

# **LEGEND OF JOHN JANAWICZ GROWS WITH** FOURTH PBA50 TOUR MAJOR VICTORY

Janawicz becomes title-eligible for the PBA Hall of Fame by winning the 2024 Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship, his fifth career PBA50 Tour title and fourth major

by Nolan Hughes



Bud Moore & The 2024 Bud Moore PBA50 Players Champion John Janawicz

# **Earline Edwards Celebrates Her 300 Game**



by Frank Weiler

CABAZON - Earline Edwards has been bowling for decades and has done so at a high level. She has carried a 180 book average for years and only recently started scoring at a lower pace.

Earline is still competing but age and injuries have reduced her bowling schedule. Earline is still a regular in sanctioned league play and continues to enter local,

It was just a decade ago that Earline rolled the only sanctioned perfect 300 game at Canyon Lanes, by a female bowler.

Now Earline and her friends, including myself, are celebrating the 10th anniversary of her accomplishment.

Congratulations to my dear friend Earline Edwards in celebration of her perfect 300 game. Earline Edwards is another great example of why "CALIFORNIA BOWLERS ARE THE BEST BOWLERS IN THE WORLD".

For years, the lore of John Janawicz's talent rumbled across the bowling community. The Floridian was often the answer to the hypothetical question: Who is the world's best bowler not on the PBA Tour?

In just one and a half seasons on the PBA50 Tour, Janawicz proved the man exceeds the legend.

Janawicz defeated Liz Johnson, Chris Barnes and Mika Koivuniemi in consecutive matches to win the 2024 Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship.

"You always have the confidence that you can win every week, but to do it is another whole thing," Janawicz said. "Not only do you have to bowl well, but you have to have some things go your way. Fortunately, I've been on the good side of it in these stepladders.

I feel very blessed and very grateful because this is definitely not the norm. Last week I stoned a 9-pin to lose and finish third. Sometimes you don't have your best performance and you end up squeaking out a win.

"I like to think that if vou just keep getting there, eventually, those things kind of work their own way out."

After notching his fifth career PBA50 Tour title, and a fourth major victory, Janawicz is now title-eligible for the PBA Hall of Fame. He will be eligible to be voted into the Hall of Fame upon reaching 10 years of PBA membership.

"It's one of those things where just because I'm eligible doesn't mean I'm going to get in. But it's nice to know that you satisfy the criteria," Janawicz said. "As long continued on page 5



Earline Edwards

state and national tournaments. She still has her desire to bowl and will continue as long as she is standing on two legs.

The Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship finalists (from left to right): Mika Koivuniemi, Chris Barnes, John Janawicz, Liz Johnson and Jon Rakoski

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# Rolling Downhill... San Diego Has A Population To Support Many More Bowling Centers



Living and working in San Diego during the 1978 bowling season provided a lot of memorable moments, on and off the lanes. I was sent there by AMF as a manager trainee for their Pacific Bowliseum property, better known to all the locals as Pacific Beach Bowl, or PB Bowl.

The center was on the second floor of a shopping center that was eventually demolished to make room for, what else? Another shopping center! The area where the popular 32 lane bowling center once stood is now home to Yogurt on the Rocks, Pacific Relax Spa, the Great Plaza Buffet, Cafe Athena, Great Clips, Comerica Bank, the UPS Store, and a FedEx Office Print and Ship Center.

I managed to secure an apartment at The Plaza, which was directly north of PB Bowl, on Diamond Street. My unit was a fully furnished studio with a large balcony looking to the east, and providing beautiful sunrise views while enjoying a cup of coffee. There were a total of 4 swimming pools, numerous spas, tennis courts, indoor underground parking, and even two basketball courts. At the lofty sum of \$245 per month, it was a bit above my means but worth it because of the close location to the lanes.

