

CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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Shannon O'Keefe Rallies To Win 2021 PWBA Bowlers Journal Classic

ARLINGTON, TX - In case anyone had questions about how the events of the last year affected Shannon O'Keefe and her momentum on the Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour, the two-time reigning PWBA Player of the Year offered a quick reminder that she's still the player to beat by winning the 2021 Bowlers Journal Classic, the first event of the new season.

It also was fitting that the title match Thursday night at the International Training and Research Center featured the tour's top two players - O'Keefe and top seed Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York - in another epic showdown.

O'Keefe, of Shiloh, Illinois, bounced back from a second-frame split and closed the title tilt with eight consecutive strikes to

continued on page 6

Former ABTA Bowler George Marquez Passes

by Bob Smith formerly of the ABTA

George Marquez, a well-known Southland bowler succumbed to a lengthy illness, finally passing away January 8th 2021.

George, always a gentleman, was well-liked by all who knew him, he was one of the most respectful men I have known, on or off the lanes.

continued on page 5



George Marquez

PBA Announces Title Sponsor Return Of \$1 Million 300 Bonus For 2021

by Jill Laufer - FloBowling

The Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) announced today that Guaranteed Rate, one of the largest retail mortgage lenders in the country, has signed on as the title sponsor of the 2021 PBA Tour season when it returned to FOX Sports on Sunday, Jan. 24.

"We're thrilled to expand our partnership with Guaranteed Rate and welcome them as the Title Sponsor of the 2021 PBA Tour," said Colie Edison, Chief Executive Officer of the PBA. "Guaranteed Rate has proven to be a great partner of the Tour and our players, and we look forward to continuing the momentum into the new season."



The expanded agreement provides Guaranteed Rate with an array of exclusive marketing rights and opportunities to connect the brand even further with the PBA Tour, its fans, and its events.

The 2021 Guaranteed Rate PBA Tour on FOX began Sunday, Jan. 24 with the PBA Players Championship on FS1 (U.S.) and FloBowling (international), featuring five Regional Finals telecasts and culminat-

ing with the Championship Finals on FOX (full schedule below), where the winner from each Regional will battle it out for a \$250,000 grand prize.

But that's not the only continued on page 5

Simonsen Ends Koeltzow's Cinderella Run At 2021 PBA Players Championship

by Lucas Wiseman

JUPITER, Fla. - After sitting backstage watching Kris Koeltzow make his Cinderella run to the final match in the West Region stepladder finals of the 2021 PBA Players Championship, Anthony Simonsen stepped in and put an end to it.

Simonsen posted the highest game of the day as he defeated Koeltzow, 279-205, and will bowl in the Players Championship finals on Feb. 21 at Bowlero Jupiter. The winner of the event gets \$250,000.

Koeltzow's run was the



Anthony Simonsen

story of the show up until that point as the Colorado bowler put up big score after big score in climbing the ladder from the fifth seed.

Simonsen, however, came in with a game plan of

playing the lanes straighter, essentially playing the hold to near perfection, to come away with the victory.

The only miss Simonsen had was in the third frame when he left and converted

the 10 pin. Otherwise, it was a perfect day for the 2019 PBA Players Championship winner.

On Saturday, Koeltzow told FloBowling he had "nowhere to go but up" heading into the show. Playing with nothing to lose, he looked strong early on and surely gained some fans along the way.

Koeltzow started his run with a 269-245 opening-match win over Darren Tang before taking on a pair of left-handers. He took down Jakob Butturff, continued on page 5





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O'Neill Tests Positive For Coronavirus, Out Of PBA Players Championship

by Lucas Wiseman

JUPITER, Fla. – After testing positive for the coronavirus Sunday morning, Bill O'Neill, the defending champion at the PBA Players Championship, will not participate in the regional stepladders currently being held at Bowlero Jupiter.

Like the rest of the field, O'Neill participated in regional qualifying last weekend and Saturday began exhibiting symptoms consistent with the coronavirus. He was tested Sunday morning and told FloBowling the test came back positive.

"I was getting congested and then right before I went to bed I got really cold," O'Neill said of the symptoms he experienced Saturday night. "I developed a fever over the night and never could get rid of the chills. Luckily my fever broke a little bit ago so hopefully it stays that way."

O'Neill's flight to Florida had been scheduled for 7:30 a.m. on Sunday but instead of heading to the airport, he went and received a rapid test. That test came back positive, forcing him to officially cancel his plans to compete in the event.

"I'm obviously disappointed in the timing but many people have lost way more because of this pandemic," O'Neill said. "So, hopefully I'm OK, and if that's the worst thing to happen to me then I'm good. I'm just concerned about my family being OK at the moment."

