

NOVEMBER 5, 2020

CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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Josh Blanchard To Succeed Mage As PBA West/Northwest Regional Manager

by Jill Laufer

Gary Mage, who has served as PBA West Regional Director since 2004 and the Northwest Regional Director since he founded it in 1979, has announced his retirement from the PBA after 40-plus years of service.

Mage's retirement comes at the end of the 2020 season after a life-long career in the bowling industry and just shy of a milestone 75th birthday, which he'll celebrate in January.

"I've been a bowling center owner, pro shop operator and touring player, so I brought a lot of experience to different areas of the sport into this position," Mage said. "You have people you've built relationships with over a span of

many years. It's hard to let go, but it's time."

In 2004, Mage became Western Region Manager, taking the reins from Mike Friedrichs, and assumed management of the new Northwest Region when it separated from the Western Region in that same year. Mage has since managed both regions with assistance from his wife Toni.

Mage will be succeeded by Josh Blanchard, a three-time PBA Tour champion.

"After many years serving the PBA as the Northwest and West Regional Director I am very happy that the PBA has chosen Josh Blanchard to take my place," said Mage. "It's my belief that Josh has the talent to move the regional

continued on page 4

Smallwood Pulls Off Big Upset As PBA Playoffs Quarters Set

by Lucas Wiseman

CENTREVILLE, Va. — Tom Smallwood became the lowest-seeded player to reach the 2020 PBA Playoffs quarterfinals as he upset EJ Tackett in the Round of 16 in a show that aired Sunday night.

Smallwood, who entered the event ranked No. 14, took down the third-ranked Tackett, 234-227, to advance into the final eight at Bowlero Centreville.

Also advancing on Sunday's show were Bill O'Neill, Kyle Troup and Brad Miller. Jason Belmonte, Francois Lavoie, Anthony Simonsen and Kris Prather previously advanced into the quarterfinals.

Smallwood continued his run at the Playoffs despite trailing by 32 pins after four frames after he left the 2-4-8 for an open.

By the time he threw a strike in the eighth frame, Tackett held a 22-pin lead, but he wouldn't strike again. Smallwood, meanwhile, needed a strike and six pins in the final frame and got the job done.

After missing the 2-4-8 in the fourth frame, Smallwood struck on his next six shots, including the clincher in the 10th frame, to secure the comeback victory.

Tackett started with the front three but left four 10 pins in the next seven



Tom Smallwood

frames in the loss.

Miller, who was seeded No. 11 coming into the event, joined Smallwood as the only other double-digit seed to advance into the quarterfinals.

Miller took down lefty Jesper Svensson, 236-223, in a tense match. In the 10th frame, Miller needed a strike and nine pins to secure the win and popped a clutch double.

Nick Pate, the No. 23

seed, had a chance for a major upset against Troup. With a double in the final frame, he could have sent the pick packing but a ring 10 ended his hopes as Troup won 223-214.

In the opening match on the show, O'Neill fell behind by a stick halfway through the match but pulled away down the stretch to beat AJ Johnson, 234-190.

O'Neil left the Big Four

in the fifth for an open but then rattled off four consecutive strikes, while Johnson only struck once during that stretch. O'Neill just needed count in the 10th frame and a Brooklyn got the job done.

The quarterfinals will air Sunday at 11 a.m. on FS1 (U.S.) and FloBowling (international) with the semifinals and final scheduled to air immediately after at 1 p.m.

Here are the quarterfinals matchups:

Belmonte vs. Lavoie

Simonsen vs. Prather

O'Neill vs. Troup

Miller vs. Smallwood



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&
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The Education of A Professional Bowler

by Frank Weiler

Recently I received a bowling instructional pamphlet from a dear friend and member of the California Bowling Hall of Fame. The pamphlet was written by a PBA Champion from the past. While the pamphlet was written nearly fifty years ago there are pearls of wisdom worth sharing with today’s bowlers. I will do that in a series of three short articles. **This week I will share what our champion felt was the first two of the “SIX KEYS” to successful bowling:**

- 1. Maximize Your Natural Ability
- 2. Physical Conditioning
- 3. Knowing Your Game
- 4. Knowledge of The Sport of Bowling
- 5. Confidence
- 6. Mental Attitude

Physically and mentally we are what we are. We have no control over how tall we are or what talents we inherit. However, every bowler can work hard to fine tune the talents they are born with. We all can take the cards we are dealt and maximize their potential.

“TO BOWL YOUR BEST YOU MUST MAXIMIZE YOUR GOD GIVEN TALENTS”. To maximize your natural ability, you first must identify your strengths and your weaknesses. The best way to do that is to work with a good bowling coach. A coach credentialed by the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) and ranked (Gold, Silver or Bronze) according to their training and expertise. A coach using modern day analytical equipment that will enable him/her to identify your strengths and weaknesses so that you can maximize your natural talents.

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

“TO BOWL YOUR BEST YOU NEED TO BE IN THE BEST PHYSICAL CONDITION POSSIBLE”. I repeat, to bowl your best you need to be in the best physical condition possible. This is especially true for bowlers aspiring to become professional players. PBA bowlers face a physical and mental grind week after week. To be successful against the best bowlers on the planet you must stay in shape. Back in the 1970s only one of the Top 20 money winners on the PBA tour was overweight. The same can be said about bowlers wanting to be top amateur bowlers or even a top league bowler.

A bowler might succeed for a while being overweight and out of shape but cannot expect to perform at their peak over the long haul when they’re out of shape.

My best example of this would be JASON BELMONTE. When he slumped a few years ago he realized he needed to lose weight. He did so after a down year and a thinner version of himself came back and once again won “Player of The Year” honors on the PBA Tour. I remember WALTER RAY WILLIAMS JR. and several others doing the same in the past.

