

# CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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## JOSIE BARNES WINS 2021 U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN AND RECORD \$100,000 TOP PRIZE

ROHNERT PARK, Ca – Josie Barnes of Hermitage, Tennessee, may not have had the year she was hoping for on the Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour, but she now has 100,000 reasons to celebrate a successful conclusion to her 2021 campaign.

The 33-year-old righthander made history Tuesday night at the U.S. Women's Open, live on CBS Sports Network, as she defeated Singapore's Cherie Tan, 198-194, to claim the biggest prize check ever awarded at a professional women's bowling event.

The win was the first major championship, and fourth PWBA Tour title overall, for Barnes, and the \$100,000 payday at Double Decker Lanes also included the event's coveted green jacket and iconic U.S. Women's Open trophy.

"Going into this week, I really was trying to find



some good things about this season, and while there were a few, there weren't many," said Barnes, who finished tied for ninth place at this year's United States Bowling Congress Queens. "After tonight, I feel like I

can say it was the best season ever. It's funny how quickly our emotions can change."

The seesaw showdown under the TV lights Tuesday was settled with Barnes on the bench and Tan step-

ping up needing a double and five pins in her final frame to secure the victory.

The 33-year-old lefthander got the first strike, but she left the 3-6 combination on her second shot to fall short in her bid to

become the first international player in nearly four decades to wear the green jacket.

Having finished first, Barnes had the opportunity to lock up the win with a double of her own, but the

first shot of her 10th frame crossed over and left a 9 pin. After the spare, she got six pins on her fill ball. Getting at least three pins meant Tan would need a double.

"Cherie and I have met up in some pretty big moments, including last night in the position round, and she's always made great shots, but the pins haven't fallen her way yet," Barnes said. "After she got the first one, I thought my time finally was up, and I started preparing for the disappointment to begin creeping in."

Both players struck in two of their first three frames, but a missed 2-8 combination from Barnes in the fourth frame allowed Tan to take an 11-pin lead halfway through the match. A sixth-frame ball change and a double from Barnes turned the momentum back continued on page 4

## Lupe Burke Passes

Always hard to lose longtime friends as it was for Phyl Knoll who told us of the death of Lupe Burke, a friend for 50 years. Phyl and Lupe traveled to many bowling tournaments and other events together for 50 years. For the past several years Lupe dealt with kidney disease and finally succumbed to twice weekly dialysis treatments, Lupe had lived on her own since

the passing of her husband many years ago and fortunately, she had family who helped transport her to treatments. In the end she was admitted to the treatment facility where she died peacefully. Lupe loved bowling. She had worked at LAX Airport for over 20 years and is survived by two daughters, a granddaughter and grandson and her dear friend Phyl Knoll.



Phyl Knoll & Lupe Burke

## PBA JR. AND GAZMINE MASON FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

**First-Ever Scholarship to Support BIPOC Youth Bowlers**

by Jill Laufer

NEW YORK, NY – The Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) in partnership with professional bowler, Gazmine "GG" Mason are excited to announce the PBA Jr. and Gazmine Mason Foundation Scholarship recipients.

In its first year, 22 exceptional youth bowlers ranging in ages from 13-18, representing 15 states across the United States, have been selected based on their academics, creativity, and commitment to the sport of bowling.



The PBA and Gazmine Mason launched the PBA Jr. and Gazmine Mason

Foundation Scholarship together in an effort to advocate for more representa-

tion in the sport. "The inaugural PBA continued on page 5

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# GARZA CONVERTS THE 7-10 THOMSON IS 300 PERFECT IN SAME GAME ON SAME PAIR

DOWNEY, Calif. -- Every bowler's goal is to string together 12 strikes in a row to shoot a perfect 300 game. However, many times a bowler will miss, and sometimes leave ugly splits. On Monday, August 23, two bowlers opposing each other completed two of bowling's most heralded accomplishments on the same pair of lanes during the same game at Del Rio Lanes in Downey, Calif.



Adam Thomson and Jonathan Garza

Before bowling league on this Monday night,

two very hectic days would turn into a night on lanes 23 and 24 that Jonathan Garza and Adam Thomson would never forget, as the former converted the 7-10 split for the first time, while the latter would respond with a perfect 300 game, his second ever.

