

I hope this finds all you fellow bowlers well and anxious to get back to the game we love!! It is my pleasure to name the newest inductees to the CUSBC Hall Of Fame.

Our first inductee is Alvin Lou who lives in El Cajon. Mr. Lou operates a Pro Shop in El Cajon and is still very active in bowling. He has 35-300 games, 9-800 series and has 1st place finishes in the Cal State Masters, Cal State Scratch Allevents, Cal State Scratch Singles, and Cal State Scratch Doubles. Mr. Lou also has 2 PBA National



Alvin Lou titles. 4 PBA Western Regionals titles, 6 PCB titles, and 6 WCST titles. Congratulations on your induction into the CUSBC Hall Of Fames for Superior Performance!

by Mike Lucas

Our second inductee is Steve Mathews who is also from El Cajon. Mr. Mathews has been bowling since he was 4 years old and he still loves the game.

He worked his way up through the Youth Organizations and went adult when he turned 17. His bowling accomplishments are many!

He has 38-300 games and 33-800 series. He has a first place in the Cal State Open Championships in Team event (2014) and was inducted into the San Diego USBC Hall Of Fame in 2018 for Superior Perfor-



Steve Mathews mance. Congratulations to

vou Mr. Mathews for your induction into the CUSBC Hall Of Fame for Superior Performance.

Our third inductee is Frank Weiler who lives in San Bernardino. Mr Weiler has been involved in bowling for over 65 years and is still very involved in reporting on the many bowling events he attends.

Mr. Weiler has promoted the sport of bowling as a writer and photographer for over 20 years. He has done so in an outstanding manner winning 7 writing awards - 5 National and 2 California State awards.

His awards were for outstanding editorials, feature stories, and news stories about bowling. His winning awards in all three categories make him the winner of the "Triple Crown"



Frank Weiler

of writing! Congratulations to you Mr. Weiler for your induction into the CUSBC Hall Of Fame for Meritorious Service!

These gentlemen will be honored next year at our annual meeting in Fresno.

O'Keefe in Right State of Mind to Help Fury at PBA League

ARLINGTON, Texas -Anyone who follows Shannon O'Keefe across her social media channels knows she's always physically ready to compete at the top level, but the reigning Professional Women's Bowling Association Player of the Year has been putting in the time to make sure she's mentally prepared for the upcoming Professional Bowlers Association League.

O'Keefe will join fellow



Remember Millie Fisser

ABTA & XFrame Fondly

threw a ball in an ABTA Tournament, but was one of the ABTA's number one fans. She accompanied husband Gerrit and son Mark to every tournament possible.

This bubbly, petite, pretty lady became friends with many at the events. She was always watching Gerrit and Mark compete.

She always came into the check in room to say hello to our directors and would talk to many friends on the concourse. I would always stop by to see her while the event was ongo-

by Bob Smith Millie Fisser never However, the story began when she and Gerrit who were both from Indonesia, met in Dutch Indonesia. They fell in love and decided to move to America from Holland in 1962.

Mark was born in 1962 if I am not mistaken also. Believe me he does not look his age and same for Gerrit!

Their son Mark met Natalie. They married and proudly became parents of five children Brandon, Ryan, Dylan, Kayla and Bryanna.

Nicer people you cannot find !! Hopefully bowling will open soon, and we

PWBA stars Liz Johnson, Jordan Richard, Stefanie Johnson and Maria José Rodriguez in representing the Phoenix Fury at the PBA League, starting Sept. 26 at Bowlero Centreville in Centreville, Virginia.

(see other bios inside)

The Phoenix Fury and Miami Waves are additions to the PBA League in 2020. The new teams are made up of athletes who competed on the PWBA Tour in 2019, finished in the top 35 on the season-long points and were selected during a formal draft.

O'Keefe, the top overall pick in the draft for team manager and United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer Kim Kearney, often

keeps her fans informed of her rigorous workout and practice routines through her fan pages on social media. Although the countless miles on the treadmill and various drills and tips deservedly earn plenty of praise, likes and views, the attention to detail O'Keefe gives to her mental game has helped her trend to the top of the points list the last two seasons.

The 41-year-old righthander noted numerous times during her 2019 season why she needed to reset her mental focus after a bittersweet 2018 campaign. O'Keefe claimed her first PWBA Player of the Year award in 2018, but she felt her focus prevented her from performing to the best of her abilities in the second half of the season.

O'Keefe's new outlook in 2019 led her to five titles, including her third career major at the PWBA Tour Championship.

"The mental discipline I brought into this season was necessary for me to continue in my path of growth to be the best I can be," said O'Keefe after locking up player-of-theyear honors in 2019. "I was able to embrace my struggles and celebrate my successes. I lived in every moment, good and bad. I didn't listen to or let the outside noise distract me from reaching my goals. I'm proud of how I stayed

true to the plan, and I'm not sure if this season would

have been as successful without it. I will continue to carry this mindset throughout the rest of my career."

With the 2020 PWBA Tour season canceled due to public health concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic and limited events to bowl leading to her appearance at the PBA League, O'Keefe has continued to explore new ways to make sure she's just as sharp mentally as she is physically.

it's Whether reading new books on mental toughness or watching previous appearances on television shows, O'Keefe continued on page 6 ing.

She loved the atmosphere and the camaraderie and enjoyed the friends that they had met at the tournament and very proud of Mark who has been a top tier bowler for many years starting as a Junior and Gerrit was not so bad himself. Mark won 5 times.

will see Gerrit and Mark at Xframe events. They bolted there when ABTA closed.

God Bless you Millie and bless your soul. You will always be remembered fondly by the ABTA members who knew you and our staff. Same in Xframe!!

God Bless your family also!!



Gerrit, Mark and Millie Fisser



Explained: **2020 PBA League Format**

by Lucas Wiseman

With 12 teams this year, up from eight last year, the PBA League will split into two divisions in 2020 when it gets underway later this month.

The league, which teams up the best bowlers in the sport to compete in a Baker format event, will start Sept. 26 live exclusively on FloBowling with a seeding round. After that, all rounds will be broadcast live on FS1 (United States) and FloBowling (international).

The 12 teams in the league have been broken up into two divisions.

