-foot longer breakpoint and stronger back-end motion. The Graffiti Pop was lined up eight to nine right at the arrows and fifteen to sixteen with our feet for a much (!) tighter launch angle. The Graffiti Pop is the go-to ball when the fronts start to hook and you want to play farther right. On Stone Street, we had to play more direct from the track area to create good hold area and an overall good angle to the pocket. We crossed 8 to 9 at the arrows with a breakpoint between 2 and 6 at 43 feet. In the same location as the Fantasy Daze, the Graffiti Pop was much cleaner through the fronts, missing the headpin to the right. The Graffiti Pop was lined up seven to eight right at the arrows and eleven to twelve right with our feet, with a three foot longer breakpoint. The Graffiti Pop allowed us to play more in the track and more direct. The Graffiti Pop is a good complement for the Incredible (August 2021) and Fantasy Daze when the fronts burn up and the bowler don't want to give up a strong asymmetric core for strong motion down-lane. This ball is good for various styles of players on medium to drier patterns.

SWAG FANTASY DAZE

61.5 Hook 15 Length
14 Breakpoint Shape

Manufacturer's Intent: "Swag introduces the new Fantasy line with the Fantasy Daze," says California Bowling's Yun Jung. "Fantasy Daze is a great starting ball on the typical house shot and the ball motion is very consistent off the oil. It will allow you to play multiple lines."

Core: Mushroom. Symmetric. RG: 2.484. Diff: .044. Flare: 4-5 inches.

Coverstock: Reverie 3. Solid. Colors: orange, pink and purple. Finish: 3000 grit. Scan Numbers: 1950 grit, 12.50 RA.

Overview: The Fantasy Daze is a heavy-rolling symmetric ball good for medium to heavier and longer patterns, which we saw on Stone Street. The Fantasy Daze really controlled the wet/dry of the pattern with its very strong predictable down-lane motion. We were lined up crossing 16 to 17 at the arrows with a breakpoint between 6 and 12 at 44 feet. In the same location as the Incredible (August 2021), the Fantasy Daze read the pattern a foot sooner and went high in the pocket area. The Fantasy Daze was lined up two to three left with our feet and one to two left at the arrows with a stronger midlane and overall stronger hooking motion. The Fantasy Daze allowed a more open launch angle through the fronts to the breakpoint. On the BJ test pattern we had to move deep in the lane to create hold area and a line to the pocket. On this pattern we saw how strong in the midlane the Fantasy Daze really was. It read the pattern strong with a heavy rolling motion down-lane. We were lined up crossing 25 to 26 at the arrows with a breakpoint between 9 and 13 at 46 feet. In the same location as the Incredible, the Fantasy Daze read the pattern one foot sooner and went through the face. The Fantasy Daze was lined up five to six left with our feet and two to three left at the arrows with a more open launch angle through the fronts. The Fantasy Daze creates free, early hook for low-rev players and strong heavy roll for speed-dominant players. For a symmetric ball, the Fantasy Daze creates a good amount of free, strong, mid-lane hooking motion, which tournament players will appreciate.

STORM NOVA

63.5 Hook 15.5 Length
16 Breakpoint Shape

Manufacturer's Intent: "The Nova was designed to create a ton of mid-lane performance, like the Proton PhysiX [December 2020], but with a more continuous back-end reaction," says Storm Vice President of Marketing, Steve Kloempken. "The Ignition core is one of a kind, pushing the dynamic limits of what's allowed by USBC. This is one strong, aggressive bowling ball."

Core: Ignition. Asymmetric. RG: 2.49. Diff: .052. Intermediate Diff: .019. Flare: 6 inches.

Coverstock: R2X. Hybrid. Colors: hot pink, lime and jet black. Finish: 3000 grit sanded. Scan Numbers: 1400 grit, 15.70 RA.

Overview: The Nova is one of the strongest hooking balls we have seen in the Storm line, but it isn't your "Hook early and bail down the lane" kind of ball. Even on our BJ test pattern, we had to use the Belmo loft but it kept a strong continuous drive through the pocket. We crossed 26 to 27 at the arrows with a breakpoint between 9 and 13 at 44 feet. In comparison with the Proton Physix, the Nova was cleaner through the fronts by a foot with a stronger down-lane motion. The Nova was lined up one to two right at the arrows with a little tighter launch angle to the breakpoint. On this pattern the Proton Physix pushed us farther left with its earlier-reading mid-lane motion and lost energy for our game down-lane whereas the Nova kept going. We easily opened up Stone Street with the "stand left and throw right" reaction. We crossed 17 to 18 at the arrows with a breakpoint between 5 and 12 at 45 feet. In comparison with the Proton Physix, the Nova was cleaner through the fronts by one to two feet with much stronger and more continuous motion down-lane. The Nova was lined one to two right at the arrows. The Nova reminds us of stronger version of the Code X (March 2018) but with a stronger down-lane reaction. It complements the Dark Code (June 2021) if the Dark Code breakpoint is too far down-lane to recover to the pocket on those longer and heavier patterns. The Nova provides a lot of free hook for low-rev and speed-dominant players.

STORM SPECTRE

57.5 Hook 16.5 Length
17 Breakpoint Shape

Manufacturer's Intent: "The Spectre was developed to complement the other symmetrical options found in the Thunder Line, what some refer to as the Hy-Road Line," says Storm's Steve Kloempken. "The Spectre, however, will read the mids better than the Hy-Road thanks to its relatively lower RG value (when compared to the Hy-Roads) without sacrificing any of the back-end and hook potential being that it maintains an ample amount of flare potential."

Core: Vector. Symmetric. RG: 2.54. Diff: .050. Flare: 5-6 inches.

Coverstock: R3S. Pearl. Colors: crimson and iron. Finish: 1500 grit polish. Scan Numbers: 5190 grit, 1.60 RA.

Overview: The Spectre brings a clean, easy push through the fronts with a strong, continuous back-end motion on medium to hooking patterns. We saw this very easily on our BJ test pattern. We could create a good hold area and strong recovery from the track. We crossed 19 to 20 at the arrows with a breakpoint between 7 and 13 at 46 feet. The Spectre reminded us of a cleaner and stronger version of the Axiom Pearl (November 2020) or a stronger overall hook version of the IQ 30 (December 2015). In comparison with the Axiom Pearl, the Spectre is cleaner by a foot and was lined up two to three right at the arrows with a little tighter launch angle to the breakpoint. On Stone Street, we had to play more direct and closer to the track area on the fresh. We were able to create a good line and carry crossing 11 to 12 at the arrows with a breakpoint between 3 and 9 at 44 feet. In comparison with the Axiom Pearl, the Spectre was cleaner to the breakpoint by a foot and little more angular off the breakpoint. The Spectre was lined up one to two right at the arrows. It is in the Hy-Road class for sure, creating a little more midlane but still with a strong predictable back-end motion. Hy-Road lovers will want the Spectre in their bag for that lower RG but strong back-end motion. The Spectre will complement the Hy-Road Max (February 2021) when it is too early and starts to lose the energy if the fronts start to burn up. This is a good number two or three ball for later in the blocks.



MOTIV TRIDENT ODYSSEY



SWAG GRAFFITI POP



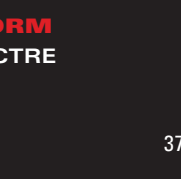
SWAG FANTASY DAZE



STORM NOVA



STORM SPECTRE



INDELIBLE MARK



Game Changer

Few athletes can say they changed their chosen sport forever. Mark Roth did that.

From his revolutionary talent on the lanes to his passions away from them, Mark Roth was anything but ordinary.

by **JOHNNY CAMPOS**
and **GIANMARC MANZIONE**

The millions of viewers who tuned in to watch the Pro Bowlers Tour on ABC on Feb. 1, 1975, expected to see just another PBA Tour stop conclude on national TV. Instead, they witnessed something much bigger that Saturday afternoon: Over the course of the ensuing 90 minutes, the future of the sport unfolded before their eyes.

A number of overarching athletes stood poised to dazzle fans of ABC's Wide World of Sports that mid-winter day.

In Oakland, California, "America's Sweetheart" Dorothy Hamill, a year away from claiming the ladies' singles gold medal in figure skating at the 1976 Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria, that evening would win her second straight women's title in the 1975 United States Figure Skating Championships.

Farther west, at Waiālae Country Club in Honolulu, Hawaii, Arnold Palmer stood a stroke back of Al Geiberger for the lead in the 1975 Hawaiian Open golf championship which, as the PBA Tour took to the airwaves that afternoon, was delayed by rain.

Hamill and Palmer each had staked their claim on the consciousness of the American sports fan by then. Now, it was time for a scrappy Jewish kid from Brooklyn to initiate a legacy that would prove to be at least as gargantuan in bowling as

Hamill's and Palmer's would be in their respective sports. Dick Weber, however, seemed less than convinced of Roth's ability to do any such thing.

The color analyst for that day's broadcast of the 1975 PBA King Louie Open finals out of King Louie West Lanes in Overland Park, Kansas — where above-ground ball returns and third-place finisher Art Trask's checkered pants lent a certain charm to the event — told play-by-play man Bud Palmer at the show's onset that, "Mark Roth hasn't won a tournament. Even though he's a veteran on the tube, he's gotta be a little bit nervous."

Roth, the show's top seed, indeed was without a title after eight prior appearances in nationally televised PBA Tour stepladder finals. But the note of doubt in Weber's tone was nothing new to him.

Roth had heard it all by 1975.

His critics told him he never would make it cranking the ball in a sport that, at the time, put a premium on down-and-in shot-making and toppling every spare.

And his thumb, often bloated and misshapen to the point of being unrecognizable as a digit belonging to a human hand — that never will hold up either, kid.

When Roth stepped up to bowl the title match as the top seed, Palmer will identify Roth's thumb as the signature of "the ugliest hand on the tour."



Killer Instinct

Roth's combination of an intimidating demeanor with a killer instinct made him one of the most imposing figures in PBA history.

"I was so determined to shut these people up," Roth said in a 2018 appearance on The Bowlers Journal Podcast. "I was determined to do it my way, and that was it."

As Roth was about to demonstrate at the King Louie Open on ABC, his way worked just fine, thank you very much.

Wire-thin rookie Steve Jones of Kansas City, the hometown favorite bowling the first show of his life, whipped the crowd into a frenzy with a must-have strike in his ninth and three more crunched, high-flush blasts in his 10th to put the screws to Trask, whose flat 10 sent him packing and gifted Jones with a front-row seat to an experience few soon would forget.

Roth seemed vaguely perturbed as he scooped his ball off the rack for his first shot of the title match, squinted at the pins as he jammed that butchered thumb into his ball, then barely paused in his stance before steaming toward the line in six stomping steps like a bull about to skewer a matador to the wall. He promptly struck.

Weber sounded awestruck.

"Just tears the cover off the ball, Bud! Just tears the cover off the ball," he said.

"Also, the tendency to tear the cover off his hand, though," Palmer replied.

Ah, yes. Always the naysayers, the folks quick to find fault in the shockingly unorthodox style Roth featured.

So many people to shut up, so little time.

Roth's mop of thick, black hair swayed as he paced the approach to set up just as quickly for the next shot, which just as quickly struck for an opening double.

"He just destroys the pins, doesn't he?" Palmer asked Weber, as if needing confirmation of this unusual phenomenon transpiring before him.

No one watching could have had any idea just how many pins Roth would destroy in the years ahead, how many hopefuls like Jones he would send home with sore egos in the meantime, how many titles this non-champion was about to amass at a breakneck clip.

Here in Overland Park, even the 254 average Jones had recorded in the prior three matches, climbing the ladder with wins over Larry Laub in the opener (227-194), then Roy Buckley (277-204), then Trask in the semifinal (258-247) would be nowhere near enough to hold off that phenomenon today.

With a first career title and a berth into the Firestone up for grabs, Roth had pasted that bludgeoned thumb in a prescription Cortisone cream the night before, then sealed it in Saran wrap to soften up as he slept. He also had taken a little ribbing

that night from the guys in the paddock, who teased him with complaints that he had nine to 10 more boards to target than they did.

"We were asking him to use a duckpin ball instead of a regular bowling ball," Weber confessed on the air.

Duckpin ball or no, the way Roth was throwing the ball on this day, it might not have mattered.

Roth absolutely packed a six-bagger as Palmer availed the audience of the fruits of this Brooklyn boy's labor — a \$10,000 bonus should he finish the job for 300, along with a new Lincoln Mercury car, and another seven grand for winning the tournament.