"I wore a Princeton University hat and t-shirt today to represent my little sister, Venezia, whom my family dropped off in New Jersey last week," Garza said, "we got back Saturday night and I've been really sad and missing her very much, and this lifted up my spirits because I've always wanted to pick up a 7-10 split my whole life."

Garza is a 35-year-old bowler from Los Angeles, and bowls in two leagues (also bowling MLB at Keystone Lanes) with his brother Justin. He battled a migraine with aura the morning of the match, but thanked new medication for allowing him to bounce back and prebowl for the week before ahead of his weekly matchup against Thomson, Lee Gagyi (who was absent) and Danny Soler.

"Migraine with aura usually hampers my vision to where I'm nearly blind, and handicaps me for up to six hours at times," Garza said, "my doctor prescribed new medication for me though, and the episode lasted just 30 minutes, and I felt like normal."

That, a story about a piece of tape and a higher power are what Garza attributes the accomplishment to on this night.

"The night before I had messed up my bowling thumb because I didn't protect it with tape, and I had to remove two-to-four pieces of tape from each ball," Garza said, "I was throwing a nice game, and slammed the pocket on lane 24 with my Radical Squatch in the 8th frame when those two brutal pins were left standing: 7 and 10. I reacted, yelling back at my brother, 'I didn't deserve that!'"

Garza went for his Storm Football acrylic spare ball and realized his thumb felt really tight, but enough to take out just one piece of tape. Upon removal of the tape, two pieces went flying under the seat. He proceeded to line up on the 35 board and aim down the fourth arrow to convert a 10-pin conversion and take the point. The ball rolled down the lane and smashed that 10 pin beautifully, but it hopped back onto the pin deck and rolled viciously and swept the 7 pin for the conversion!

"My first reaction was to look for Justin, but I screamed with glee like a 9-year-old kid who hit his first strike of his life," Garza said. Justin was paying his league fees and did not see the conversion, but he sure heard it.

Garza felt like the conversion was helped by some guidance from the heavens. It was the heavenly birthday of the late Los Angeles Lakers legend Kobe Bryant, who famously wore numbers 8 and 24 during his 20 seasons in the NBA.

continued on page 6



# Target Stores Takes Unique Approach In Memorializing Bowling Center

by Dave Williams

So many times we have all been upset with the closing of a particular bowling location because of all the fond memories that are instilled within our minds. We remember all the happy times... bowling a big score, having fun with friends, or just hanging out because there was nowhere else to go! But then one of those evil big retail chains comes along and decides that the world will not continue unless there is just one more Walmart, Home Depot, or Target Store right on the spot of your favorite bowling center.

Petitions are developed and signatures are obtained that are presented to local government officials, but to no avail. The extra tax revenue that will be derived from the retail chains are too attractive to the politicians, and all of those "feel good" memories and recreational advantages of a bowling facility are meaningless. Many also blame the "greedy" proprietor for selling out to the highest bidder, and electing instead to retire and move to Florida or Arizona.

However, if you look at the situation through the eyes of the retail chain, or the proprietor, their decision is as logical as your choice (assuming that money was not a concern) between buying a new Lamborghini or hanging on to your used car for a few more years. It all made sense to me last week, as I continued studying the case of Pro 300 Lanes, a bowling center in Portland, Oregon, that was sold by AMF to Target Stores in 2017.

My relationship with the Pro 300 Lanes location goes back to 1979, when AMF first sent me to Portland to drum up some new league business for their locations in the northwest, through a bowling party promotion that had provided successful returns for me in Southern California and Las Vegas. Under the precepts of the program, groups of individuals from a particular company or organization would be invited to participate in a free bowling party, and then it was my job to try and convince them to continue in a short introductory league program.

Pro 300 Lanes was perhaps the most difficult of all the northwest locations because it was in need of repair, and it was also considered an inner-city location; while all of the other bowling properties were in the suburbs and free from traffic congestion and all of the other difficulties associated with city life. Nonetheless, I began promoting the bowling party concept among many nearby organizations, and booked a couple of parties. My first big hit was with Safeway Stores, a supermarket chain that still exists today.

All of the Safeway store managers kept telling me that I needed to get in touch with Phyllis (Crozier) at the warehouse dispatch, and that she would be the one that could get this together. When I finally met Phyllis and presented her with the bowling party idea, she was cautiously optimistic... and, she was a bowler! I showed her a sample party flyer and we scheduled a date in August, with the hope of beginning a new bowling club with all of the Safeway Stores in September.