The Anthony Division will feature the NYC KingPins, Motown Muscle, Portland Lumberjacks, L.A. X, Brew City Ballers and Miami Waves.

In the Carter Division are the Dallas Strikers, Philadelphia Hitmen, Brooklyn Styles, Silver Lake Atom Splitters, Las Vegas High Rollers and Phoenix Fury.

Every round of competition in this year's PBA League will take place on the Mark Roth 42 pattern.

Here's a breakdown of the format for each round:

Seeding Round

Last year, the seeding round simply determined the seed for each team. This year, there's a lot more on the line when the teams compete Sept. 26 exclusively on FloBowling.

The Anthony Division will bowl its seeding round at 10 a.m. Eastern, while the Carter Division will bowl at 2 p.m. Eastern.

The seeding round will consist of 12 Baker games across six pairs with one team per pair. Each game, the team with the highest score will receive 50 bonus pins. Second place will receive 40 pins, third 30 pins, fourth 20 pins, fifth 10 pins and sixth zero pins.

The two highest-scoring teams over the 12 games in each division will earn a bye directly into the PBA League semifinals, which makes the seeding round more important than ever.

Divisional Quarterfinals

In the divisional quarterfinals, the No. 3 seed will take on the No. 6 seed, while the No. 4 seed will meet the No. 5 seed to determine which teams will advance.

Each match will be a best-of-three points match, and if it's tied 1-1 after two games, the tie-breaking point will be determined by a one-ball sudden-death rolloff.

The Anthony Division quarterfinals will take place at Noon Eastern on Sept. 27, while the Carter Division quarterfinals will be that night at 7 p.m. Eastern.

Divisional Semifinals

The divisional semifinals will see the top two seeds in each division taking on the advancing teams from the quarterfinals.

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EDITORIAL OFFICE 11459 Imperial Hwy. Norwalk, CA 90650

Hours:

TEMP OFFICE NUMBER: 626-252-2985 24-HOUR FAX NUMBER:

E-mail: news@californiabowlingnews.com Website: www.californiabowlingnews.com

CHARLES KINSTLER	Publisher	
CAROL MANCINI	Editor / Publisher	
DEAN LOPEZ	Assistant Editor / Typesetter	
DOUG HOSKINS	Computer Consultant	

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The No. 1 seed will take on the winner of the No. 4 vs. No. 5 match, while the No. 2 seed gets the winner of the No. 3 vs. No. 6 match. The same best-of-three points format that was used in the quarterfinals will be used again.

The semifinals will take place Sept. 28 with the Anthony Division at 7 p.m. Eastern and the Carter Division at 9 p.m. Eastern.

Divisional Finals

The winners of the divisional semifinals matches will advance into the finals and face off for the right to bowl for the Elias Cup.

Using the same best-of-three points format as the previous rounds, the divisional winners in the Anthony Division and Carter Division will be determined.

This round will take place Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. Eastern.

Elias Cup Finals

On Sept. 30 at 7 p.m. Eastern, the Elias Cup champion will be crowned as the Anthony winner takes on the Carter winner for the title.

In a change from last year, however, the format will be slightly different. This year, the title will be determined with a best-of-five games match.

Last year, it was two best-of-three points matches and if it was tied after that, a sudden-death rolloff. This year's format should be much easier for fans to follow.

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LIZ JOHNSON READY FOR RETURN TO PBA LEAGUE

ARLINGTON, Texas – United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer Liz Johnson of Palatine, Illinois, said she may have been a teenager the last time she went a week or two without bowling.

Now 46 years old, Johnson has been a globetrotting professional bowler since becoming the Professional Women's Bowling Association Rookie of the Year in 1996, and while her path may have changed over the years, her pace has been consistent.

When the PWBA went on hiatus in 2003, she pivoted and was one of a handful of women who found a home in the Professional Bowlers Association. Not long after, she was able to embark on a successful second act with Team USA.

The return of the PWBA in 2015 provided a new opportunity for Johnson, and she wasted no time proving she was as sharp as ever, winning PWBA Player of the Year honors three consecutive times from 2015-2017.

This year again has bombarded the 24-time PWBA champion with a series of twists and turns thanks to COVID-19, but she'll soon be navigating her way to Centreville, Virginia, where she'll be one of 10 PWBA players competing in the 2020 edition of the PBA League.

Johnson will join fellow PWBA stars Stefanie Johnson, Shannon O'Keefe, Jordan Richard and Maria José Rodriguez in representing the Phoenix Fury in the PBA League, which will take place at Bowlero Centreville from Sept. 26-30.

This year will mark Johnson's third appearance in the PBA League (2016 and 2017), which has been held each year since 2013, traditionally with eight teams. The field previously was expanded to 10 teams for the 2020 season, and the addition of two women's teams brings the total to 12.

The Phoenix Fury and Miami Waves are made up of athletes who competed on the PWBA Tour in 2019, finished in the top 35 on the season-long points and were selected during a formal draft by managers Kim Kearney and Bob Learn Jr., respectively.

Johnson is no stranger to the team environment, having bowled collegiately at Morehead State, before beginning her professional journey. She also completed her 11-year Team USA career with a team gold medal at the 2015 World Bowling Women's Championships.

O'Keefe and Stefanie Johnson were on that winning team in 2015, while Richard and Rodriguez each earned their own titles at the World Women's Championships in 2019.

"I've bowled on Team USA with Stefanie and Shannon and against Maria and Jordan many times, so there's a lot of familiarity," Johnson said. "We've got five world champions on our team, and you can't hope for more than that. It's going to be awesome and a lot of fun."

As the veteran of the team and a past participant in the PBA League, Johnson is hoping to serve a leadership role for the Phoenix Fury, and she prefers to lead by example.

broadcast live on FloBowling. Competition will move to FS1 starting Sept. 27 at noon Eastern, with the Anthony Division quarterfinals getting head-to-head match play underway. The championship match will take place Sept. 30 at 7 p.m. Eastern.

PBA League competition features the Baker format, which requires each of the teams' players to bowl two frames to complete each game.

The Phoenix Fury will compete in the Carter Division, while the Miami Waves will be in the Anthony Division. The Miami Waves roster will include Danielle McEwan, Dasha Kovalova, Clara Guerrero, Liz Kuhlkin and Missy Parkin.

