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AMERICANS SWEEP TEAM GOLD MEDALS ON FINAL DAY OF COMPETITION AT WORLD SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Gene J. Kanak

CALI, Colombia – Senior Team USA capped off a week's worth of outstanding performances by sweeping both the men's and women's team gold medals on the final day of competition at the International Bowling Federation 2023 World Senior Championships in Cali, Colombia, on Thursday.

The men's squad that featured Chris Barnes of Denton, Texas; Parker Bohn III of Jackson, New Jersey; Tom Hess of Granger, Iowa; and John Janawicz of Winter Haven, Florida, reached the top of the podium by virtue of a 2-0 (207-189; 247-182) sweep of Mexico in continued on page 9



(Back row (from left to right): Dana Ausec; Sharon Powers; Tish Johnson and Jodi Woessner. (Front now (from left to right): John Janawicz; Tom Hess; Kendra Cameron-Curry, USBC Program Director-High Performance; Team USA Coach Kelly Kulick; Parker Bohn III and Chris Barnes.



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My "BOWLING RESOLUTIONS" for The New Year

by Frank Weiler

Everyone makes New Year's Resolutions. Everyone wants to improve their life in some way by resolving to take positive action in the New Year. My life revolves around Bowling, so I always focus on our sport when it comes to New Year's Resolutions.

First of all, I always remind myself "Do Not Embrace Perfectionism". Why risk failure right from the start. As the adage goes "Improvement not perfection"! Small steps instead of big failures. So here are my "Bowling Resolutions" for 2024. "I solemnly resolve" to:

- 1. Lose weight by **reducing my** intake of "**PEEPS**" during league competition. While these marshmallow treats are low calorie energy boosters, just 50 calories a piece, the calories add up when you ingest a dozen "peeps" at a time!
- 2. Quit my **BEER PONG** team to devote more time to bowling practice. My spare game needs an upgrade. Too many ten pin misses. Too many **gutter balls**.
- 3. Be more team oriented. Be more cheerful. Cheer on my teammates with a "Happy Face".
- 4. Recognize the accomplishments of my competitors. Congratulate the opposition when they win **fair and square**.
- 5. Stop **the blame game**. I need to take responsibility for my mistakes and stop looking at my teammates as if they are the reason the team lost.
- 6. Stop making excuses. **No more excuses**. Stop looking at my bowling ball, bowling shoes or bowling glove whenever I leave a split or miss a spare.
- 7. Look sharp! It's time to look classy and a little sassy on the lanes! Keep my balls clean and my shoes shined. No more tee shirts, no more shorts and no more dirty towels.
- 8. **Cool It**. Chill out. Calm down. No more temper tantrums. No more kicking the ball return, no more fist pumping, no more profanities, no more pouting, no more sulking, no more **baby talk!**



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- 9. **Never give up.** When the cards seem stacked against me, get off the deck and continue competing. When my team is down by 100 pins, get off the deck and continue competing. When all seems lost, get off the deck and continue competing.
- 10. **Never look back.** When "Lady Luck" seems to have abandoned me, continue forward and fight on. Grin and Bare it. When I bowl poorly, Grin and Bare it. When the other team gets all the breaks, **Grin and Bare** it
- 11. Worry about **tomorrow**, **tomorrow**. Live in the moment, enjoy what I am doing now. Tomorrow will take care of itself.
- 12. **Work** every moment I'm on the lanes **to improve**. Practice, practice, practice! Improve my approach. Improve my swing, Improve my timing. Improve my delivery. Improve my accuracy, improve my consistency, Improve my mental game, Improve my spare shooting. Improve, improve, improve!
- 13. Work every moment I'm on the lanes on my bowling technique. I must stop lofting the bowling ball. I must start keeping my head steady and down. I must start rolling the bowling ball. Maybe I will turn to two handed bowling!
- 14. Start paying attention to what the good bowlers around me are doing. **Observe** and learn from the good

bowlers around me. **Ask** the good bowlers around me for advice. **Listen** to the good bowlers around me.

- 15. Become a better sportsman. **No More** popping my thumb hole, **No More** crunching my water bottle, **No More** giggling out loud. Cheer the successes of my opponents. Encourage other bowlers.
- 16. Stop looking for the **path of least resistance**. Be willing to work hard and do what it takes to become a better bowler.
- 17. Subscribe to **Bowl-TV** and support the **PWBA**.
- 18. Go to Disneyland when I bowl 300!

I solemnly resolve to be my best, to do my best and do everything in in my power to make the sport of BOWLING better.



Resolution #1: Reduce my consumption of "PEEPS" to lose weight.