At the East Region qualifying event in Richmond, Virginia, last weekend, O'Neill said he took precautions to avoid contracting the coronavirus. He said he could not specifically pinpoint that he contracted it at the event but said he hasn't gone many places since.

Asked if he wore his mask the entire time at the regional qualifying site, O'Neill said he did.

"I recently got contacts specifically so I could bowl without having to remove it at any point," O'Neill said. "The only time I lowered it was to eat and drink."

O'Neill advanced out of the East Region as the No. 5 seed and his stepladder was scheduled to be recorded Monday for future broadcast, leaving time for the PBA to identify a replacement for the show.

Next in line to replace O'Neill in the event is Tim Foy Jr., who finished sixth in the region. Foy had experienced heartbreak in the final frame of regional qualifying, leaving the Big Four and allowing O'Neill to advance.

The 2021 PBA Players Championship is the biggest PBA Tour event in years with a \$1 million prize fund and a \$250,000 first-place prize. O'Neill won the event last year and picked up a \$100,000 payday.

The first of the regional stepladders, the West, was broadcast live Sunday. The others are being recorded between now and Tuesday to air over the coming weeks. The winner of each regional stepladder will return to Jupiter for the live finals on Feb. 21.

The Education of a Professional Bowler – Part 6

by Frank Weiler

Recently I received a bowling instructional pamphlet from a dear friend and member of the California Bowling Hall of Fame. The pamphlet was written by a PBA Champion from the past. While the pamphlet was written nearly fifty years ago there are pearls of wisdom worth sharing with today's bowlers. I will do that in a series of short articles.

In this final installment I will share our champions TIPS for becoming a better bowler. Then I will share his "TOP SECRET" for bowling your best. Before proceeding to our champions TIPS, I remind you of his "SIX KEYS" to successful bowling as discussed in my five previous articles:

- Maximize Your Natural Ability
- Physical Conditioning
- Knowing Your Game
- Knowledge of The Sport of Bowling
- Confidence
- Mental Attitude

I am a lifelong bowler who has developed into a good league bowler. I have done so by studying and learning from better bowlers. I have also taken lessons from USBC certified silver coaches. The road to bowling success is a journey. It is all about work and maximizing your talents. It is up to you, the individual bowler, to make yourself a better bowler. You are responsible for your own game. In addition to the "SIX KEYS" to better bowling listed above and discussed in my prior installments our PBA champion of the past provided "NINE TIPS" for becoming a better bowler:

1. There is no substitute for practice. Most professional bowlers practice up to six hours daily to perfect their bowling game. Success in any profession demands hard work. Bowling is no exception.
2. Control your emotions. Getting angry with yourself, the pins or the lanes serves no purpose. Anger only leads to blowing pins, missing spares and a loss of concentration. The result may be several bad frames or even a bad game.
3. Many bowlers stop bearing down when they are eliminated from any chance of winning or cashing. That's bad. It leads to bad habits and affects your confidence in the future. Use those moments to learn and explore other options that may lead to success on similar conditions in the future. Experiment while you're doing your best.
4. So many bowlers have an "A" Game but no Plan "B". You should develop a diversified bowling game where you are comfortable playing several different angles to the pocket.
5. Stay loose during competition. Learn techniques that help you relax when the pressure is on. Some bowlers continually stretch while competing. Others practice deep breathing. Some close eyes between shots and visualize their next shot. Do whatever helps you to stay loose, relaxed and comfortable.
6. Don't waste time on the approach. Once your feet are set and your hand is in the ball there is no reason to wait. Standing longer on the approach only increases your chance for a bad shot. Waiting only increases your chance to get nervous, to lose concentration, to make mistakes.
7. When I on the approach you should clear your mind and focus on hitting your target. At that point you should depend on muscle memory to ensure your form is good and that you make a good shot.
8. Some recommendations regarding form:
 - A. Keep your head down and steady.
 - B. Keep the ball close to your body.
 - C. Keep the inside of your elbow facing the pins.
 - D. Keep the bowling ball at or below the waist. (I am not sure if this is still recommended)
 - E. Bend your knee as low as possible and keep your back as straight as possible.
9. Adjusting your ball speed is difficult. It is not recommended for amateur bowlers.

DRUM ROLL PLEASE. It's time for the "TOP SECRET" for bowling your best:

The "TOP SECRET" for bowling your best is two-fold:

First, AVOID OVERDRIVE. Never attempt to pack the packet on a crucial shot. Without fail this will result in a high hit. It's because in trying to ensure your ball hits hard you tend to pull the ball at the time of release. It's better at crucial times to relax and just try to hit the pocket. Then if you pull the ball you will pack the pocket. At worse you may have a light hit which will carry as well as a full hit.