With the 2020 PWBA Tour season canceled due to public health concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, the amount of time Johnson has spent on the lanes may have changed slightly, but she never lost focus or passion. If anything, any thought of burnout or slowing down permanently have been pushed well out of sight.

"To be able to do what we love again will be awesome," Johnson said. "Sometimes, in recent years, it has been tougher and tougher to travel and compete like we do, but each time I step on the approach, I know I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be. I realized during everything lately that I have as much passion for bowling as ever, and I look forward to doing much more of it."

While waiting for the world and sport of bowling to get back to normal, Johnson has remained committed to her physical conditioning, which includes swapping regular gym visits for at-home workouts, often focused on keeping her legs and knees strong. Bowling-wise, Johnson has tried to maintain a relatively normal routine, but with a lot less miles traveled.

"Slowing down a little was OK, but I never stopped working," Johnson said. "And, not much changed when it came to bowling. I still worked at my game. I have been practicing a few days each week and bowling in events on the weekend, especially since June, when things started to open up. In practice, I'd be away from anyone else, and I had my headphones to listen to my music. I was able to get some reps and games in and still work on things to keep myself sharp and my timing intact."

Johnson recently cashed in a PBA regional event for the first time in a few years and appreciated the chance to experience top-tier competition again. Though she knows there's a difference between being in shape and in bowling shape, she'll continue to work on both aspects until it's time to join her teammates in Virginia.

She's also very appreciative of the opportunity to be one of the 10 PWBA members selected for the PBA League this year, and she's motivated to make her team and manager proud.

"Even with the career I've had and the things I've gotten to experience, I was very humbled and proud to be picked to be on this team, especially with Kim as the leader, because she's a great competitor and an even better person," Johnson said. "It's true, the guys don't like getting beat by the girls, but there's definitely a mutual respect out there. It will be a lot of fun, no matter what happens."

The Portland Lumberjacks, led by USBC Hall of Famer Tim Mack, hoisted the Elias Cup in 2019. The team included the 2019 Mark Roth PBA League Most Valuable Player Wes Malott, Kris Prather, Kyle Troup, Ryan Ciminelli and Mitch Hupé.

In 2020, Mack's team will include Malott, Prather, Troup, Packy Hanrahan and Sweden's Martin Larsen.



When the competitors take the lanes in Centreville, the environment will be much different than Johnson's previous appearances, however.

In past years, two of the most noteworthy parts of the PBA League were the unique setting at Bayside Bowl in Portland, Maine, and the fiery and energetic Portland bowling fans. This time, safety and health will be the top concerns, and all competition will take place without any fans in the building.

"Compared to the past editions of the PBA League, it's going to be a little different, just like all sports right now," said Johnson, an avid baseball fan. "The fans in Portland are part of what made this event what it is, and, while it will be different, it's still team bowling, it still features the best bowlers in the world and I'm looking forward to being a part of it. We all absolutely appreciate the chance to be back on the lanes, and we're going to have a great time."

The race to the Elias Cup this year will begin with the 12 teams, featuring the top stars from both the PBA Tour and the PWBA Tour, being split into two divisions – Carter and Anthony – named after two of the sport's greatest competitors, Don Carter and Earl Anthony.

Qualifying at the PBA League will kick off Sept. 26 at 10 a.m. Eastern and will be

MIKE RICK – World Record Holder

by Frank We

What does Mike Rick have in common with Babe Ruth, Peyton Manning and Joe DiMaggio? Mike and all of those famous athletes are or were "World Record" holders.

At one time BABE RUTH held several dozen baseball records including hitting 60 home runs in one season. PEYTON MANNING holds the pro football record for touchdowns (55) in a season and JOE DIMAGGIO still holds the baseball record for hitting safely in 54 consecutive games.

Over the past 20 years I have written about some unique bowling events and accomplishments. My favorites include a 309 scratch bowling game and a 299.5 game. My friend Guy Clear rolled his 309 game when he rolled 12 consecutive strikes and his 12th shot knocked down 19 pins instead of 10. How did he do this? Guy is a lefty and on his 12th shot a pin from his lane flew to the lane on his right and knocked down nine pins, in addition to the 10 pins knocked down on the lane he was bowling on. Of course, Guy was only credited with a 300 score by the ABC because the nine he knocked down on the lane to his right were out of the field of play and did not count.

The 299.5 game involved a local bowler from the Riverside area who started a game with 11 consecutive strikes and on his 12th shot left a single pin that was split in half! Only half a pin was left standing on the lane after the 12th shot. Since nine and a half pins were knocked down on the last shot, the scorekeeper wrote 299.5 on the recap scoresheet. Everyone there agreed that the correct score was 299.5 and that's what should be recorded on the recap scoresheet!

So, what has Mike Rick done as a bowler that was so spectacular that it set a world record? As the "Legend" goes it all happened in late 1983 at the extinct Landmark Lanes in Pomona, California. At the time Mike was the top bowler in the Inland Empire averaging a Citrus Belt Association high 214 for the 1983-84 season. He was practicing with a couple of his teammates WALTER RAY WILLIAMS JR. (Yes, that Walter Ray Williams Jr.) and Ernie Harding. It was a time when Mike was younger and could easily roll 20 practice games in a day. It was a time when Urethane was king. Bowlers were bowlers and Reactive bowling balls had not yet made journeyman bowlers into superstars. It was just before Walter Ray turned pro in early 1984.

Mike and his teammates had a reputation for rolling big scores so the old timers at Landmark would always come over and watch them practice when they were in the "House". In fact, on Mike's big day one of the old timers kept score. In those days scoring was done with a



Mike Rick

pencil on long paper scoring sheets. Mike wasn't paying attention to his scores but after five games his scorekeeper announced that Mike had just rolled his fifth perfect 300 game in a row!!! That's 60 consecutive strikes. A new "WORLD RECORD"!

Mike told me that he rolled more strikes after the sixty but cannot recall how many more. Again, sixty consecutive strikes is five consecutive perfect 300 games. Everyone is making a big deal of the 900 series being bowled these days. Mike nearly rolled two consecutive 900 series! By the way, he used a JOHNNY PETRAGLIA Brunswick LT-48 bowling ball.

