

CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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MARSHALL KENT WINS 2024 PBA TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

Kent climbs stepladder to win his first major title

by Nolan Hughes

FAIRLAWN — When Marshall Kent won the PBA Illinois Classic in February — his first singles title in seven years — the 31-year-old declared himself to be “back.”

On Sunday afternoon on the historic lanes 27-28 at AMF Riviera Lanes in Fairlawn, Ohio, Kent proved it by winning the 2024 PBA Tournament of Champions.

Kent defeated Anthony Simonsen, 205-201, in the title match to claim his seventh career PBA Tour title and first career major title.

“I’ve said if I’m going to win one major, I want it to be the TOC at Riviera,” Kent said. “It’s still not real to me that we’re here. This is a lifelong

dream come true. This is what I’ve been working for since I was two years old. It means the absolute world.”

With the win, the final tournament of the 2024 PBA Tour regular season, Kent earns \$100,000 and his second title of the season. He finished the season second in points behind only EJ Tackett, who he defeated in the semifinal match.

Kent, the No. 4 seed, climbed the stepladder finals by defeating Jason Sterner, Matt Ogle, Tackett and Simonsen — the same four players Jason Belmonte defeated to win the 2023 TOC.

The opening match foretold the good fortune on Kent’s side.



Sterner split in each of his first three frames and washed out in the fourth, starting the match with four open frames.

“I had a lot of good things go my way today,

and sometimes that’s what you need to to get through matches on TV,” Kent said.

With Sterner’s loss in the opening match, Andrew Anderson clinched

a berth in the PBA Play-offs.

Kent, who entered the TOC with a 1-8 record in major finals, doubled his career win count in major championship finals

with a 267-226 over No. 3 Matt Ogle. Kent started the match with six consecutive strikes before throwing his seventh frame shot in the gutter. continued on page 4

The 2024 PWBA Season Begins My “BOLD PROGNOSTICATIONS”

by Frank Weiler

EAGAN, MN. — This season’s PWBA National Tour begins this week with the Twin Cities Open at Cedarvale Lanes on Thursday May 2.

Best of all everyone can watch every minute of this season’s Tour on Bowl-TV. Just go to Bowl-TV.com to subscribe. It’s just \$9.95 per month.

The Twin Cities Open is one of nine PWBA events scheduled for this



Stephanie Zavala

season with competition ending with the Tour continued on page 5

JASON COUCH WINS SECOND CAREER PBA50 TITLE

WESTLAND, MI — Jason Couch has quite the connection to the PBA Tournament of Champions. In 2002, he made PBA Tour history as the only player to ever win three consecutive TOC titles. While the talented lefty was not competing at this year’s PBA TOC in Fairlawn, Ohio, he was winning his second career PBA50 title instead at the 2024 PBA50 Hamtramck Singles Classic Open at Vision Lanes.

continued on page 5



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EIGHT INDUCTED INTO USBC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2024

by Dave Schroeder



LAS VEGAS – The eight members of the 2024 United States Bowling Congress Hall of Fame class were celebrated during their induction ceremony Wednesday evening at South Point Hotel and Casino.

Missy Parkin of San Clemente, California, **Tommy Jones** of Simpsonville, South Carolina, and **Sean Rash** of Montgomery, Illinois, were inducted in the Superior Performance category. **Debbie Kuhn** of Abingdon, Maryland, **Jodi Woessner** of Oregon, Ohio, and **Brian Waliczek** of Frankenmuth, Michigan, were inducted in the USBC Outstanding Performance category. **Roy Buckley** of Columbus, Ohio, was inducted in the Veterans category and **Darlene Baker** of Mahomet, Illinois, was inducted in the Meritorious Service category.

Five of the eight members of the 2024 class were in attendance for the ceremony Wednesday. Buckley, who died in 2021 at the age of 77, was inducted posthumously. Jones and Rash were competing in the Professional Bowlers Association's Tournament of Champions in Fairlawn, Ohio.

Parkin, a 42-year-old right-hander, has enjoyed a decorated youth, collegiate, international (Team USA) and professional career.

Her most memorable professional win came when she collected the title at the 2011 USBC Queens in Syracuse, New York. That win was one of seven top-10 finishes Parkin owns in the event. She also has finished in the top 10 six times at the U.S. Women's Open and once at the USBC Masters (tied for ninth in 2012).

In addition to those professional accolades, Parkin has enjoyed success at the USBC Women's Championships. She was part of the team that won the Classic Team title at the 2003 event in Reno, Nevada. Parkin contributed 645 to the winning team total of 3,220.

Parkin is a 13-time Team USA and four-time Junior Team USA member and has earned more than 40 medals during international competition, including 23 gold medals.

"When you're in another country and you hear your national anthem playing and realize you're representing your entire country, I can't even put into words what that feels like," Parkin said.