Second, NEGATIVE WEIGHT. If you roll a hard-hitting ball or a high rotating ball, as most young players do today, you may wish to drill up your bowling balls with NEGATIVE WEIGHT. Negative weight will hold back the hooking action of the ball and may allow your ball to settle into the pocket with a better carry potential. It does this by keeping the ball in the pocket without driving into or behind the pins, causing odd spares.

There is one more thing you can do to make yourself into a better bowler. That would be employing a bowling coach. The knowledge obtained from a bowling coach will improve your bowling skills, build your confidence, help you develop a winning mental attitude and become a winner.

In the Southern California area, I recommend MARK BAKER for instruction. He is a former PBA star and champion who currently is a TEAM USA coach. We are very lucky in this area to have access to a coach from our National Team. I suggest all bowlers serious about improving their game to contact coach MARK BAKER and learn from the best. When you work with Mark you will become a better bowler.

Okay. Get off the couch and start making yourself into a better bowler. Keep reading the BOWLING NEWS and start applying what you have learned from this series of articles on "The Education of a Professional Bowler".

"IF A SPORT IS WORTH PLAYING, IT'S WORTH PLAYING WELL".

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BOWLING NEWS

<p>MAILING ADDRESS 7502 Florence Ave. Downey, CA 90240</p>	<p>EDITORIAL OFFICE 11459 Imperial Hwy. Norwalk, CA 90650</p>
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California Bowling News is NOT responsible for ADS, EDITORIALS, STORIES, FACTS, PICTURE CAPTIONS or SPELLING emailed for publication. Published 52 weeks.

It's Time To Stop And Smell The Roses

by Dave Williams

One positive outcome of the COVID-19 virus, if you can call anything related to the epidemic that infiltrated our shores constructive, would be the additional amount of time that we have had to reflect upon our lives and our surroundings.

In my own personal life, I have been provided with a tremendous amount of free time, since most of my bowling center clients have been greatly compromised by local governments in their ability to operate their business.

This free time has allowed me to think about the lyrics of a popular song performed by Mac Davis from the 1970's called "Stop and Smell the Roses." The lines are almost prophetic approximately fifty years after their release, as highlighted below:

*Hey Mister, where are you going in such a hurry
Don't you think it's time you realized
There's a whole lot more to life than work and worry
The sweetest things in life are free
And there, right before your eyes*

With all of this free time that I have been provided, I've had an opportunity to do some things that I've wanted to do for years, including cleaning out an accumulation of over 50 years of documents and old clothing. And yet, every time I throw away an article of clothing or an old file, I immediately regret discarding that item!

Another opportunity that I have had during the past year is to enjoy all of God's creatures great and small that surround us in our daily lives. I am reminded of my childhood in the tiny town of Sebastopol, Calif., when nature was all around me in our small farm of one acre within the city limits. We had almost every type of fruit or vegetable that you could imagine, including but not limited to corn, carrots, tomatoes, lettuce, cherries, apples, peaches, and just about any other seed that you care to place in the ground.

We also had an incredible amount of wildlife on that property, including an all time high count of eighteen cats, before neutering of pets became the norm. A funny story that comes to mind and revolves around those cats involves my Mom's interest in almost any living creature. When I had reached the age of ten, she decided to return to college and pursue a degree in Zoology.

My Mom immediately became the teacher's "pet," probably because she was closer to the teacher's age, but also because she could not stand to see any of the experimental creatures destroyed. This resulted in a stable of mice, rats, guinea pigs, birds, and the like, that were added to our accumulation of cats and dogs at our home.

One of those rats that I had used in a Science Project for school escaped one day and we looked everywhere to try and find him, later discovering that he had burrowed into a geranium planter box. But at the time that he escaped, we just assumed that he had run away or would eventually show up.

Later that day my Mom proceeded to feed all of those 18 cats on an old pizza tray filled with cat food. When we looked outside, we were surprised to see all of the cats surrounding the tray of food, but none were eating. When we went outside to investigate, we discovered the missing rat feasting on the food, while all of the cats were content to sit and watch!

The Mac Davis song from 1974 continues:

*You got to stop and smell the roses
You've got to count your many blessings everyday
You're gonna find your way to heaven is a rough and rocky road
If you don't stop and smell the roses along the way*

*Did you ever take a walk through the forest
Stop and dream a while among the trees
Well, you can look up through the leaves right straight to heaven
You can almost hear the voice of God in each and every breeze*

The condominiums where I now live in New Jersey do not allow pets... no cats and no dogs. I miss cats but have discovered during the COVID-19 shutdown that I have many pets that I never took the time to notice! Among my favorites are five blue jays that show up every morning at 7:30 AM - they are very punctual! Did you know that blue jays love peanuts? They actually prefer peanuts in the shell, rather than processed nuts. It's a hoot to watch them grab the peanut shell in their beaks and fly off.