The ultimate destruction of PB Bowl, aside from the limited marketplace (half of the surrounding area was the Pacific Ocean), was the construction of the new Kearny Mesa Bowl, located up the hill to the east of PB Bowl, with a marketplace of 100% people (no

#### by Dave Williams

fish). When the offer became sweet enough from the shopping center owners, AMF decided to close up shop, and I was transferred to Rocket Bowl in the San Fernando Valley, where I began my marketing career as AMF's first national promotions specialist.

Kearny Mesa Bowl is now also gone, a victim of the COVID-19 confusion that closed so many bowling centers throughout the nation. But before Kearny Mesa closed, they impacted the closing of at least one other local bowling center, the 52 lane Clairemont Bowl. When Clairemont opened in 1957, it was among the most popular entertainment destinations in the area, according to an article that appeared in the Clairemont Times ("The Clairemont Bowl: Where the Action Is").

In addition to the 52 lanes, the center provided The Quad Room. It was more than just a bar, providing live music, a dance floor and of course alcohol. The most popular and famous band to play the Quad was Gary Puckett and the Union Gap, according to author Bill Swank in the Clairemont Times article. "Puckett's band opened as The Outcasts, and returned with new talent as The Union Gap," according to Swank.

"The Quad was a great place to become musicians and to play the music and chase the profession that we were choosing," said Gary Puckett in the article. "The bowling alley was where The Union Gap signed contracts with Columbia Records, and as they say, the rest is history." Puckett also remembers other musicians who got their start at Clairemont Bowl. "Joel Scott Hill worked at the Quad before joining the Flying Burrito Brothers. Also, Cory Wells before he went on to be in Three Dog Night."

Another interesting location just north of San Diego was Palomar Lanes in Escondido. According to reports online, the popular center was replaced by the other usual culprit, condominiums. It was owned by Jim Campbell, who realized a lifelong dream of his when he left AMF to become a proprietor.

I first met Jim when he came to work for Nationwide Bowling Centers and took over the reigns at



Hanover Lanes in East Hanover, New Jersey. He had previously managed for Brunswick Recreation Centers and Bowling Corporation of America, so you could say that Jim really served his time before realizing his lifelong dream.

While looking for information about Palomar Lanes, I discovered an interesting article by Jeannette DeWyze at San Diego Reader. In her article, DeWyze reports some depressing news: San Diego league bowlers have dropped from 66,000 during the heyday of the 1970's, to only 8,500 today. One reason is that the number of bowling centers that remain can be counted on one hand.

An interesting video that I found from Palomar Lanes was the 1991 AMF HPL Senior PBA Open. You can see Mr. Campbell seated under the gray and white pillar, enjoying all of the festivities. The lineup is impressive, and includes local favorite Lee Taylor, Glenn "Mr. 900" Allison, Darrel Curtis (husband of the first PBA50 tournament director, Sandy Curtis), veteran Dave Soutar, and the all-time lefty phenom Earl Anthony. It should be quite a show! (click the link below)

#### https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USF6D\_UIHQ

- Clairemont Bowl T-Shirt design from m00nshot.com
  Palomar Lanes T-Shirt design from m00nshot.com
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See tourn. rules

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### **PBA50** continued from page 1

as my body holds up, I'm going to keep going as long as I can and we'll just see what happens from there."

Janawicz was not the only player to make history on Friday evening in Virginia.

In her first PBA50 Tour event, Liz Johnson became the first woman to make a PBA50 Tour championship round.

She was also the first woman to make a televised championship round on the PBA Tour, which she achieved at the 2005 PBA Banquet Open.

Johnson struck on her first six shots and handled the No. 5 seed Jon Rakoski in a high-scoring opening match, 257-245.

Her run ended in the next match against Janawicz, the No. 3 seed. The turning point came when Johnson split and left her fifth frame open, while Janawicz converted the super-washout in his sixth frame — both on the left lane.

Janawicz then struck on that lane in his final frame to clinch the 233-205 win.

