

CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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JILLIAN MARTIN MAKES HISTORY WITH WIN AT 2021 PWBA BOWLTV CLASSIC



Jillian Martin

ARLINGTON, Texas - Junior Team USA member Jillian Martin of Stow, Ohio, made history Tuesday night by becoming the youngest bowler to win a Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour event.

The 17-year-old phenom defeated England's Verity Crawley in the title match of the 2021 PWBA BowlTV Classic, 221-188, to claim the \$10,000 top prize and a place in the bowling record book.

The BowlTV Classic was held at the International Training and Research Center as part of the four-event PWBA Summer Classic Series, and all rounds of competition were broadcast live on BowlTV.

Martin, who celebrated her birthday on July 25, bested the 35-year-old mark set by PWBA and United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer Wendy Macpherson, when she won the 1986 U.S. Women's Open as an 18-year-old high school senior.

"I was very nervous going into that match, but I reminded myself how special it was to have an opportunity to win a tournament against the best ladies in the world," Martin said. "I wanted to make the most of it and have some fun. I kept telling myself that the whole match. I made a couple bad shots, but it was incredible to have that opportunity and be able to

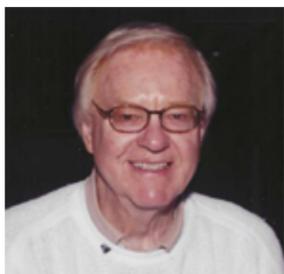
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Bowling Photographer Dudley Peebles 1926-2021

by Mary Lynly and Dudley's Daughter Candace

A photographer for the WIBC (Women's International Bowling Congress), California WBA and more for many years, Dudley Peebles provided a pictorial record for thousands of bowlers at tournaments and annual meetings. In later years it seemed like a slam dunk, organized, setups were always tasteful – on the lanes or off the lanes capturing honorees.

It wasn't always this way. In the early years,



Dudley Peebles

Dudley and his wife Connie did all the prep work and oversaw the film developing, sorting and addressing pictures to mail to

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DARREN TANG WINS PBA BOWLERSTORE.COM CLASSIC FOR FIRST PBA TOUR TITLE

Takes over first place in the PBA Summer Tour points race

by Jef Goodger

Coldwater, Ohio—Darren Tang won his first Guaranteed Rate PBA Tour title by defeating Kyle Troup, 254-174, in the championship match of the PBA Bowlerstore.com Classic presented by Moxy's Xtra Pair at Pla-Mor Lanes. The win also moved Tang into the lead in the PBA Summer Tour points race with one event left to play.

Tang led the Bowlerstore.com Classic after every round of competition, averaging 217.53 over 17

games in the notoriously difficult bowling center, to earn the top seed for the stepladder finals.

Troup qualified second and eliminated Anthony Simonsen in the semifinal match to reach the championship. Had Troup been able to win, he would've become the first player in PBA Tour history to break the half million dollar mark in single-season earnings. Instead, Troup now sits \$3,100 short with one event left on the PBA Summer Tour.

Tang's best previous finish was second, a feat he accomplished three times. His most recent runner-up finish came as the top seed in the 2020 PBA Hall of Fame Classic, losing to Tommy Jones, who rolled a perfect game.

With the win in Coldwater, Tang moved from 11th to first in the PBA Summer Tour points race, now holding a 65-point advantage over Simonsen, who remains second. Shawn Maldonado, who finished

fourth in Coldwater, is still third. EJ Tackett, the Summer Tour points leader entering the event, finished 27th to drop to fourth.

The 10 best players on the PBA Summer Tour will receive a portion of the \$40,000 bonus prize fund, with the top performer earning \$20,000.

The final event of the PBA Summer Tour begins Saturday with qualifying for the PBA Chesapeake Open in Chesapeake, Va.

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find success at the highest level.” The loss was Crawley’s second runner-up finish of the Summer Classic Series, and sixth since joining the PWBA in 2017, but she did break through for her first PWBA Tour title at the 2021 Greater Nashville Open in June.

She started Tuesday’s title tilt with a pair of strikes, before back-to-back washouts in the third and fourth frames left her in a hole she could not climb out of.

