

Martin Wins PWBA Pepsi Open for Third Career PWBA Win

ALLEN PARK, Mich.-Jillian Martin of Stow, Ohio, captured her third career Professional Women's Bowling Association win Saturday evening, defeating Stephanie Zavala of Long Beach, California, 279-162, at the Pepsi Open, contested at Thunderbowl Lanes.

"I'm still in shock," said Martin, who already has three total PWBA wins in her career, including the United States Bowling Congress Queens in May. "I threw the ball really great that last game and wasn't expecting that to happen."

Martin qualified as the

No. 2 seed in the step-ladder and faced reigning PWBA Player of the Year, Jordan Richard of Tipton, Michigan, in the semifinal match.

She quickly went to work, taking down Richard with a 257, throwing eight strikes in the game including a six-bagger in frames five through 10 to advance to the championship match. Richard had a 223 but it wasn't enough to move on, earning \$3,500 for third place.

In the championship match, the Jillian Martin show continued, starting with the first six strikes

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Jillian Martin

JOHN JANAWICZ WINS 5TH PBA50 TITLE OF THE YEAR AT SOUTH SHORE CLASSIC

by Jill Winters



HAMMOND, Ind. – When John Janawicz is on the lanes, he sees every shot and every tournament as an opportunity to solve another puzzle. This bowling mastermind has proven in his short career on the PBA50 Tour that he knows how to solve the puzzles most of the time better and faster than anybody else.

On Thursday night, he

showed us all again winning his fifth title of the year at the 2024 PBA50 South Shore Classic.

Janawicz admits he is always trying to simplify things and not let his emotions get too high or too low. He believes he performs at his best when he maintains an even keel and basically slows the game down. That allows him logically to process what is going

on in front of him past the foul line.

The only time Janawicz has lost in a championship match was last year inside Olympia Lanes at the 2023 PBA50 South Shore Classic. Since then, he has been perfect in those moments. This time, the man most just call "JJ" defeated Mika Koivuniemi 234-205.

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Tournaments That Resembled Mini-Bowling Leagues

by Dave Williams

A recent post at Dr. Jake’s Bowling Blog reminded me of all the bowling tournaments around New York City that were more like bowling leagues. The Greater New York Individual Tournament, posted by Dr. Jake, was one of the earliest match game events. It was conducted over several weeks at the same time slot, just like a modern league.

The final standings of the event were based on the competitor’s won-lost record. Philip Lehrbach of New York was the winner of the first event in 1900, with a record of 63 wins and 11 losses. His average was 191. Over the years, Jimmy Smith, a famous match game star from Brooklyn, made this his tournament, with wins in 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909 and 1913.

The tournament was postponed in 1914 due to WWI, and although the tournament was staged later in the year, it never really returned to prominence. After a couple of lackluster events in 1915 and 1918, the tournament was scrapped.

Perhaps the most famous marathon event in the New York City area was the Newsday Eastern Open, conducted from 1948 to 1986. The tournament stretched out to 72 games in some years, once again taking on the form of a bowling league rather than a tournament, according to a post at Dr. Jake’s Bowling Blog. Many famous bowlers won this event, having been attracted by the newspaper’s alluring prize fund.

Some of the more famous winners included: Graz Castellano of Jackson Heights, N.Y., in 1948, 1949 and 1954. There was Tony Sparando of Rego Park, N.Y., in 1951, and Junie McMahon of Fairlawn, N.J., in 1953. Then came Dick Weber of St. Louis, in 1959 and 1960. Teata Semiz of North Milford, N.J., won in 1962 and 1963.

Some other well known stars in the modern era included Johnny Petraglia of Brooklyn, in 1969, 1972, 1978 and 1982; as well as Mark Roth of Staten Island in 1975 and 1985. The last Newsday tournament was held in 1986, after Newsday dropped their sponsorship.

Long Island Industrial Team Tournament

The tournament that I remember so well while living in New York and working for AMF was the Long Island Industrial Team Tournament. It was also like a mini-league, rolling three game series on four consecutive Saturday nights at Mid-Isle Lanes in Hempstead, New York. The bowling center was a converted trolley barn, and was conveniently located just off the Southern State Parkway on Peninsula Boulevard (Today it’s what else? ... a Public Storage facility).

Dave Metzger, an accountant for AMF Bowling Products, was the one that recruited me to bowl on the AMF team, along with Roy Ryan, a PBA senior bowler that was also an employee of AMF in Westbury. We had a few good years, battling the best team in the area, Grumman Aircraft (now Northrop Grumman).