Roth was feeling it after his seventh strike, backing away from the line slowly with his eyes fixed on the pins as his ball smashed another absolutely packed strike, raising his fist high overhead and bringing it down like a hammer on a nail.

"He just cranked the living daylights out of that ball," Weber said. "It hurts me to watch him."

While Weber nursed those wounds, Roth was feeling just fine, stroking another packed strike in his eighth frame before prancing swiftly back to his seat, the crowd roaring their approval even as Roth's exploits came at their hometown hero's expense.

By now, viewers might have noticed something about Roth's demeanor. Something that would become a hallmark of the man's intimidating presence on TV for years to come. Even after he tossed his ninth straight strike, he still had not cracked a smile. It would appear that this was a man not satisfied by mere victory. The opponent must not just be vanquished, but obliterated.

"The one thing I remember about Mark is that he didn't just want to beat you. He wanted to step on your neck," former roommate Dave Husted will remember years later.

While Roth allows himself a smile after completing the 299 — a double followed by a 4 pin in his 10th completing that tally — there was a kind of wonder in the faces of the fellow players who crowded him on the approach after his last ball.

Buckley, for instance, peered off to his right at someone off camera amid the pandemonium. He had a look in his eyes that seemed at once amused and unsettled, a look loaded with the knowledge that something had happened here, something that will make his job a lot harder, something that he and his fellow players might be grappling with, and talking about, for a long time to come.

Roth's death on Nov. 26 at age 70 leaves the bowling community grappling with, and talking about, a legacy so rich and full of impact it is hard to know where to begin to measure it.

We could start with something he told wife just two weeks before his death, something that reveals the heart of the man.

"He told me he was going to bowl again and he was going to win another tournament," says Denise Roth, his wife for the past 19 years. "I said 'Good for you. I'll be right in the front row to see it.' What a strong-willed man he was."

We could start with the stats that reveal the talent: Thirty-four PBA Tour titles. A record eight in 1978 alone. Career earnings of \$1.6 million. PBA Player of the Year from 1977-79 and again in 1984, when he won both his majors — the U.S. Open and the Touring Players Championship. PBA High Average Award winner six times, including a then-record 221.699 in 1979.

We could start with an observation one of Roth's closest friends, Johnny Petraglia, makes about the importance of that day in Overland Park.

"For some reason, when he first went out on tour, he didn't have the confidence. His first couple of years were pretty mediocre. Then he shot the 299 in Kansas City to win his first title and he never looked back. Once he realized how good he was, that's when he really exploded."

We could start with that ruthless killer instinct for which his opponents knew him.

"One time in practice I almost beat him, then he struck out and buried me," Denise says. "And I said to him, 'You won't even let me beat you one game?' And he said, 'I wouldn't even let my mother beat me one game.'"

Wherever we begin, one thing is certain: Roth did to his sport what few athletes in any sport can claim to have done. He changed it forever.

Legendary Style

Roth's self-taught bowling style became legendary for decades beyond that triumph in 1975. One Saturday afternoon after another, ABC viewers would watch him fiddle with the finger holes before inserting his fingers, squeeze his well-worn thumb into the ball and then wrap his wrist under it, ready to unleash a tremendous amount of torque toward the pins. He would take six quick steps to the foul line to generate ball speed, plant his left foot and then whip the ball down the lane with a powerful twisting motion and strong follow-through.



Sore Thumb

The gruesome beating that Mark Roth's thumb took as a result of his cranker style was the stuff of legend.

"He was a little bit different getting to the line, but boy it was just poetry," recalls Dave Husted, who roomed with Roth for about a year in the mid-80s. "He was the ultimate competitor and the best spare shooter of his generation — maybe the best spare shooter ever.

"He was probably the best split converter of all time. He'd make all the little stuff, which he didn't leave a whole lot of, like the 3-10 or the 2-10. But he'd make the big wide open ones, too, like the 6-7-10 and the 4-7-10. His ability was just unbelievable. If there's ever a person that was a savant in bowling, he has to be one of them. It was just the raw power and the instincts that he had. That's why everybody went and watched him. It was just incredible."

That skill was demonstrated in 1980 when Roth became the first bowler to convert the 7-10 split on television during the ARC Alameda Open. It was recognized as one of the PBA's greatest moments during the PBA's 60th Anniversary celebration.

All of those skills led to some numbers that were amazing even to his peers.

"When he was bowler of the year three years in a row, I think he bowled for the

title 33 times," Petraglia says. "And his cash streak was DiMaggio-esque. He had 51 cashes in a row, missed cashing by a pin, and then had another 17 in a row.

"When Mark went into the PBA Hall of Fame, we still hadn't gotten to the exploding scores we have now because of the reactive resin bowling balls. The one stat that came through about which everybody in the world mumbles is that Mark's PBA average was 215.8 for 15,000 games. When you start putting that together and say we always qualify with six-game blocks, that means he averaged 95 over per block in qualifying. That's just phenomenal."

Roth's Other Interests

While Roth's bowling made its mark on those who bowled alongside him on tour or watched him on TV, his colorful life away from the lanes made its mark on those who knew him best.

"He loved buses, trains, bowling and the New York Rangers," Denise says. "And a hamburger, fries and a Coke, or a slice of pizza."

Larry Lichstein accompanied Roth on a hockey excursion to Madison Square



All Aboard

Among Roth's colorful passions away from the lanes was an obsession with train sets.

Garden once when the tour was in Garden City, New York.

"Marv Albert had gotten him a couple of tickets to the Rangers game, and when we got in line for the tickets, everybody in line is saying, 'Hey, that's Mark Roth,'" Lichstein says. "All of the New Yorkers knew who he was."

When they got to their seats, a few rows behind the plexiglass that separated Albert and the other announcers from the crowd, Roth spotted Rangers' left-winger Nick Fotiu, a close friend from Staten Island, New York, on the ice.

"As they're practicing for the game, Fotiu is about 15 feet from the plexiglass, and he sees Mark," Lichstein says. "He waves at us, points up at his stick, points at the puck, and then flips the puck to Mark — 15 rows behind Marv Albert. And Mark catches the puck. It was amazing."

Lenny Nicholson, the long-time PBA lane man, also found out just how much Roth loved hockey when he got a late-night call during a Showboat Invitational in Las Vegas.

"It was about 1 o'clock in the morning when Mark calls me up," Nicholson says. "I'm getting ready to get up at 2 to go and do the lanes. He says he has to talk to me and to come to his room. I'm thinking something happened to him, so I go up to his room.

"He brings out this big cardboard box, and it's got a hockey game in it. He wanted to play hockey. It was one of those manual games where you operated the handles on the side. He talked me into playing a few games, and my hand was worn out by the time we finished. He carried the game around with him, always kept score and wanted to play all the time."

All Aboard

Any of Roth's friends who visited his house were treated to view his large setup of trains in his basement.

"He was a fanatic about trains," Petraglia says. "He had all sets of trains, with different transformers. If you drove through New Jersey, went over the bridge into Pennsylvania, then went north for a couple of miles, there was this big train store that just sat there all by itself. He

would go there all the time. He wanted the Yankees locomotive, the Mets locomotive and all the other ones that collectors were looking for."

Roth's love for trains continued to the end. "I have all of his trains in the cellar," Denise Roth says. "He had part of the cellar set up with some tracks and trains, but a lot of them were still boxed up. He was in the hospital so much with different things for the last few years that he never really got to accomplish what he wanted to with them."

Bus Boy

Roth's infatuation with buses was off the charts.

"Mark was always like a kid, and he really loved buses," Petraglia says. "The 8832 was his favorite one. I'm pretty sure they let him drive it once for a block or two."

Petraglia found out just how much Roth loved buses when they traveled to upstate New York for a tournament.

"Mark was going to drive, and he pulled up in this new, New York City-blue stretch van," he recalls. "It had a cutout so that you could put in your destination. He had the whole thing looking like a bus. And he would say things like, 'Watch the doors.'

"And when we got to a toll booth, he looked at me with this big grin on his face, and I couldn't figure out why. As we pulled into the toll booth, he lifted up his shirt, and he had the coin changer on his belt. He clicked out the money to throw into the basket. It was like a kid playing with buses, except he played with real buses."

Nicholson also got a taste of just how much Roth loved buses when they were out on tour.

"One day I'm checking in balls in the paddock, and Mark said he wanted to show me something," Nicholson says. "I said I was busy, but he said it would only take a minute. So I'm thinking maybe his thumb is falling off or something, because he sounded desperate.

"I finally get up to see what he had, and it's a bunch of photographs of him sitting in a bus in the driver's seat with a driver's hat on. He loved the buses in New York. Sometimes when the tour was off, he told me he'd get on the bus, ride it to the end and then turn around and go back around the other side again to the other end of town. He'd ride the bus morning, noon and night. About three weeks later, he comes in and has something in a box that he wants me to look at. He opens it up, and it's transfers for the bus. He saved them. He had thousands of them in there. It was unbelievable."

Knowing his Sport

Besides the model train sets in his basement, Roth also had a side hustle going on down there. He also was a student of the game and had a great knowledge about bowling pins.

"He had a pin refinishing business in his basement and his garage with another guy," Husted says. "They would go and get pins from a bowling center, patch them, repaint them, dip them in clear coat and take them back. It was a lot cheaper than buying new pins every other year. Mark knew old Brunswick pins, new Brunswick pins, old AMF pins, new AMF pins, Vultex pins, Vulcan bowling pins — he knew pins like you wouldn't believe."

When Roth was on the road, he would continue studying the different kinds of pins, which turned out to be a costly venture for Nicholson.

"Mark would come in early in the morning and always liked to talk about the pins," Nicholson says. "I had a running joke with him. I told him if he kept

coming in early in the morning like that, I was keeping count. He said, 'Of what?' I said of how many cigarettes I give you in the morning. He was always trying to quit smoking, so he wouldn't buy any packs. But he'd bum a couple off me every morning. I told him at one point he owed me 1,100 cigarettes.

"He would also come in and ask if I wanted a cup of coffee. So we'd go to the snack bar, and he would always go to the bathroom. When he finally would come out, I had already paid for it. It got to a point where he owed me \$800 in coffee, too."

The Natural

When Roth was not costing Nicholson money at the coffee counter, tending to his train collection, or indulging his love of buses or the New York Rangers, the things he was doing on the lanes still, to this day, leave the best bowlers who ever lived in awe.

"I think that Mark Roth was the greatest natural talent that ever bowled," says

Nelson Burton Jr., who was an established star when Roth hit the tour in 1970. Right about the time Roth starting dominating the tour in the mid-70s, Burton then had to talk about him when he became the color commentator for the Pro Bowlers Tour telecasts in 1975. But a memorable occasion involved the two of them bowling against each other under the TV lights.

"When we were bowling in the 1978 Grand Prix of Bowling in Reno, I wanted to get some practice in before going to eat dinner with Mark," Burton recalls. "He said he didn't want to practice because his thumb was hurting. So, instead of waiting around for me, he said, 'OK, I'll bowl left-handed.' We bowled for about 20 minutes and he beat me."

On the telecast, Burton, the No. 4 seed, had to climb the stepladder finals and get past George Pappas, Earl Anthony and the top-seeded Roth to win the tournament.

"The lanes were impossible on the right," Burton says. "But I beat George Pappas, 217-215, then I bowl Anthony. And there's a great shot on the left." Anthony, however, missed two 7-pins in the game, and Burton advanced to the title match, 223-213.

"I had no more than a double in my other matches, but because Anthony had a shot on the left, I thought maybe Roth might bowl me left-handed," Burton says. "It wasn't like he had another ball. He bowled left-handed with the same ball he used right-handed. He was that good."

Roth, who averaged 225 and led the tournament by more than 100 pins over Anthony, bowled right-handed, and Burton won the title, 216-184.

"I asked him why he didn't bowl left-handed against me, because he had just beaten me that way in practice," Burton says. "But he just blew it off."

Roth did use his left-handed skills in the 1989 Budweiser Open at Buckeye Lanes in North Olmsted, Ohio. In that tournament, the top 12 bowlers were all southpaws. So, midway through the match play finals, Roth started bowling left-handed.

That did not sit well with a couple of the lefties, who complained to then-PBA National Tournament Director Harry



Southpaw Surprise

It was not unheard of for the famously right-handed Mark Roth to bowl lefthanded on occasion.

Hushing the Haters

"I was determined to shut these people up," Roth said of those who chastised his never-before-seen power game.



Golden that Roth was embarrassing the tour by bowling left-handed. But when Golden went out to see for himself, he saw that Roth was more than holding his own against the left-handers, winning some of the matches against them with some decent scores. No action was taken.