In the championship match of the PWBA International Bowling Campus Classic on Saturday, she fell to Jen Higgins of Lewis Center, Ohio, 252-155.



Though Crawley won’t leave Arlington with a trophy, she did make her way into the race for PWBA Player of the Year. She’s now second on the 2021 PWBA points list behind Julia Bond of Aurora, Illinois, who has won two titles this year.

“It has been a phenomenal few weeks,” said Crawley, a 27-year-old right-hander who was the only bowler to make the cut in all three Summer Classic Series events. “If you would’ve told me coming into this that it would turn out this way, I 100% would’ve walked away completely satisfied with those finishes. I’m very proud of myself and how I competed each event and how I stayed mentally strong.”

After sparing a 10 pin in her first frame back under the BowlTV lights, Martin struck in six of her next seven frames to put the match out of reach. Not only did Martin help herself to the brink of history Monday and Tuesday, she also set herself up for a chance at redemption.

At the 2021 PWBA Kickoff Classic Series in January, Martin found herself in a similar position, when she earned a meeting with Bryanna Coté in the title match of the PWBA ITRC Classic. Unfortunately, it wasn’t Martin’s time, and Coté won the game, 244-238.

“I made good shots last time against Bryanna and bowled the best game I could to give myself a chance, and while it was a hard loss, I learned from it and wanted to come back from it,” Martin said. “I knew I’d be back out here competing at some point in time, but I didn’t know it would be this soon. I figured that whenever that time came, I’d try to be the best I could be and take advantage of the opportunity.”

It was Martin’s performance at that event, and the PWBA Kickoff Classic Series it was a part of, that earned her a special exemption into the Summer Classic Series from USBC and the Bowling Proprietors’ Association of America. Along with the second-place effort against Coté, Martin added third- and eighth-place finishes at the Kickoff Classic Series, plus a 299 game.

Returning to the lanes this week, knowing she had previous success at the ITRC, allowed Martin to be comfortable and confident from the start of the Summer Classic Series. She posted the highest average (212) and turned in an event-best 20-4 record over three rounds of match play on the 41-foot oil pattern at the BowlTV Classic to lead the field by more than 200 pins and earn the top seed for Tuesday’s stepladder.

She had a high game of 244 and low game of 166, and it was her consistency over the two days that left her just one win away from becoming the answer to a trivia question.

“I had a good look on the pattern and felt I was able to play to my strengths,” said Martin, who’s latest visit to the ITRC also included a 13th-place finish at the PWBA Go Bowling Classic and a 22nd-place effort at the IBC Classic. “My shot making this tournament was absolutely incredible. The two tournaments before, I just felt a click off, but I felt so close. I put it all together for this last tournament and was able to get it done, so that was incredible.”

Crawley earned the opportunity to meet Martin by defeating Coté in Tuesday’s semifinal match, 208-182. Nine clean frames from Crawley after a first-frame 7-10 split, including three consecutive strikes as the game reached its midpoint, proved to be enough to hold off the two-time PWBA Tour winner, who left a pair of splits along the way.

Coté made her way to the semifinal with an eight-strike, 233-194, win over Germany’s Birgit Noreiks. A split and a washout from Coté in the fifth and sixth frames, respectively, had four strikes on either side, while Noreiks did not throw a double until her final frame.

Noreiks was looking for her second title at the Summer Classic Series. She won the series-opening Go Bowling Classic for her first singles win, and second victory overall, on the PWBA Tour. She also won the 2017 Professional Bowlers Association/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles with Jason Sterner.

In the opening match, Noreiks struck in four of her first five frames to take a lead over Jordan Richard of Maumee, Ohio, but Richard rallied with four consecutive strikes, starting in the fourth frame, to cut the deficit. A 4-6-7-9-10 split from Noreiks in the eighth frame gave Richard the lead for the first time, along with a chance to lock up the win.

Richard struck in her ninth frame, before leaving, and converting a 3-10 split, but a six-count washout on her fill ball opened the door for Noreiks. Instead of needing a double to advance, the German right-hander got the job done with a strike and a spare for a 205-204 victory.