One of my new found friends enjoying a nut.

Another outdoor pet that enjoys peanuts in the shell are two squirrels that visit, usually after the blue jays at 7:30 AM, and then again at 11:30 AM. The squirrels are not as shy as the birds and will come right to the door and take the nut from my hand. They then scurry to the edge of the deck where they proceed to break open the shell.

As Mac Davis relates in his song, I have been taking a walk of about a mile almost every day. The number of flowers that blossom (even as late as November here in New Jersey) are remarkable, with many smaller than a fingernail. They seem to take turns, with one showing off their vibrant colors for a couple of days, before being supplanted by another.



A beautiful blue flower, so intricate in design

Upon further investigation, I've noticed that these beautiful creations are actually a treat for deer and small rabbits that frequent our property along a couple of streams that flow through the development. The rabbits are most often seen at dawn, while the deer can be seen nibbling on leaves and grass in the afternoon.

I'm sure that these are all things that most of you have noticed in your lifetime, but they would not have been possible for me without the shutdown of our bowling industry by the highly contagious flu virus that attacked our country almost one year ago. So, take a tip from Mac Davis and turn off the television - go for a walk and escape all of the unnecessary political and cultural hubbub on the boob tube. It's a beautiful world outside, filled with all God's creatures great and small.

The PWBA Is Back and Better Than The PBA

by Frank Weiler

I am a former "Pin Boy" who proudly set pins throughout my high school years. My two best friends, from those younger days, were also Pin Boys. They both worked with me setting pins back in the day.

My buddies and I enjoy discussing everything Bowling. We stay in touch by telephone and never allow more than a few weeks between calls.

During our latest discussions my buddies and I decided that the PWBA Tour is much more exciting to watch than the PBA Tour. In fact, all three of us purchased annual subscriptions to **BOWLTV** so that we would not miss a single game of this season's PWBA.

While we identified a score of reasons for preferring the PWBA over the PBA we focused on three main reasons for preferring the PWBA:

1. The PWBA Tour is more competitive than the PBA Tour. Every woman entering a PWBA Tour event has a chance to win it. It is quite the opposite on the PBA Tour. The two handed bowlers have pretty much taken over the Tour. The one handed bowlers on the PBA Tour are no longer competitive. This domination by the two handers has made PBA tournaments less interesting.
2. PWBA tournaments feature a greater variety of bowlers on their television shows. Every PWBA tournament seems to have different finalists. On the other hand, PBA television finals have the same finalists every tournament. It's the same two handers every final. Jason Belmonte is on every show. Who are the other professionals competing against Jason? Where are some fresh new faces on tour?
3. The women on the PWBA Tour are more fun to watch than the PBA professionals. The PWBA stars have personality. They show emotion on every shot. Just watch Shannon O'Keefe compete on television. During any single game she exhibits a wide variety of emotions. In contrast her male counterparts on the PBA Tour are stoic and unemotional. The guys compete with blank expressions on their faces. Where's the funeral? It's no fun watching someone bowl without emotion.

There you have it. If you want to see real competitive bowling check out the PWBA TOUR on BOWLTV.COM

Drive Underway To Help Save California Bowling Centers

CALIFORNIA – The Southern California Junior Bowling Foundation was founded with the goal of growing and supporting youth bowling in Southern California. The group has found a new emergency goal- trying to raise funds to help bowling centers reopen in California.

Bowlers, including many prominent nationally recognized youth bowlers, have been unable to participate in the game they love due to the overbearing restrictions placed on bowling centers by the State of California. While other businesses have been permitted to open, bowling proprietors have seen their doors closed and lights off since mid-March. The frustration was escalated when bowling centers in 49 of 50 states were permitted to open while Californians lanes sat dormant in the dark.

Bowling is a big part of many people's daily lives. Seniors are suffering from missing their weekly exercise and social activity. Many junior bowlers are missing their opportunity to earn college scholarships due to their inability to practice. The SCJBF has recognized that it has become essential to help open bowling centers immediately.

The SCJBF has started a Go Fund Me campaign to help raise money for the fight to open bowling centers in California. At a time when many proprietors are struggling and centers are on the brink of closing forever, you can help with the fight.

We would appreciate any donation big or small to help with the cause. Log on to www.gofundme.com/helpbowling and help today!