The Dominant Years

From 1977-79, Roth went on an unbelievable streak that included 46 top-five finishes (including a handful of invitationals) and 18 titles, which was more than enough to earn him three straight PBA Player of the Year honors.

Two of those wins, in 1977 and 1979, came in the PBA Doubles Classic after he teamed up with Marshall Holman, one of his biggest rivals on the lanes. The duo finished third in the 1978 event, and won the tournament again in 1984. It was a doubles team made in heaven.

"I came out on tour in the summer of '74, and Mark had been out since '70 and was already an established star," Holman says. "He asked me to be his doubles partner at the Tournament of Champions before

I won that event in 1976. I answered, 'Yes.' in a split second. It was more than I could have ever hoped for as far as that tournament was concerned, and it really helped to solidify in my own mind that I was a pretty darn good player. If Mark Roth wanted to bowl with me, I must be pretty good."

When they became doubles partners, Roth made Holman the anchor bowler on the team.

"Mark always insisted on bowling first so he could tell me what the lanes were doing," Holman says. "Bowling doubles with Mark was really quite easy. His ball roll, albeit stronger than mine, was similar enough that we could line up off each other. As you can imagine, he was an extraordinary partner, and looking back on the days of bowling in that tournament, it was some of the best times I can remember in my career."

Making his Mark

Throughout his career, Roth had a big impact on his peers and his fans. From 1974-84, Earl Anthony was Player of the Year six times, Roth four and Wayne Webb one, in 1980.

Holman was usually in the hunt, but could never break through for post-season honors.

"Mark was the dominant right-hander of my era, and to have a chance to bowl against him was a lot of fun," Holman says. "We sort of went back and forth as

far as beating each other in title matches. We took turns giving each other 'haymakers.' But we had mutual respect that grew even more post career.

"And I was happy to play second fiddle to Mark. I had no problem with that at all. I almost felt like I was a little bit invisible behind Anthony and Roth, even though my antics were anything but hard to see. I am very proud to be a part of what they called the 'Big 3' back in the late 70s and early 80s. And I know my position. It was always third. Mark would be No. 1 one year, Earl would be No. 1 the next year. And I was always the third wheel in that. But to be just one of those wheels was pretty cool. It was a wonderful time. Now Mark is gone, but not forgotten."

Bowling Inspiration

During Roth's historic run, he also managed to catch the eye of a young Tom Clark, years before Clark became the PBA commissioner.

"I vividly remember being at my grandparents' house on a Saturday afternoon in 1978, when I was 8 years old," Clark recalls. "My parents and my grandma and grandpa were huddled around the TV in the corner of their small living room, talking about a bowler. I was always on the floor, watching bowling every weekend because my family always had it on. But with this one bowler, the way they were acting watching him on TV, was different.

"They talked about the way he bowled, the way he looked. They wouldn't miss a second. The bowler commanded the screen, and he was getting different types of cheers from the fans. All this attention made me watch bowling differently. It made me want to go bowling and be like him. It was Mark Roth. He was en route to a record-setting eight titles that year on the Pro Bowlers Tour. He was unforgettable and inspiring along the way. Of course, I wasn't alone. Millions were watching and studying this phenom, and he changed the game."

A few decades later, Roth also ended up inspiring Clark to make a few changes in the PBA when Clark took over as PBA Commissioner. At every opportunity, Clark made it a point to involve Roth.

"We named events after him, named awards and oil patterns and bowling balls after him," Clark says. "We invited him to attend, to be in our Xtra Frame booth or the TV booth, to sit in the front row and be recognized. The ovations were amazing, that same different sound only he received from bowling galleries. The fans that grew up in awe of his talent loved to see him.

New fans loved his iconic stature. The PBA players loved his presence. Mark Roth lifted any event he attended.”

The Day Competitive Bowling Stopped

Roth continued to bowl well after earning his fourth Player of the Year award in 1984, but he only cracked the top-10 in earnings once after that, in 1986. Even after winning his 34th and final title on the national tour in 1995, Roth’s \$57,270 in earnings fell well short of the top-10 list on tour that year. His tournament entries and cashes dwindled for the next few years and didn’t pick up again until he was old enough to join the PBA Senior Tour in 2001.

Roth made an instant impact. He was voted the 2001 PBA Senior Rookie of the Year, and the 2002 PBA Senior Player of the Year, winning the PBA Senior World Championship that year. It was his final PBA title.

He married the former Denise McKinney in 2003 during his time on the senior tour. His first marriage ended in divorce, but Denise was able to watch her husband excel on the senior circuit for a few years. She knew that Roth’s career did not end the way he wanted it to.

Mark Roth suffered a severe stroke on May 30, 2009, shortly after being inducted into the United States Bowling Congress Hall of Fame. It left him partially paralyzed on his left side.

“I got to watch him bowl and win some of the senior events,” Denise Roth recalls. “Then we went to the Generations Bowling Tour and I watched him win that first tournament. I got to witness his greatness in person, but I also got to witness it all those years when he was on TV.”

In the years in between the two strokes, Mark Roth suffered through a slew of other medical issues.

“He had two or three heart attacks, and he had heart failure several times,” Denise says. “He also had triple bypass surgery around 2015 or 16. I lost count because we were in the hospital so many different times. I was an ambulance chaser for a living for a little while.

“But the last 12 years he could have been still out on the senior tour, winning tournaments and having a good time traveling with the guys. It’s just so unfair in my mind. I was very angry about that. That was the only way he made a living and that was the only way he knew how to make a living. And he did very well at doing that. Then all of a sudden it was all gone. It really crushed him. And it crushed me.”

Living Legacy

Roth’s first marriage produced a daughter, Stephanie, who became a champion in ice skating. When he was on tour, Roth would often brag about her exploits in the rink when she was a youngster.

Stephanie Roth won the National Collegiate Figure Skating Championship while attending Brookdale Community College in 2006. She also was on Team USA at the 2007 World University Games.

In 2019, she completed a triple toe loop during the American Championships, becoming the oldest American woman (36 at the time) to accomplish the high-difficulty jump.

She capped off her competitive career by winning the gold medal in the Championship Masters Junior-Senior Ladies division at the U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships in June. She is now a coach and personal trainer in Wall, New Jersey.

**"SINCE I WAS
12 YEARS OLD,
I SET OUT TO
BECOME THE
GREATEST, AND
I DID THAT."**

But Stephanie and her father were estranged in Mark Roth’s final years.

“My dad and I were not very close,” she said. “We had not spoken since 2019, and before then it was very sporadic. But he had a great passion for bowling, and I know how great he was at it. He loved the bowling community very much, and my heart broke for him when his health declined and he couldn’t bowl the way he used to.”

Back on the Lanes

Mark Roth spent months in rehab after his first stroke, but managed to spend some time back on the lanes.

“The doctors told me they didn’t think he was going to make it at first,” Denise

Roth says. “Then when I got him home, I had to lift him around and do all this stuff for him. When he was staying at rehab, a friend drilled him a ball starting at eight pounds, and the rehab people would take him to the lanes where I would meet them. They’d get a belt around him, stand on both sides of him and hold him up, and he’d take that ball and he started bowling again. He got up to, I believe, a 14-pound ball. And then he got to where he could do one to two steps at the approach.”

Mark Roth was able to throw the ball a few times in front of a crowd again, thanks to the workings of PBA Commissioner Tom Clark.

“After his stroke in 2009, for him to get anywhere, let alone do any kind of bowling, was difficult,” Clark says. “But he and his wife Denise attended whenever humanly possible. And Roth would bowl whenever possible. He loved to simply throw the ball.

“The smiles on his face after slowly walking to the foul line with the aid of a cane, then with a one-step delivery roll the ceremonial first ball at the Mark Roth/Marshall Holman PBA Doubles Championships were among the most beautiful things I’ve seen in this game.”

Mission Accomplished

All of Roth’s accomplishments did not go unnoticed in his home state.

Denise Roth said that she was notified by the office of William Barclay, the Minority Leader of the New York State Assembly, that there would be a resolution brought in front of the New York Legislature to recognize Roth’s career and accomplishments for the State Record.

“So Mark is still making history after he’s gone,” she says. “What a great honor and a great tribute. And he deserves all of them.”

The PBA also will do a tribute to Mark during the TV finals of the Roth/Holman Doubles in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, on March 6.

All of the honors are fitting for the bowler who Denise Roth says had the heart of a champion to the very end.

“He wasn’t ready to give in, even in the last five days of his life,” she says. “His body just gave out. We had several talks, because of his situation. He told me a few times, ‘If I die tomorrow, I can say that I’ve accomplished everything I set out to do on my list. Since I was 12 years old, I set out to become the greatest, and I did that.’”

He did that and so much more, leaving a lasting legacy for millions of fans. ■



SECOND COMING

Never before has the bowling world seen so many kids of legends carve their own paths in the sport.

by GIANMARC MANZIONE

Even here, amid a 105,000-square-foot, double-sided bowling center where 215 youth bowlers swarm the establishment's 80 lanes to bowl the final Storm Youth Championships of 2021, it is not hard to spot Brandon Bohn.

The rail-thin 17-year-old dwarfs most peers at 6 foot 2. A quick glimpse at his Instagram presence, in fact, just as quickly turns up trophy photo after trophy photo in which he is a full head taller than the fellow victors flanking him.

Here, a shot of him beside Victoria Varano as the pair glow in triumph at the SYC Coastal Classic in October, the top of Varano's head falling short of Bohn's ear lobe. There, another trophy shot, this time celebrating a PBA Junior Regional win in North Carolina, in which diminutive girls' counterpart Jillian Martin stands, at best,

at two thirds of Bohn's towering height.

The lanky southpaw's attire announces his presence just as loudly. Here at Boardwalk Bowl on a muggy, mid-November afternoon in Orlando, where the two-time Junior Gold champion is in the midst of the ninth top-four finish out of the 14 SYCs he has bowled since May 2019, his DV8 jersey's screaming hues of teal and pink radiate with the energy he brings to the lanes.

Watch as the flamethrower with the sky-scraping backswing sends a traffic jam of messengers tearing across the deck to tomahawk a 7-10 that falls late for a strike, then pauses at the line to point at the pins before swaggering back to the settee area, a clenched fist held chest high as he eyes the competition around his pair.

Completing the portrait of one of youth bowling's most distinctive and jovial characters is the toothy smile he flashes

*Clockwise from left:
Alyssa Ballard, Cayden
Russell, Sydney Bohn,
Brandon Bohn, Jordan
Malott, Camden Malott,
Natalie Kent, Justin Bohn.*



as he returns to his seat; the clumpy, dark tufts of hair crowding his forehead, and the gleam of overhead lights sparkling in the lenses of his glasses.

But the jersey boy's golden smile shines a little less frequently than usual this afternoon. That 7-10 slashing of a strike aside, Bohn otherwise is battling a bad look as he guts his way through a two-ball reaction that has culminated with more flat 7s than fist pumps.

Despite that aforementioned conquest in the Coastal Classic, and despite two runner-up finishes and a third-place showing in three of the four SYCs he bowled prior to that, he reacts to this one less-than-spectacular score as though it were some unforgivable offense, steaming off to the stands with a head hung low and

that smile gone missing in action.

His father quietly waits for him there. Someone who — dare one suggest such a thing to a teenager — knows more about Bohn's travails than any 17-year-old, no matter how accomplished, could approach in his wildest fantasies.

Parker Bohn III listens as Brandon vents his spleen over the lousy ball reaction he is trying to shake. The stressed-out Brandon gesticulates angrily as he expresses his frustration in a storm of sighs. He darts his fingers through his hair, desperate for an answer.

None of which seems to impress dad. The 35-time PBA Tour champion remains unshakably composed. He suggests, without the slightest air of insistence or admonishment, that a ball change might

be worth a thought. Brandon, inaudibly amid the noisy center, seems to complain that he tried this ball and that one but none have given him the look he needs. He speaks almost in the manner of someone who has suffered some scandalous betrayal. All these bowling balls and their broken promises. What is a boy to do?

"I know nothing," jokes Parker as his son trudges off to his next pair of lanes. It is a great joke because it is uttered by one of the most accomplished figures in the history of the sport.

Parker's 35 PBA Tour titles, the USBC and PBA Hall of Famer explains, were not enough to talk Brandon, the middle child among three he has with wife and Monmouth County USBC Hall of Famer Leslie, out of a ball Parker knew to be the wrong



choice for the conditions. A dizzying blitz of flat 7s later, Parker recounts, and Brandon finally switched balls, struck, and promptly confessed to dad, “Maybe you’re right.”