Mike Rick is one of the greatest bowlers in Citrus Belt history. He was the third bowler in our history to average 230 or higher. He did so in 1992 when he led the Association in average that season. Mike has been the Citrus Belt Association high average bowler for three seasons 1984 (214), 1992 (230) and 1994 (235). After 1994 Mike averaged 235 several more seasons in a row. At the time, Mike's 235 average was an All-Time High. Mike has also won two Association Master's Titles (1994 and 1995) and a Senior Masters Title (2006). Mike was inducted into the Citrus Belt Hall of Fame in 1995.

Mike Rick's many Bowling accomplishments are so spectacular that any "legend" attributed to him is believable. "I Believe" that Mike does hold the World Record for consecutive strikes bowled. Unfortunately, Mike and his teammates didn't contact Guinness Book Of World Records to validate his accomplishment. I guess that means Mike's record is unofficial.

Bottom line, Mike Rick is an "Unofficial" world record holder. He holds the "Unofficial" World Record for consecutive strikes bowled!





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O.K. which pile are you keeping? Thanks for reading.

Back in the second week of 2020 I gave myself a project. A question was bugging me. "What makes a good bowler?"

So, I asked 120 league bowlers. The answer surprised me. Number 1 answer was – Natural Talent, followed by knowledge of the game, choice of ball, ability to read lanes, practice time and desire.

How would you answer?

Jot down your thoughts and send it to news@cali-forniabowlingnews.com

Thanks for reading.

Answers to last weeks Questions

Carol, Glad you can continue to be involved in the Bowling News. I have comments for all three of your requests. Even if they're not published you will know my story. Best of luck and health to you in this disastrous 2020.

First thing: As I worked full/part time in bowling centers for over 50 years, the first thing I would do is to enter the center and see if any of my many friends or acquaintances were there, Love the game and the people.

Worst Day: Back in 1959 a center in Orange County was offering "Candlepin" bowling. A group of us went and tried the game which involved rolling a hand-held, about 6 pound ball at the tall skinny pins. We had fun but real bowling at La Puente Lanes the next night wasn't fun. At the time I was averaging around 190 and after getting used to the 6 pound ball I found myself struggling with timing and didn't even break 400.

TV: In 1959 there was a local handicap tournament with center qualifying and a semis and finals held at Pickwick Bowl in Burbank. The Televised finals consisted of a doubles match with highest qualifying man and woman against the runner-ups. I managed to make the finals. The first 4 frames were off TV. The details are vague but after all was said and done we won. The prizes were a bowling ball and several gifts from the show''s sponsors.

In 1978 I was a contestant on Chick Hearn's Bowling for Dollars. My Dad was working when it was filmed so before Chick could get a question in I yelled out "Hi Dad". It was a one ball shot with no practice. A strike was needed to advance. I stuck on the approach and yanked it for a 7 count and was a winner of seven dollars.

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Best regards Ben Foss

Carol, My worst day bowling happened just this past August at the Laughlin Blast Tournament.

The tournament is a senior handicap no-tap event so scores are usually high with winning series usually approaching 900! Over the years I have bowled many sets over 850. However, this summer I had a no-tap & handicap set of about 480. That's a 160 notap average including 25 pins of handicap per game. When you subtract 75 pins of handicap I bowled a no-tap set of 405. That's a no-tap average of 135! That's okay for some, but I have a book average of 204.

Any 400 series bowled under regular scoring by a 200 bowler is a disaster. So imagine bowling a low 400 series no-tap. It was a disaster. My worst day bowling.

Frank Weiler

Where Have All The Bowling Newspapers Gone?

by Dave Williams

In the September 3rd issue of the California Bowling News, Carol Mancini made a comment that got me to wondering... Where Have All The Bowling Newspapers Gone? My research over the past week has provided for many interesting conversations and an update on a few of the bowling newspapers that are still around, and still being printed on a weekly basis!

When my personal bowling journey brought me to the AMF Bowling Headquarters in Westbury, New York, I remember Publicity Director Jack Graziano providing me with a list of over 30 weekly bowling newspapers that were printed each week and distributed to bowling centers and their bowlers in various parts of the country.

Previous duties with AMF before being promoted to the corporate headquarters had allowed me to become familiar with many of the cherished individuals that tirelessly published their bowling newspaper as an act of love rather than one of a source for making a living.

My first introduction to one of these publications was the California Bowling News, which arrived every Friday afternoon to the small bowling center where I grew up in Sebastopol, California. I remember as a youngster taking a free copy of the newspaper home and reading it from cover to cover, learning about all of the amazing tournaments and other activities that took place every week.

As I grew up and became somewhat proficient at the game of bowling, the California Bowling News was the first to highlight my success and catalogue my scores, often on the front page of the journal. Ken Lowman, publisher of the newspaper for many years, confided to me that when he first came upon the bowling scene, he remembers Helen Kibbe "skipping over to the file cabinet" to pull out a mug shot of me whenever news of a high score came their way.

At that time, the California Bowling News was "only" 30 years old. The publication is now celebrating their 80th year of continuous service to the bowlers of California. Only the Sports Reporter of New Jersey, which also began in 1940, can match their uninterrupted string of printing a newspaper each week... for 80 years!

As I began to research online for any remaining bowling newspapers, I was reminded of the many friendships that I had developed over the years with the unsung heroes that published these bowling documents on a weekly basis. I could write an entire article about each of them, but for now I will provide an encapsulated paragraph for each:

Bowling World: Red Pfeiffer somehow managed to print (and deliver!) this newspaper throughout Northern California, often containing as many as 80 pages. His legacy continues online through the efforts of Donna Hazel, and I'm honored to write articles for her periodically. The Coronavirus has placed a hardship on the paper, which has not published since February.

California Kegler: Alice Meglemre was another of those unsung heroes that kept her paper going in spite of many bowling centers closing in the Long Beach area. I remember her love and devotion coming through with a personal note inscribed in a copy whenever an article or advertisement was included from AMF or American Recreation Centers.

Pacific Bowler: Although I don't believe that I ever met Joe Lyou, that didn't prevent him from writing about many of my bowling exploits throughout the years, both on the lanes and later with AMF and American Recreation Centers. Chuck Pezzano, one of the most legendary bowling writers of all time, used to share a story

that he would always introduce Joe as the most famous Korean bowling writer in America. The joke was that Joe was the only Korean bowling writer.