A total of 24 bowlers qualified for the BowlTV Classic, the final tournament of the 2021 Summer Classic Series, based on their 18-game qualifying totals from the Go Bowling Classic and International Bowling Campus Classic (nine games each). All pinfall dropped heading into the BowlTV Classic, and total pinfall, plus bonus pins for each win or tie in match play, determined the five players for Tuesday’s stepladder.

The 2021 PWBA Summer Classic Series brought 56 players, representing more than a dozen countries, to the ITRC.

The Summer Classic Series also included the 2021 PWBA Dallas/Fort Worth Regional, won by past Junior Team USA member Taylor Bailey of Joliet, Illinois, a member of the 2021 PWBA Tour rookie class.

Next up on the PWBA schedule is the PWBA Spokane Open at Lilac Lanes & Casino in Spokane, Washington, from Aug. 19-21. Ahead for Martin is a pre-planned visit to “FOX & Friends” on Saturday to help celebrate National Bowling Day. She’ll now have a little more to talk about. “I didn’t even think about that,” Martin said of the upcoming appearance. “I’m so in the moment. I have this awesome trophy. It’s so crazy. Yeah, it’s going to be really cool to go out there and be able to say I won a PWBA tournament at 17. I knew that was going to be a great experience, and this will make it even better, for sure.”



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BOHN III WINS BACK-TO-BACK PBA50 TITLES

by Jill Winters

ANDERSON, Indiana – To say that Parker Bohn III is on a hot streak would be an understatement.

He has won two PBA Regional titles and back-to-back PBA50 Tour titles in just 10-days. His latest win came Tuesday at the PBA50 Dave Small's Championship Lanes Open.

The legendary lefty defeated Tom Hess, Norm Duke and Tom Adcock to earn his sixth career PBA50 title, but it was no easy task.

He struck four times in his match against Hess and five times against Duke, but more importantly, remained clean in those matches. In each game, he only had one strike on the left lane. But when it came time to the championship match, Bohn delivered yet again. He started with the front five and cruised to a 233-157 victory over Adcock.

"I have won 10 matches in a row in a stepladder format," he said about his winning streak. "I've surpassed cloud nine. It's just unbelievable."

He has won back-to-back titles and made three TV shows in a row before on the PBA Tour, but this has been unprecedented.

Bohn and his family believe he is getting some extra help from above. They lost both his mother and his wife's brother this year.

"I think they are pulling all of the cards out of the deck that are bad ones for me and they are letting the good ones shine," he said.

He was confident that rolling 200 games against Hess and Duke would never get the job done. But a 204 and a 205 were enough because his opponents struggled with the demanding lane conditions. Bohn was shocked when Duke opened in back-to-back frames in the 6th and 7th frames, sticking while shooting at a 10-pin and chopping the 6-10.

"I'm sitting on the bench thinking what is going on around here right now," Bohn said about Duke's open frames. "It was survival of the fittest. I was able to overcome because I filled frames."

"Every one of my PBA titles has been with a Brunswick ball," Bohn said. "I can't thank them enough for the player that I have become."

In the first match, No. 4 seed Hess had a better handle on the lanes than Lennie Boesch Jr. to pick up the 226-181 win. Hess advanced to face Bohn in the second match where both players held slight leads. Bohn's double in the 8th and 9th frames resulted in a first pump. He got the 204-202 win.

2021 PBA50 DAVE SMALL'S CHAMPIONSHIP LANES OPEN FINAL STANDINGS:

Parker Bohn III	\$7,500
Tom Adcock	\$4,000
Norm Duke	\$3,200
Tom Hess	\$2,500
Lennie Boesch Jr.	\$2,100

MATCH SCORES

Match 1 – Hess def. Boesch Jr. 226-181

Match 2 – Bohn III def. Hess 204-202

Match 3 – Bohn III def. Duke 205-169

Championship match – Bohn III def. Adcock 233-157

Jef Goodger And The Bowlers Of The Lost Art

by Dave Williams

I always enjoy reading Jef Goodger's editorial in *Bowlers Journal International*, and the July edition did not disappoint. The title of his article was *Decoding the Language of Topography*, and was focused on a bowler's ability to conquer lane conditions.