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BRYANNA COTÉ WINS 2021 PWBA ITRC CLASSIC

ARLINGTON, Texas – After almost five years, three heartbreaking runner-up finishes and a global pandemic, Bryanna Coté of Tucson, Arizona, found her way back to the winner's circle on the Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour.

Everything about the 34-year-old right-hander's journey to the trophy this week at the 2021 PWBA ITRC Classic was different than her breakthrough performance in 2016, except for the flood of emotions that came once the championship match concluded.

In a way, the teary-eyed Coté who stood at the microphone following her 244-238 win over Jillian Martin of Stow, Ohio, was the same young lady who had dreams of success on bowling's biggest stages. At the same time, the words she spoke came from an experienced veteran who had learned from every bit of adversity and disappointment since her last win.

The victory, broadcast live on BowlTV, was the second of Coté's career and earned her a \$10,000 top prize. Her performance also denied Martin, a 16-year-old right-hander, the opportunity to become the youngest bowler in history to win a PWBA Tour event.

"Because it had been so long, it felt like the first time all over again," Coté said. "I was really nervous for that match, no matter who I was going to bowl, because everyone had bowled well, and the pattern (43 feet) was really high-scoring. I just wanted to stay slow and bowl my own game."

Three quick strikes helped the six-time Team USA member to an early advantage at the International Training and Research Center, while converting the challenging 2-4-5-8 combination in the fourth frame gave her a six-pin lead halfway through the game. Both players struck three consecutive times to set up a dramatic conclusion.

Though Martin failed to strike again in the ninth frame, she closed with three strikes to put Coté in a familiar position, one she had thought about when she strategically chose to finish on the right lane, a benefit of being the higher seed going into the match.

In her own final frame, Coté calmly delivered the mark and five pins she needed to clinch the title. She would have preferred to seal it with a strike, but the 10 pin on her first offering had other plans.

"I really was trying not to pay too much attention to the scores, but I knew I needed a mark," Coté said. "Of course, everyone wants to strike there, and I thought it was a decent shot, but maybe not as good as the few before it. I was glad to leave something makeable. I took some extra time to slow my process, and I visualized myself making it. Then, I did."

Being in that position, even being on that particular lane in that moment, were the result of her having matured as a player. She succeeded because she previously had failed.

At the 2019 PWBA Fountain Valley Open, her most recent bid for a second career title, a devastating 8 pin in a must-strike situation allowed Sweden's Sandra Andersson to escape with a one-pin victory. Coté lost in that moment, but it helped her win Saturday at the ITRC.

"At Fountain Valley, I learned about my shot-making ability under pressure, and throwing a shot like that went a long way toward eliminating any self-doubt," said Coté, who was the runner-up to Danielle McEwan in Fountain Valley in 2018 and again to eventual PWBA Player of the Year Shannon O'Keefe at the 2018 United States Bowling Congress Queens. "I've gained so much trust in my ability, and while that's just one example, it all helped with how I handled the situation tonight."

Coté's first title came at the 2016 PWBA Lexington Open, where she was the less-experienced player making her first TV appearance, so she was able to relate to what Martin likely was feeling on the lanes Saturday. On the way to that win, Coté defeated O'Keefe and USBC Hall of Famer Kelly Kulick.

Though Martin's first title match didn't end the same way, she said the experience was unforgettable. A win would've added her name to the record book just above

hall of famer Wendy Macpherson, who won the U.S. Women's Open in 1986 at age 18.

"It was surreal," Martin said. "I probably won't process it for a while. It's so crazy. I put everything out there. In the end, I didn't come out with the win, but I'm very happy with my performance. I can't believe how far I made it."

To earn the meeting with Coté, Martin had to defeat two of the PWBA Tour's top competitors.

Martin kicked off the stepladder with her second win of the day against USBC Hall of Famer Liz Johnson of Niagara Falls, New York, this time sneaking by the 24-time PWBA Tour champion, 238-235.

Martin was able to build a lead with five consecutive strikes, starting in the fifth frame, and she stepped up in the 10th frame with a chance to shut out Johnson. Martin left a 10 pin on her first offering, spared it and knocked down nine pins to seal the win.

Earlier in the day during match play, Martin defeated Johnson 289-220. Martin also owns the highest game rolled this week at the ITRC, a 299 performance that came in match play during the season-opening Bowlers Journal Classic. A 4 pin ended her quest for the first perfect game of her career.

Martin's semifinal victory over two-time PWBA Tour champion Dasha Kovalova of Ukraine was a little less eventful. Two splits and a missed single pin were the undoing for Kovalova, while Martin struck six times on the way to a 227-185 victory.