She was a collegiate standout at California State-Fullerton where she was a two-time National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association first-team All-American (2001-2002 and 2002-2003 seasons) and NCBCA Most Valuable Player for the 2002-2003 season.

In 2003, Parkin was the Intercollegiate Team Championships Most Valuable Player and was named to the All-Tournament Team in the men's division (California State-Fullerton did not have a women's team at the time). Parkin was selected as the Bowling Writers Association of America (now IBMA) 2003 Female Collegiate Player of the Year.

Parkin made headlines on the youth bowling scene with a win at the inaugural Junior Gold Championships in 1998 and was the recipient of the prestigious Alberta E. Crowe Star of Tomorrow award in 2001.

"I've had a very unconventional career, and I've broken some barriers," Parkin said. "I bowled against the men for over 10 years, and then I bowled in Europe and Asia. I do hope that I've had some impact on the younger generation that looked up to some of us who did those things and inspired them to bowl."

Jones, a 45-year-old right-hander, has enjoyed a storied career on both the PBA Tour and as a member of Team USA.

He's accumulated 20 PBA Tour titles (tied for 13th all-time), which includes a pair of major championships. Jones' first win on the PBA Tour came at the 2004 Japan Cup in Tokyo, and his 20th win came at the 2020 PBA Hall of Fame Classic in Arlington, Texas, where he shot 300 on TV on the same weekend he was inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame.

Jones earned his first major championship at the 2006 U.S. Open in North Brunswick, New Jersey, and followed that up a year later with a major win at the PBA Tournament of Champions in Uncasville, Connecticut.

He also has left his mark as an 11-time member of Team USA where he won more than 25 medals during international competition, including 10 gold medals. Jones started his career with Junior Team USA with an event in Hong Kong in 1996 and bookended it in the same city as a member of Team USA in 2018.

Jones shared his thoughts via a video that was played during the induction dinner.

"I got to do it with my best friends," Jones said of his time with Team USA. "There's something about wearing your country's colors on your shirt, representing Team USA and doing it at the highest level that is just so rewarding. It was always about winning medals and representing the United States to the best of your ability both on and off the lanes."

Jones hasn't limited his success to just professional and international competition. He brought home an Eagle at the 1999 USBC Open Championships in Syracuse, New York, when he won Regular All-Events with a total of 2,158.

He is one of five PBA players to have been named PBA Rookie of the Year (2001-2002 season) and PBA Player of the Year (2005-2006 season) during their careers. In 2009, the PBA ranked its 50 greatest players of all-time, and Jones checked in at No. 30 on the list.

"There are very few people in both (USBC and PBA Halls of Fame)," Jones said. "If you would've told 17-year-old me that I would be in both the PBA and USBC Halls of Fame, I would've said you were crazy. I would've told you I just wanted to go bowl, so obviously I did something right. It's been fun."

Like Jones, Rash has made his mark on the PBA Tour and during international competition as a nine-time Team USA and three-time Junior Team USA member as well as earning an Eagle at the USBC Open Championships.

Rash, a 41-year-old right-hander, boasts 17 PBA Tour titles, including two major wins. He collected his first PBA win at the 2006 West Virginia Championship in Parkersburg and notched his 17th at the 2021 PBA Chesapeake (Virginia) Open.

His first major championship was a memorable one as it came at the 2007 USBC Masters at Miller Park in Milwaukee (home of baseball's Milwaukee Brewers). His other major championship came at the 2012 PBA Tournament of Champions in Las Vegas.

Rash was PBA Player of the Year for the 2011-2012 season and won both the PBA High Average and Points Leader awards that season.

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Rolling Into The 70's...

A Look Back At The Final BPAA All-Star Tournament

by Dave Williams

A recent email from the International Bowling Museum & Hall of Fame caught my eye as I was scrolling through the headlines of the April Newsletter. The item was entitled "Rolling Into The 70's," and featured a photo of two men on a ladder outside Strike 'n Spare Lanes in Northbrook, Illinois.

I know those guys, I thought to myself, as I remembered many visits to Strike 'n Spare Lanes during my days at AMF. The two featured in the photo at bowling-museum.com were partners Charlie Crovetti and Art Bernardi, attaching All-Star banners to the outside bowling signs.

It was really a grand reopening of sorts, as Strike 'n Spare had been almost completely destroyed by fire just a few years before, in 1966. The duo decided to rebuild with 40 lanes, rather than 50, giving them more room inside the center for expansion of the East of Eden Restaurant, a popular lunch and dinner hangout in the rapidly growing suburbs just north of Chicago.

Within another ten years, Crovetti and Bernardi decided to sell the center to AMF Bowling Centers. Crovetti retired, but Bernardi stayed on as the night manager, before finally retiring in 1981. I can still remember putting together Bernardi's retirement dinner and bowling fest at the lanes with Master of Ceremonies Sam Weinstein.