It suddenly dawned upon me that my geographic training in school may have provided an insight into bowling that I had never contemplated before... topography! My first introduction to topographic maps was at about age 13, at the Carnegie Library in my hometown of Sebastopol, California. An older patron most likely showed me how to use the stereoscope glasses over a pair of map images, making two dimensional images come to life in the brain as a third dimension!

For those of you that may never have experienced this phenomenon, I highly recommend visiting your local library or institution of learning (high school or college) to see if you can witness this imaging firsthand. The best way that I can describe the adventure of topographic map exploration is this: imagine that you are looking at Google Maps (either terrain or satellite imaging) and the hills, valleys, mountains, and buildings miraculously "pop up" out of the map!

Without realizing it at the time, my ability to "read the lanes" while rolling all of those 300 games during my college years, before the onslaught of high scores began to proliferate the bowling scene, was possibly from my college training as a geography major at Sonoma State University. It all makes perfect sense to me now, almost 50 years after the fact, following the reading of Jef's article about decoding the lanes.

Goodger, in his customary utilization of double intenders, so reminiscent of the famous ten pin bowling writer Chuck Pezzano, provides a few examples to explain his topic of decoding lane topography:

- 1) **The topography is pretty good here.** The lanes aren't perfectly flat, but they're close.
- 2) **The lanes are tricky.** The lanes favor that other guy's ball more than mine.
- 3) **Every pair is different.** This is not a fun place to bowl.
- 4) **Every lane is different.** This is the worst place that I've ever bowled.

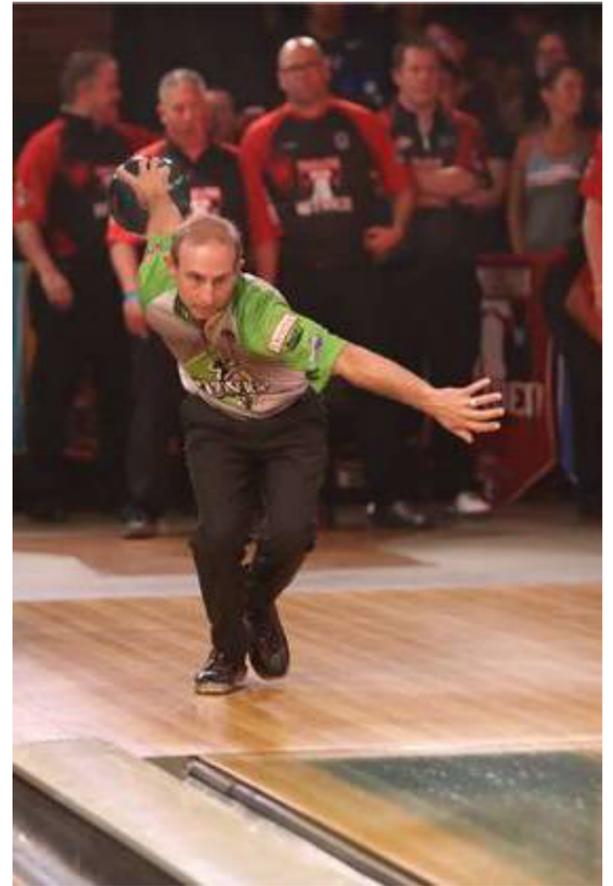


Jef Goodger (R) on the set of Xtra Frame with PBA legends Mark Roth (L) and Marshall Holman (2015 photo)

Carrying that a step further, it's also interesting that some of the top pros have resorted to using urethane once again, to control the overreaction caused by the reactive bowling balls. As color commentator Randy Pedersen has often mentioned, the revolution rate of the bowling ball has now become as important as the angle of entry provided by the big hook. Top players that come to mind in regards to the switch to urethane are Jesper Svensson of Vimmerby, Sweden, with 10 PBA Titles; Anthony Simonsen of Little Elm, Texas, with 8 PBA Titles; and Jakob Butturff of Chandler, Arizona, with 7 PBA Titles.