San Diego Bowling Beat and Arizona Bowling Beat: Cody Skelton began with a publication in San Diego, expanded to Arizona, and was also arranging for a Utah edition when AMF moved me from my San Diego location... a beautiful place to live! During my time with Cody's publications, I was able to continue "A Pro's View," a column that I began in my Northern California hometown newspapers in Sebastopol and Santa Rosa.

Oregon Bowler: Howard and Ethel Sitter were the epitome of bowling devotion in the pacific northwest. They operated a print shop and used the newspaper to fill their downtime. Whenever I had a bowling party or special event that was noteworthy, I would call and invite Howard and Ethel to join me and cover the proceeding. They never let me down! Their daughter, Debbie Deane, continues



Dave Williams and Alice Meglemre at Cal Bowl in Long Beach (almost 40 years ago!)

noteworthy is the Bowling News of Frisco, Texas, which has been printing continuously since 1956. Tony and Genie Franklin took over the publication of the Bowling News (Texas) when founder Joe Gennaro passed away.

Another bowling newspaper that still prints a hard copy is the Metro Bowler in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Juette Holseth reports that they have been printing since 1976. The remainder of the publications that I've been able to locate are now only provided online. There's also a number of USBC newsletters online, including <u>calusbc.com</u>, which I'm honored to write articles for in a column known as "Dave's Corner."

The near extinction of bowling newspapers parallels the closings of bowling centers nationally. Here's hoping that we can overturn this trend, and return to a happier time for bowling centers, and bowling newspapers.



an Old Timer's Tournament, now in its 50th year, in their honor.

Chicago Bowler: While I was stationed in Chicago for AMF, I utilized the time to meet every Friday morning with Joe Kissel, owner and publisher of the Chicago Bowler. We talked about anything involving bowling and discussed advertising placements for the next issue. His office was a mess! I hope that someone saved all of his bowling memorabilia.

Long Island Bowling News: Ed Leahy provided coverage of bowling scores for more than 100,000 league members in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, a real hotbed of bowling. The fact that AMF was located in Westbury, a city in Nassau County, meant that I was often called upon by Mr. Leahy for bowling related topics; as well as for my own bowling exploits at Deer Park Bowl, a bowling center that is noted for action bowling to this day.

National Bowlers Review: John and Donna Buckley were another very devoted couple that spent their life documenting bowling scores, primarily in an area from Maine to Florida. Because AMF had so many bowling centers in this region, we actually began an AMF Bowling Centers Newsletter as an insert to the National Bowlers Review.

With the exception of Bowling World, all of these publications are gone. In addition to the California Bowling News and New Jersey Sports Reporter, there are still a few bowling newspapers that are printed each week. Perhaps the most

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BOWLING CALENDAR

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

by Bette Addington

USBC Open Nationals, National Bowling Stadium, Reno, NV—CANCELED (2021 will be in Las Vegas, NV) USBC Women's Nationals, SouthPoint, Las Vegas, NV—CANCELED, bowl.com (2021 will be in Addison, IL)

now-Oct. 4 – Summer Doubles Tournament, Winks Silver Strike Lanes, Gardnerville, NV, 775/762-6018

- 26 SLAC & OC USBC's 4th SoCal Queens & Princess Tourn., 9am, Forest Lanes, Lake Forest, 323/252-7904, aweubanks@yahoo.com
- 26 ABT Handicapped Singles, 11am & 12:30, SouthPoint, Las Vegas, 702/719-9085, abtbowling.com
- 26-27 Hammerpins Fall Scratch Team Classic, Winks Silver Strike Lanes, Gardnerville, NV, 707/631-1331, hammerpins.net/FullTeam
 - 27 SLAC & OC USBC's So Cal Masters & Apprentices Tourn., 9am, Forest Lanes, Lake Forest, 323/252/7904, aweubanks@yahoo.com
 - 27 60 & Over Scratch Classic, 11am (check-in 9:30am), Canyon Lanes, Cabazon, 562/243-0175
 - 27 Lousy Bowler Tournament, 9am or 1pm, Riverside Lanes, Laughlin, 1/888/590-2695
 - 27 3rd CBW Operation Freedom Paws Bowling Tourn., 4th Street Bowl, San Jose--CANCELED
 - 27 PBA League Live, 9am Quarterfinals; 4pm Quarterfinals, FS1
 - 28 PBA League Live, 4pm Semifinals; 6pm Semifinals, FS1
 - 29 PBA League Live, 4pm Final Four, FS1
 - 30 PBA League Live, 4pm Elias Cup Finals, FS1

OCTOBER

- 2-4 PBA Battle at Black Oak Casino, Toulumne, CA, pba.com, 360/600-1229, gary.mage@pba.com
- 2-4 2020 Nor Cal BC Nugget Resort Summer Jubilee Team Tourn. (1st weekend), Coconut Bowl, Sparks, 925/485-1855, cindys@norcalbowling.com
- 3 Elite Bowling Club Women's Scratch 6 Gamer, 9am, Canyon Lanes, Cabazon, 909/450-9415
- 3 Elite Bowling Club Senior Scratch event, 9am, Canyon Lanes, Cabazon, 909/450-9415
- 3-4 Cal Bowlers Tour Reno Team 4 Gamer, National Bowling Stadium, Reno, NV, squads at 10 & 2 both days, teams of 4 (Men, Women or Mixed), handicap 80% of 220, Optional Scratch, 925/757-2695, CalBowlersTour@aol.com
- 3 Dec. 8 Sam's Town Open Fall Tournament (4 person teams), Sam's Town, Las Vegas, squads on Sat. & Sun., 10am & 1pm, 702/454-8022
- 6-9 Camp Bakes, Sunset Station, Vegas, markbakerbowling.com

- 9-11 2020 Nor Cal BC Nugget Resort Summer Jubilee Team Tourn. (2nd weekend), Coconut Bowl, Sparks, 925/485-1855, cindys@norcalbowling.com
- 10-11 645 Anchor Girl Trios Handicap Tourn., Sat.-9:30 & 1:30; Sun.-9 & 12:30, Canyon Lanes, Cabazon, 645anchorgirltrios@gmail.com
- 10-16 Columbus Day Senior Team Tourn., The Orleans, Las Vegas, 800/257-6179, high-roller.com Calendar brought to you by California Bowling Writers (www.calbowlingwriters.org)
 - Email your upcoming events for inclusion to <u>baddington@addington.net</u>