In 1984, 1985 and 1986 we won the team title. The shot for me was right off the edge, similar to Grand Central Bowl in Glendale, Calif., which I’ve written about many times. The outside couple of boards were like ice, and if you hit the sixth board, it was beyond Brooklyn, but if I could just stroke it on the fourth or fifth board, my chances of striking were pretty good.

The peak of my performance came in 1985, when I rolled three consecutive 700+ series going into the final week of action. I only needed a 495 series to record the highest individual total in the history of the tournament, recorded by Hall of Fame member George Young in the 1940’s. But alas, AMF called me away to another part of the country on that final weekend. Metzger tried to plead my case to his boss, but I told him not to be concerned because when I came to work for AMF, I had made a commitment to myself that the job would always come first.



Dick Weber won both the Newsday and Landgraf tournaments in 1959

When I returned from my business trip, I was happy to hear that we had won the event for the second consecutive year. And Metzger had a big and heavy award for me as the most valuable individual player, the Bob Benn MVP award... even though I had only bowled three of the four weeks. What fond memories I have of that bowling center and tournament.

The Landgraf Classic

The Landgraf was another famous tournament in the New York City area. Although it was not a marathon event like the others mentioned above, it was known for difficult lane conditions and very heavy pins. The event was held every year at Bowlmor Recreation. Bowlmor, a small New York City chain of centers, ultimately purchased AMF Bowling Centers, and a few years later they gobbled up Brunswick Recreation Centers. Today they are known as Bowloro.

But in the years from 1943 to 1985, Bowlmor reportedly played host to this prestigious event. Like the Greater New York Individual Tournament, the Landgraf was won by most of the top bowlers of the day, including: Andy Varipapa (1943), Steve Nagy (1944), Lou Campi (1947), Tony Sparando (1950), Dick Weber (1959), Billy Welu (1960), and Larry Lichstein (1971).

The Landgraf Classic was suspended in 1985, which is about the same time that Bowlmor decided to go in a different direction and focus on a party atmosphere at their flagship center...

- Portions of this article adapted from Dr. Jake’s Bowling Blog
- Photo of Dick Weber provided by bowl.com



Margaret Vassar Bowls 639 For Third Place

by Frank Weiler

CABAZON – Margaret Vassar rolled a 639 series to take Third Place in last weeks “SWEEPER” for the Four Seasons Senior Summer League at Canyon Lanes. Margaret’s performance is no surprise to league bowlers in this area because she regularly cashes and wins local tournaments.

Margaret led the league women with a 177 average and rolled the league high scratch series of 643. Margaret’s 256 game was also a league season high.

Great bowling Margaret. Margaret’s accomplishments on the lanes demonstrate why “CALIFORNIA BOWLERS ARE THE BEST BOWLERS IN THE WORLD”.

The logo for the Bill Mossontte Invitational is a circular emblem. It features a stylized illustration of a bowling ball in the foreground, with five bowling pins arranged in a triangular formation behind it. The entire graphic is set against a white background within a circular border. The text "BILL MOSSONTTE" is arched across the top, and "INVITATIONAL" is arched across the bottom, both in a bold, sans-serif font.



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PWBA continued from page 1

before a 10 pin ended her run at perfection. Zavala had two early opens on the right lane and quickly fell behind through four frames.

What little chance Zavala had was dashed after her third open in the seventh frame, whose struggles on the right lane continued before closing her game out with 162. Martin ended with the final five strikes after her 10 pin conversion for 279, leaving Detroit with the trophy and \$10,000 top prize. Zavala earned \$5,000 for her runner-up finish.

Martin’s prior experiences in tournaments plays a big part in her ability to compete and win on the biggest stages in bowling, as well as not get caught up in bad bowling if it happens.

“I think my ability to put things in perspective helps me take things one shot at a time. I have this level of acceptance where I know that, if for some reason I bowl terrible, everything is still going to be okay.”

As a non-member, Martin is unable to compete in the PWBA Tour Championship event and will be heading back to the University of Nebraska for her junior year of college in the upcoming days.

The stepladder started with Melanie McDaniel of Joliet, Illinois, and Bryanna Coté of Tucson, Arizona. McDaniel was making her second career stepladder appearance while it was Coté’s second straight stepladder.

Both bowlers kept pace with one another until McDaniel had a five-bagger in the final five frames to pull away after Coté opened in the ninth. McDaniel ended with a 237 victory while Coté ended with 210. Coté earned \$2,200 for her fifth-place finish.

Next up for McDaniel was Richard and the second match came down to the last frame.

Once again neither bowler could pull away from each other, with McDaniel recovering from an opening split with four strikes in a row in the middle. Richard stayed clean throughout and the match was tied heading into the final frame.