Kids these days.

Parker laughs the laugh of many pro-bowler parents who, all at the same time, now are watching their children ascend the youth and college bowling ranks themselves. Just like Parker, they too watch those children greet their advice with a skepticism typical of teens.

The abundance of those children of pro-bowling stars making names for themselves at this moment in the sport is uncanny. They include:

- 10-time PBA Tour titlist Doug Kent’s 16-year-old daughter Natalie, herself



Bohn of Contention

Following the footsteps of legends, as the Bohn children are doing, can come with equal parts joy and anxiety (with Brandon, mom Leslie, Sydney, dad Parker, and Justin).

preceded by older brother Jacob who is a former member of Junior Team USA.

■ 10-time PBA Tour champion Wes Malott's son Jordan, 18, who dominated the Texas Grand Prix youth tournament for years, winning all but one he bowled in, and has led multiple rounds at Junior Gold in recent years. Then there is Camden, 14, a name likely to be in the mix at national events before long.

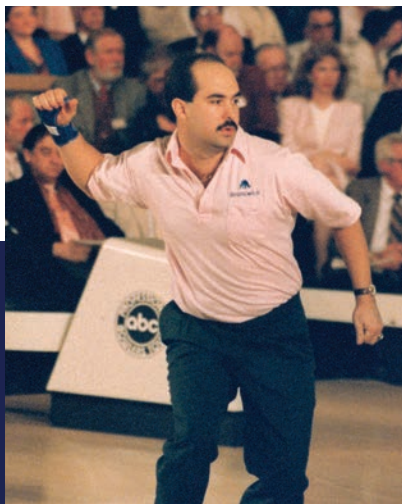
■ PBA and PWBA Hall of Famers Del and Carolyn Dorin-Ballard's 17-year-old daughter Alyssa, who won the Roto Grip Challenge, a youth tournament held at USA Bowl in Dallas, just a couple weeks before this issue of *Bowlers Journal* headed to the printer. Alyssa also finished third in the 17th Annual Barnes Thanksgiving Classic, and she has recorded four finishes among the top four in Storm

Youth Championships events since August 2020.

■ USBC Hall of Famer and nine-time PWBA Tour titlist Sandra Jo Shiery's 20-year-old son Alec, a Junior Gold champion.

■ Ryan Barnes, the 19-year-old son of Chris and Lynda, now bowling for dad's alma mater Wichita State.

■ Respective PBA and PWBA-champion couple Jeff and Cathy Dorin-Lizzi's 13-year-old daughter Olivia, who put in



a fifth-place showing at an SYC event in August.

■ PBA Tour champion Scott Alexander's 15-year-old son Keegan, who has won two of the last three SYCs he has bowled and finished third in the other. His exemplary Junior Gold Championships record includes finishes of seventh in 2021, fifth in 2019, and third in 2018.

■ PBA Tour champion Andy Neuer's son Anthony, 19, a two-time Junior Gold

Championships winner who finished third in the 2021 U.S. Open. Anthony's sister Alexis also enjoyed multiple top-five finishes in Junior Gold and starred on the Delaware State collegiate squad.

■ Four-time PBA Tour champion Ronnie Russell's son Cayden, 17, who put in a runner-up showing in the Indiana State Youth Masters in April.

Sure, bowling has seen its father-son duos over the decades. Nelson Burton and Bo Burton Jr. Dick and Pete Weber. More recently, Guppy and Kyle Troup. But bowling never has seen anything like this surge of sons and daughters of pro-bowling stars all coming up at the same time.

The Experience Gap

Let's not be too hard on these teens. Sure, they can be stubborn, as any teen can be. But they also, even if with a tone of reluctance, for the most part acknowledge the privilege of having such experienced voices in their ears.

At the same time, that comes with its frustrations — for both parent and child.

"It's harder to watch [than it is to bowl], because you're not in control of the situation, and because I have so many more years of experience, so some of the things I am seeing, I know she's not seeing yet," Dorin-Ballard says of watching daughter Alyssa compete. "I'll say to Del, 'Why is she not moving left? Why does she keep going high? Does she not see her ball hooking?' But that's when I have to take a step back and go, 'You know what? She's 17. I have bowled on 200 different lane conditions and thrown 500 bowling balls and just learned every aspect of the game.'"

Del has his own take on his wife's experience watching their daughter compete.

"All I'm going to say is, she is that mom," he jokes.

Alyssa, it seems, agrees.

"I told my mom not to watch me bowl anymore. Let's just say our personalities definitely are similar," Alyssa laughs, alluding to the fiery demeanor for which mom was known throughout her hall-of-fame career on tour. "Everything ends up in an argument of who is right, and so I was like, 'I can't do this while I'm bowling.'"

"So we compromised instead of yelling at each other, and she said if I ever need something, I have to go to her for it. She won't give the feedback that I do not necessarily want in that moment."

Natalie Kent sympathizes.

"Sometimes when I know I did something wrong, and then he has to tell me about it again, that's where I get

a little annoyed," she says of PBA and USBC Hall of Fame dad Doug's advice on the lanes. "But," she adds, "having that knowledge behind you is pretty awesome at the same time."

While Alyssa brokered a deal with mom to manage criticism she did not always greet receptively at a given moment, Alec, on the other hand, says that his mom "is more of a mental-game person. She knows how frustrating it is to not be bowling good. So then she would try to be too nice to me, and I would tell her to stop being too nice, and then she would yell at me and I would do a little bit better," he laughs.

Parker's eldest son with Leslie, Justin, who now is bowling alongside Ryan Barnes and Keplinger with Wichita State, says that, in his days as a younger teen, his response to advice from dad or mom or, for that matter, "Uncle Doug," who is married to mom's sister Chrissie, was, "Oh, he doesn't know what he's talking about. I can do this. I got this."

"I didn't realize, or take into account, how knowledgeable they are, how beneficial it was to listen to them. That didn't start until about 14 or 15. Now, there were some things thrown in there at age 10, 11, 12 that I listened to, but I didn't completely start listening to them until 16 or 17."

Which is precisely the experience 1992 Brunswick Memorial Open champion Jeff Lizzi is having as daughter Olivia just gets her feet wet in the youth-bowling waters as a 13-year-old.

"I don't even think right now she knows how much we can further her along, how we can get her to that next level," he says. "Because you know how, sometimes, kids don't listen to their parents?"

What? Kids not listening to their parents? Never!

"He's still learning moves and stuff, but I'm dad, so he doesn't listen to me that often," says Russell of son Cayden's receptivity to the four-time PBA Tour champion's guidance.

Brandon, for his part, is coming around.

"He's just dad to me," Brandon says of Parker. "He's my coach. He's my dad. He's my mentor. I do look at him as one of the greatest to ever throw a bowling ball, but when I need his expertise, I don't go up to him and say, 'Hey, you're the best ranked lefty in the world. I need your help.' It's, 'Hey dad, I'm struggling right now. What can I do? I need your help. I need your opinion here.' So there's not as much anxiety now, because I've gotten used to him helping me and teaching me all these different tools."

Parental Advisory

Alyssa Ballard had her reasons for asking legendary mom Carolyn to stop watching her bowl (with Del, Carolyn and Alyssa, L-R).





The Lizzi Way

Whether Olivia Lizzi pursues bowling or another walk of life, parents Jeff and Cathy just want her to give it her all (with Jeff, Olivia and Cathy, l-r).

“But, as his legacy goes on, I would really like to have a legacy for myself.”

Which brings us to the elephant in this room. How do the children of people so hugely successful at their chosen craft then establish their own legacy in precisely the same pursuit?

It's not easy. There were times when Sean Lennon, son of Beatles legend John, had some not-too-kind retorts to those in crowds at his shows who shouted out requests to play his late father's music instead of his own.

Imagine being Jakob Dylan, son of Bob and a songwriter himself, toiling in the shadow of the only guy ever to win a Nobel Prize in literature for his music?

In the sports world, sometimes the battle of dueling legacies ends up favoring the second generation. No one is going to argue today that Del Curry's star burns more brightly in basketball lore than son Stephen's now.

Even Archie Manning, a legendary quarterback in his day, takes a back seat to Peyton in the minds of many now, to say nothing of younger brother Eli's two Super Bowl rings.

While it is true that the celebrity enjoyed by star bowlers is not nearly as far-reaching as it is in those other realms, still the dynamic is the same. At times, the children of those star bowlers can be bracingly honest about what that's like.

Bowling in the Shadow

There are expectations that come with featuring a legendary name on the back of your shirt at a bowling tournament, the weight of which at times can feel crushing.

“After Junior Gold, I was talking to my dad, and I'm like, ‘Because you're Wes Malott, and you're known around the bowling community, I feel like I'm more pressured to do better than everyone else,’” says Camden Malott. “That added pressure is why I felt like my attitude was not as good, because I felt like, if I didn't do good, other people were always watching me and they would think, ‘Well, why is he not doing good? His dad's a professional bowler.’ Having all that pressure on me, it's just, I don't know.”

Camden adds that, at the first Junior





Bowling or Bust

Natalie Kent grew up "bowling" inside RVs with water bottles as pins during dad Doug's tour days (with Doug, Chrissie and Natalie, l-r.).

Gold he bowled, "I didn't make the cut. And people would come up to me and they're like, 'Wow. You really didn't make the cut?'" I'm like, 'I'm just another bowler. I bowl my own way. It's not like I'm supposed to go win every single tournament because my dad is who he is.'"

Wes says that, while that indeed "has been a topic of conversation over the years" with Camden, he believes the pressure in Camden's life is even more intense than the 14-year-old lets on.

"Sure, Camden has to follow in my shoes, and I understand that can be difficult. But Jordan has clearly made a name for himself already as well," Wes explains. "So, not only is Camden following my shoes; he's also having to follow Jordan's shoes."

"Well, Camden isn't as big as Jordan, so he tries to be like big brother and tries to throw the ball like big brother, and that's a conversation we have all the time, which

is, 'You have to realize you're not Jordan. You're you. You're not built like Jordan. I'm not built like Jordan. Jordan is stronger than me. Jordan can do more than me. But the difference is that I know that. I understand that, because I've lived it. So I know to be me. And I try and just out-bowl him instead of trying to out-power him.'"

For the record, yes, you heard that right. Wes puts it bluntly: "In my opinion, Jordan has more talent than I do."

"But," Wes adds, "he's got to learn how to apply that talent."

Whatever pressures Camden may associate with the name on his back at tournaments, Alyssa knows them well.

"The pressure that I mostly feel is the thought that everybody is going to be watching me because they expect so much of me," she says. "They know who my parents are. So it's just that a lot of people watch me and then I just think

about that, and that makes me put pressure on myself as well."

The fear of failure with all those eyes on you is one thing. But succeeding in the face of such scrutiny? That brings its own perils.

Leslie Bohn explains.

"The year that Brandon won Junior Gold in 2017, it was posted all over social media that our kids knew the patterns that they were bowling on and didn't attend any practice session, because they were the Bohns' kids and the Kents' kids."

"Furthest thing from the truth," Parker adds.

"You have to step back and go, 'We're not engaging in this,'" Leslie says.

From Sydney's perspective, "That's exactly what they want. A reaction."

Brandon, ever the fearless wonder of the clan, says he loves hearing the chirps of those who regard his accomplishments with such envy.



“I just love it when people say, ‘Oh, you’re only good because you have a hall-of-fame dad. Your dad’s Parker Bohn.’ I’m sure Jordan Malott and Ronnie Russell’s son, they all hear that, too. That’s my favorite comment in the world, because they feel so good about themselves when they say that, and I just look right at them and say, ‘Oh yeah, he definitely throws the ball for me, right?’”

Imagine the reaction when Alyssa’s parents put on the inaugural Ballard’s Bowling Academy “The Experience” Youth Tournament at Cityview Lanes in Forth Worth, Texas, in October 2020, and

the girls’ scratch winner was a bowler named Alyssa Ballard.

Yes, this really happened.

“That following weekend, when I was bowling league, I had a couple people come up to me and they were like, ‘Did you get to practice on the patterns beforehand?’ And I’m like, ‘There was a practice session held before the tournament that anybody could come to. I didn’t even know what the pattern was until everybody else did.’”

“There was this rumor that some kid said I won because I got to practice on the pattern beforehand. I won because



I bowled better than all the rest of the people. That's how you win a tournament. I didn't get to practice on the pattern beforehand. I got the same amount of time as everyone else. I didn't get any special privileges. Because my mom wanted me to be just like every other kid that was competing. I didn't get anything special handed to me."