During a brilliant Friday morning of match play at Bowl America Bull Run in Manassas, Va., Chris Barnes rose from 155 pins out of the show all the way to the No. 2 seed.

Barnes' striking shoes did not travel with him to the lanes inside Bill Moore's home for the championship round. Barnes started the match throwing urethane, splitting in the second and fifth frames.

Janawicz didn't even need that much cushion as he ran away with a 269-173 win to advance to the title match.

Mika Koivuniemi has not competed much on the PBA50 Tour in recent years while he has been coaching overseas. But a man who earned the nickname of "Major Mika" did not forget how to perform in major championships.

Koivuniemi secured the top seed for the stepladder finals by averaging over 230 across 42 games of qualifying and match play in the event.

In the title match, however, neither Koivuniemi nor Janawicz managed to break 200 on the scoresheet.

The opening frame set the tone for the match as Koivuniemi left the 3-6-10 in his first frame and missed it.

Janawicz, working on a double in the sixth frame, left the 2-4-8-10. He doubled down with another mistake as he threw away six pins by not getting any count on the spare attempt.

At this moment, Janawicz recalled a quote from Roger Federer's commencement speech at Dartmouth earlier this year. Federer said that he won about 80% of his matches, but only about 54% of points during his legendary professional tennis career.

Janawicz's takeaway: You don't have to win every point, or every frame, to win a match. Even the best make mistakes.



And just when it looked like Koivuniemi would be on his way to his second career PBA50 Tour title and major, the tall Finn split and opened in the ninth frame, opening the door for Janawicz to strike in the ninth and 10th and clinch the win.

After leaving a 10-pin, Janawicz aced three strikes in the 10th frame to finish with 193. Therefore Koivuniemi needed a double to win the match.

The match ended as it began with Koivuniemi leaving the 3-6-10. He hurried his futile spare attempt and finished with 182.

When Janawicz turned 50 in the fall of 2022, he set his sights on the 2023 PBA50 Tour. He said his employers at Kegel Training Center, including Chris Chartrand, afforded Janawicz the freedom to bowl as many PBA50 tournaments as he wanted.

Before the 2023 national tour began, Janawicz flew to California to bowl a regional with the hopes of winning and securing eligibility for the PBA50 Tournament of Champions at the end of the season.

Janawicz won the regional. Then he won his first national event, the USBC Senior Masters.

Four months to the date after that regional, he won the TOC.

This season, Janawicz has won three titles — the PBA50 Johnny Petraglia BVL Open, Senior U.S. Open and Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship — and leads the PBA50 Player of the Year race.

In just eight total attempts, Janawicz has won four of five possible majors on the PBA50 Tour.

For those doing the math at home, Janawicz's winning percentage in majors is 50%.

Only one major remains for the 51-year-old to conquer: the PBA50 World Championship, which just so happens to begin next week in Jackson, Mich. as part of the PBA50 World Series of Bowling II.

"It's been a magical ride," Janawicz said. "The goals remain the same: 1) stay healthy and 2) keep learning. If I can just get a little bit smarter than I was yesterday and not make the same mistakes I made the day before, I'll be content with whatever the results are."

#### **Championship Round Scores**

Match 1: No. 4 Liz Johnson def. No. 5 Jon Rakoski, 257-245 Match 2: No. 3 John Janawicz def. No. 4 Liz Johnson, 233-205 Match 3: No. 3 John Janawicz def. No. 2 Chris Barnes, 269-173 Championship: No. 3 John Janawicz def. No. 1 Mika Koivuniemi, 193-182

#### **Final Standings**

- 1. John Janawicz, \$20,000
- 2. Mika Koivuniemi, \$11,000
- 3. Chris Barnes, \$7,000
- 4. Liz Johnson, \$5,000
- 5. Jon Rakoski, \$4,000

More information on the 2024 Bud Moore PBA50 Players Championship, including complete standings, are available <u>here</u>.



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