Sam Weinstein

Always the showman, Weinstein had Chicago Tribune "special edition" newspapers printed for all the attendees with a headline that read: "AMF Stock Crashes When Bernardi Announces Retirement." It was quite an affair, with Remo Picchietti, Joe Kissel, Tom Kouros, Pat and Mary Bosco, Bill Spigner and even Jim Dressel from the Bowlers Journal in attendance.

After 29 Events, the All-Star Becomes the U.S. Open

There were many legendary events that took

place at Strike 'n Spare Lanes. The 1970 BPAA All-Star was one of the last great events. It was the 29th meeting, with 192 men and 128 women competing in separate events. The winners of the grueling event were recognized as the national match game champions.

Bobby Cooper of Houston was the winner of the \$8,000 first prize over Billy Hardwick of Louisville (\$5,000), followed by Nelson Burton Jr., St. Louis (\$3,500), Lindy Lundeen, Duluth (\$2,500) and Wayne Zahn, Tempe (\$2,000).

Mary Baker, a top notch bowler from Long Island, N.Y., led the way for the women in capturing the \$4,000 first prize over Judy Cook Soutar from St. Louis (\$2,500), followed by Ann Feigel of Tucson (\$1,500), Betty Kuczynski of Chicago (\$1,300) and Pat McNeill from Durham, N.C. (\$1,200).

The next year the men's event was renamed the BPAA U.S. Open and was won by Mike Limongello of West Babylon, New York. It was Limongello's 5th title in PBA competition. The women's 1971 U.S. Open champion was Paula Sperber Carter. She won the event again in 1975, before deciding to call it quits with what doctor's said was PTSD, or post-traumatic stress disorder.



Bobby Cooper



Paul Krumske and Jerry Lewis (1957)

MDA Telethon Memories From Strike 'n Spare Lanes

The MDA Labor Day Telethon was an annual televised event that raised money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). The show was hosted on television by Jerry Lewis from 1966 until 2010. But even before those years of live national broadcasts, Universal Bowling and Golf, owned by Sam Weinstein, conducted an annual bowling broadcast between professional bowler Paul Krumske and Jerry Lewis from Strike 'n Spare Lanes. Here's one of the half hour shows from 1959:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9iJkP8vGIE>

It has been reported that Jerry Lewis raised more than \$2.5 billion for MDA, including the bowling shows from Strike 'n Spare Lanes during the 1950's and early 60's. It has been said that the success of the bowling shows convinced MDA to stage the first national telethon from New York City in 1966.

In 2016, Lewis broke a five year silence by appearing in an online video for MDA, and announced that the MDA efforts must continue. It would turn out to be Jerry's final appearance on behalf of MDA, as he passed away on August 20, 2017, at age 91.

Not a lot is ever mentioned about bowling when it comes to charities, but as you can see with MDA, or Bowlers to Veterans Link (BVL), the bowling community is most generous when it comes to brightening the lives of those in need.

- 1959 MDA Telethon from Strike 'n Spare Lanes provided by MDA
- Bobby Cooper (1944-2006) photo provided by Dr. Jake's Bowling History Blog
- Paul Krumske and Jerry Lewis (1957) photo provided by Dr. Jake's Bowling History Blog
- Sam Weinstein (1915-2003) photo provided by bowl.com

AMF Strike 'n Spare Lanes was demolished in 1996 to make way for... what else, another shopping mall known as Village Square of Northbrook.



Date	Time	Tournament	Channel
SATURDAY, MAY 4 2024	10:30PM EDT	PBA Playoffs Round 1 BROADCAST LIVE	FS1
SUNDAY, MAY 5 2024	12:00PM EDT	PBA Playoffs Round 2 BROADCAST LIVE	FS1
SUNDAY, MAY 12 2024	6:30PM EDT	PBA Playoffs Round 3 BROADCAST LIVE	FS1
SUNDAY, MAY 19 2024	2:00PM EDT	PBA Playoffs Finals BROADCAST LIVE	FOX
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 2024	5:00PM EDT	PBA Elite League Presented by Snickers Playoffs BROADCAST LIVE	FS1
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 2024	7:00PM EDT	PBA Elite League Presented by Snickers Playoffs BROADCAST LIVE	FS1
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 2024	9:00PM EDT	PBA Elite League Presented by Snickers Playoffs Semifinals LIVE	FS1
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 2024	7:00PM EDT	PBA Elite League Presented by Snickers Playoffs Finals LIV	FS1

T.O.C. continued from page 1
 He converted the spare to keep pressure on Ogle and perhaps ease his own nerves.

In the semifinal match, Tackett sought to become the first player since Johnny Petraglia in 1971 to win three consecutive PBA Tour titles.

The Player of the Year front-runner also aimed to put a gold stamp on a potential second consecutive and third career Player of the Year award.

Tackett did not bowl as well as he had to win the PBA Shark and World Championships earlier this month. He battled a shoulder injury that he suffered earlier in the event, an injury that hampered him on multiple spare attempts. Tackett misses a 10-pin in the fifth frame and the 3-6-9-10 in the 10th frame.