The California Bowling Writers has adopted Operation Freedom Paws!	2020		ration Freedom Paws
Operation Freedom Paws nonprofit organization was founded by "California Bowler and Veteran" Mary Cortani in 2010 that has provided service dogs and training support to veterans and others	Our 17th Annual Obertin Prive	Poor Par	va, Two Feet, One Team
who suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome, complex PTSD, traumatic brain injury and other	Charity Drive	Name	
physical, neurological, psychological and mobility needs. According to experts, service dogs help	TOURS CON	Address	
empower people with disabilities to live quality lives.	TW	City	
Operation Freedom Paws carefully matches cli- ents with their specially chosen four-legged com-		State	
panions, most of which come from rescue shel- ters. The partners then begin a 48-week program which trains the clients to train their own dogs. At the end of the program, they're certified together as service dog teams.		Donation	in Memory of:
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CA 94947-3877. "We are pleased to continue supporting Vets." Donation deadline: December 31, 2020	1 AC		OPERATION
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O'Keefe continued from page 1

conitnues to push herself to learn more each day. She also feels her physical preparation plays a big part in her mental approach.

"I'm just trying to be mentally tougher every day, and I'm a firm believer that working out really does help that mental toughness," said O'Keefe, who resides in Shiloh, Illinois. "There's so many times on runs where I'm halfway through and think it's good enough and don't want to do it anymore. Mentally, it's important to overcome those feelings. There are other ways to work on mental toughness when you're not at a bowling center and competing."

As the head coach of the women's bowling program at McKendree University, O'Keefe is motivated by the student-athletes she works with. Not only does she want to make them proud, she also wants to set a good example and help them grow in positive ways – in both bowling and life.

In her own ongoing training, O'Keefe has been working alongside one of her former student-athletes at McKendree, former Junior Team USA member Taylor Bailey.

For the previous four years, Bailey was a mainstay and leader in the Bearcats lineup, helping McKendree capture titles at both the 2017 Intercollegiate Team Championships and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Bowling Championship. She's now looking to join O'Keefe on the lanes next year during the PWBA Tour season, and both are using the extended offseason to learn from each other.

"I've really been trying to show her that there is no offseason if she wants to be successful on tour, and she's working hard and doing that," said O'Keefe, a 13-time PWBA Tour titlist. "We may not be competing, but this is where you're going to be making the biggest strides. She's growing up before our eyes, and it's nice to have her push me on days where I may be tired or not want to work out. It has been a lot of fun."

Looking ahead to the PBA League competition at the end of the month, group text messages have been going back and forth between O'Keefe and her teammates, and their first Zoom call with Kearney is in the books.

O'Keefe noted the mutual respect and admiration she and her teammates share for each other's talents and accomplishments and how their familiarity through both PWBA and international competition helps create a natural team chemistry.

She also believes Kearney will play a big part in the team's success. The 10-time PWBA Tour champion shares a previous bond with each member of the Phoenix Fury through the Team USA program or collegiate bowling.

"I really love watching all of them compete, so I'm excited to be able to compete with them," said O'Keefe, a 16-time Team USA member. "When you have a bond and relationship and team chemistry already is in place, it makes it easy to free when you're playing. When you're free to play, amazing things can happen."

Qualifying at the PBA League kicks off Saturday, Sept. 26 at 10 a.m. Eastern and will be broadcast live on Flo-Bowling. Competition will move to FS1 starting Sunday, Sept. 27 at noon Eastern, with the Anthony Division Quarterfinals getting head-to-head match play underway. The tournament will conclude Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 7 p.m. Eastern, with the finals for the PBA Elias Cup.

The Phoenix Fury will compete in the Carter Division, while the Miami Waves will be in the Anthony Division. The 2020 PBA League consists of 12 five-player teams, featuring the top stars on both the PBA and PWBA Tours.



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ARLINGTON, Texas – Maria José Rodriguez is used to a rigorous travel schedule as a full-time player on the Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour and as an international standout for her home country of Colombia. The two-time major winner is used to competing for the highest stakes and throwing the high-pressure shots.

The thing Rodriguez wasn't used to was stepping away from it all, something she had to do this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. But the 31-year-old right-hander has used the opportunity to recharge and now is awaiting her chance to roll the big shots during the 2020 Professional Bowlers Association League as a member of the Phoenix Fury.

To prepare for her PBA League debut, Rodriguez, who resides in Austin, Texas, has been busy traveling around the state and competing at local events. She took her time getting back into the swing of things, however, noting the opportunity to take a step back from the competitive side of bowling for a moment.

"Between the PWBA, PBA events and tournaments for Colombia, everything I competed in was super serious," Rodriguez said. "When everything closed down, I told myself it was OK to take a break and chill for a little bit, since everybody was in the same situation. It ended up being a break I never would have taken on my own, but it was something I think I needed. "I slowly got back into it, knowing if I wasn't bowling well, it would be fine, and everything would come back. Now, I'm just trying to get in as many games as I can."

are taking the same steps to put the Fury in the best possible position to win. Team success is something that has followed Rodriguez for more than a decade, starting with her impressive collegiate run at Maryland Eastern Shore.

She helped the Hawks claim three national titles – 2008 and 2011 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Bowling Championship and 2011 Intercollegiate Team Championships – and was named the National Tenpin Coaches Association Division I Player of the Year as a senior in 2011.

Internationally, Rodriguez and Team Colombia have collected three team gold medals since 2016 on the biggest stages, taking the top spot on the medal stand at the 2016 and 2018 Pan Am Bowling Women's Championships and 2019 World Bowling Women's Championships.

"I think it's a different feeling, different strategy, different everything when you're competing as part of a team," said Rodriguez, who also won the gold medal in all-events at the 2019 World Women's Championships. "But, I don't think it only brings out the best in me – it brings out the best in a lot of people. I know we're all responsible, disciplined and going to show up at our best."

Managing the Fury will be United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer and 10time PWBA Tour titlist Kim Kearney, an individual Rodriguez holds in the highest regard as both a coach and a friend.