When Jordan won dad's Malott's All-Stars Youth Championship tournament in May, Wes says he heard nothing to the effect of the comments Alyssa describes. But, for anyone who does nurse such suspicions, Wes does not mince words.



"I know that's out there, and if people want to bad-mouth and accuse and do all this stuff, if they want to live that way, that's on them. I know, in my mind, I do not tell my kids what the pattern is until I tell everybody. They get the pattern the same time everybody else does. I can live with it because I know that. If they can't live with it, and they want to say stuff, they're the ones who have to live with themselves," Wes says.

Natalie hears plenty of that "stuff" herself.

"For me, it was high-school states. We were winning, winning, winning. We ended up finishing second, but I'd hear, 'Oh, you have Doug Kent coaching you. That's why you did so good.' Those kinds of comments."

Dad has an answer for that.

"Your response when someone says something like that has to be, 'I have to work at it just as hard as you have to work at it,'" Doug says.

That is a message Parker hopes to drive home as emphatically as possible — for the sake of their kids, sure, but also for parents such as himself.

"For the kids and families that are going to end up reading this story, I can say right now on behalf of Doug and myself, we don't tell our own kids anything different than we tell every other kid or adult when we're out there doing a clinic or something. It's just this perception. Okay, yeah, maybe we've told it to our kids 112 times whereas others only hear it once."

The way Wes puts it to his sons — though let us not overlook 11-year-old daughter Brooke, also a bowler — is this: "Just be you. Go out there and have fun. Don't worry about all the nonsense. Just be yourself."

In this sense, at least, there is no magic sauce Parker, Doug, Wes, or any other pro-bowling parent of an up-and-coming

youth competitor withholds from all except their flesh and blood. The perception among some that the truth is otherwise, as if this next generation of stars is some pack of clones rather than individuals of their own, does, at times, stick in Alyssa's craw.

"I kind of just ignore it sometimes. I am my own person. I am my own bowler. I bowl my specific way. I don't bowl like them. If I hear, 'Oh, you bowl just like Carolyn,' I'm like, 'I bowl like Alyssa.'"

This is one reason Alyssa says that "meeting people in person is something I struggle with, because every single time somebody comes up to me, they're always like, 'Oh, you're Del and Carolyn's daughter, aren't you?' And I'm like, 'Well, yes. But my name is Alyssa.' Being known as just that kind of puts you down a little bit.

"But, at the same time, when you do win a tournament or make the show at Junior Gold on your own, it definitely helps bring your self-esteem up because it's not just them, it's you who did that yourself. I haven't made the show at Junior Gold, but, for me, it's like winning medals at SYC. Those little wins help you realize that you can do it yourself and it's not just because of our parents or our resources."

Olivia Lizzi understands exactly where her cousin is coming from, even as she is younger and, as yet, only just starting her bowling journey in any serious manner at age 13.

"I definitely get that a lot. Even at school, a lot of my friends know who my parents are. If they see a tournament like on a commercial or in the paper, they're like, 'Oh, aren't you supposed to be bowling that? Oh, aren't you supposed to be so good?' When I bowled my first couple of SYCs, so many people came up and were like, 'You're the Lizzis' daughter.' And that kind of annoys me because they only know me as the Lizzis' daughter and not as Olivia."

Double Trouble

Camden Malott (left) has two legacies to contend with, Dad Wes's and big brother Jordan (above).

While these prodigies face the daunting task of distinguishing themselves from parents of renown in the industry, let's be real here: There are perks to being a youth bowler whose parents have connections. Olivia's mom has no problem admitting as much.

"I think Olivia and Alyssa are both blessed because Carolyn and Del own pro shops, and at the centers Jeff and I own [in Ohio, including Sandusky Star Lanes in Sandusky and Star Lanes in Port Clinton], we can put down any shot Olivia wants to practice on, and we are blessed to be able to do that.

"Let's face it: She's privileged in that her parents own bowling centers, but that's not her fault. She'd be a fool not to take advantage of all of those things."

Chris Barnes puts it this way: "Stu Williams has a phrase for this. He calls it 'taking advantage of your unfair advantages.'"

Exactly. And who could blame any of the children named in this story for doing just that? But if those among them whose parents have deals with bowling-ball companies thought they would be entitled to any new piece they desire, their parents had a rude awakening in store.

"That's just something that is part of the territory [for Alyssa]," says Carolyn. "It's a unique situation. I'm with Roto Grip. Del's with Storm. I'm with Turbo. It's part of who we are. But one thing we also have tried to do is make sure that Alyssa earns what she gets. Just because there's a new ball on the market doesn't mean Alyssa's getting it.

"She knows that there have been a few times when she has made a comment about a new ball and she's like, 'When am I going to get one?' And we're like, 'Well, do you really need one? You already have an arsenal. Are you drilling it just to drill it so that you have it, or do you really need it as part of your arsenal?' This is not about just drilling a ball because it's the latest and greatest. It's about making sure that you build an arsenal that's going to enhance your game."

For the Bohns, the message is much the same.

"When we were younger and less able to make smart decisions about the bowling balls we would get, my dad would just make those decisions for us," says Justin Bohn of his dad, a Brunswick icon for decades. "He'd put in the order for us, whatever he thought we needed or felt was needed in our arsenal before we knew anything about what bowling balls actually did.

"As time went on, we could give our opinions on what we thought we needed,



and then later on we could build our arsenals a little bit more as we watched our stuff go down the lane. Slowly, we'd make more decisions about our equipment, but never did we get every ball that came out."

In Camden's case, the perception that Wes, a longtime Roto Grip staffer, lets Cam have any ball he desires could not be further from the truth.

"There are times here and there when I can get a ball that's brand new, but any time I ask for it, very rarely will I get it," Camden says. "Now that he lives in Indiana (while Cam tends to be with mom back in Texas), when I went up [to Indianapolis] for Junior Gold, and I only

brought three bowling balls, he did drill me some balls, but that's a very rare occurrence. Only when Junior Gold happens is when I might get a new bowling ball."

When Wes drilled up a new piece for Camden over the Thanksgiving holiday, it was because "he has grown, he needed a new fit, so we had to come up with a bigger thumbhole and lengthen the span a little bit. So, there was a reason why we gave him a bowling ball, because he had to be re-fit," Wes explains.

Wes sees it this way: "It depends on whether or not they need another ball. Clearly, the access to bowling balls is a little bit easier [for my children] than it is for



No More Mr. Nice Guy
Alec Keplinger says he asked USBC Hall of Fame mom Sandra Jo Shiery to "stop being so nice" when he struggled.

most, but, at the same time, we as parents have to teach them that it's not free. They are still earned. They are still worked for. So we don't just drill them anything and everything. And more so now than before, because they are getting to the age that we really need to teach them that."

Born to Bowl? Not so Fast

If any of this seems to presuppose that any child of a PWBA or PBA Tour champion, no less the hall of famers among them, inevitably would become a bowler, that most certainly would be a misnomer. None of these parents "forced" their kids onto the lanes. The kids came to the sport on their own terms.

Take the case of Ryan Barnes. Despite having a dad with 19 PBA Tour titles including the "triple crown" of majors — the U.S. Open, the Tournament of Champions, and the PBA World Championship — and a mom in Lynda who won the USBC Queens twice and spent a dozen years on Team USA, basketball always superseded bowling growing up.

"For one thing, I just wasn't a very good bowler when I was younger," Ryan says. "I was one-handed. My rev rate had to be 250 to 300. I wasn't really in love with it. I fell in love with other sports like basketball. Then in my senior year of high school I realized I wasn't talented enough

to go to like a D1 or D2 school, and I didn't want to go grind out four years just to play college basketball. My dad kind of told me, 'Why don't you give bowling a shot?' That's how I got into it." Which is to say that Ryan, at age 19, only has been serious about bowling for about the past year.

Olivia still considers basketball her primary passion. And anyway, she does not see competitive bowling ever becoming a fulltime gig for her.

"My parents never forced it on me. I did gymnastics for like a year but I wasn't really into it. I started getting into bowling because I thought it was really interesting, but I didn't take it seriously until I was about 10, and I do other sports now," she says. "I do basketball, I do track. Bowling will always be my favorite sport, but I really love basketball because I'm just so into it and I've been playing for three years."

As for Brandon, he tried. He really did. Wrestling. Basketball. Football. Soccer. Golf. Tennis.

"Just nothing's clicked like bowling has," he says.

Especially not soccer. Definitely, absolutely not soccer.

"I had a 7:30 a.m. game and it was raining out, and the fields were wet. I was the goalie and I was 4 years old. I definitely didn't want to be out on the soccer field playing soccer, especially when it wasn't my number-one sport at the time," Brandon recalls. "This girl scored on me, and I was crying, I was upset, I wanted no part of it, and I think that was the last day I ever stepped onto a soccer field. That's where soccer stopped and bowling rose."

While Justin makes waves at Wichita State, where the freshman earned his first All-Tournament Team honor in November, he also keeps up an active YouTube channel inspired by fellow YouTubers Brad Miller and Kyle Sherman. There, Bohn has amassed more than 6,000 subscribers since launching in January 2020. As dad says, it is in this way that carving out a legacy of his own becomes a little easier.

"We are definitely not going to be YouTube creators," Parker jokes of himself and Doug.

"Nowadays, it's more, 'Oh, you're Brandon Bohn,' you know? I'm not just Parker Bohn's son anymore, and I think a lot of that comes from Justin's YouTube channel," explains Brandon, whose Junior Gold titles in 2017 and 2021 also help a great deal in that regard. "Justin and I try to create something where it's not just our experience, and people can see what we do at a bowling tournament, at an SYC, at

all these other big tournaments where it's not just about throwing a ball down the lane. It's about the memories we make."

Justin has every intention of proceeding full-steam-ahead with his burgeoning YouTube stardom.

"What I studied in high school and what I am going to college for now is filmmaking and video-making, so I had the editing skill to do it, I just had to start it," Justin says.

Sydney's foray into bowling did not begin with any prodding from parents but instead with a disagreement with her dance teacher as a little girl.

"When I was younger, I bowled, but I didn't take it seriously," she says. "I remember bowling at age 3 or 4, but not really. I did gymnastics from age 4 to age 7, and dance from age 5 to 11, and then I got into a fight with one of my dance teachers. I thought it was going to be embarrassing

Late Bloomer

Despite having star bowling parents Lynda and Chris, Ryan only recently caught the bowling bug (with brothers Troy and Ryan, far left and far right, and Lynda and Chris).



Being Rory Clark

by Gianmarc Manzione

No, Rory Clark, 18, is not the son of a PBA or PWBA Tour Hall of Famer. But, as the son of PBA Tour Commissioner Tom Clark, he is at least as well connected.

Case in point: "The first time Belmo saw a clip of him, he had one comment, and Rory worked on that for the next three months," Tom says.

"My dad sent a video to Belmo," says Rory, a two-hander like Belmo.

Let's just start there: Who else's dad just casually gets to send a clip of his kid to the greatest bowler in the world, and then get instant, deeply useful feedback? Yep, it's good being the son of the Commish.

"I was wrapping it, swinging my arm, and [Belmo] just gave me this tip to get it closer to my ankle. I worked on that for a couple months, and now my hand is right off of my ankle at my release, and it's helped a lot."

No one needs to tell Tom about the double-sided coin such privilege entails, the benefits as well as the pressure. He knows well the weight that names like Malott, or Kent, or Ballard, or Bohn carry.

"There's definitely some perks that these kids have, that kind of insight and access because of the people that we know. But that comes with the other side of things, too, like, you get that advice and then other people know it, and so they're going to think, 'Well, you have an advantage.' There can be jealousy. Or there can be more eyeballs on you. There's the negative side and there's the positive side."

On the positive side, Rory, despite only seriously catching the bowling bug within the past year or two, ripped into the lead at the first PBA Regional he ever bowled, the Super Bowl Midwest Open in Peru, Illinois, in May, with an opening set in the 750s, clawed his way into match play with a

final qualifying game of 277, and ultimately finished 10th.

Finishing fifth in that event was Sean Rash, who also was Rory's doubles partner in the 2021 USBC Open Championships and therefore a front-row witness to Rash's blazing performance there. The 17-time PBA Tour champion tossed 745 in the team event, a 772 singles set, and 747 in doubles for a 2,264 All-Events tally.

"It was awesome. I got to line him up a few times," jokes Rory, who is rooming with fellow college standout Nate Purches as a freshman at Wisconsin Whitewater, where he bowls for the Warhawks.

How did that opportunity to be Rash's doubles partner emerge for Rory?

Simple.

"I just asked Sean if he'd like to bowl on our team," Tom says.