"Just bowling against all the ladies was a crazy experience because they're people I've looked up to," Martin said. "It was definitely nerve-wracking, but to come out here and bowl against them has been amazing."

The ITRC Classic was the second event of the PWBA Kickoff Classic Series, which will feature three national tour stops and one regional event during its seven-day run at the ITRC, the home of Team USA.

This week's Kickoff Classic Series marks the first PWBA Tour competition since September 2019. The 2020 season was canceled due to COVID-19.

Each event at the PWBA Kickoff Classic Series is being contested on a different lane condition. The prize fund for each of the three national tour stops is \$65,000, with \$10,000 going to each champion. The 2021 PWBA Tour season will feature 20 events, highlighted by the introduction of the Classic Series events and an increase in the season's overall prize fund by nearly \$400,000.

Simonsen continued from page 1

268-213, and defeated Wesley Low, 254-226, to move into the final match against Simonsen.

The remainder of the PBA Players Championship regional stepladders will air in the coming weeks with the Southwest Region show airing Jan. 31 on FS1 (U.S.) and FloBowling (international) at 2 p.m. Eastern.

PBA continued from page 1

prize money on the line. The PBA and FOX have partnered to once again present the \$1 Million Bonus incentive for any player who bowls a perfect 300 in the Title match in one of four key PBA events on FOX Broadcast Channel.

"We're excited to build upon our partnership with the PBA," said Guaranteed Rate Chief Marketing Officer Steve Moffat. "The players on the PBA Tour are the best athletes in the sport and believe anything is possible. We're proud to be part of the excitement as they compete not only for the win, but for the perfect game."

Only three televised 300 games have ever been accomplished in a title match in the history of the PBA Tour, most recently this time last year, when Tommy Jones bowled a perfect game at the 2020 PBA Hall of Fame Classic on FS1, the day after being inducted into the Hall of Fame.

The \$1 Million Bonus will be up for grabs for a 300 game in the title match of each of the following events, all of which will be broadcast live on FloBowling for international fans:

PBA Players Championship Finals

Sunday, Feb. 21 at 12:30 p.m. ET on FOX

PBA Tournament of Champions

Sunday, Feb. 28 at 1 p.m. ET on FOX

PBA World Series of Bowling XII World Championship

Saturday, March 13 at 2 p.m. ET on FOX

PBA Super Slam

Sunday, April 18 at 12:30 p.m. ET on FOX

The complete 2021 Guaranteed Rate PBA Tour schedule through April is available now, with additional details on PBA Tour events, including the PBA League and PBA King of the Lanes series to be announced at a later date.

Marquez continued from page 1

George, 70 years old was born in the Philippines Feb. 3, 1950. He lived in the Philippines and Guam before moving to California in the early 70's. He married a pretty lady, Soring and they were married for 45 Years. They had two sons Chris, now 43 and Anthony 41. He also had a brother, Anthony in the Philippines, and four sisters who are living in Guam.

George worked in telecommunications 27+ years. He loved bowling and cars!! He bowled in other tournament clubs in the 70's and joined the ABTA in the early 80's. He was a fine gentleman with an excellent attitude. He had four 300 games and won several ABTA Titles in his tenure there. He also traveled to the Philippines to bowl in events there since bowling was closed here due to the pandemic and our governor.

George had many friends and bowled many times with his good friend Pete Dumpit who was also a fine gentleman and a great bowler.

Sadly, Pete passed away in 2018 due to cancer.

We will miss these men not only in the sport of bowling but in our lives. God Bless their souls!!

BOWLING CALENDAR

SPECIAL NOTICE: PLEASE CHECK WITH EACH EVENT IF YOU PLAN TO PARTICIPATE TO BE SURE THE CENTER IS OPEN FOR THE EVENT

JANUARY

by Bette Addington

17-29 – BPAA & Bowling Summit, Nashville, TN, bowlingssummit.com

25-26 – PWBW Hall of Fame Classic, ITRC, Arlington, TX, pwba.com

30 – Youth Sports USA Bowling Southwest Regional, Suncoast Bowling Center, Las Vegas, NV, bowl.com—POSTPONED

30 – PBA50, Bowlero Glendale, Glendale, AZ, jblanchard@pba.com, 909/908-5713

31 – PBA Regular, Bowlero Glendale, Glendale, AZ, jblanchard@pba.com, 909/908-5713

31 – Central Valley Masters Doubles Tournament, \$150 per team entry, Handicap (80% of 22) 1 squad only

10am, limited to 27 teams—TOURNAMENT IS FULL/Waiting list available, Freeway Lanes,