"I've been friends with Kim for such a long time," said Rodriguez, winner of the 2014 USBC Queens and 2018 PWBA Tour Championship. "When I was at Maryland Eastern Shore, we shared bus rides to events with her team at Delaware State. She's one of the main people I go to when I need to work on my physical game, and I was really excited when she drafted me for this team. She's like family to me. When she lived in Dallas, we would go to her house like once a month just to hang out with her family, so this is really special for me."

When it's time to lace up at Bowlero Centreville, Rodriguez is confident in what the Fury will bring to the table. From the top of the lineup to the anchor position, each member of the team has delivered clutch strikes at the highest levels, and the accolades speak for themselves.

In addition to having O'Keefe (2018-2019) and Liz Johnson (2015-2017) as PWBA Players of the Year, the Fury boasts a total of 44 PWBA Tour titles, 16 major championships and countless medals in international competition.

"We have so many fighters on this team," Rodriguez said. "We're all winners, team players and believe in who we are."

The Fury and Waves are the latest additions to the PBA League in 2020. The teams are made up of athletes who competed on the PWBA Tour during the 2019 season, finished in the top 35 on the season-long points list and were selected during a formal draft.

As she continues to prepare for her trip to Virginia, Rodriguez knows her teammates

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FOREST LANES

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Saturday, September 26, 2020 at 10:00am ENTRIES CLOSE: Thursday, September 24. Maximum of 80 Entries.

California USBC Certified event Handicap: 90% of 200 NO WALK-INS *Youth girls may participate, provided a USBC Scholarship waiver accompanies entry.

**FOUR DIVISIONS:

*QUEENS & SENIOR QUEENS (Scratch) *PRINCESS & SENIOR QUEENS (Hdcp)

ENTRY FEES:

\$80 per person

Bowl.com average printouts required for Princess entries.

FORMAT: 5 GAMES QUALIFYING. The top 6 bowlers in each division will advance to a single game double elimination bracket. The four champions will bowl a one game match to determine the overall champion of the tournament. Handicap (90% of 200) will apply for the Princess champion. **Divisions may be consolidated depending on the number of entries per division. Any division changes will be made prior to the start of competition.

Contact Andre by email at aweubanks@yahoo.com or call (323) 252-7904 or with any questions.

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ARLINGTON, Texas - Stefanie Johnson of McKinney, Texas, is a team player.

This has been true for nearly her entire competitive bowling career and describes her life off the lanes, too.

The 36-year-old right-hander has been a member of Team USA each year since 2005. Before that, she was an All-American at the University of Central Florida, part of Junior Team USA and a standout on the Miami high school and youth bowling scenes.

At home, she and husband, Chris, are parents to Levi, 6, and Kenzie, 3, which also requires extensive collaboration and communication.

Johnson soon will add another team to the list when she joins the Phoenix Fury on the lanes at Bowlero Centreville in Centreville, Virginia, for the 2020 edition of the Professional Bowlers Association League.

She'll be one of 10 Professional Women's Bowling Association stars competing in the event, which will run from Sept. 26-30.

Johnson will join fellow PWBA champions Liz Johnson, Shannon O'Keefe, Jordan Richard and Maria José Rodriguez on the Fury, which will be managed by United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer and 10-time PWBA Tour titlist Kim Kearney.

"I'm honored to have been picked to be a part of the two ladies teams in this year's PBA League, and I was especially flattered to be picked by Kim, who is someone I looked up to while growing up," said Johnson, a three-time PWBA champion and 2015 PWBA Rookie of the Year. "I thrive in the team atmosphere and look forward to shoeing up and bowling with the ladies, rather than against them."

The race to the Elias Cup, the coveted prize of the PBA League, will include 12 teams, featuring the top stars from both the PBA Tour and PWBA Tour, being split into two divisions – Carter and Anthony – named after two of the sport's greatest competitors, Don Carter and Earl Anthony.

Since its inception in 2013, the PBA League traditionally has featured eight teams. The field previously was expanded to 10 teams for the 2020 season, and the addition of two women's teams brings the total to 12.

When qualifying at the PBA League kicks off Sept. 26 at 10 a.m. Eastern, Johnson knows her responsibilities will be simple – strike, spare and motivate – all things she

regularly has done for Team USA.

"I just like being a part of something bigger than me, and there's nothing better than team bowling," Johnson said. "I feel I've always been a great motivator, and I think it's important for every team to have one of those, if not more. I want my teammates to know I'm there for them and that they'll get 100 percent of me all the time. I'll never give up."

Having spent time on Team USA with Liz Johnson, O'Keefe and Richard, and many days competing against Rodriguez, who is from Colombia, both internationally and on the PWBA Tour, Johnson knows there will be familiarity within the group, even though they'll be competing as the Phoenix Fury for the first time.

Initial virtual meetings and discussions have reinforced their comfort level with one another and their abilities, and the biggest common denominator is that they're all just excited to go out and bowl. They're going to enjoy the process and the opportunity and simply bowling against the lanes, rather than focus on any potential pre-determined storylines, such as the obvious battle of the sexes, since 10 of the 12 teams are comprised only of men.

"I think it's important when you're on a team to know each person and their habits and capabilities, and, in this case, I do think I know all the girls on the team pretty well," said Johnson, who won a doubles gold medal with O'Keefe at the 2019 Pan American Games and multiple team world championships with O'Keefe and Liz Johnson. "I think it's important to be honest with each other and trust each other and know we're all coming in prepared."

Over the past few months, while COVID-19 halted most formal competition, including the 2020 PWBA Tour season, Johnson made sure to maintain her normal practice routine and recently has been able to compete in some local events.

Off the lanes, she worked to keep a positive outlook and constructively fill the time she otherwise would have spent traveling and competing. There were extra workouts, reading and bonus summer activities with her family.

"I was disheartened that the tour season was canceled, but the silver lining was that I got to spend the entire summer with my kids and family," said Johnson, whose at-home support system also includes her mother, Nancy. "It was important for me to show the kids how to stay positive, even when there's a curveball like we've experienced in 2020. The extra time together has been great, and we've been able to adjust well to the balance of virtual learning, teaching, practicing and working."