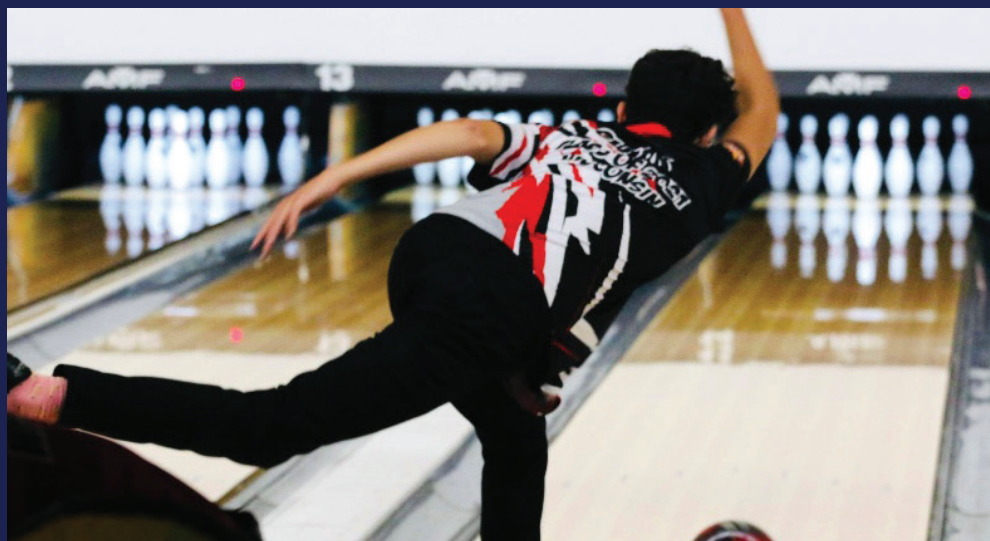
Did we say it is good to be the son of the Commish?

But think a little harder about that, a little beyond just the privilege it entails, and you realize something else: The pressure of bowling in the face of the scrutiny and expectations such privilege involves means Rory entered college having bowled through more pressure than the average freshman.

Which is to say this: Do not be surprised to see Rory's name make headlines in bowling for years to come.

Commissioner's Exception

For Rory Clark, the perks of being the son of PBA Tour Commissioner Tom are not unlike those of having a hall-of-fame parent.



to see her again, so I had my mom drop me out of dance.”

The dustup resulted from Sydney singing a song the dance teacher had played in class but, Sydney says, also considered it inappropriate for Sydney to be signing aloud.

“If it was inappropriate, why was she playing it in class then?” asks Sydney, who says she thinks it was a Coldplay song. Yes, the most vanilla of pop bands somehow being labeled “inappropriate.” Is nothing sacred?

This year, Sydney finished third in U15 competition at the 2021 Junior Gold Championships.

The Malotts, Camden and Jordan both, remain avid baseball players even as their reputations as bowlers blossom.

“I’m honestly more focused on baseball right now,” Camden says. “Baseball takes up most of my week. My brother, he’s always focused on bowling; baseball was never his number-one sport, but my dad always says that the money you’re going to get from bowling is not going to be the same. I always heard [my dad and Jordan] talking about that.”

Camden says he draws inspiration from L.A. Dodgers centerfielder Mookie Betts in this regard, a star on the diamond who also can throw the rock, having tossed a 300 game during the World Series of Bowling in 2017.

It would seem that the Mookie Betts example resonates with big brother as well. In December, Jordan received his letter of acceptance to attend Huntington University in Indiana, where he will be a dual athlete, bowling and playing baseball for the Foresters.

Like Camden, Alyssa, too, understands that attempting to make a living on a pro-bowling tour can be a tough gamble. Sure, she sees herself bowling college, then the PWBA, but also taking the reins of the family business — Ballard’s Bowling Academy — when the time is right.

“My mom has said that you can’t just make a living off of the tour; you have to have a foundation of something else to fall back on. Right now, I see myself coming back after college and helping my parents with their business.”

Whatever these kids do — be it pursuing a fulltime career on the lanes or a full-time career away from them — Dorin-Lizzi echoes the sentiments of many when she says that, “Whatever [Olivia] chooses to do, I want her to go, ‘You know what? I want to be great at that.’ I don’t care what it is that she does. I just want her to always give 150 percent.”



As Wes puts it, “The biggest thing we tell our kids is, we don’t care if you go up there and throw a gutter every shot, as long as you have a good attitude, and you’re giving it 100-percent effort every shot. As the saying goes, ‘Hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard.’”

If the resumés these up-and-coming phenoms are building on the lanes provide any indication, every one of them has proven to be more than capable of putting in as much hard work as the task before them requires. ■

Just Dad

Ronnie Russell may be a PBA champion to everyone else, but he knows he’s “just dad” to son Cayden.

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'People of Determination'

Rock-star treatment enjoyed by inaugural Para Bowling World Championships athletes highlights IBF's festivities in Dubai.

BY GEORGE WOOTEN

Para Shoot

The inaugural Para World Championships provided a platform for athletes like American Shawn Beam.

Determination could easily be used to describe the attitude demonstrated by each of the 21 bowlers who took to the open-air lanes in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, for the International Bowling Federation (IBF)'s Super World Championships and Masters World Championships in November.

But no group embodied that resolve more than the athletes that rolled and bowled in the inaugural Para Bowling World Championships at the Dubai International Bowling Center.

“We were treated like royalty in Dubai,” said Eddy Hutchens of Team USA’s para-bowling unit. “From the time we got on the plane, throughout the entire event, we definitely enjoyed the attention while we were there.”

Hutchens, along with Emma Perry, Debra Freed and Shawn

Beam, made up the first U.S. team to compete on the IBF Para Bowling stage. The foursome received their share of fandom, as other teams and players posed for photos.

“Because this was the first year for Para, it seemed as if we were highlighted,” said Hutchens, the top-ranked scratch bowler in the American Wheelchair Bowling Association rankings. “It was fun taking photos with the different teams and having them rotate in and out who was in the photo with us.”

And it wasn’t just in the bowling center. Hutchens says that special feeling was extended to them whether they visited the Dubai Mall or Burj Khalifa — the tallest building in the world.

“We weren’t referred to as ‘handicapped’ when we were in Dubai,” he said. “We were called ‘People of Determination.’ Some people take being handicapped as being lesser. To see that other



*When the Stars Come Out
Event finals in Dubai were dramatically
staged on open air lanes.*



countries have respect for people like me is very humbling.”

It was that level of comfort that allowed Hutchins to lead the singles prelims with a 171 average. The singles finals were held on lanes installed at the Sports, Fitness and Well-Being Hub at Expo 2020 Dubai.

After Hong Kong's Wong Mei-Lan defeated Thailand's Chantira Hutinan, 101-70, Hutchins topped Thailand's Suphan Sinthusuwan, 165-116, to win gold.

“There are no words to describe what it means to be a world champion,” said Hutchins. “There were goosebumps, and I don't get goosebumps. But after the win, it was goosebumps and smiles galore.”

Beam, who in 2012 became the first bowler to roll a USBC 300 game in a wheelchair, teamed up with Hutchins to claim doubles gold. The duo beat Thailand's Kampa Pongtao and Choochat Sukjarern, 178-135, and their teammates, Sawai Padpong and Samsak Ruamsab, in the final, 159-146.

“It's an amazing feeling to win a gold medal at the inaugural event,” said Beam after winning gold. “It's still very surreal. I hear it,

and I know it, but it doesn't register yet.”

Hutchens earned medals in all four disciplines in the Para Bowling World Championships, leaving Dubai with three golds and one silver.

Freed and Perry both earned bronze medals in singles competition, then teamed up to claim silver in doubles. They finished behind Thailand's Hutinan and Paramee Panyachaem, who won doubles gold.

Hutchins and Perry teamed up for a silver medal in mixed doubles, and Team USA claimed gold over Thailand, 358-338, in the three-game total-pinfall match.

Working out the Kinks

Tom Clark, the PBA Tour Commissioner who was brought in as IBF's Director of Sport and Competitions took the post nine days before the Super World Championships began on November 6th, admits that there were some logistical kinks that need to be worked out before the next

Super World Championships in 2023. But he says that the environment and Dubai's hospitality made up for any issues in the operation of the tournaments.



Four-Wheelers

Hutchens (left) and Beam sank their teeth into Doubles gold in Dubai.

“Dubai is such a great city,” said Clark. “There were a lot of challenges that were overcome by people working really hard. The hospitality from the people of Dubai and their Ministry of Sports was so accommodating. When you have a first, there is always something to overcome. But overall, it was a great turnout, great competition, great setting.”

The involvement of Clark, who retains his role with the PBA while working with the IBF, helps IBF CEO Andrew Oram, a former English cricketer and TV and broadcast director at the International Hockey Federation, as he finds his way forward in that role without himself having a deep background in bowling.

Clark quickly brought in retired PBA deputy commissioner and national tournament director Kirk von Krueger to be a Technical Delegate (tournament director). His wife Mary von Krueger also served as part of the staff as Technical Delegates to the events.

Their stability was needed for an overall event that made several changes since the 2018 Men’s Championships in Hong Kong and the 2019 Women’s Championships in Las Vegas. The Team event dropped from five players to four. All-Events and Masters titles? Replaced by Most Valuable Player and Most Valuable Federation. A new discipline was added to the mix: Mixed Team (pun intended).

And to add some spice to the proceedings, the medal rounds were contested on a two-lane set up in the Sports, Fitness and Well-Being Hub at Expo 2020 Dubai. The outdoor installation was part of the elaborate World Expo setting that featured displays from over 190 countries.

Throughout the Super World Championships and the Masters event that followed, competition wasn’t exactly held on a house shot, but the scoring pace of the 44-foot IBF Emirates 21 oil pattern could be described as generous.

“Getting to the pocket wasn’t the most challenging thing,” said Team USA head coach Bryan O’Keefe. “We knew the scoring pace would be on the high side. It was just about making sure we were striking and getting our balls to go through the pins correctly.”

Clark admits that the cream may not have risen to the top competitively, but the format does give countries hope of winning a medal.

“I think it was ultimately pretty fair,” he said. “While I wouldn’t say that the format would be exactly the same moving forward, I think there were a lot of elements of it that were pretty interesting and pretty good.”

The ultimate goal as far as the IBF is concerned is to get bowling into the Olympic Games. The key to that, Clark says, is inclusion.

“Billie Jean King has been telling me for a long time that co-ed sports are the future,” he said. “I think that the Olympics is buying into that a little bit. Because it’s possible that the IOC will really look fondly on events that can be co-ed. The Olym-

pics would benefit from having bowling, and events like the Super World Championships can help get bowling the recognition it deserves.”

Nowhere to Hide

Despite the tournament’s high scoring pace, competitors couldn’t run away and hide from the field because of the IBF’s World Championships format. After 10 games of qualifying, the top 32 men and top 32 women advanced to match play with their qualifying totals erased.

So, the 247.9 average posted by Women’s leader Kelly Kulick of Team USA was equal to that of Norway’s Grethe Walstad Fosseide, who was 391 pins behind, but qualified 32nd.

On the men’s side, PBA Tour star Jesper Svensson set a torrid pace by averaging 269 for his first five games. Amazingly, his 1,345 total was only 32 pins better than Saudi Arabia’s Abdulrahman Alkheiliwi. He rolled a pair of 300 games in his 1,313 block, becoming the first bowler with two perfect games in one World Championships. Svensson averaged 258.8 for 10 games, but the format ensured that meant nothing in match play.

The 32 advancers were separated into four groups of eight players each. Every bowler faced

Cinderella Make an Appearance

Lithuania’s doubles victory (l-r, Aidas Daniunas and Laurynas Narusis) was hailed as “one of the most incredible underdog stories in the history of bowling.”





The Big Prize

Parkin, Richard, McEwan and Kulick snagged "the one we all wanted" with Women's Team gold.

Sunny Outlook

Prather, Johnson, Anderson and Butturff (l-r.) survived a rolloff for Trios gold.



the other bowlers in their group one time, with two bowlers advancing from each group based on points, while the bottom six bowlers were eliminated. The point system awarded three points for a win, one for a tie, zero for a loss.

Survivors were then placed into an eight-player bracket for one-game matches for the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds. The championship round was a best-of-two match, with a ninth- and 10th-frame roll-off if the bowlers split the two games.

Kulick fell to Canadian Sarah Klassen, 228-219, in the quarterfinals. On the men's side, neither Svensson nor Alkheliwi advanced to the quarterfinals.