At about this same time AMF was working on some major renovation projects for Pro 300 Lanes. One of the most critical items was a new roof, which had been leaking the previous year in the concourse area, where the flat roof and dome come together. A new process was being attempted that would provide a gentle slope from the dome to the flat roof and prevent the water from puddling up at the lower edge of the dome. For those of you that are familiar with the Pacific Northwest, you know that it's virtually impossible to encounter rain during the months of June, July and August, so the roof repairs were underway.

As we approached the date for the bowling party, I kept in close touch with Phyllis and she assured me that all of the materials had gone out to the 18 Safeway Stores in the area via the delivery truck drivers. She said that a notice had been placed by the time clock at every location and that she was expecting a good turnout. Unfortunately there was no way to gauge the response, because providing a sign up sheet at every store would have been cumbersome for Mrs. Crozier.

On the night of the party, the expectations of Phyllis were met, and we had more than 200 participants at the 36 lane center. Without knowing exactly what to expect, we ran out of snacks for the party, but the beer and wine sampling continued! (This was before the age of political correctness and frivolous lawsuits, so complimentary beer and wine was permitted).

While all of this was going on, it began to rain — in August! Consequently, the concourse resembled an indoor shower because of the exposed roof... and the water was flowing freely! But we all survived, and in spite of the indoor rain event, we formulated an 18 team Safeway Stores Bowling Club the next week!

This is just one of many stories that I have about my time in Portland, and at Pro 300 Lanes... but one of my favorites! The stories from many Portlanders about Pro 300 Lanes must have weighed heavily into the decision by Target Stores to retain the facility, complete with underground parking — a definite plus in this "waterlogged" city. But Target carried the commitment a step further by retaining portions of Pro 300 Lanes bowling memorabilia throughout the new Target Stores location. In the process they won the respect of many in the Portland community, and a couple of design awards in the process.

*Images provided  
courtesy of Target*



*An innovative display of old red bowling balls adorns a walkway inside the store. Note the old B-O-W-L letters from an outside sign that are now proudly displayed inside the store. Impressive.*

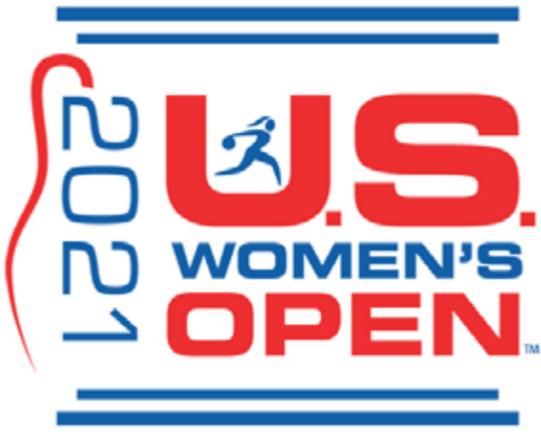


*The outside PARKING sign that once directed bowlers to the underground parking garage is now adjacent to elevators inside the store that direct customers to the parking area below the store. Clever.*



*Best nostalgia of all are the former bowling lanes suspended above the checkout counter! Now that's creative!!*

**PWBA** continued from page 1



in her favor.

The ball change was calculated, however, as Barnes knows her game well enough to have predicted that if she got out to a strong start, the tendency would be for her ball speed to go up.

Though she felt the back-to-back 2-8 leaves in the fourth and fifth frames were decent shots, the results supported the expectations. A quick visual exchange with her ball rep confirmed it was time for the ball change.

“My tendency is for things to speed up in those situations, and while I sometimes can control it with breathing, it’s something we talked about before the match,” Barnes said. “Since we already had a game plan in place, it just took a look to know for sure it was time. I went to a stronger ball I’d thrown a lot during the week, and it worked.”

Even before the win, Barnes already had planned to skip the final swing of the 2021 season - the three-event PWBA Fall Classic Series in Reno, Nevada - to focus on her responsibilities as the associate head coach for the Vanderbilt bowling program.

The historic title tilt also was a rematch of the final game of the 2019 Nationwide PWBA Greater Cleveland Open, where Barnes again came out on top. That was her last visit to the winner’s circle.

Tan, who owns two PWBA Tour titles, including a major win at the 2019 PWBA Players Championship, was competing in her second event of the 2021 season.