Memories Of Kissimmee, And Alligators

by Dave Williams

How exciting it was to see that AMF Kissimmee Lanes would be playing host to the finals of the televised PBA Playoffs on May 19, 2024. Over the course of my bowling business career, I spent many weeks at Kissimmee Lanes in an effort to build up a business that was surrounded by more alligators than people.

The center was built about 10 years before its time, but based upon the incredible success of AMF Altamonte Lanes, constructed in the northern suburbs of Orlando, the New York hierarchy elected to open Kissimmee Lanes, near Dis-

neyWorld, in 1977. I can remember that my first few visits to the site included a five mile ride to one of the closest hotels, Larson's Lodge Maingate, near the many Disney properties.

Bob and Iris Larson were the owners of Larson's Lodge Maingate, as well as one other hotel property on the eastern side of Kissimmee. In 1986 they opened Watermania, along with two of their children, Randy and Gary, on 37 acres of land on the Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway. The park catered primarily to local patrons and remained a thriving business until 2005, when it was closed for repairs but never reopened.

In an effort to build exposure with residents from neighboring Orlando, AMF decided to go ahead and host the 1978 AMF MagicScore Open, a stop on the PBA Winter Tour, at Kissimmee Lanes. Here's an amusing excerpt from an article that I wrote for most journals in February of 2021:

"The general feeling in 1978 was that 'bowling is a destination sport,' and didn't require street visibility. The humorous part is that the land in front of Kissimmee Lanes had not yet been developed at the time of the PBA stop, and the land was being leased back to the farmer that sold the property to AMF so that he could use it for grazing cattle.

For those of you old enough to remember the golden voice of Chris Schenkel, as he welcomed everyone to the weekly telecast with those legendary words: 'Live, from Kissimmee Lanes in Florida, it's the 1978 AMF MagicScore Open.' As a row of cars turned off of Highway 192, the camera followed them through the cow pasture, and eventually to the bowling lanes."

Mrs. Larson was always at the reception counter at Maingate. She never charged any of us that were visiting from the New York headquarters because of all the tournament bookings that were being generated by Kissimmee Lanes. The PBA event scheduled in 1978 was a really big deal for a town of 13,000 residents (people), and at least that many alligators. In fact, the ride from the hotel to the lanes was void of any development at the time, with only an alligator farm and nature preserve along the way.



EPCOT — The showcase of the theme park is the impressive Spaceship Earth geosphere (known to locals as the giant golf ball), that leads visitors to the World Showcase Lagoon, surrounded by all the different restaurants.

Bob & Mary Tiso

Another couple that I befriended during all of those visits to Kissimmee Lanes were manager Bob Tiso and his wife Mary. Bob had been an AMF salesman in the northeast United States and was looking to retire in Florida. Bruce Gobbi, the president of AMF Bowling Centers, and also an alumnus of the sales division, gave Tiso an offer he couldn't refuse, and he accepted the position at Kissimmee Lanes.

Bob and Mary were an interesting couple. They were both very cu-

rious and wanting to pick my brain about what other managers were doing in different parts of the country. Bob's ability to sell bowling became evident when he booked bowling leagues of Disney employees, double shifted, on Monday through Thursday nights. Mary was in charge of special events. One of her ideas, which became a national promotion at AMF Bowling Centers, was a Ladies Daytime Fashion Show... across the approach of the bowling lanes.

As a result of all those Disney employees taking part in bowling leagues at Kissimmee, Bob and Mary were awarded Lifetime Gold Membership cards to all of the Disney properties. That meant that whenever we had an opportunity, usually in the evening, we would head over to EPCOT to experience some of the fine cuisine offered in the different pavilions, and served by representatives of that country. I did a word search and found that this is still the case today; namely, that the cast members working in the different country exhibits are often from that particular nation.

Some of my favorite countries to visit were Canada (prime rib), France (sidewalk cafe and pastries), Italy (just about any food item), Norway (great iced americano), and Mexico (boat ride while dining). There were many more, but those were my favorites, and they were represented by many foreign exchange students serving the customers. It was always a great experience, especially with Bob and Mary Tiso.

I learned later that Mary had been in a Nazi concentration camp during World War II. It all came about innocently enough when I asked about a number that was on the inside of her left arm. That's when she explained that even though she was just a child, she was still branded with a lifelong tattoo on her arm. She was such a positive and upbeat person, you would never guess that she had ever spent time in a concentration camp. But that's probably what gave her a zest for life and appreciation to be in the USA.

Here's hoping that the PBA members, and maybe even some of you, have an opportunity to visit EPCOT during a visit to Florida and AMF Kissimmee Lanes.



Photo of Kissimmee Lanes — Nestled along 10 Pin Avenue, AMF Kissimmee Lanes is hidden from view along Highway 192, behind a hotel, bakery and restaurant supply. The outside of the building has not changed since it opened more than 45 years ago.