Singapore's Shayna Ng bested teammate Cherie Tan for women's gold, 49-27, using the ninth- and 10th-frame roll-off after they each won one game in the best-of-two format. Sweden's James Blomgren claimed the men's gold medal after beating Finland's Tomas Kayhko, 2-0.

Baker Bowling Revisited, and Other Intrigue

The Super World Championships got more interesting with the addition of more players and fewer games overall. For doubles, trios, team and mixed team disciplines, variations of the Baker system were used.

In doubles, one team member bowled the odd frames, and the other team member bowled the even frames. They were required to alternate through the day during qualifying. So, one person couldn't bowl every 10th frame for the team.

After 10 Baker qualifying games, the fields were cut to the top 32 for match play. IBF used the same seven game round-robin match play format to award points and determine the top two teams in each group. The quarterfinals and semifinals were one game and done.

Aidas Daniunas and Laurynas Narusis won the first gold medal for Lithuania in any event. The duo had to go through the entire Swedish team to claim Doubles gold. Daniunas and Narusis topped William Svensson and James Blomgren, 243-226. They then went on to beat top qualifiers Jesper Svensson and Pontus Andersson, 2-0 in the best-of-two gold-medal match.

Andersson could have wrapped up the first game with a strike and at least an eight-count and a spare in the 10th frame. He delivered the strike, but his second shot went high and left the 3-6-7-10 combination to fall short, 224-223. Daniunas and Narusis used a string of six strikes in the middle frames to lock up the gold, 237-176 in game two.

"We pretty much beat who we watch on TV," said Narusis. "When Sweden got the first strike in the 10th, I thought we lost the game. They kind of gave us a gift by getting six."

Andrew Anderson and Kris Prather, along with Svensson and Blomgren, earned bronze medals for reaching the semifinals.

Clark described Lithuania's victory as "one of the

most incredible underdog stories in the history of world bowling.

"There are only around 10 bowling centers and 300 bowlers in Lithuania, and this group [under coach Andrius Gasparavicius] aims to get more people interested in the game back home. It was inspiring to watch Lithuania ... remain focused on their own game today while facing such skilled and accomplished pros."

Janin Ribguth and Martina Shutz of Germany also won doubles gold medals. They defeated Sweden's Sandra Andersson and Joline Persson Planefors, 2-0 (193-181, 234-161), denying Sweden a second consecutive win in women's doubles. Denmark (Cecile Dam, Mika Guldbaek) and Finland (Ani Juntunen, Peppi Konsteri) shared the bronze medal.

Righting the Ship

Team USA finally righted the ship by defending their Trios gold medal. Johnson, Anderson, Prather and Jakob Butturff survived a ninth- and 10th-frame roll-off with Korea, 57-49, after both teams split the two-game match.

Butturff struck in the ninth, and Johnson doubled in the 10th frame. A 2-4-8 leave on Johnson's fill ball meant Korea's Kang Heewon could win the title with two strikes and eight pins. Kang struck on his first shot but crossed over and left a 6 pin on his second offering giving the Americans the gold.

"Coach Bryan looked at us and asked us how we were feeling, and we all looked him and told him we felt confident," Johnson said. "He made the decision to go with Jakob and I, and there was 100% total trust and commitment from the group, which was incredible."

The finals were set up after Team USA beat the Czech Republic 200-178, and Korea topped Sweden 265-222.

Korea's women found a level of redemption in Trios by winning the gold medal. They beat Singapore, 244-196, in the semifinals before taking both matches against Guatemala in the championship match, 223-195 and 246-206.

Team USA's women (Kulick, Missy Parkin, Jordan Richard and Danielle McEwan) also found themselves in the throes of a roll-off situation while battling for the Team gold medal. The United States and Malaysia each won a game in the best-of-two gold medal match. Malaysia took the first game, 190-170, and Team USA battled back, 215-171, in the second game.

In the two frame roll off, Kulick struck in the ninth, and McEwan added a spare and a strike for a total of 40 for the two frames.

Malaysian Natasha Roslan stepped up in the 10th needing a double for the team gold. Her 4-pin leave ended Malaysia's hopes and gave the United States its first women's team since 2015.

"It's the one we all wanted to bring home," said Parkin, who won trios gold with Richard in 2019.

“They display the gold medalist teams at the International Training and Research Center. It has always been my goal to get my picture on that wall. So now we get our picture on the wall.”

It was a dominant performance that gave Korea the men’s team gold medal. They were nearly perfect in the semifinals, beating Malaysia 299-184. Singapore couldn’t keep up with the Koreans in the finals, losing 2-0 (198-136, 248-196) to win silver. The Philippines joined Malaysia as bronze medalists.

Mixing it Up

The Tournament’s newest discipline, mixed doubles, saw two of the best overall teams rise to the finals. Sweden’s mixed team of Jesper Svensson, William Svensson, Sandra Andersson and Joline Persson matched up against Team USA’s Kulick, Parkin, Butturff and Prather.

Sweden took the first game, 225-215, and held a slim one pin lead through seven frames. After Sweden finished first with 236, Kulick had the chance to win game two with a double and eight pins. Her first shot in the 10th went high, leaving a 3 pin, and gave Sweden the gold, 236-226.

A double from Sweden in the eighth and ninth frames increased the lead, but a spare and a seven-count on the fill ball meant Kulick would have a chance to extend the match with two strikes and eight pins. She pulled the first shot and left a 3 pin to fall short, 236-226.

“Even though we didn’t win the mixed event, it still was a positive experience,” said Team USA head coach O’Keefe. “No, we didn’t win, but I don’t think we lost. We just got out-bowled by a great team.”

Sweden left with the most medals, seven overall, followed by Singapore (five), Korea and the United States (four), Finland (three), Guatemala (two), Malaysia (two), Philippines (two), Canada (one), Colombia (one), Czech Republic (one), Denmark (one), Germany

(one), Italy (one) and Lithuania (one).

Kulick and Parkin shared the title of 2021 Women’s MVP. Sweden’s James Blomgren was awarded Men’s MVP. Along with winning gold in singles, he won a Bronze Medal in the Doubles, Trios and Mixed Teams events.

Déjà Vu in the Masters World Championships

The IBF Masters World Championships played out similarly for Senior Team USA. As the three-time defending team champion in both divisions, their hall-of-fame-laden squad had high hopes for extending their gold streak.

But the same softer conditions and one-and-done match play formats plagued both Senior Team USA squads, just like they did for their regular team. Both teams advanced past the qualifying round. The United States men did not make it out of the round-robin match play, and the women lost to Canada 206-179 in the semifinals to win the bronze medal.

“The men’s team not medaling really stings,” said Tom Hess, the reigning PBA50 Player of the Year. “We knocked down more pins than everybody we bowled against in our group, but that wasn’t what the format called for.”

Joining Hess on the Men’s team was USBC Hall of Famers Chris Barnes, Parker Bohn III and Bob Learn Jr. Debbie Ayers, Tracy Calfee, Tish Johnson and Sharon Powers competed on the bronze medal women’s team.

France and Denmark claimed the women’s and men’s team titles. Both of Canada’s teams claimed the silver medal following roll off loses. The French women won their two-frame roll-off 50-26, and the Denmark men held on for a 38-35 victory.

Hess was able to break through for the gold medal in singles. He swept Sweden’s Martin Paulsson, 2-0 (226-222, 236-229) for the only American gold medal in Masters competition.



Clutch

Kulick rebounded from singles disappointment to throw a key strike for Team USA in the Women’s Team title match.

Yesteryear

1908: The Year Bowling Rivals Converged on Cincinnati

by J.R. SCHMIDT



◀ **Cincinnati Showdown**
The 1908 ABC tournament this program cover promotes was fraught with tension that existed among competing bowling organizations at the time.

▲ **Heavy Hitter**
Legendary baseball executive Garry Herrmann (far right) also was an influential bowling executive in 1908.

The American Bowling Congress was founded as bowling's national governing body in 1895. Little more than a decade later, that mission was threatened. Eastern bowlers had broken away to form the National Bowling Association. On the Pacific Coast, the Western Bowling Association was undecided about affiliating with ABC or

“going national.” Bowlers in the Canadian Bowlers' Association were wrestling with the same question.

In 1908 Garry Herrmann was ABC president. Herrmann was a national celebrity — president of the Cincinnati Reds and de-facto commissioner of baseball — as well as a major player in Ohio politics. The ABC Tournament was coming to Cincinnati that year. Herrmann wanted to

smooth relations among the rival bowling groups. He also wanted his hometown ABC to be extra-special.

Early ABC Tournaments were run by locally organized tournament companies. Various side events were often held on tournament lanes to help defray expenses. Most years, there was a small women's tournament. Match games were also popular.

Now Herrmann's tourna-

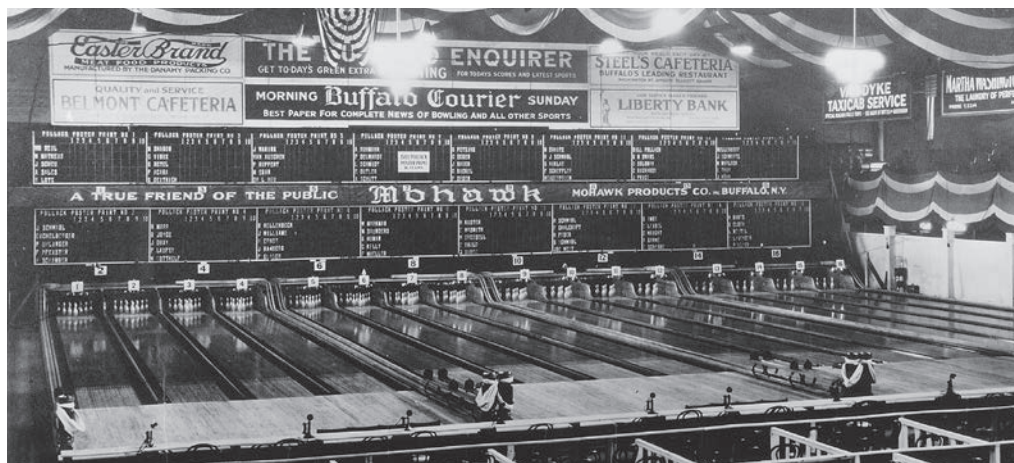
ment committee did come up with something extra-special. The 1907 Team, Doubles, and Singles winners from each of the four bowling associations were invited to face off in Cincinnati for prize money and bragging rights. Reflecting Canada's participation, the event would be called the International Matches.

The format was a round-robin of three-game matches among the four entrants in

each division, though total pins would decide the winners. One writer called the planned matches “a champion of champions roll-off.” The Cincinnati Armory was packed when play got underway on the evening of February 15.

The betting favorite in the Team event was the Canadian champion, Chicago-based Thompson’s Colts, captained by future hall-of-famer W.V. Thompson. The Thompsons did not disappoint, winning the \$400 prize with a nine-game total of 8,178. The Canadian champ also won the Singles, though this time it was an actual Canadian, John Noonan of Quebec City. His 1,656 set was good for \$100.

A minor fracas broke out in the Doubles. The NBA champs were unable to bowl, so a substitute team of Alec Dunbar and Jimmy Smith was sent to Cincinnati. Their 3,536 total was more than 100 pins in front of the next-best team, earning them \$200. A protest against the substitution was thrown out.



“Sensational Scores Looked For” a local headline read when the International Matches at the 1909 Pittsburgh ABC were announced. Though the general format would remain the same, there would be a few changes. The Western Bowling Association had not staged a tournament in 1908, so its place was taken by the champions of the Middle West Bowling Association. And because of the flap caused by the Dunbar-Smith

victory, only one substitute would be allowed on a Doubles team.

The March 17 start of the International Team event was briefly delayed when the pinboys went on strike. Play then began, but with only three teams. The Canadian champs had decided they were out-classed, and they did not make the trip to Pittsburgh.

The Middle West representative, the De Soto Stars of St. Louis, included A.C. Jellison and Homer Sanders. The teammates had each rolled 300 games in 1908, tying for ABC’s annual high-game award. Jellison had just won the high-game roll-off over Sanders when the two men moved into the International Matches. But despite the De Soto Stars’ two 300 stars, the NBA’s Brunswick of New York took the Team event.