She earned \$50,000 for the runner-up finish, but also will leave the United States with a short list of things to work on as she prepares for the 2021 International Bowling Federation Super World Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in November.

“It’s disappointing because I really wanted to win it, but at the end of the day, bowling is like that,” Tan said. “You can execute the way you want, but if the reaction doesn’t pan out, it doesn’t pan out. For the week, I was able to gather a lot of information about what else I need to work on. My game hasn’t been tested for about one and a half years, so it was a chance to see how I could fare. I’m leaving this tournament knowing some things to work on, so I’m pleased about that.”

The biggest first-place prize in a women’s bowling event prior to Tuesday came in 2001, when USBC Hall of Famer Kim Kearney collected \$55,000 for the first of her two U.S. Women’s Open titles.

Japan’s Shinobu Saitoh was the last international bowler to win the event, doing so in 1982.

To earn her chance at history Tuesday, Tan first had to defeat fellow left-hander Shannon Pluhowsky of Dayton, Ohio. They were two of the three southpaws in the field this week at Double Decker Lanes.

Their semifinal meeting was far different than the matches that preceded it, yielding just three strikes between the two players.

Tan struck twice in the match and converted the 2-4-7 combination in her final frame to slip past Pluhowsky, 178-166.

Pluhowsky, 39, was seeking her second major title, and first since winning the Queens in 2006. In 2016, she was the runner-up at the U.S. Women’s Open, losing the title match to Liz Johnson as the top seed.

Before the meeting with Tan, Pluhowsky kicked off her

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seventh championship-round appearance at a major in a major way, tossing 10 strikes in a 279-211 victory against 2021 PWBA Tour Rookie of the Year front-runner Stephanie Zavala of Downey, California.

**Zavala**, a 25-year-old right-hander, has earned two PWBA Tour titles in her rookie season, and Tuesday’s show was her fourth stepladder appearance of the year.

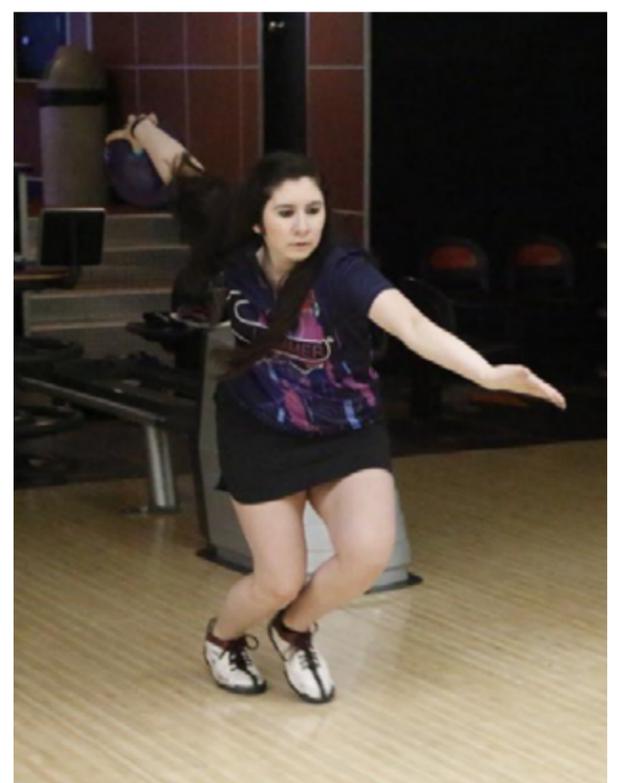
It took Zavala a few frames to settle in for her first PWBA show on live TV, but she was able to overcome two splits in the first three frames to collect a 220-199 win over two-time Queens champion Diana Zavjalova of Latvia.

Zavala rallied with six consecutive strikes, starting in the fifth frame, while Zavjalova, a 30-year-old right-hander, hit the pocket 11 times but failed to record a double.

The week started with 71 competitors, who bowled 24 games across three days and three oil patterns, before the field was cut to the top 24 for Round 4 and match play. A fourth lane condition was introduced for Round 4, match play and the championship round. Patterns this week ranged from 36-46 feet.

All rounds of qualifying and match play were broadcast live at BowlTV.com.

Defending champion Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York, finished eighth, missing the stepladder by 107 pins.



**California’s Stephanie Zavala**  
photo by Jonathan Garza

The total prize fund for the 2021 U.S. Women’s Open was nearly \$284,000.