Jakob Butturff was one of the first players to revert to urethane in PBA competition (2016 photo)



Veteran Norm Duke is one of the few players that sets up outside of the blue oil applied to the center of the lane (2019 photo)

Isn't it interesting in today's Pro Bowlers Tour that the lane condition is actually telegraphed to the competitors with the appearance of a blue oil substance upon the surface of the lane? Can you imagine how easy it would have been back in the day to line up, especially when moving after each game? I find it interesting that most bowlers, with the exception of some of the older competitors (Norm Duke, Chris Barnes, etc.), don't even use the oil line that is provided to direct their ball to the pocket. It's as if the overreaction of the bowling balls has negated the advantage of the "block" condition that is evident to everyone with a color television.

Many times, I have mentioned that when I initially joined AMF, it was an opportunity for me to see the world and to discover many of the geographic sites that I had witnessed in books and classroom films.

This was indeed true, but little did I realize until perusing Jef Goodger's article, *Decoding the Language of Topography*, that my good fortune had begun many years earlier, when the natural and physical features of a bowling lane popped up like a topographic map under the lens of stereoscope glasses, and allowed me to visualize the lane in 3D!!

What's ahead for bowling writer, television commentator and producer Jef Goodger?

"Fortune and glory, kid. Fortune and glory." -Indiana Jones

Photos provided compliments of PBA, LLC

Peebles continued from page 1

recipients with an aim of getting them in the mail within a day or two. It was a huge ongoing endeavor for the duration of the tournament usually ending in the annual meeting and maybe throw in taking photos at 500, 600, and 15-year Club events.

This was just one thing Dudley Peebles did. He endeared himself to thousands of bowlers, was always impeccably dressed, prepared and on time and his pictures were great.

Dudley was an artist, master carpenter and builder who left many clever mementos for bowlers he knew. Everything Dudley created was beautiful and professional.

In addition to designing and building a mid-century modern home in Spring Valley, California, appointed with his own furniture creations in wood and glass, Dudley built an indoor spa in his home in Sunriver, Oregon that could have been an award winner with beautifully finished cedar wood and for those of you who remember – Dudley loved nice sweaters and he remodeled a wall closet with round pegs for hanging sweaters and trousers.

Dudley Lindow Peebles was born in Detroit, Michigan on August 20, 1926 to Dudley Munger Peebles, a salesman, and Harriet Mildred Lindow, a musician in a dance band who played on the Vaudeville circuit in the Roaring 20s.

During grade school and high school, Dudley demonstrated an artistic talent for hand drawing and lettering that he would later apply masterfully in creating the signs and logos for the photo set-ups at the WIBC, state and city tournaments.

After graduating from Lincoln High School in Ferndale, Michigan in 1945, Dudley enlisted in the Navy and served on LSDs and LSTs in Florida and Cuba at the end of World War II and the Cold War which followed. After being honorably discharged from the Navy in 1947, Dudley began what would become a 50+ year career in the bowling industry in management and photography.

Dudley excelled in sports and the arts throughout his life. He was a standout athlete in high school, lettering in varsity basketball and football each year he was eligible, and was an advanced skier who served on the Ski Patrol in Indian Hills, Michigan. Dudley was also a part time dance instructor and an accomplished fly fisherman and fly tier. Dudley also had a brief theatrical career, appearing as the third lead in the movie “Gypsy and the Fairy Princess”, in which he played the King, Father of the Princess. But two pursuits were Dudley’s passion: Golf and Bowling.

Exposed to golf as a boy, Dudley took up the game in earnest in the 1970s at age 50 when he was living in La Costa, California, before moving to Sunriver, Oregon in the 1980s. During his 30 years on the golf course, Dudley competed in many club and amateur tournaments, achieving a low handicap of 9 and scoring one hole-in-one. Dudley’s most memorable golf outing was playing with Arnold Palmer in the Kapalua International Golf Tournament on the Hawaiian island of Maui in 1983, but his proudest golfing accomplishment was founding the Central Oregon Junior Golf Association and serving as its first president.