(8265 E. Dinuba Ave.), Selma, bowl 6 games paying 1 in 6 entries. RSVP – Chris Gregory (via Facebook)

FEBRUARY

1-7 – TAT (True Amateur Tournament) Amateur Nationals, SouthPoint, Las Vegas, 1/844/321-8100

6 – Elite Bowling Club Doubles Tournament, 2 squads, (1 PBA or PWBA per team),

Canyon Lanes, Cabazon, 951/419-2751

7 – Elite Bowling Club 2 squad 5 Gamer, Canyon Lanes, Cabazon, 951/419-2751

12-14 – Storm Youth Championships, Las Vegas, NV, stormbowling.com/syc

13-14 – Valentine & LeForbes Valentine's Day 430 Hndcp. Mxd. Dbls. Tourn., Beat the Board,

Canyon Lanes, Cabazon, 909/725-6805, squads 2/13: 8am, 9am, 4pm

21 – 60 & Over Scratch Classic, Canyon Lanes, Cabazon, \$125 entry fee, 951/419-2751

Calendar brought to you by California Bowling Writers (www.calbowlingwriters.org)

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PBA TOUR

2021 SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME (ET)	TOURNAMENT	CHANNEL
PBA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP			
SUN. JANUARY 31	2:00PM	PBA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP - SOUTHWEST FINALS	FS1
SAT. FEBRUARY 6	4:00PM	PBA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP - CENTRAL	

VIEW THE FIRST HALF OF THE 2021 SCHEDULE »

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PWBA continued from page 1

defeat her longtime Team USA teammate, 243-225. The win was the 14th of O’Keefe’s career and earned her a \$10,000 top prize. The Bowlers Journal Classic was the first event of the PWBA Kickoff Classic Series, which will feature three national tour stops and one regional event during its seven-day run at the ITRC, home of Team USA.

The PWBA Tour’s historic return to the spotlight was broadcast live on BowlingTV.com and marked the first time since September 2019 a PWBA Tour title had been awarded. The 2020 season was canceled due to COVID-19.

“This feels so amazing for multiple reasons,” said O’Keefe, a 41-year-old right-hander. “It has been so long since we competed, but I was trying hard not to get wrapped up in that. I just wanted to make sure I could turn off my practice brain after all this time and get back into a competitive mindset. And, it’s never about comparing one calendar year to the next. Instead, I always try to focus on the process and being appreciative of each opportunity to compete. To pick up where I left off and start this year with a win is incredible.”

McEwan had the early momentum in the match, striking on three of her first four shots, but she did not strike again until the ninth frame. O’Keefe started the finale teetering between two bowling balls and some subtle moves based on how her semifinal win ended, but after leaving the 4-6-7-9-10 split in the second frame, she forced herself to commit to a game plan and was able to regain control.

O’Keefe also was the last person to claim a championship trophy, which she did at the 2019 PWBA Tour Championship for her third career major title. That victory was the final piece of a five-win season that included her second consecutive PWBA Player of the Year Award.

In both 2018 and 2019, McEwan was the runner-up in the player-of-the-year race, and she has been among the top five on the PWBA Tour’s points list each year since the organization’s relaunch in 2015.

During the same span, McEwan has collected five PWBA Tour titles, one in each of her five seasons, and her success includes two major victories. Her first win, also her first major, came at the 2015 PWBA Tour Championship, the last PWBA event to be held at the ITRC.

The last time McEwan and O’Keefe faced off for a PWBA title was at the 2019 BowlerX.com Orlando Open, where O’Keefe escaped with a 207-202 victory. A week later, McEwan topped O’Keefe for the singles gold medal at the 2019 World Bowling Women’s Championships.

“Bittersweet is the best way to put it,” McEwan said of her second-place finish Thursday. “I was anxious and nervous going into this event because I wasn’t even sure if I would remember what to do and how to be Danielle again, but things fell into place. To work through everything and have it end how it did was disappointing, but Shannon is an amazing champion and the player to beat. If I’m going to beat her, I need to be better.”

To set up the championship meeting with McEwan on Thursday, O’Keefe turned in a 10-strike, 245-212 performance against their red-hot Team USA teammate Missy Parkin of Laguna Hills, California. After opening with five strikes, O’Keefe was slowed only by a 2-10 split in the sixth frame and an 8 pin in the ninth frame.

In the opening match, Parkin was able to continue the momentum that helped her into the stepladder, and she delivered a final-frame strike to sneak past fellow PWBA Tour champion Erin McCarthy of Omaha, Nebraska, 238-227. Parkin catapulted into the top four by finishing match play with games of 258 and 238. The late surge, plus 30 bonus pins for winning each game, helped her erase a sizeable deficit of 72 pins heading into the position round.