# BOWLING – “SIZE MATTERS” To The Editor

by Frank Weiler

“**SIZE MATTERS**” in every human endeavor. That’s what the experts say and so do my friends Herman, Hector and Snoop. Sometime Herman goes by the moniker “Fritz”. Fritz is the strongest proponent for “**SIZE MATTERS**”. He is a student of fellow German, Albert Einstein, and claims Einstein’s numbers prove his point.

Fritz says that an autopsy done on Einstein showed that his brain was about fifty percent larger than the average brain. That probably explains why he was the smartest human being who ever lived. Fritz also claims Einstein also had large ears. Is there any correlation between those smarts and ear size?

My friends say “yes” and they also are unanimous in saying there is a correlation between ear size and athletic excellence!

“Snoop says” that everyone knows that large feet translate into more than big footprints. Large feet are indicative of a total package of large bodily appendages. That translates into larger than average hands, nose, ears and genitals. Snoop says that large feet means you will run faster, jump higher and possess better balance and agility. He also claims larger **EARS** contribute to ones speed, jumping, balance and agility. **Ears** are particularly important to maintaining ones balance while competing athletically. Larger ears provide better balance and superior agility.

Hector, the “Managua Meteor”, has always been known for his speed on the track. He was always fastest in the neighborhood. He always beat us running when we were kids. The native of Nicaragua ran track in high school and knows about size and athletics. He has long legs and large feet. He claims his length makes him fast. He also has large ears and feels they contribute to his balanced gait. By the way, those ears must be cute! The girls always have big smiles when they meet Hector. I thought it might be those size 13 sneakers but it’s probably those cute ears. It’s got to be the **EARS**.

**Does size matter in bowling?** Is bigger better? And what about ears? Yes, **EARS!**

Do big ears give a bowler a sensory edge? Does the bowler with the biggest ears have a competitive advantage over his or her opponent? Do the best bowlers have big ears? Do bigger ears mean a bowler has bigger hands and is bigger all around? Do bigger hands give a bowler an advantage on the lanes? Herman, Hector and Snoop gave me a unanimous “YES”.

So what do the experts say? Are bigger ears better? Are bigger ears better for bowling? Some **Otolaryngologists** say that there is a correlation between ear size, intelligence and motor skills! Bowling involves motor skills. Good bowling is a sport requiring superior motor skills. Motor skills benefit from large ears. Ergo, bowlers with large ears have a physical advantage over bowlers with small ears.

I believe Don Carter, **Earl Anthony**, Dick Weber and Billy Welu had large ears! What about Mark Roth, Marshall Holman and Carmen Salvino? I don’t know for sure. What about Pete Weber, Norm Duke and **Jason Belmonte**?

In photographs I have seen of Pete Weber and **Norm Duke** both appear to have large ears. Both may be prime examples that large ears give a bowler a competitive advantage and prove that large ears make for a better bowling.

I have never heard of any professional bowlers or league bowlers discuss how they feel about their ears and if they feel they in their bowling better. I know of no testimonial evidence supporting the premise that ear size matters.

Regarding the best female bowlers on the planet, it is difficult to judge ear size and bowling success. Most women have their ears covered by their **hair** and there is no way to know the size of their ears.

**Does size matter in bowling?** Do large ears provide a physical and competitive advantage? Do the best bowlers have big ears? I guess we’ll never know for sure. There are opinions on both sides of the question. Until scientists study the effect of ear size on athletic performance there will not be a conclusive answer.

I side with those **Otolaryngologists** who believe ear size matters. That large ears are an advantage in sports, including bowling.

I know that size matters when it comes to hand size. More hand means more bowling ball revolutions. More ball revolutions mean more strikes and higher scores. So why not the same for ear size when it comes to better balance and agility meaning more strikes and higher scores?

**Post Script.** Some interesting facts regarding ears and ear size. Dr. Matthew Conrad said that you inherit genes from both parents that affect the shape, size and prominence of your ears. Prominent ears are passed on.

What are considered big ears? Ears that stick out from the side of the head more than 2 inches are considered to be prominent or protruding. The average ear is 2.5 inches long with an ear lobe of .74 inches in length and .77 inches wide. Anything larger in size are considered “BIG”.

Protruding or prominent ears don’t cause any functional problems such as hearing loss. Protruding or prominent ears are usually caused by an under developed anti-helical fold.