Dudley began bowling at age 10, inspired by his stepfather John Walter, who was an award winning bowling editor for the Detroit News and past President of the Bowling & Golf Writers Association of America, the only person to hold both titles at once. During his prime, Dudley’s high average was 198, and he had one unsanctioned 300 game. In addition to being a bowling proprietor twice in his life (in Union City, Pennsylvania and Denver, Colorado), Dudley was United States Bowling Conference Hall of Famer Andy Veripapa’s manager and booking agent for 3 years as well as USBC Hall of Famer Ned Day’s agent for the Midwest region. In the early 1950s, Dudley bowled on the first public automatic (AMF) pin setters in Mt. Clemens, Michigan on opening day.

Dudley was WIBC’s official photographer for 38 years, from 1953 to 1990, and the official photographer for the California Women’s Bowling Association (CWBA) for 23 years, from 1979 to 2002. Over these many years, Dudley served four WIBC Presidents and five CWBA Presidents. He was also the official photographer for several other state bowling associations, including Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Missouri and Kansas, as well as the cities of San Diego and Denver.

In total, Dudley photographed national, state and city bowling tournaments for over 50 years before retiring in 2003, a career where he typically took over 200,000 bowling photos a year, lending credence to his claim to have photographed more women than any other photographer in the world.

Dudley was a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the CWBA in 2001, the first ever given to a man by the CWBA in appreciation for his 23 years of service as official photographer for the California State Bowling Tournament.

During his lifetime, Dudley gave back to those who contributed to his success, including the National Bowling Hall of Fame, the Dudley Peebles National Photo Contest, the California Senior and California Queens Tournaments, and other state tournaments. He was also a generous contributor to charity, including the American Cancer Society (in honor of his daughter Candace, a 22 year breast cancer survivor), Special Olympics, and the Disabled Veterans of America.

In his later years, Dudley enjoyed breakfasts at Denny’s and lunches and dinners at local Mexican and Italian restaurants, often picking up the checks with family and friends while exclaiming “Thank You Lady Bowlers!”

Dudley is survived by his daughter Candace Wells (Jack), Granddaughters Erinne Esacoff (Cameron) and Kelsey Wells, Great Granddaughter Emersen (“Emmie”), and nephews Ray (Cindy), Bob (Ruthann Shelby), and Dave Moon.



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How cool is this! Local gal Stephanie Zavala makes cover of Bowlers Journal. Congratulations Steph!!

PBA 50/Senior All-Time Titles List (TOP TEN)

by Frank Weiler

The PBA 50 (Senior) Tour has been around for about four decades now and some of the greatest bowlers of all time have competed as seniors on the Tour, including Earl Anthony, Johnny Petraglia and Dick Weber.

A couple of decades ago the Senior Tour was regularly broadcast on national television. Bowlers named Bob Glass, John Handegard, John Hricsina, and Gene Stus dominated the Tour in the 1990s. Not far behind those fellas were television regulars Tommy Evans, Frankie May and Ron Winger.

RON WINGER is a California product and many consider him one of the best bowlers ever produced by the Golden State. When I watched him compete as a PBA senior two decades ago I would describe him as bowling’s version of an “Intimidator”. Bowling’s version of Dale Earnhardt. Ron could stare down a rattle snake and had nerves of steel. He never seemed to be affected by pressure. Ron won 5 PBA 50 (Senior) National Titles.

During the most recent decade stars named Tommy Baker, Norm Duke, Ron Mohr, Amletto Monacelli, Walter Ray Williams Jr. and Pete Weber have starred. Over the past four decades there have been several hundred Tour champions. So who has won the most PBA 50 (Senior) National Tour Titles?