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To The Editor

Just finished reading your article on recent lane closures and it made me think back to two of the first to impact me - the closures of both Wonderbowl Downey and Wonderbowl Anaheim.

I literally grew up on the benches and concourse of Wonderbowl Downey, my parents, aunts and uncles all bowling together in Friday night leagues throughout my childhood and eventually welcoming my friends, sisters and my wife and I when we were old enough to join them in those same leagues ourselves.

Weekends were spent at tournaments, many at Wonderbowl Anaheim, again watching my family members compete when I was young and eventually joining in the fun myself when I was old enough.

Bowling aside, for those of us that grew up in Downey Wonderbowl was also a central social hub to meet, eat, imbibe, shoot pool and so on as we grew and came of age, an opportunity not afforded those adolescents and young adults growing up in Downey after the closure of the facility, completely unnecessary and primarily due to greed as it turned out.

Here's a link to a great LA Times article from back in the day that just opened the wound for me all over again when I found it and read it this morning: <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1986-05-22-hl-7377-story.html>

Ditto for seeing your reference to the closures of Yorba Linda Bowl and Tustin Lanes, both of which impacted me directly after our move here to the OC as we were forced to try and find a new home for the leagues we were in at the time of each closure.

Appreciate you bearing with my ramblings here - it's what us old guys do best, after all - and I'll close by simply saying thank you for both your publication itself and your continuing efforts to highlight what a huge impact each lane closure has on the community, the sport and every individual who called those houses their home lanes.

Keep rolling and keep fighting the good fight,

- Rob Conaway Placentia, CA

PBA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP TELEVISION SCHEDULE

Sunday, Jan. 31 at 2 p.m. ET on FS1 – Southwest Region Finals

Saturday, Feb. 6 at 4 p.m. ET on FS1 – Central Region Finals

Sunday, Feb. 7 at 2 p.m. ET on FS1 – East Region Finals

Sunday, Feb. 14 at 1 p.m. ET on FS1 – South Region Finals

Sunday, Feb. 21 at 12:30 p.m. ET on FOX – PBA Players Championship Finals

WEST REGION STEPLADDER FINALISTS

Bowlero Christown – Phoenix, Ariz.

Anthony Simonsen - Winner

Wesley Low Jr.

Jakob Butturff

Darren Tang

Kris Koeltzow

Full West Region standings: <https://www.pba.com/node/117446>

SOUTHWEST REGION STEPLADDER FINALISTS

AMF Garland Lanes – Garland, Texas

François Lavoie

Packy Hanrahan

Keven Williams

Benjamin Martinez

AJ Chapman

Full Southwest Region standings: <https://www.pba.com/node/117441>

CENTRAL REGION STEPLADDER FINALISTS

Bowlero Wauwatosa – Wauwatosa, Wis.

Tom Smallwood

Andrew Anderson

Ronnie Russell

Wes Malott

Zach Weidman

Full Central Region standings: <https://www.pba.com/node/117436>

EAST REGION STEPLADDER FINALISTS

Bowlero West End – Richmond, Va.

Kyle Troup

Brandon Novak

Michael Davidson

Chris Via

Bill O'Neill replaced by Tim Foy

Full East Region standings: <https://www.pba.com/node/117431>

SOUTH REGION STEPLADDER FINALISTS

AMF University Lanes – Tampa, Fla.

Jesper Svensson

Cristian Azcona

Ryan Ciminelli

Tom Daugherty

Dick Allen

Full South Region standings: <https://www.pba.com/node/117426>

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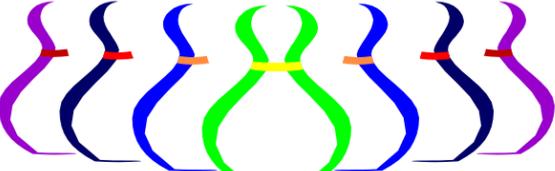
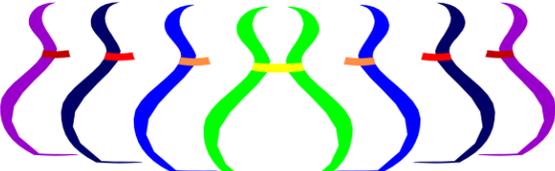
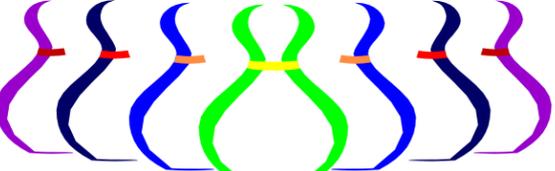
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