Okay, what about the Guinness Book of World Records? Kala Kaiwi of Hawaii has the record size ear lobe measuring 4 inches. Monte Pierce of the United States has the record size ear measuring 5 inches long and 4.5 inches wide. I wonder if Kala or Monte were bowlers? If they are bowlers, I wonder if there ears gave them a competitive advantage. Remember better balance and better timing mean better bowling.

The mention of **hair** when discussing the size of women’s ears brings up another interesting topic. Some experts believe long hair, the style that reaches more than 20 inches in length, detracts from an athlete’s performance. It has to do with draining nutrients from the body to nourish the hair. The theory seems to be disproved by **Shannon O’Keefe** and other professional bowlers like her. Shannon sports long hair and is currently the best bowler on the **PWBA** (Professional Women’s Bowling Association) Tour.

Reply to Dave Williams article, 26 Aug ‘21. Bowling at Walmart, Target etc ; We hope not!

But, how about going back to the past, when so many places had 8-14 lanes, in L. A. area.

Lucky Strike, Hollywood & Highland, 14 lanes does pretty well. Sunday thru Thursday, \$6 per game before 5 PM, after \$8 per game. Fri & Sat, \$ 65 per hour, Ten, are able bowl per lane ? This is located in the Dolby Theatre (Red Carpet) Center!

Most Bowling today goes with food; So take a towel with, to wipe bowling ball off, the oil is not coming from the lanes.

Vic Bulaich  
Westchester

Just thought I’d share with you that Russ Taylor converted the 7/10 split this morning in the Doubles league! EB reports this was the first conversion since the reopening earlier this year! Russ is an energetic Senior currently averaging 231 and used a 1985 Ebonite Urethane to make 2021 history at EB! Thanks!

## Youth continued from page 1

Jr. and Gazmine Mason Foundation class is an inspiring group of diverse youth bowlers with bright futures ahead,” said Colie Edison, CEO of the PBA. “Each and every one is deserving of this opportunity and I look forward to seeing these talented bowlers compete at an elite level.”

The 22 recipients have earned guaranteed entry into the PBA Jr. National Championship Regional Qualifier events, the first part of the PBA Jr. National Championship, which will take place at five locations across the country September 3-5. The East Region Qualifier/22nd Parker Bohn III Scholarship Tournament will begin on September 2.

“I’m so proud to see the positive response and number of applications we received for the first-ever PBA Jr. and Gazmine Mason Foundation Scholarship,” said Gazmine Mason. “The majority of these youth bowlers haven’t competed in a PBA Jr. tournament and to give them an opportunity is just amazing. I wish them lots of luck!”

Join us in congratulating the 2021 PBA Jr. and Gazmine Mason Foundation Scholarship recipients:

- Kendall Battles (18) – Philadelphia
- Daveon Bickcom (15) – Chicago
- Essence Collins (15) – Aurora, Colo.
- Nila Dulcio (16) – Sugar Hill, Ga.
- Aaliyah Friend (16) – Winston-Salem, N.C.
- Tyler Galbreath (15) – San Antonio, Texas
- Diamond Gist (15) – Hammond, Ind.
- Jasmine Hall (15) - Huntsville, Ala.
- Daniel Hong (17) – Fullerton, Calif.**
- Stephanie Hong (15) – Fullerton, Calif.**
- Jewel Johnson (15) – Harrisburg, Pa.
- Michael Jones (15) – Laurel, Md.
- Kieryn Knox (17) – West Orange, N.J.
- Walther Lents (17) – Daytona Beach, Fla.
- Caroline Lewis (16) – Kenosaha, Wis.
- Brianna McCall (13) – Houston
- Bryan McCall (13) – Houston
- Emmanuel McPherson (17) – Green Bay, Wis.
- Tori Richardson (12) – Waterloo, Iowa
- King Simmons (15) – Chicago
- Kai Strothers (13) – Plainfield, N.J.
- Allie Williams (17) – Philadelphia, Miss.

The PBA Jr. National Championship Regional Qualifiers are the first part in the PBA Jr. National Championship open to youth bowlers, who have not yet reached the age of 18 by August 1, 2021.

Each Regional Qualifier will guarantee a first place \$2,000 SMART Scholarship with scholarships being awarded to one out of every six (1:6) entries in each division.