Aside from a glaring error in his ninth frame, when Kent only knocked over three pins then missed the spare, he stayed clean to win the match, 212-192.

Kent moved onto the title match to face Simonsen, who earned a top-two seed in the TOC for the fourth time in five years.

Simonsen, who turned 27 in January, sought to become the youngest player to win six majors titles, just as he was the youngest to one through five.

Kent held a steady lead throughout the match and stepped up in the 10th with an opportunity to shut out the two-handed superstar. But he missed the head-pin right once again and gave Simonsen new life.

Simonsen, needing a double and four pins, struck on his first shot in the 10th. He threw his second shot on line, but wrapped a 10-pin. For the fourth time in five years, Simonsen left the TOC finals without the coveted trophy.

"That's the thing that I can live with," Simonsen said. "If I make a bad shot at that moment, I'm going to be a little more angry. But I stepped up, made a pretty good shot and gave myself an opportunity and there's not really more I can ask for. If I figure out how to get a little luck on my side, I might be dangerous."

Kent moved from Las Vegas to the Detroit area this offseason and his passion for the game returned. He said he worked harder last fall and winter than he has before any season in years.

The results — two titles, one major, four top-five finishes and five top-10 finishes — speak for themselves.

"When I was working those few months and trying to get ready for the season, I felt like there were glimpses of brilliance where I could feel like I could do it," Kent said. "I think this is the icing on the cake to tell myself I can do it. I've got such a great support system, too. I've got my girlfriend Cassandra and my mom, Susan. My guy Jason Wojnar, my ball rep, he's been through the wringer with me. Without any of them this wouldn't be possible."

"There's one person that I would have loved to be here," Kent said of his father Jim, who passed away in Sept. 2020. "I know he had a front row seat up above. I can just hear him saying 'I'm proud of you budro.'"

- Championship Round Scores**
- Match 1: No. 4 Marshall Kent def. No. 5 Jason Sterner, 195-157
 - Match 2: No. 4 Marshall Kent def. No. 3 Matt Ogle, 267-226
 - Match 3: No. 4 Marshall Kent def. No. 2 EJ Tackett, 212-192
 - Championship: No. 4 Marshall Kent def. No. 1 Anthony Simonsen, 205-201

- Final Standings**
1. Marshall Kent, \$100,000
 2. Anthony Simonsen, \$50,000
 3. EJ Tackett, \$30,000
 4. Matt Ogle, \$25,000
 5. Jason Sterner, \$20,000

More information on the PBA Tournament of Champions is available [here](#).

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PBA50 continued from page 1

The PBA and USBC Hall of Famer started his Thursday in second place and never recorded a game under 200. He won both of his bracket matches defeating Brian LeClair followed by a thrilling three-game match against fellow southpaw Parker Bohn III, coming out on top in game three, 227-215, to earn the top seed in the stepladder finals.

“He bowled great today, and I bowled great today. Somedays it just goes your way and I got fortunate,” Couch said of the battle with Bohn. “We laughed about how many times we have bowled against each other in match play and overall. We think over 200 times. It’s just nuts.”

The title match got off to a slow beginning. Couch felt the lanes were hooking a lot for him as he converted three straight spares against No. 2 seed Troy Stus, who was making his first PBA50 Tour stepladder. Stus was a bit shaky to start with three spares over his first four frames, but then he matched Couch’s three strikes in a row to cut his deficit to 18 pins in the seventh frame. Stus left a costly 8-10 split for an open frame followed by two more spares finishing with a 184 game. Couch stayed clean with three single-pin spares across his final four frames for a 214. He stood proudly on his two reconstructed knees collecting the \$7,500 prize and enjoying his first return to the winner’s circle since 2021.

“I’ve worked harder this offseason. I’ve definitely put in the time, and this is an awesome feeling,” Couch said. “I am the manager of the Detroit Motown Muscle (in the PBA Elite League), so I felt like there were some people rooting for me. I accomplished a goal early but there is still a lot of work to do, and I want to build on the confidence.”

Stus and Couch have a special connection. When Couch was inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame in 2012, Stus’s dad, Gene was also inducted. That was the first time Couch met Troy, as Troy was there represented his dad at the ceremony.

“He did the acceptance speech for his dad, and it was just fantastic. When I saw him before the tournament started, he gave me a big hug,” Couch said. “He told me his dad loved me. He bowled great all week. That family is a bowling family. They are really good.”

Stus, who lives about 30 minutes away from Vision Lanes, won the semifinal match in commanding fashion over Dave Wodka. Stus opened with a spare followed by six consecutive strikes on the way to a 231-169 victory. In Wodka’s first match, he was stringing strikes together over Brad Angelo. Wodka has nine total strikes in his 248-185 win. The opening

match between Angelo and Jon Rakoski came down to the final two frames. Rakoski chopped the 3-6 in his ninth frame while Angelo posted five out of seven strikes to end game with the 216-215 win.