The PBA 50 (Senior) Tour has a rich history. Here is the list of the TOP TEN PBA Senior Tour Titlists of All-Time:

- 1. Walter Ray Williams Jr. 15 Titles
- 2. John Handegard 14 “
- 3. Pete Weber 13 “
- 4. Tommy Baker 12 “
- Gary Dickinson
- Dale Eagle
- 7. Ron Mohr 11 “
- Gene Stus
- 9. Amletto Monacelli 10 “
- 10. Pete Couture 9 “
- Bob Glass

PBA continued from page 1

PBA BOWLERSTORE.COM CLASSIC PRESENTED BY MOXY’S XTRA PAIR FINAL STANDINGS

Pla-Mor Lanes – Coldwater, Ohio

Darren Tang

Kyle Troup

Anthony Simonsen

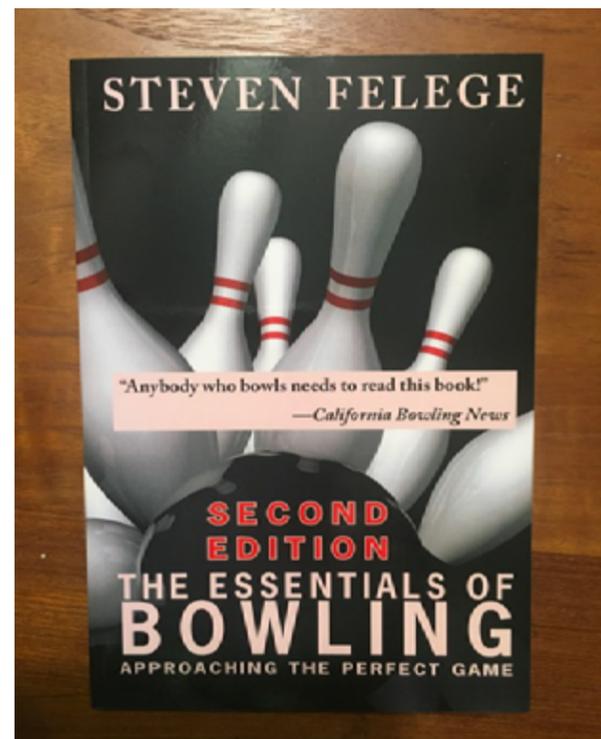
Shawn Maldonado

MATCH SCORES

Match 1 – No. 3 Simonsen def. No. 4 Maldonado, 243-191

Match 2 – No. 2 Troup def. No. 3 Simonsen, 222-164

Match 3 – No. 1 Tang def. No. 2 Troup, 254-174



Carol has a few copies she’s giving away to the next 5 people that email her and ask. FREE.

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TAYLOR BAILEY WINS 2021 PWBA DALLAS-FORT WORTH REGIONAL

ARLINGTON, Texas - The 2021 Professional Women's Bowling Association Summer Classic Series may have gone differently than Taylor Bailey had hoped, but she was able to end the week on a high note by winning the 2021 PWBA Dallas/Fort Worth Regional.

Bailey, of Joliet, Illinois, defeated Russia's Maria Bulanova at the International Training and Research Center, 246-224, to earn the first title of her professional career, along with a custom championship bracelet and \$1,000 top prize.

Both qualifying and the stepladder finals of the Dallas/Fort Worth Regional were broadcast live Sunday at BowITV.com.

The win comes after a remarkable collegiate career at McKendree and stint on Junior Team USA, a phase that included a pair of collegiate national championships and a team gold medal at the 2018 International Bowling Federation World Youth Championships.

The timing also meant the ultimate present for Bailey's father, Jeff, and her collegiate coach Bryan O'Keefe, who both celebrated birthdays Sunday.

"I told my dad this was his birthday present, even though I already bought him something, but I think this is the best thing he could've asked for," Bailey said. "Being called a PWBA champion of any kind sounds incredible, and it's something I've always dreamed of."

The 2021 Dallas/Fort Worth Regional was the third of four events at the PWBA Summer Classic Series, which includes three national tournaments and the regional competition.

The regional event was open only to bowlers who have not yet won a PWBA Tour title and those who did not qualify for the 24-player PWBA BowITV Classic, the final tournament of the Summer Classic Series.

Bailey, a 23-year-old right-hander, said she felt like she was throwing the ball well during the first two events of the Summer Classic Series, but something was missing. She just didn't have "it." Then, her shoe broke.

A clean slate and loaner shoes from former McKendree teammate Ashley Hathaway, who lives in the area, helped get Bailey back on track. She earned the top seed for the championship round with a 1,799 total for her eight games of qualifying at the ITRC on Sunday, an average of nearly 225.