For additional information, eligibility, and to register please visit [pba.com/junior](http://pba.com/junior).



Norm Duke



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**Garza/Thompson** continued from page 2

He would go on to shoot 234 for the game. His book average is 185. Garza would like to thank Memo Ro-sales for giving him the opportunity to get the rare Storm Football and drilling it for him, and all the great things he does out of Team Apex Bowling Pro Shop at Chaparral Lanes. In addition, Justin, for always pushing him to be better and standing by his side. Lastly, he's grateful for the support of his friends in the Jackpot Trios league and many others throughout his bowling family in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

Meanwhile, Thomson at the moment was on the front 7, smashing the rack each time. He collected number eight and then nine, and then it was nervous time for the 23-year-old from Downey.

But before all of that happened, it was Thomson's first day back on the campus of California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), where in between classes, spanning an hour and a half, he decided to go out for a six-mile walk around the school to pass the time by.

Little did he know that the extra exercise would help him to finish off what he had started a night ago.

The night before in the MLB league, Thomson had the front 8 before leaving, of all things, a pocket 7-10 split. "I was there yesterday, Thomson said, I told myself, 'Let's do it this time.'"

Ball number 10, flush in the pocket on lane 23, and that's where the nerves started to kick in.

"I was so nervous for that 11th shot and really came down hard on myself," Thomson said, "but I knew that if I got another strike, I'd get the 12th ball."

Thomson threw his Storm Phaze II a little fast, but it held and carried, and all 10 pins fell, setting him up for a date with bowling perfection once more.

"I knew I had the 12th strike the second it came off my hand," Thomson said, and he did. All 10 pins fell to the floor, and Thomson had been perfect for the second time in his 10 years of bowling as other league bowlers showered him with hugs and high five slaps.

Watching with glee was Garza, an alumnus of CSULB, who confirmed that the special moment was indeed helped by Kobe.

"I've written and analyzed many things in sports, and one thing we talked about with the Lakers and Dodgers in 2020 was how things would add up to 8 or 24 for Kobe Bryant," Garza said, "and tonight, I picked up a 7-10 split in the 8th frame on lane 24, while Adam shoots 300 on August 23, Kobe's birthday, on lane 23. The Mamba was here, and we both showed our Mamba Mentality."

Thomson's first 300 came in March, 2019 with his Storm Lock. This one was different for him though. He was very grateful to Jonathan Gale for selling him the Phaze II that would seal the deal.

"The ball is still laid out for Jonathan (Gale)," Thomson said, "he sold it to me for \$20 and I have only changed up the thumb. It's a great ball!"

Thomson owes a lot of thanks to Vince Duarte for being a great friend and helping him to grow and be a better bowler. While there are many others he wanted to thank, he said that the biggest thanks were owed to Duarte, Gale and Dave Bartlett.

A 211 book average, Thomson flirted with an 800 series in the third game after shooting 247 in game two. Needing 253 to complete another milestone, he left a 4-6 split in the fourth frame to extinguish that journey. However, he would roll on to a new series high of 757, squashing his old personal best by 10 pins.

"It got to me a little bit in the 4th frame when I left the 4-6," Thomson said, "After the first three frames I knew I had a chance at 800 and knew I needed to go sheet for a 280. However, I am ecstatic for my new high; I have time to shoot my 800."

Time will tell for sure. But as of writing of this story, we have yet to confirm with any of our bowling historians whether or not a 7-10 split conversion and perfect 300 game have ever been converted in the same game on the same pair of lanes. We may have history here. If you can tell a story about how it happened, please submit it to [news@californiabowlingnews.com](mailto:news@californiabowlingnews.com).



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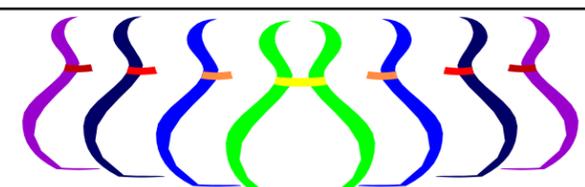
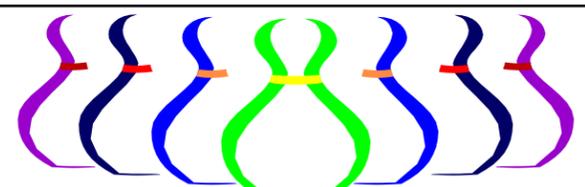
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