After the win, Couch called his wife and aimed to respond to the 207 text messages he received. On Friday, he starts his roughly 13-hour drive to Aberdeen, North Carolina for the next stop on the PBA50 Tour. And you can also bet Couch will be cheering on three of his Detroit Motown Muscle players Anthony Simonsen, EJ Tackett and Jason Sterner, who will all be bowling on Sunday in the stepladder finals at the 2024 PBA Tournament of Champions.

MATCH SCORES:

Match 1: Angelo def. Rakoski 216-215
 Match 2: Wodka def. Angelo 248-185
 Match 3: Stus def. Wodka 231-169
 Championship match: Couch def. Stus 214-184

2024 PBA50 HAMTRAMCK SINGLES CLASSIC OPEN

FINAL STANDINGS:

Jason Couch	\$7,500
Troy Stus	\$4,000
Dave Wodka	\$2,800
Brad Angelo	\$2,300
Jon Rakoski	\$2,000



PWBA continued from page 1

Championship Week to be competed from August 6 through August 13 at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Michigan.

Last season’s Tour Leaders follow:

POINTS LEADERS

1. Jordan Richard 110,162.5
2. Diana Zavjalova 94,250.0
3. Lindsay Boomershine 84,130.8
4. Dasha Kovalova 81,950.0
5. Bryanna Cote 81,225.0
6. Maria Jose Rodriguez 79,742.5
7. Verity Crawley 72,420.0
8. Birgit Noreiks 72,005.0
9. Erin McCarthy 67,502.5
10. Shannon Pluhowsky 66,075.0

AVERAGE LEADERS

1. Jordan Richard 219.69
2. Bryanna Cote 216.04
3. Shannon Pluhowsky 215.60
4. Diana Zavjalova 215.23
5. Birgit Noreiks 214.03
6. Dasha Kovalova 213.72
7. Lindsay Boomershine 212.63
8. Shannon O’Keefe 212.56
9. Stephanie Zavala 212.55
10. Verity Crawley 212.49

EARNINGS LEADERS

1. Maria Jose Rodriguez \$98,754
2. Lindsay Boomershine 93,245
3. Jordan Richard 91,365
4. Bryanna Cote 89,214
5. Dasha Kovalova 60,534
6. Diana Zavjalova 56,820
7. Danielle McEwan 48,230
8. Erin McCarthy 43,355
9. Verity Crawley 40,500
10. Clara Guerrero 36,625

A review of last season’s Leaders Lists make it clear why Jordan Richard earned Player of The Year honors. She was at the top or near the top of every Leaders List.

Now is the time of year for me to analyze last season’s performance charts and make my **“BOLD PROGNOSTICATIONS”** for the 2024 season:

Player of the Year:	Stephanie Zavala
Average Leader:	Verity Crawley
Comeback Player of the Year:	Shannon O’Keefe
Earnings Leader:	Stephanie Zavala
Sportsmanship Winner:	Clara Guerrero
Most Colorful Attire:	Stefanie Johnson
Fan’s Favorite:	Daria Pajak

There you have it from “The Greatest PWBA Fan in The World”! That’s “Yours Truly”.

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Pre-pay by May 18th \$40, After May 18th \$50





USBC Hall of Fame continued from page 1

During his time with Team USA and Junior Team USA, Rash collected 19 medals, including 14 gold.

Rash also claimed an Eagle at the 2003 USBC Open Championships in Knoxville, Tennessee, when he paired with Derek Sapp to win Regular Doubles with a then-record total of 1,540. That win is one of 11 top-10 finishes for Rash at the Open Championships.

Collegiate and youth-level success are included in Rash's bio as well. He was a member of the winning Wichita State University team at the 2003 Intercollegiate Team Championships and was a two-time member of the NCBCA All-American First Team.

Rash also was able to share some of his thoughts via video.

"I learned real quick at Wichita State that you had to be a team player, and it didn't go very well for me my first year or two in college," Rash said. "You learn from failure more than you do from winning. I learned a lot about who I was as a person and who I wanted to be. It really helped me move forward to the next step in my life."

As a youth, he won the 2002 Junior Gold Championships in Winter Haven/Lakeland, Florida, and was named the Chuck Hall Star of Tomorrow in 2001.

Rash won the 2012 ESPY Award for Best Bowler and was the first player to roll multiple 300 games on TV during PBA competition (2014 and 2015).

"Looking back, the hardest thing for any athlete is the amount of travel we do," Rash said. "Our spouses and kids get left out sometimes. I know I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for my wife Sara. My parents got me started on this journey, but I don't know if I could still be doing it by myself. So, thank you, honey."

Kuhn, a right-hander, is a two-time champion at the USBC Women's Championships.