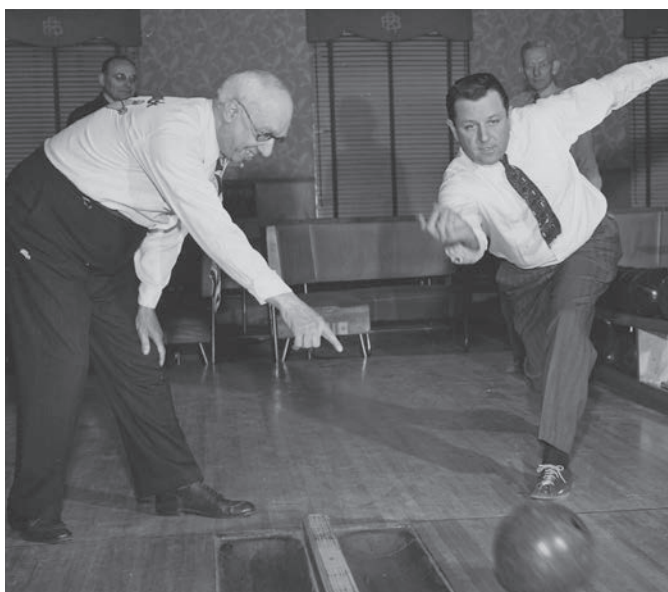
The Doubles featured only two entrants, from the ABC and the Middle West. ABC Doubles champ Jim Chalmers had died, so his place was taken by the redoubtable W.V. Thompson. Thompson and Harry Kiene then went on to win the event, with a record 3,629 total for nine games.

That left the Singles. Middle West champion Martin Kern — a onetime ABC champ — easily triumphed over the ABC and Canadian representatives.

Queen-City Calm

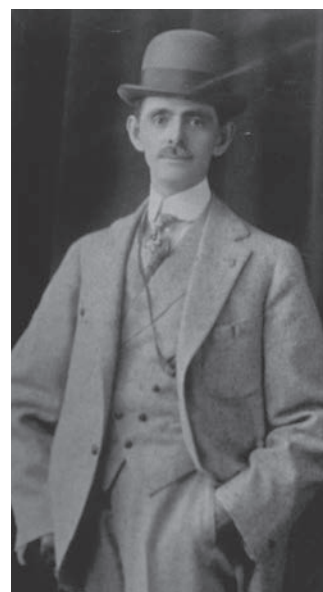
By the time the ABC tournament hit Buffalo in 1921, formerly rival bowling groups had affiliated under ABC’s banner.

Garry Herrmann had talked about making the International Matches annual events, with six or more regional tournaments as qualifiers. That never happened. By 1921, the NBA and the other rival groups had affiliated under the ABC banner.



Teacher’s Bet

Jimmy Smith (left) might have been a fine teacher in his day, but at the 1908 ABC tournament he found himself at the center of controversy (with Warren Hull).



Thompson’s Titans

W.V. Thompson’s vaunted Thompson’s Colts squad out of Chicago did not disappoint in a tense match at the 1908 ABC tournament held in Cincinnati.

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Coconut Bowl is seeking a PWBA or PBA Teaching Professional and Pro Shop Manager to join our team. Coconut Bowl has a very strong league bowler base of 25-30 leagues and over 1,400 league bowlers. Our 900 sq. ft. Pro Shop currently generates approximately \$200,000+ in annual revenue. Additionally, Coconut Bowl has invested in Kegel's Specto system (6 lanes) and is looking to leverage individual/group/team lessons and/or training into the product mix.


The current Pro Shop tenant is retiring in April 2022. We are hoping to fill the position by May or June of 2022.

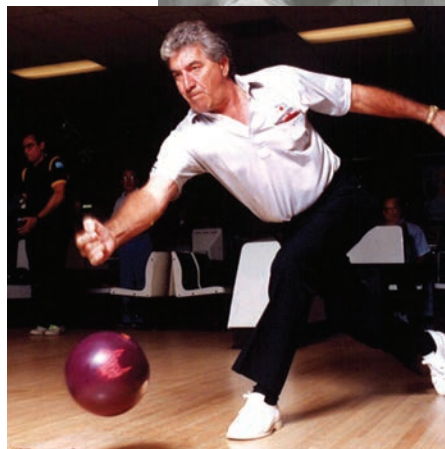
The ideal candidate would be a PWBA or PBA touring professional who possesses the ability to successfully operate the Pro Shop/Lesson Center in a high-volume Center/FEC. Basic skills include sales, merchandising, brand knowledge, organization, fitting/drilling, teaching/lessons, managing Pro Shop employees and achieving established fiscal metrics.

Coconut Bowl supports maintaining a 'touring' professional status while in this position. Go bowl and pursue those goals and dreams!

Compensation will be determined based on applicant skill set. A touring PWBA or PBA player on the road 10-16 weeks per year could expect to make \$30,000 to \$40,000 of augmented income. Other income opportunities could come from Lessons and/or Pro Shop revenues. Other benefits such as paid time off, insurance and 401k are available. The compensation package would vary situationally.

Interested persons should contact:
TODD THOMPSON
tthompson@wildisland.com
775.224.0243





Part-Time Powerhouse
Semiz amassed 11 national titles despite rarely touring full-time.

Final Frame

Teata Semiz 1934 - 2021

'I Did it My Way': Sinatra Fan Blazed a Trail All His Own on the Lanes

IF TEATA SEMIZ'S story began and ended with his three PBA Tour titles and eight PBA50 Tour wins, it would be remarkable enough. But to those who knew him well, the man was at least as memorable as the bowler.

As Johnny Petraglia, who knew Semiz since he was 16 years old, roomed with him on tour and bowled doubles with him plenty of times over the years, explains, "He was a gigantic Sinatra fan ... One year, we were rooming together at the Tournament of Champions, and Teata brought three of his Sinatra tapes with him. We go out one morning, I think it was the second day of qualifying, and somebody stole my SUV. And the first words out of Teata's mouth were, 'My tapes!' I said, 'I'll replace your tapes when they find my truck.'"

Semiz, who died Nov. 23 at age 87, was no mere fan of Sinatra; he himself was known to his tour peers as a fabulous singer in his own right.

"He loved to sing. He did karaoke. Two guys that sang all the time were him and [seven-time PBA50 Tour champion] John Hricsina. But he was always singing Sinatra; he wasn't going to sing anything else," Petraglia chuckles.

It is no surprise, then, that Semiz did it his way on the lanes. The New Jersey legend amassed those 11 combined national titles despite rarely bowling as a full-time touring pro.

"He always had other things going on. He had a pro shop back home; him and his son [Tom] had it together [at Sparta Lanes in Sparta Township, New Jersey]," Petraglia says.

In addition to his 11 national titles, Semiz also won Classic Singles and All-Events titles in the 1972 USBC Open Championships, and he had a penchant for making waves deep into the September of his years. His 1997 win in the PBA Showboat St. Petersburg Senior Open at age 63 made him the oldest player to win a PBA50 Tour title and, in 2014, he shot an 803 set at age in a doubles league at Sparta Lanes with his son.

As Ol' Blue Eyes might say, Teata Semiz aged like a "vintage wine from fine old kegs."

Spare Me

Show Us The Money!

by JASON THOMAS



I ONCE READ an article in which Adam Levine of Maroon 5 and *The Voice* fame was quoted as saying, “Bowling is a pretty lame thing to be good at.”

Before I pulled from my pocket the bowler’s hit list that I carry around with me at all times and added his name to the likes of Jim Rome, Howard Stern and many other A-list bowling-bullies, I tried to come up with the most generous interpretation that could have made this soprano-voiced pop star say something of such utter contempt. The best I could muster is that he was talking about the perceived amount of money one can earn by being extremely good at bowling — with money-earning potential being the generally agreed-upon way in which folks who do not participate in the brutal sorting-bowl of sports rank themselves in their respective professions.

The more important question we must ask ourselves as members of the bowling community is, “Is he right?” And if we feel he is, then we might also ask ourselves, “How do we make things better?”

Kyle Troup just broke the all-time single season earnings record in PBA history with a nearly half-million dollar prize-money haul for 2021. That’s not bad for someone who was working at Wendy’s — a company that, last time I checked, wasn’t paying any of their service staff nearly half-a-mil a year — just a few short years ago. And with the updated prize funds that were recently announced on the PWBA Tour for the 2022 season, the record for yearly earnings by a woman pro

(currently held by Wendy Macpherson with \$165,425 in 1997) is also likely to be broken soon as well. So, on those facts alone, bowling isn’t quite as lame a thing to be good at as Levine suggests.

Where does this money come from? A mentor of mine who formerly co-owned the PBA once said to me, “There is not an overabundance of upright-standing pins that the world is willing to pay experts to knock down.”

What he was saying is that professional bowlers are really being paid to entertain people. And what financial alchemy turns that entertainment into earnings for the entertainers? In sports, it happens a few different ways, namely: Ticket Sales, Media Rights, Sponsorship, Licensing and Subsidization.

Without getting too deep into the details of each, the entertainment business of bowling exists within a pecking order of sports properties that is well established. The NFL sits at the top of this heap, with the NBA, MLB, NASCAR and PGA in a grouping just below. Then there is another tier of sports, which bowling falls into. This tier is able to generate some amount of media rights income (in bowling’s case, it is relatively small but not insignificant) and does not have to pay for television airtime. Below this tier exists another large group of sports (Lacrosse, Volleyball, Water Polo, Track and Field, Cornhole and many others) who aspire to be where bowling currently ranks because they get no media rights money and often have to pay for their time on

television — and whose best athletes earn far less than the best bowlers.

Levine’s quote also raises the idea of valuing a person’s particular talent based upon how much can be earned from it — a concept that it is pretty, well... lame. Especially since the process Troup followed to ascend to the top of bowling closely mirrors the process Levine followed to ascend from what was likely a restaurant-service career trajectory to the top of the entertainment industry. At least in Troup’s case, there is absolutely no doubt that he actually did earn his money by being the best at what he does, while Levine, who is certainly a talented performer, may have earned his more because he just happened to get lucky.

So how do we get bowlers more money? The answer lies in the paragraph above. For bowling to move up the ranks it has to do a better job of telling the story that to become the best at it you have to do the same things that make you the best in any sport — or in music — or in business — and it is the process and the pursuit that we should be valuing, not the end reward, which is often determined by luck or factors outside of our individual control.

The story of how to become successful is the gold standard with which companies who sponsor and advertise with sports and entertainment properties want their brands to be affiliated. The faster bowling is able to spread that story, the faster it will be able to reward its best athletes in bigger ways than it has in the past.

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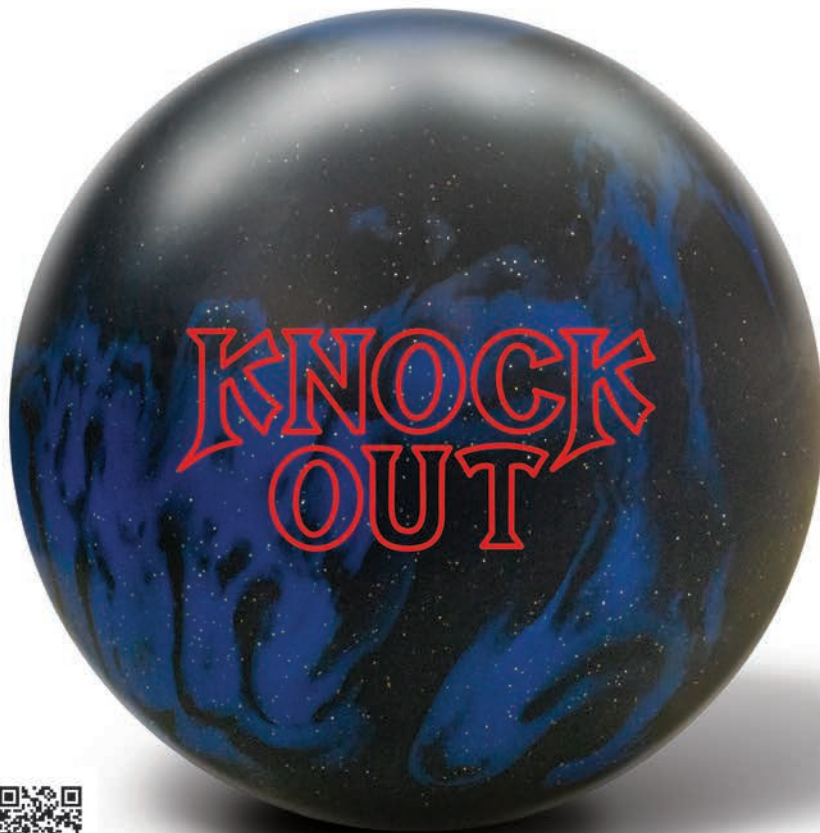
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DIFF	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.040	0.040



BALL PERFORMANCE INDEX CHART