Currently there is a young left-handed bowler on the PBA Tour who is another example of what I am writing about. His initials are “JB” but won’t be specifically identified so as not to embarrass him. About a year ago he was the NUMBER TWO player in the world but now is struggling. He isn’t winning like he used to, and he appears to have lost his “MOJO”. So, what’s changed? Why is “JB” not winning?

I believe it’s all about physical conditioning. “JB” is a short man and appears to have gained a substantial amount of weight during the last year or so. I believe his being overweight is affecting his ability to score like he used to. Hopefully his bowling ball representative will diplomatically recommend some lifestyle changes that will result in JB’s return to the top.

Back in the 1970s many of the top professional bowlers were naturally thin men. They were lucky in that they could eat practically anything in any amount and not put on extra weight. I and apparently “JB” are not so lucky. I have to watch what I eat, or I will gain weight.

To achieve your best physically you have to do more than watch what you eat. Bowlers wanting to succeed as a professional should consider participating regularly in physical activities that help keep the body loose and limber. When your muscles and joints are flexible you are less likely to be injured bowling or otherwise. Some old-time professionals jogged and did karate exercises. These activities gave them a physical and mental lift and could be done at home.

I have family members who practice yoga. I believe yoga exercises would be another great way to keep fit. And like jogging and karate exercises, yoga can be practiced at home and in a motel room when a professional bowler is on the road.

Okay. Get off the couch and get active. Keep reading the BOWLING NEWS and watch for my next installment of “The Making of A Professional Bowler”. I promise you will receive great advice for aspiring bowlers, professional or otherwise. You will want to know the “TOP SECRET” to bowling your best.

2020

PLAYOFFS

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2PM ET

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FS1 PBA

BOWLING CALENDAR

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

NOVEMBER

by Bette Addington

5-8 – ABT 43rd Fall Nationals, SouthPoint, Las Vegas, NV, 702/719-9085, mail@abtbowling.com

6-8 – 2020 Storm Nor Cal YBA Jr./Adult Championships (1st weekend), National Bowling Stadium, Reno, NV, 925/485-1855, cindys@norcalbowling.com

6-8 – PBA, Gold Country Lanes, Sutter Creek, CA, pba.com, 909/908-5713

6-8 – TAT Northeast Amateur Championships (formerly Las Vegas event), The Meadows Casino, Washington/Pittsburg, PA, 1/844/321-8100, info@tatbowl.com, tatbowl.com

8 – PBA Playoffs, Round of 8, 1:30pm Eastern, FS1

8 – PBA Playoffs, Final Four, 3:30pm Eastern, FS1

12-15 – CBT 7-7-7 Trios-Doubles-Singles Event, Thurs.-11/2/5/8; Fri.-11/2/5; Sat.-9/12/2:30; Sun.-10/1, Sunset Station, Las Vegas, 661/418-8007, cbtbowling.com

13-14 – 60 and Over Scratch Classic, SouthPoint, Las Vegas, NV, 5-game Sweeper on Fri. @3pm, Tournament on Sat. @ 10am, 562/243-0175

13-15 – 2020 Storm Nor Cal YBA Jr./Adult Championships, (2nd weekend), National Bowling Stadium, Reno, NV, 925/485-1855, cindys@norcalbowling.com

14-15 – Mega Elite Bowling Club Mixed Doubles Scratch event, private location, Sat.-9 & 3, 951/419-2751

14-15 – 4th Senior 50+ No Tap Doubles (first weekend), Sat.-4pm; Sun.-10am, AMF Rocklin Lanes, Rocklin, 925/757-2695, CalBowlersTour@aol.com

15 – The Beast Eliminator #9, 10am, La Habra Bowl, La Habra, tbebowling.com, TheBeastHandicapEliminator@gmail.com

16-21 – 2020 SouthPoint Sr. Shootout, presented by Logo Infusion, SouthPoint, Vegas—SOLD OUT!

20-22 – PBA Regional, Linn Lanes, Lebanon, OR, pba.com, 909/908-5713

21-22 – 4th Senior 50+ No Tap Doubles (second weekend), Sat., 4pm; Sun., 10am, AMF Rocklin Lanes, Rocklin, 925/757-2695, CalBowlersTour@aol.com

30 – Donation deadline to CBW for OFP Charity Drive to be entered in basket drawing with a \$20 min. donation, calbowlingwriters.org

Calendar brought to you by California Bowling Writers (www.calbowlingwriters.org)
Email your upcoming events for inclusion to baddington@addington.net

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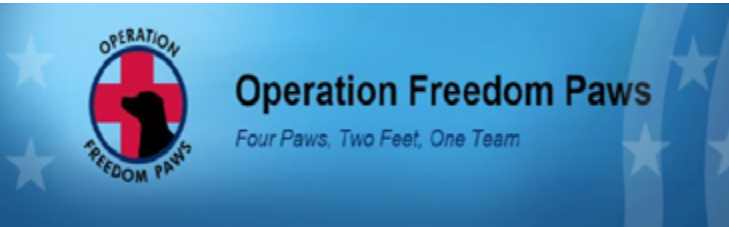
Operation Freedom Paws nonprofit organization was founded by "California Bowler and Veteran" Mary Cortani in 2010 that has provided service dogs and training support to veterans and others who suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome, complex PTSD, traumatic brain injury and other physical, neurological, psychological and mobility needs. According to experts, service dogs help empower people with disabilities to live quality lives.

Operation Freedom Paws carefully matches clients with their specially chosen four-legged companions, most of which come from rescue shelters. 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.

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