Both of her titles came at the 1991 event in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she set records (since broken) in both Classic Singles (773) and All-Events (2,036). Her all-events total marked the first time a woman had broken the 2,000-pin mark.

"I had no idea what the records were, not any of them," Kuhn recalled. "I remember the Dorin sisters were bowling to my left. I'm pretty sure Leanne Barrette, Carol Norman and Robin Romeo were on that squad to my right, so I was thinking that if I was bowling that well, they had to be bowling better. When I was told I broke the records, all I could say was 'Wow.' It was hard to believe."

Kuhn is a three-time member of Team USA (1998, 1999 and 2000) where she was part of gold medal teams at the 1999 Pan American Games and the 2000 FIQ World Tenpin Team Cup. She was the U.S. National Amateur champion in 1998.

In addition to her two Women's Championships wins, Kuhn owns four more top-10 finishes at the Women's Championships. She was the Bowling Digest Magazine Amateur Woman Bowler of the Year in 1999 and has been inducted into the Maryland State USBC Association Hall of Fame, the Greater Baltimore USBC Hall of Fame and the National Junior College Athletic Association Hall of Fame, all for Superior Performance.

"I'm being inducted into the national (USBC) Hall of Fame with some amazing players," Kuhn said. "It's incredible, and it's also very humbling. One of my friends referred to it as 'The Big Dog Hall of Fame.' It's the ultimate."

Woessner owns three titles at the USBC Women's Championships with her most recent coming in last year's event. The right-hander also is the 2022 USBC Senior Queens champion.

At the 2010 Women's Championships in El Paso, Texas, Woessner posted a record all-events total of 2,330, which gave her titles in both Scratch All-Events and Diamond All-Events. The record still stands today.

"I had no idea about the record as I was bowling," said Woessner. "I was just so focused on my bowling. My husband was flying in at the time, and as soon as he landed in El Paso, his phone was blowing up because I had just finished bowling and had taken the lead and broken the record. It was so cool."

Last year in Las Vegas, Woessner won the Diamond Team event as a member of Sterner Strong 2. Woessner contributed 679 to the winning team total of 2,705. Included in that 679 was a 300 game, making her one of five bowlers at the tournament to record both a 300 game and 800 series (816 in doubles in 2010) on the championship lanes.

Woessner's win at the 2022 Senior Queens in Las Vegas came in her event debut. Woessner went undefeated in bracket match play and earned the top seed for the stepladder finals where she defeated USBC Hall of Famer Lucy Sandelin, 238-223, for the title.

In addition to her Women's Championships and Senior Queens victories, Woessner has five other top-10 finishes at the Women's Championships, a pair of top-10 finishes in the USBC Queens and a fourth-place finish at this year's USBC Senior Queens.

continued on page 7



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USBC Hall of Fame continued from page 6

"There's truly more than one way to get here," Woessner said. "If you're determined enough, put yourself out there and never, ever give up, that is what's gonna get you there. That's what I want people to remember about me. I've been blessed with a lot of opportunities, but there's nothing greater than this."

Waliczek earned induction in his first year on the ballot on the strength of four Eagles won at the USBC Open Championships.

Eagle No. 1 for Waliczek, a right-hander, came in 2015 as part of Team NABR in El Paso, Texas. The group captured the title in Regular Team with a 3,368 total. Waliczek's contribution was 659.

Waliczek's second and third wins at the Open Championships came in 2017 in Las Vegas as Team NABR won titles in both Regular Team (3,266 with Waliczek contributing 655) and Team All-Events (9,957 with Waliczek adding 2,051).

His fourth Eagle came at the 2022 event in Las Vegas as Waliczek captured the Regular All-Events title with 2,241. His performance on the way to that Eagle was incredibly consistent as Waliczek posted 745 in team, 750 in doubles and 746 in singles (a 249 average for his nine games).

Waliczek offered some perspective on his team's success at the Open Championships.

"We've been together for about 10 years now," Waliczek said. "I think for a lot of teams, when they go to nationals, it ends up being an individual affair because you're worried about your brackets; you're worried about how you're going to do, how you're going to win your money or lose your money. We said right from the get-go that we were going to split everything, so I think that mindset put us in a good place to succeed."

Waliczek ranks sixth on the Open Championships lifetime average list (min. 20 years) with a 217.6 average. On the 10-year short-term average list, he ranks fourth at 224.3. In addition to his four Eagles, he owns eight other top-10 finishes at the event. He's a former National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association (NCBCA) Bowler of the Year (1998-1999 season) and member of the Intercollegiate Team Championships winning team at Saginaw Valley State (1996-1997 season).

He talked about what he thought people might think of him being inducted into the USBC Hall of Fame.

"If people knew me, hopefully, they would say that I was a person they enjoyed bowling next to, that I was good ambassador for the sport and that they were excited and happy that I made it," Waliczek said. "This is the accumulation of everything for me; this is my pinnacle. I don't get very emotional, but this is the deal that kind of gives me goosebumps."

Buckley earned induction in the Veterans category after previously being considered in Superior Performance.

The right-hander won seven titles on the Professional Bowlers Association Tour in a 10-year span from 1971-1981 and captured a pair of Eagles at the Open Championships.

His first PBA Tour win came in North Carolina in the 1971 Winston-Salem Open and was bookended by a win in New York in the 1981 Buffalo Open. Buckley was a consistent threat in the 70s, collecting six of his seven titles in that decade.

And although Buckley was a full-time competitor on the PBA Tour, he never lost sight of what was truly important.

"He would be gone a couple of weeks at a time, but the rule was that he wouldn't be gone for more than three weeks," Angela Gearheart, Buckley's daughter, said. "That's what he and my mom agreed on, and to us that was normal. His whole life was bowling, but it wasn't all of who he was; it was just what he did."

Buckley's two Eagles at the Open Championships also came in the 70s as he was part of the winning team in the Classic Team division in back-to-back years – 1975 and 1976. Buckley's Munsingwear #2 teams were victorious with 2,980 in 1975 and 3,281 in 1976. Buckley's contribution to the cause was 661 in 1975 and 641 the following year.

He had one top-10 finish at the USBC Masters (sixth in 1991) and a pair of top-10 finishes at the USBC Senior Masters (tied for ninth in 2001 and second in 2004). Buckley also had four other top-10 finishes at the Open Championships, including second-place finishes in 1974 in Classic Team and Classic All-Events where he shot 2,103.

Buckley was a two-time first team USBC All-American (1975 and 1976), a first team Bowlers Journal All-American (1975-1976 season) and has been inducted into the Central Ohio USBC Hall of Fame (1977), the Ohio State USBC Hall of Fame (1988) and the PBA Hall of Fame (1992).

"This brings it full circle," Gearheart said. "He's in the local hall of fame; he's in the state hall of fame; he's in the PBA Hall of Fame, and now he's in the national (USBC) Hall of Fame. When my mom heard about it, she said, 'That's beyond wonderful.' I think that's the perfect way to put it . . . it's beyond wonderful."

Baker has spent more than three decades serving the bowling industry in a variety of local, state, national and international roles from youth bowling to the adult ranks.

She has been a director, secretary, treasurer, delegate, vice president and president at every level, culminating with a one-year term as the president of USBC (the first woman to hold the office) following a year as president-elect.

Baker has served on dozens of committees, often as the chairperson, at each level and was a key participant in the creation of the USBC in 2005 through the merger of the ABC, WIBC, YABA and USA Bowling. She also has contributed to the evolution of the SMART program.

She has been a member of the volunteer tournament staff at the USBC Junior Gold Championships for more than a decade and has assisted at the World Bowling Women's Championships and World Bowling Youth Championships as well as her annual state and local events.

Baker also offers much of her time to bowling's charities. She has worked closely with the Bowlers To Veterans Link and was the BVL Ambassador of the Year in 2019.

"Until I was actually on the BVL Board, I didn't have a clear understanding of everything they really do," Baker said. "And that's the story that we've been trying to get out for about the last 10 years now. BVL means a lot to me because I have a lot of veterans in my family. Seeing some of the stories of the soldiers that come home and how BVL helps them, they're really doing a lot of good things. It's very satisfying to give back."

Her decades as a leader, volunteer, philanthropist and mentor already have earned her spots in the Clinton (Ill.) WBA Hall of Fame (1991), Illinois WBA Hall of Fame (2005) and Champaign (Ill.) Area Hall of Fame (2012) – all for meritorious service.

"It's the ultimate recognition," an emotional Baker said of her induction. "It's really humbling to be recognized for something that you love to do. It's the top thing. Sometimes you feel like, 'Why me? All I did was what I was supposed to do.' But I guess I feel like that's my purpose, to do what I can for others."

Including the 2024 class, there are 460 members of the USBC Hall of Fame – 233 in Superior Performance, 127 in Meritorious Service, 55 in Veterans, 23 in Outstanding USBC Performance and 22 in Pioneer.

The USBC Hall of Fame was created in 2005 by merging the former American Bowling Congress and Women's International Bowling Congress Halls of Fame. Visit BOWL.com/HallofFame for more information on the USBC Hall of Fame.

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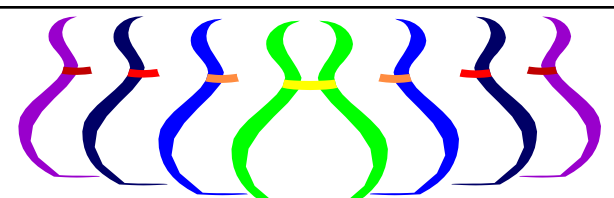
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37th Year!

Brunswick® INVITATIONAL

US Foods Sweeps To Jump Into The Round Lead

by David Yamauchi

DOWNEY – The Brunswick Invitational took to the lanes for the fourth week of the Wildcard round switching from the higher scoring Nationals pattern to the lower scoring short-oil pattern. This was the last pattern in the first 4-week rotation. Del Rio Lanes was sitting atop the round with a strong 13-2 start.

In the battle for the round, the “A” match featured **Del Rio Lanes** (Marquan Rivers) at 13-2 taking on **US Foods** (Gabe Martinez) who had climbed to 11-4. The night was all US Foods as they won a close first game and rolled on to a 5-0 sweep of Del Rio Lanes. Marquan Rivers led Del Rio with a 538 set while Gabriel Martinez was big for US Foods with a 591 set. US Foods will stay in the “A” match next week leading the round at 16-4.

The “B” match was **Threadworks** (Eric Snow) and **DV8** (David Cogswell) both sitting at 10-5 and looking to jump into the battle for the round. Threadworks took the first game by 103, but it was all DV8 from there as they put up a huge second game for a 122 pin win, then held on to game three for a 4-1 result. Eric Snow was tough for Threadworks with a 561 set while David Cogswell went big for DV8 with a 600 series. DV8 will move to the “A” match next week to take on US Foods.

Forest Lanes (Jon Diso) was at 9-6 taking on **Professional Approach Oak Tree** (John Struckman) at 8-7. Forest Lanes took the book end wins but their second game kept totals close as they took a 4-1 win over Pro Approach Oak Tree. Jon Diso led Forest with a 515 set while John Struckman was high for Pro Approach Oak Tree with a 517 series.

Westminster Lanes (Jonathan Gale) took on **Touchstone Homes** (Christian Eichelkraut) with both teams needing some wins to get back into round contention. Westminster Lanes took the first two, dropping the third by only 54 to barely hang on to a 7-pin win for totals and the 4-1 result. Jonathan Gale led Westminster Lanes with a 541 series while Terry Hatley was high for Touchstone Homes with a 533 set.

iColor Printing (Augie Labrado Jr.), **Pro Approach Del Rio** (Eric Daniels), **Forever Hope Foundation** (Vernon Adams) and **Professional Approach Keystone** (William Morris) rounded out the round-battle action. Pro Approach Del Rio swept iColor Printing led by Doug Harris III’s 562 set while iColor Printing was paced by Javier Hernandez with a 450 series. Pro Approach Keystone banked a 4-1 result with two blind scores and a minimal fight from Forever Hope Foundation. Pro Approach Keystone was led by Saul DeUlloa’s 538 set while Brian Ritchie shot 500 to lead Forever Hope Foundation.

In the battle of the round-winners, **Junior Amateur Tour** (Kevin Valmonte) was trying to stay hot after a 14-1 start, again taking on **Cal Bowl** (Leonard Ruiz Jr.) for the fourth straight week. Junior Amateur Tour took the first game with some 10th frame carry for the 4 pin win, but Cal Bowl stormed back taking game two by 101. Junior Amateur Tour held on for a third game win and a 2-3 result as Cal Bowl gains one game in the standings. Leonard Ruiz Jr. was key to holding on to totals with a 244-612 series while Kaven Massey made the right move to pace J.A.T. with a 541 set. These two teams will meet again for the fifth week in a row.

Family Ties (Mikey Villarreal) again matched up with **Bowlium** (Billy Myers Jr.) with Family Ties now just 3.5 points behind second place overall. Bowlium took the first game then had a huge 850 game to win game two. Family Ties bounced back with a 832 set to take game three, but fell short for totals as Bowlium took a 4-1 win. Ramiro Garcia led Bowlium with a strong 614 set while Michael Montano put up two big games to lead Family Ties with a 615 series.

The Financial Advisor’s pot went to Michael Montano (246) for \$160 with 2nd to Ramiro Garcia (234) for \$70. Sidepots went to Gabe Martinez (233) and Daniel Hong (233) for \$48 each with 2nd to Paul Varela (215) and Butch Jackson (203) for \$24 each. SuperPot went to Leonard Ruiz Jr. (244) for \$144 with 2nd to Vince Duarte (219) for \$72.

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\$7,000	DV8	94	\$3,400	Del Rio Lanes	84
\$6,000	DV8	94	\$3,000	Del Rio Lanes	72

TOP 10 WILDCARD ROUND WEEK 4

US Foods.....16	ProApproach Del Rio.....11
DV8.....14	Westminster Lanes.....10
Del Rio Lanes.....13	ProApproach OakTree...10
Forest Lanes.....13	Touchtone Holmes.....10
ThreadWorks.....11	Foreverhope Foundation 9

TOP 10 THIS WEEK

615 Michael Montano	591 Billy Myers Jr.
614 Ramiro Garcia	578 Paul Barraco
612 Leonard Ruiz Jr.	578 Daniel Hong
600 David Cogswell	573 Ramon Torres
591 Gabriel Martinez	562 Doug Harris III

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