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World Senior Championshipscontinued from page 1

the best-of-three Baker finals at Cali's sports complex. One round earlier, Team USA breezed past the Dominican Republic by a score of 2-0 (225-156; 256-210) while Mexico shut out Italy by the same margin (222-194; 246-215).

By falling during the semifinals, the Dominican Republic and Italy both earned bronze medals while Mexico would go on to take home silver.

On the women's side, the Team USA quartet that included Dana Ausec and Tish Johnson of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Sharon Powers of Lakewood, Colorado; and Jodi Woessner of Oregon, Ohio, needed three games to win both of its matches en route to gold. The quest started with a 2-1 semifinal victory over Puerto Rico (224-202; 200-210; 198-184) and ended with a come-from-behind win over Mexico during the finals (201-210; 245-184; 224-187).

Once again, Mexico earned the silver medal, and Puerto Rico and Italy, which fell to Mexico 2-0 (204-189; 166-150) in the other women's semifinal, each were awarded bronze.

With the completion of the team events also came the end of the tournament's men's and women's all-events competition, which awarded medals to the bowlers in each division with the highest total pinfall during the combined 18 games of singles, doubles and team qualifying.

All three spots in the women's all-events standings went to Team USA bowlers with Ausec's 18-game score of 3,865 (Singles – 1,240; Doubles – 1,290; Team – 1,335) leading the way and earning gold.

Woessner claimed silver with 3,678 (Singles – 1,209; Doubles – 1,261; Team – 1,208), and Johnson brought home bronze at 3,656 (Singles – 1,125; Doubles – 1,270; Team – 1,261).

Bohn earned Team USA's lone all-events medal on the men's side, taking home bronze with an 18-game mark of 4,074 (Singles - 1,295; Doubles - 1,422; Team - 1,357).

Mexico's Mario Quintero (4,179) captured gold, and Rolando Sebelen of the Dominican Republic (4,130) claimed silver.

To say that Team USA performed well at the 2023 World Senior Championships would be a bit of an understatement; the group was dominant, capturing 23 of a possible 32 medals during the weeklong event.

Individually, the American medal count was as follows:

Men

Barnes – two gold (team; doubles)
Bohn – one gold (team), two bronze (doubles; all-events)
Hess – one gold (team), two bronze (doubles; singles)
Janawicz – two gold (team; doubles)

Women

Ausec – three gold (team; singles; all-events), one bronze (doubles) Johnson – one gold (team), two bronze (doubles; all-events) Powers – two gold (team; doubles) Woessner – two gold (team; doubles), two silver (singles; all-events)

Team USA Coach Kelly Kulick was pleased with the group's performance, but the pride she felt had to do with a lot more than just the high medal count.

"Obviously, whenever we travel to tournaments, we're looking to put as many bowlers as possible on the podium and to bring home medals," Kulick said. "However, what I'm most proud of with this group was the way that they picked each other up and were there for one another.

"Every bowler in this group is a talented individual, yet each and every one of them bought into this being one team. They rooted for one another, helped each other make adjustments on the lanes and were just there for one another from start to finish. At the end of the day, that's what it's all about. Medals are great, but the bonds that you form with your teammates, the relationships you build and the memories that you make are what's most special."

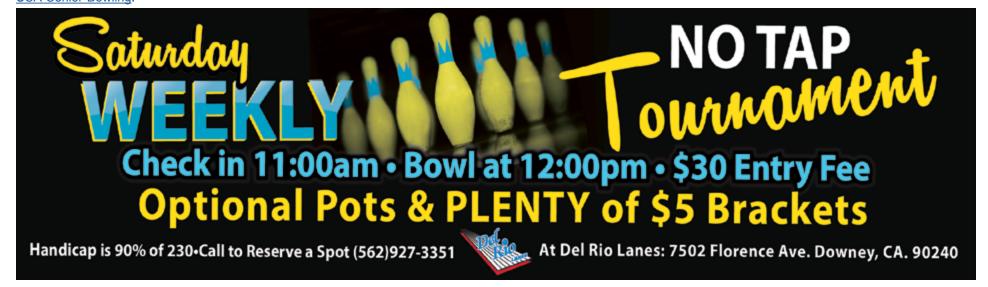
Final tournament standings are available by visiting $\underline{\text{worldseniors2023.com}}$.

For more information on Senior Team USA, visit <u>BOWL.com/Team-USA/Team-USA-Senior-Bowling</u>.



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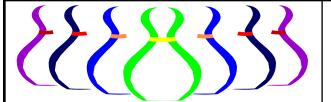
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