Meeting each other in the championship match was not unfamiliar to Bailey and Bulanova, who faced off countless times in their four years together in college, as Bulanova starred for Vanderbilt. That also includes multiple visits to the

ITRC for the Prairie View A&M Invitational and a meeting in the title match of the 2018 NCAA Women's Bowling Championship, won by Vanderbilt.

Bulanova finished Sunday's title game first and had an opportunity to apply pressure, but she could not shut out Bailey.

Bulanova struck in the ninth frame and on the first shot of her 10th frame, but a 2-4-8-10 split on her next offering meant Bailey just needed to keep the ball on the lane in her final frame.

In three stepladder matches, Bulanova averaged more than 234 and only had three shots where she knocked over less than nine pins. Regardless of the finish, the performance gave her a rush of confidence heading into the final stretch of the 2021 PWBA Tour season.

"I didn't really have a good week before the regional, so it was important for my self-confidence to bowl well today," Bulanova said. "Even though I didn't win, I'm super proud because I think I bowled really well. Taylor did a fantastic job in the final, and she was the top seed, but I am proud of how I bowled. I'll keep working, and hopefully soon, I'll be making more cuts and maybe a top 12 or even a show by the end of the season."

In the semifinal match against Fania Cobo of North Richland Hills, Texas, a recent collegiate bowler at Wichita State, Bulanova nearly let the game get away with a 1-2-4-6-10 washout in her final frame, which she was unable to convert.

Two strikes and seven pins would've earned Cobo a spot in the title match instead, but a 2 pin on her first shot left her short. Bulanova advanced, 232-223.

Bulanova, a 22-year-old right-hander and the No. 3 qualifier, started the night's opening game with four consecutive strikes and cruised to 247-189 win over Kara Mangiola of Spencerport, New York.



All four regional finalists are part of the 2021 PWBA Tour rookie class and learning from each experience on the lanes.

"I think it's really easy as a rookie coming out here to be super eager to do well and win on tour, but I keep telling myself Rome wasn't built in a day, so even if it takes me a whole season to learn and experience things, that's OK," Bailey said. "Now, I have bowled on BowITV, and I have a win, and that is all important experience."

The 2021 PWBA Summer Classic Series brought 56 players, representing more than a dozen countries, to the ITRC.

Bailey finished 24th in the PWBA Go Bowling Classic and 51st in the PWBA International Bowling Campus Classic, so her time in Arlington has concluded, but she'll now return to Illinois, where she'll continue to train with two-time reigning PWBA Player of the Year Shannon O'Keefe, also the head women's bowling coach at McKendree.

Following her graduation from McKendree and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Bailey got the opportunity to move in with the O'Keefes and work on an online master's degree from Southern Illinois University.

Working with the O'Keefes on and off the lanes has been an invaluable experience, while walking past 14 PWBA trophies and countless other awards every day has been both intimidating and motivating for Bailey.

"When I first went to McKendree, I definitely was intimidated by Shannon, and I think that's still a little true, especially when she's bowling," Bailey said. "But, it's also what has pushed me to be a better bowler. I'm constantly learning from her and Bryan and picking their brains, and it has been really helpful for me."

The O'Keefe influence also helped Bailey down an unexpected path as a coach. She'll soon head to Arkansas State, where she'll serve as the assistant coach for the bowling team.

W.P.

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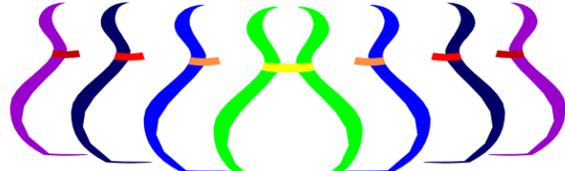
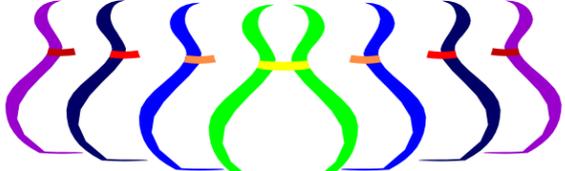
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