Much like with her on-lane teammates, life is about the sharing of responsibilities, playing to everyone's strengths and not being afraid to depend on others, while also being available to be leaned upon.

When it's time to head to Virginia for the PBA League, Johnson knows things will be covered at home. That will allow her to focus on the Fury, the competition and its unique Baker format, which requires each player to bowl two frames to complete each game.

Qualifying will be broadcast live on FloBowling, and competition will move to FS1 starting Sept. 27 at noon Eastern, with the Anthony Division quarterfinals getting head-to-head match play underway. The championship match will take place Sept. 30 at 7 p.m. Eastern.

"I'm just ready for the adrenaline rush of being up there and getting to bowl, and doing it alongside all the other girls will be amazing," Johnson said. "It was so exciting to be picked, but terrifying at the same time waiting to find out. I was ranked No. 9 last year and didn't have the best season, so I didn't want to set my expectations too high, especially with all the available talent. There definitely was some confetti and a celebration when I was picked, and I'm absolutely ready to compete."

Johnson and the Phoenix Fury will compete in the Carter Division, while the Miami Waves will be in the Anthony Division.





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ARLINGTON, Texas – Two-time Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour champion Jordan Richard created a buzz in the bowling world earlier this month when she announced she was going to be changing the brand of bowling ball she'd be delivering strikes with moving forward.

Richard, from Tecumseh, Michigan, announced she was joining Roto Grip's national tour staff on Sept. 8, giving her less than three weeks to prepare for her appearance in the Professional Bowlers Association League as a member of the Phoenix Fury.

Despite the quick turnaround to get to know her new equipment, the 2018 PWBA Rookie of the Year is confident she'll be ready to help the Fury make a run at the Elias Cup in Centreville, Virginia, starting Sept. 26.

Richard will join fellow PWBA stars Shannon O'Keefe, Liz Johnson, Stefanie Johnson and Maria José Rodriguez at Bowlero Centreville for the 2020 event, which will feature 12 five-player teams made up of the top stars on both the PBA Tour and PWBA Tour.

A learning curve is common when switching brands of bowling balls, even for the top players. Understanding different ball motions, progression through an arsenal and how to match up with a particular coverstock or core all are part of the process.

The 24-year-old right-hander will rely on plenty of practice and a couple of local events prior to departing for Virginia, but one thing she does know is that she's had plenty of success while using this brand in the past.

During her sophomore and junior years at Arkansas State, the Red Wolves were sponsored by Storm and Roto Grip. Richard was named a National Tenpin Coaches Association (NTCA) first-team All-American each of those seasons and was recognized as the NTCA Player of the Year for Division I her junior year.

"It's definitely going to take some time getting used to the new equipment, and I'm going to be spending quite a few hours at the bowling center over the next couple of weeks," Richard said. "It has been a couple years since I've thrown Storm and Roto Grip equipment, but I had a lot of success at Arkansas State during that time. I'll do my best to learn as much as I can in the next couple of weeks."

Richard won't have to go through the transition alone, however. Teammates Stefanie Johnson and Liz Johnson also represent Roto Grip and Storm, and they'll be able to offer insight from their experiences to help Richard adapt.

"Both Stefanie and Liz will be huge assets in helping me," Richard said. "Stefanie was one of the people I reached out to before making the switch, since she went through the same experience earlier this year, and she was one of the first people I told. I'm really glad we'll have the qualifying round to work together and learn more, since we won't be throwing a lot of shots during the Baker games."

PBA League competition features the Baker format, which requires each of the teams' players to bowl two frames to complete each game.

Although the logo on her jersey and bowling balls will be different in Virginia, there's no mistaking what Richard's high-power game brings to the experienced Fury lineup for team manager and United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer Kim Kearney.

Richard has seen the strengths and versatility each of her teammates has to offer in just two seasons on the PWBA Tour and three years on Team USA, and she believes Kearney's familiarity with the entire team also will be an asset for the Fury.

Kearney, who rejoined the Team USA coaching staff earlier this year, served as an assistant coach on Junior Team USA when Richard was part of the team in 2016. Kearney also took over the head coaching position of the women's bowling team at North Carolina A&T during Richard's time at Arkansas State.

"I really like how versatile we are as a group, and knowing Kim has worked with all of us at some point is really going to help us, both physically and mentally," said Richard, who won a gold medal in trios for Team USA at the 2019 World Bowling Women's Championships. "I believe a coach's job isn't just telling you what you're doing right or wrong, it's about always being there for your players. Being able to work with her while part of Junior Team USA and seeing her at collegiate events really helped build our relationship, and we're lucky to have her to hopefully guide us to victory."

The Phoenix Fury and Miami Waves are the latest additions to the PBA League in 2020. The teams are made up of athletes who competed on the PWBA Tour in 2019, finished in the top 35 on the season-long points list and were selected during a formal draft.

Qualifying at the PBA League begins Saturday, Sept. 26 at 10 a.m. Eastern and will be broadcast live on FloBowling. Competition will move to FS1 starting Sunday, Sept. 27 at noon Eastern, with the Anthony Division Quarterfinals getting head-to-head match play underway. The tournament will conclude Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 7 p.m. Eastern with the finals for the PBA Elias Cup.

The Phoenix Fury will compete in the Carter Division, while the Miami Waves will be in the Anthony Division.

Hosted by: SLAC USBC & OC USBC **2020 SoCal Masters & Appendice Tournament FOREST LANES** 22771 Centre Dr • Lake Forest, CA 92630 (949) 770-0055



Sunday, September 27, 2020 at 10:00am

ENTRIES CLOSE: Thursday, September 24. Maximum of 80 Entries.

**THREE DIVISIONS:

*MASTERS & SR. MASTERS (Scratch) *APPRENTICE (Handicap) USBC Certified event Handicap: 90% of 200 NO WALK-INS *Youth may participate, provided a USBC Scholarship waiver accompanies entry.

FORMAT: 5 GAMES QUALIFYING. The top 6 bowlers in each division will advance to a single game double elimination bracket. Champions will be crowned in each division. The three champions will bowl a one game match (scratch) to determine the overall champion of the tournament. ***Divisions may be consolidated depending on the number of entries per division. Any division changes will be made prior to the start of competition.*

ENTRY FEES:

\$80 per person

Bowl.com average printouts required for Apprentice entries.

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