The reigning POY finished first and struck all three shots in the 10th to force McDaniel to do the same for a tie, but McDaniel’s first ball went high, allowing Richard to advance to the semifinals against Martin.

The 2024 PWBA Tour season will begin its final event of the season August 11 as 24 players start their hunt for the final major title of the season with the PWBA Tour Championship.


Players advancing to the Tour Championship will be: Sin Li Jane of Malaysia; Shannon Pluhowsky of Dayton, Ohio; Singapore’s Cherie Tan; England’s Verity Crawley; Singapore’s New Hui Fen; Coté; Ukraine’s Dasha Kovalova; Richard; Zavala; Crystal Elliott of Palm Bay, Florida; Kelly Kulick of Union, New Jersey; Lindsay Boomershine of Brigham City, Utah; Latvia’s Diana Zavjalova; Stefanie Johnson of McKinney, Texas; Lauren Russo of Ballwin, Missouri; Erin McCarthy of Elkhorn, Nebraska; Liz Kuhlkin of Schenectady, New York; Hope Gramly of Aubrey, Texas; Josie Barnes of Hermitage, Tennessee; Colombia’s Maria Jose Rodriguez; Summer Jasmin of Beckley, West Virginia; Ashly Galante of Palm Harbor, Florida; Canada’s Felicia Wong; and Julia Bond of Aurora, Illinois.

This year’s Player of the Year award is still up for grabs as well in the major event, with Sin only leading by a slim margin.

Tour Championship starts competition with the first of three round-robin match play at 5 p.m. Eastern on August 11. All rounds leading up the stepladder finals will be live-streamed on BowlTV.



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PBA50 continued from page 1

In the span of two seasons, Janawicz has bowled in 25 PBA50 Tour events and made the stepladder finals 56% of the time. His seven career PBA50 titles tie him with the legendary Earl Anthony and Dave Soutar.

“That is quite special to say the least. I wasn’t aware of that. Anytime you can be mentioned in the same breath as Dave Soutar and Earl Anthony, when it comes to bowling accomplishments, you’ve done a pretty good job,” Janawicz said. “I am very humbled and very honored to share some stats with them.”

Overall, Janawicz has won 28% of these tournaments and he has locked up another honor — 2024 PBA50 Player of the Year — to go along with his 2023 PBA50 Rookie of the Year award. He said it will be tough to maintain those incredible stats for the remainder of his career, but it’s a good start and he hopes to hold onto that over the coming years. When things are going well, he said history shows there will be some rough patches, so he is grateful for the opportunity and for what he has been able to accomplish so far.

“I am not really sure how to explain it honestly. You have a process you stick with and preparation when it comes to lane play, what you think you need to do with equipment, you develop a game plan, and you see if it works. Fortunately, this year, it has been working probably a little more than it hasn’t been working,” he said. “It is still kind of hard for me to comprehend it. This is pretty special to win five times in one year. It’s pretty surreal.”

In the championship match, Janawicz started off with a strike and spare followed by five straight strikes to hold a commanding 53-pin lead over Koivuniemi by the seventh frame on the way to the victory. Koivuniemi had seven total strikes in yet another solid performance on the lanes. This was Koivuniemi’s seventh straight stepladder finals appearance and his second runner-up finish.

He backed his way into the title match recovering from an open frame in the fifth frame of his semifinals match against No. 3 seed Brian Link. Koivuniemi put up five strikes from the sixth to the 10th frame for a 204 game. He took two of his balls off the rack thinking he was done, as Link needed a mark in the 10th frame for the win. Link watched his shot go high leaving the 3-10 split and he only got the 3-pin to finish with 195. Link extended both arms straight out in disappointment yet smiled and shook Koivuniemi’s hand.

This was not only a memorable show for Janawicz, but also for Link and No. 4 seed Dave Cirigliano, as both made their PBA50 stepladder debut. In the opening match, Cirigliano faced left-hander John Marsala, who led this tournament after qualifying. Marsala was able to put just two doubles together along with five spares and an open frame in the 10th for 201, as Cirigliano stole the spotlight.

The tall right-hander from Arizona posted and repeated all 12 of his shots on the way to a perfect game, earning him a \$1,000 bonus from the PBA.

“It is definitely one of those bucket list items I will tell you that. I really wasn’t nervous, which surprised me for my first time out here,” Cirigliano said. “There was a calm that came over me. Maybe my dad was watching from above.”

Cirigliano is no stranger to perfection. He is one of three bowlers to have rolled perfect games three times in the history of the USBC Open Championships. He had a great ball reaction in his opening match, which allowed him to relax. