

**JUNE 10, 2021**

# CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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## Addington, Graves & Ellena Entering CAUSBC Hall of Fame

by Mike Lucas - Awards Co-Chair

**Bette Addington** has been named to join the CAUSBC Hall OF Fame for Meritorious Service. She resides in Bakersfield and has been a Bakersfield /WBA Golden Empire USBC Association board member since 1988 (32 years). She has been both President and Vice-President of her Association and a delegate to both the State and National Associations. Bette writes a bowling column bi-weekly for her local association and publishes it on their website and Facebook page.



She has been a delegate for over 20 years with both CWBA and CAUSBC and has been an active participant on credentials and teller committee's numerous times. She has written Convention recaps after each convention and quickly posts them on the CAUSBC website and Bowling News. She has even stepped up to do the recording secretary on occasions with a smile! Bette keeps track of the California bowling events and sends a calendar updated weekly to California Bowling News and Bowling World.

She has won numerous awards for her articles and she is a founding member of the California Bowling Writers and the current President of the organization. She is one busy lady and very deserving of this Award!



**Lynn Graves** has been named to join the CAUSBC Hall Of Fame for Meritorious Service. She lives in Chula Vista and has been a certified bowler for over 50 years. She has been a member of the San Diego WBA and the San Diego USBC for over 50 years. She has served as the SD-WBA President from 1983

to 1988. She was the Association Manager for the SDWBA and the SDUSBC from 1988 to 2020. She has been a director of both organizations since 1970.

She has conducted the SDUSBC championship tournaments, Open, Womens, and Youth. She was also the Director of the Men's Masters, Womens Queens, the Guys and Gals tournaments, and the Senior Open tournament. She has been with the CAUSBC and the California State WBA since 1997 to present. She has served as the Sgt at Arms and has been on the BVL, Hall Of Fame, Strategic Planning, Legislation, Senior Tournament and Convention committee over the years.

She served as one of the Assistant Sgt at Arms for the WIBC convention from 1983 to 2006. She was in the local San Diego 600 Club, San Diego 200 Club and served as the PTA secretary for her children's schools.

She was inducted into the SDWBA Hall Of Fame in 1993 and is also a member of the Bowling Writers Hall of Fame. Thank you for your many years of service to the Bowlers.

**Charles "Chuck" Russell Ellena** has been named to join the CAUSBC Hall of Fame for Meritorious Service. He is receiving this award posthumously for all the great work he did for our Youth bowlers.



When Chuck arrived at Fort MacArthur (San Pedro, California) in 1960, only adults were allowed to use the bowling lanes at Fort MacArthur bowl. He felt that the youth needed a place to bowl and after several months of

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## Kelly Kulick Wins 2021 PWBA Albany Open

**SOUTH GLEN FALLS, N.Y.** - Kelly Kulick of Union, New Jersey, was in complete control of her game this week at the Professional Women's Bowling Association Albany Open, and her masterful performance concluded with a return to the winner's circle for the first time since 2017.

The United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer defeated two-time reigning PWBA Player of the Year Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, in a thrilling title match at Kingpin's Alley Family Fun Center, 228-217, to record her seventh PWBA Tour victory.

The championship round was broadcast live on BowITV.com, with Kulick earning \$10,000 for the win. O'Keefe collected \$5,000 for the runner-up finish.

Kulick's last win on tour came at the 2017 PWBA Fountain Valley Open, and her victory Saturday was her second since the re-



**2021 PWBA Albany Open Champion Kelly Kulick**

launch of the PWBA Tour in 2015.

The 44-year-old righthander entered Saturday's competition as the tournament leader and retained that spot through 12 more games to earn the top seed for the stepladder finals, averaging more than 240 for her 24 qualifying games.

O'Keefe never let her out of her sights, however, averaging more than 238 to finish qualifying in second place.

The 14-time tour champion continued to pressure Kulick as the title match got underway, rolling three consecutive strikes after a spare in the first frame to take the early advantage.

Kulick maintained her hold on the pocket on this week's 36-foot oil pattern, but she didn't record a double through the first five frames.

A small adjustment in her physical game helped her create a better angle

through the pins, resulting in four consecutive strikes, starting in the sixth frame.

"I talked with my tour reps and wondered if I needed to make a ball change," said Kulick, a 17-time Team USA member. "After talking about it, I told them I knew what I needed to do. I got my hand underneath the bowling ball and started to go around it a bit more, to create more angularity off

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## Scott Norton Was The Face Of The Gay Community On PBA Tour

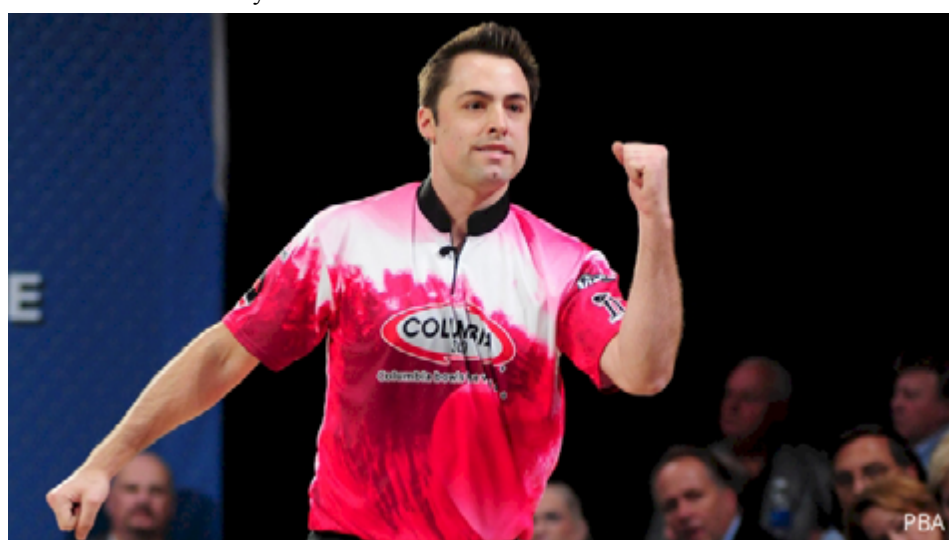
**Scott Norton would expend all his energy projecting an outgoing personality on the outside while inside he felt he was the face of the gay community**

by Jill Winters

In addition to worrying about how to make the right adjustment on the bowling lanes and executing clutch shots against the best bowlers in the world, imagine you also felt this added layer of pressure that every move you made either added to or could change the perception of what the gay community is.

For Scott Norton, that is the weight he carried with him from the time he was a rising junior bowler in California to being the youngest member at the time on Team USA and then fulfilling his dream on the PBA Tour.

He would expend all his energy projecting an outgoing and friendly personality on the outside while inside he felt he was the face of the gay community. He was finally able to release some of the built-up anxiety at the 2012 World Se-



ries of Bowling Chameleon Championship.

"I had been married for a year and we had just bought a house together," Norton said about his relationship with husband, Craig Woodward. "It was a lot of life stuff that happened, and I came in with a better mindset."

His arm swing was free. He was focused on each

shot, and he was bowling at South Point in Las Vegas, which is the same center where he won the 2010 World Series of Bowling Chameleon Championship. It had been two years since the lefty had won a tournament, and he did everything he could in his final two frames to defeat defending champion Jason Belmonte for the title.

"I threw four of the best shots I've ever thrown in the most pressure-packed situation I had been in in my life at that point," said the 2011 PBA Rookie of the Year. "I did my job. Everything else was out of my hands and then the rest is history."

Belmonte needed a strike and six pins to win

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# Ted Hoffman Jr. - Gone, But Not Forgotten

by Dave Williams

Over the Memorial Day weekend, a friend of mine sent an email and mentioned the passing of Ted Hoffman Jr., the longtime Western Regional Director for the Professional Bowlers Association. It seems like only yesterday that Ted passed away, on May 30, 2016. Time is an unusual concept, because in other respects it seems like many, many years ago that we lost Ted due to a lengthy illness at the tender age of 76.

When I searched on the internet for information on Mr. Hoffman, I located his obituary at [legacy.com](https://www.legacy.com), and remembered not only his thorough dedication, but also his early introduction to the game of bowling. Just like Dick Ritger and Mike Durbin, he was born into bowling by parents that operated their own bowling establishment in suburban Philadelphia.

Ted was a bowling star at an early age, and at 16 was the youngest in the world at that time to roll a sanctioned 300 game. Although he never won a PBA national event, he finished second on four different occasions. After competing in more than 100 PBA events, he decided that it was time to stay home and help raise his four sons. In 1968 Ted and his family moved from Pennsylvania to California, where he managed an impressive group of professional bowlers that were sponsored by Smallcomb Enterprises.

It was also about this time that Ted was instrumental in formulating the Western Region of the PBA, where he continued as the Western Regional Director for more than 30 years. Later he became the managing partner of Earl Anthony's Bowling Centers in Northern California. My fond recollection of Mr. Hoffman is still posted in the Guest Book at [legacy.com](https://www.legacy.com), something that many of you might enjoy:



Ted Hoffman Jr. at 2009 PBA Gala Event

*Ted's dedication to bowling is beyond comparison. To devote 50 years (and all those weekends) says a lot about his love for the game of bowling. My fondest memory is from the late 1970's, when I was always stretching the boundary of the hair length (just below*

*the collar line!), and wearing "denim slacks" at the PBA events. After Ted's polite suggestion to get my hair cut before the next event, I decided to go for a permanent, like Larry Laub and many of the other top stars had done. I hated it! So in the process of letting it grow out, I had very straight hair on top, and a curly bottom. When I showed up at the next tournament, Ted said "That's an interesting design you have going on there." (I finished 5th, so I probably should have kept that hairdo). Condolences to the family and thanks for sharing Ted with all of us in the bowling world.*

It's interesting how circumstances lead us into life changing events, almost by design. In the case of Ritger, Durbin and Hoffman, bowling was inevitable because of their parents' involvement, but as we learned from last week's article, it can also be due to geographic circumstances. In the video from Bowlers Gazette, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUJckUdn6Fs>, we learned that both Mark Roth and Jay Robinson began bowling because a bowling center was built just a few blocks from their home. When the bowling center opened, they decided to try it out.

A similar circumstance occurred in my life when a bowling center was built below our home on the Apple Blossom Highway that runs through the town of Sebastopol, California. It wasn't long before I had made a permanent path down the hill toward the newly constructed L & L Lanes. It would be interesting to see how many professional bowlers (or any of you) were influenced by bowling parents, or close proximity to a bowling center. My expectation is that the number would be very high. (If anyone has an interesting tale about how they became a part of the bowling world, please share it with the editor and perhaps we can summarize the responses in another column).

And just like our experience with location, time is also an important factor in the osmosis of bowlers. Were it not for the "bowling boom" taking place in the United States during the early 1960's, the crop of young bowlers that were developed would not have taken place. And bowling legends, like Ted Hoffman Jr., would not have taken their rightful place in service and devotion to the game that we all love.

Albert Einstein once wrote regarding time, that the distinction between past, present and future is only an illusion. It is most definitely an unusual concept in that the value of every individual day increases as you grow old, and you begin to cherish things that were taken for granted in your formative years. Einstein recognized this later in his own life when he wrote that based upon his experience, time was indeed real and that perhaps the laws of physics were not as permanent as he once thought.

"The more I study science, the more I believe in God," said Einstein near the end of his life. Bowling legend Len Nicholson summed it up nicely when he wrote the following among the tributes to Ted at [legacy.com](https://www.legacy.com): My boss, my friend and my mentor will be missed. Heaven is now a much better place.



I-r) Fred Schreyer, Ryan Ciminelli, Susie Anthony and Ted Hoffman at 2011 Earl Anthony Memorial Tournament  
Portions of Ted Hoffman's early life adapted from [legacy.com](https://www.legacy.com) • Albert Einstein's amazing quotes available on line, or at [brainyquote.com](https://www.brainyquote.com) • Photos provided compliments of PBA, LLC

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# Current 2021 PWBA Tour Leaders After The BVL Open

by Frank Weiler

The 2021 PWBA Tour season continues. After the BVL OPEN at Farmingdale on Long Island eight champions have been crowned. There have been many exciting highlights including Liz Johnson rolling a perfect 300 game during the BOWL-TV step ladder finals at the Lincoln Open. That perfecto earned Liz a \$10,000 bonus and placed her second on this season's Earnings List.

Julia Bond and Stephanie Zavala have been the most consistent players on Tour for the first eight tournaments this season. Bond ranks first in Earnings, Points, Wins and Cashes. She ranks second in Average. That's first or second on five of the seven PWBA Tour Leader Lists. Zavala ranks first in Average and Wins.

Our CALIFORNIA Tour players are doing very well. Besides Zavala, Missy Parkin ranks high on most PWBA Tour Leader Lists including tying for first place with three Championship Round Appearances and placing second in Points and third in Earnings.

The TOP THREE bowlers on each PWBA Tour Leader List follows:

EARNINGS		
1.	Julia Bond	\$38,600
2.	Liz Johnson	31,000
3.	Missy Parkin	23,700
POINTS		
1.	Julia Bond	66,450
2.	Missy Parkin	55,850
3.	Dasha Kovalova	55,475
AVERAGE		
1.	Stephanie Zavala	218.88
2.	Julie Bond	216.92
3.	Birgit Noreiks	216.64
CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND APPEARANCES		
1.	Missy Parkin	3
1.	Erin McCarthy	3
1.	Dasha Kovalova	3
MATCH PLAY APPEARANCES		
1.	Shannon O'Keefe	7
2.	Dasha Kovalova	6
	Lindsay Boomershine	6
CASHES		
1.	Julia Bond	8
	Dasha Kovalova	
	Four Others Tied	
WINS		
1.	Julia Bond	2
	Stephanie Zavala	2
2.	Four Tied	1

Every PWBA Tournament is broadcast live on BOWL-TV. You can follow our California players there. Also, [BOWL.COM](#) provides live scoring for each tournament.

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(Fee includes Virtual Singles)

SQUAD TIMES:

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Sunday, July 11 at 11am

Saturday, July 17 at 1pm

Sunday, July 18 at 11am

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• Ancillary Winners (Queens & Masters and Prince & Princess)

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FORMAT:

Bowl Team Event (3 games).

Team scores will be used for Virtual Singles event.

BOWL MULTIPLE TIMES BY CHANGING TWO TEAM MEMBERS (IF SPOTS ARE AVAILABLE)

DOWNLOAD ENTRY FORMS & RULES ONLINE AT CALUSBC.COM

**Hall of Fame** continued from page 1

discussion with the base Commander juniors were bowling in that tiny 6 lane center.

When those 6 lanes were shipped to Fort Irwin in the 1970's Chuck asked his friend Andy Marzich if he had room at Pro Bowl for his "KIDS" Andy graciously said yes and the Fort Mac youth bowlers had a new home! Chuck was actively engaged with neighboring bowling establishments, so his Youth bowlers were treated well.

One of the joys he had was working with the special needs bowlers, hands-on coaching, and helping in leagues and tournaments. When people sought to establish the Southeast District Junior

Bowling Association Chuck's name was mentioned, and he was asked to help start the Association, which he did, and worked as an officer in the S.E.D.J.B.A. until his passing in May of 1977.

After his passing the Association named a tournament in his honor, and the Association created the "Chuck Elena Award" to be given sparingly, and only to the most deserving adult or junior members. In the summer of 1976 for 13 full weekends, the LAJBA and the SEDJBA co-hosted the California State Youth Tournament.

Under Chuck's leadership the summer was a complete success, and he was asked to help create a State Junior Association. He went to Fresno in 1965 and along with other very special men and women started the California State Junior Bowling Association. Chuck went to every State convention and served in every way he was asked until his passing. Chuck was one of the early leaders in this State promoting junior/youth bowling. He valued fair play and good sportsmanship. He was only able to give the children of California 17 years, but that was all he had. He was 48 years old when he passed.

His bowlers were his pallbearers! Thank you, "Chuck", for all you did for the youth bowlers and bowling!

# Win a FREE SWAG ball at Bowl Expo!

With this year's Bowl Expo taking place in Louisville, Kentucky Starting June 21 through June 24, California Bowling is inviting everyone to their booth (#633) to check out exciting upcoming releases for all their four brands (Swag, Legends, LaneMasters, and Lord Field) as well as their Wrist Supports, tape, and other accessories.

As you may have read in previous publications, The Swag line of bowling balls is a newly registered product with the PBA and PBA50 tours. To celebrate this joyous occasion, a Swag ball of your choice will be given away during the event. Just visit the booth and enter for your chance to win!

Unable to attend? Check out the Swag Bowling Facebook page to get a glimpse of the booth or visit [www.californiabowlingllc.com](http://www.californiabowlingllc.com) to check out exciting products. Put some Swag in your bag!!!

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# PBA SUMMER TOUR RETURNS WITH \$40,000 BONUS PRIZE PURSE STARTING JULY 23RD

by Jill Laufer

NEW YORK, NY – Competition on the PBA National Tour is about to heat up as the PBA officially announces the return of the Summer Tour as a part of the 2021 Guaranteed Rate PBA Tour schedule with a \$40,000 bonus prize purse up for grabs.

The 2021 Guaranteed Rate PBA Summer Tour will award five PBA Tour titles across the country and be live-streamed exclusively from start to finish on Flo-Bowling, the PBA's online streaming partner. The Summer Tour begins with the PBA Lubbock Sports Open on July 23-26 and continues with stops in Houston, Texas, July 29-Aug. 1; Jonesboro Ark., Aug. 6-Aug. 8; Coldwater, Ohio, Aug. 12-Aug. 15; and Chesapeake, Va., Aug. 20-Aug. 22.

In between Summer Tour stops, players will have an opportunity to compete in Regional Tour events in the PBA Ernst Apparel Central Classic in Minister, Ohio on Aug. 10-12 and the PBA Clean Air Solutions LLC. Biz Hampton Open in Hampton, Va. on Aug. 16-18.

All PBA Summer Tour tournaments will be classified as Tier 3 points events under the PBA's Tier 1-2-3 points system. The top ten points earners from the Summer Tour will share in the \$40,000 bonus prize – including \$20,000 to the points leader. Second to fourth place earners will receive \$7,000, \$4,000, and \$3,000, with fifth to 10th place finishers each collecting \$1,000.

Tournament formats prize funds and registration for the 2021 Guaranteed Rate PBA Summer Tour events are available on [PBA.com](https://www.pba.com).

While the PBA's main priority continues to be the health and safety of its players and staff, the organization is thrilled to share that fans are invited to watch the world's best bowlers compete live and participate in pro-ams while following local and federal COVID-19 guidelines. Policies are outlined in Tournament Notes for each event on [PBA.com](https://www.pba.com). Fans can catch all the action of the 2021 PBA Summer Tour, including qualifying and the stepladder finals live on FloBowling. Select highlights will be available on @PBATour's social media handles across Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

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**PWBA** continued from page 1

the spot. I know I have the tools and the knowledge, but you have trust what you're able to do. I trusted myself, like I had all week long."

Kulick entered the final frame with the opportunity to roll two more strikes to shut out O'Keefe, but a light hit on her first delivery resulted in a 7 pin. She converted the spare and struck on her fill ball to force O'Keefe to double for her second win of the season.

O'Keefe, who won the season-opening PWBA Bowlers Journal Classic, left a 3-10 split on the first shot of her 10th frame, allowing Kulick to raise the trophy.

Kulick had finished as the runner-up five times since her win in 2017, including earlier this season at the PWBA Lincoln Open.

Saturday's run to the stepladder finals was her third championship-round appearance in five events this season, and her confidence is growing as she looks ahead at the rest of the year.

"I came out here for two reasons - to have fun and enjoy bowling again and to know I could win again," Kulick said. "Age is just a number, and I still feel energetic, youthful and like I'm in great shape. With the way I'm throwing it right now, I'm building confidence, and I know the sky is the limit for the rest of the season. I've been bowling smart and trusting myself, and the fact that I'm making shows on multiple patterns means my versatility is still there, too."

O'Keefe advanced to the title match by defeating her

former student-athlete at McKendree University, Breanna Clemmer of Clover, South Carolina, 247-193.

O'Keefe is the head coach for the women's bowling program at McKendree, and Clemmer attended the university from 2016-2020. O'Keefe and Clemmer helped bring the Bearcats titles at the 2017 NCAA Women's Bowling Championship and Intercollegiate Team Championships.

Clemmer, a rookie on tour this season, made her second consecutive championship-round appearance after recording a third-place finish at last week's PWBA BVL Open in Farmingdale, New York.

The 23-year-old right-hander advanced to the semifinals by defeating three-time PWBA Tour champion Stefanie Johnson of McKinney, Texas, in the opening game of the stepladder, 213-192. Clemmer closed with four strikes to shut out Johnson, who made her first championship-round appearance of 2021.

The 66-player field in South Glens Falls bowled 12 games Friday, before the first cut to the top 32 athletes. Advancers bowled an additional six-game block Saturday morning, with the top 12 competing in a final six-game round to determine the four bowlers for the stepladder, based on 24-game pinfall totals.

The PWBA Tour will head to Smyrna, Tennessee, next week for the PWBA Greater Nashville Open. The event will be held at the Smyrna Bowling Center and take place June 10-12.

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Norton continued from page 1



Craig Woodward & Scott Norton

the tournament for the second year in a row. He threw the ball slightly right of his target, the pins mixed around, and a messenger flew across the deck and tapped the 10 pin. It didn't fall and Norton won 227-223. A flood of emotions and the weight of feeling like an outsider in the sport he dreamed to compete in were released. He finally felt validated.

"Thinking back on it, I almost pity that person because I know where those tears came from," he reflected. "Those tears came from a place of finally feeling good enough. They were almost more tears of worth than they were of happiness."

And then came a historic moment as Norton's husband came out to congratulate him on the win. The spouses hugged and kissed each other just like other winners have done after winning a tournament. A few months after the show aired, an article by Outsports went viral announcing Norton's winning moment was the first nationally televised same-sex kiss seen on ESPN.

"Honestly, it felt like such a momentous thing that should have helped bring a lot of attention to the sport and how unique and diverse the sport is," he said. "I would be lying if I didn't say I was a little disappointed. I was fully ready to carry the ball and show people our little world. But it never happened.

"Representation is what breaks down barriers," he said. "To actually get faces out there of the people that are doing sports that allows people to see people instead of nameless communities. When you see the faces and you hear the stories of the people it is a lot harder to say bad things and demonize them."

One of those iconic faces representing the gay community while crossing over into bowling is Billie Jean King, owner of the New York City Kingpins that competes in the PBA League. Norton was on the team owned by one of his role models. During the league's inaugural season in 2013, they won and claimed the Elias Cup. King was there for the winning moment.

Norton got the chance to talk to tennis legend after the win while they waited at the airport to head home. He remembers her being genuinely excited for the whole team and the two of them also talked about being gay in sports.

"She was one of the first people that I knew was gay," he said about King. "And then to be that successful and out was an inspiration."

He may not realize it, but he is an inspiration himself.

Back when he was living in Utah and going to school, he faced a challenging situation while he was a junior director at a Brunswick bowling center. There were parents who pulled their kids out his program because they didn't want their children around him. He dedicated hours helping kids and they were getting better. Eventually, some of those parents changed their minds.

"It forces people to deal with these scary stereotypes they have been exposed to that have no basis in reality," as he reflected on the experience. "Diversity is important and there is a place in this world for everybody. So, it was nice helping the kids and the parents open their eyes to the world."



Prior to being on Team USA, Norton came out to another youth bowler who was also a friend.

"I was like 15 or 16 and he was gay, too," he said about this now more than 20-year friendship. "We were the first to be able to trust that information with each other. I don't know that I can overstate the bond that creates when you are in such a vulnerable point in your life, and you find people that love and accept you no matter what."

He credits having a strong husband and family, which includes his mother, Virginia, who is the USBC Hall of Fame, with helping him through the years. Another person who always accepted him was his best friend, PWBA champion Missy Parkin, who even roomed with him on the PBA Tour until the PWBA made a return in 2015. He refers to her as the Grace to his Will, a reference to the hit comedy show, Will & Grace. When she left the tour, he roomed by himself which he said was not easy, but he understood where the guys were coming from.

Even though Norton stopped bowling professionally in 2015 – after experiencing "severe burn out" – and he considers himself "basically retired," he still has bowlers thanking him for being a role model and proving to them they can pursue a dream career in bowling just like he did. He was recently thanked by a youth bowler, and he is optimistic the younger generation will have a major impact on the diversity of the game moving forward.

"It is not just the LGBT player base," he said. "It's African-Americans, it's Latinos, it's Asians. There just needs to be outreach in the communities to give especially young people role models in those different categories to really show them bowling is for everybody and create excitement among all walks of life."

The same-sex kiss was nine years ago but Norton feels like media outlets have become more comfortable showing those types of moments and openly talking more about diversity and representation. He would love to see media outlets take more chances by telling the stories of diverse athletes to give everyone the chance to see people like them and believe they can do it too.

"I remember what it was like for me, and I was taught from a young age to leave the world better than when you came into it," he said on the impact he wants to leave. "That was the major driving factor to me wanting to stay out on tour and really show people that I was just like anybody else."

For now, Norton and Woodward are living in Mission Viejo, California. Norton opened, Nerdy By Nature Escape Rooms in October 2019 and is seeing business pick up after the pandemic lockdown. And if given the opportunity, he would love to do commentary at a PBA event held at Bayside Bowl in Portland, Maine. If he ever gets the chance, he will likely nail it just like how he has handled other big moments in his life.



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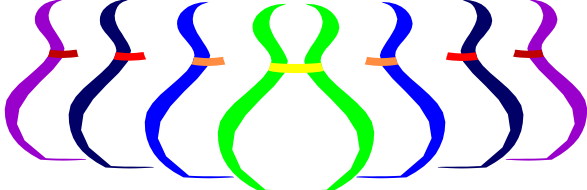
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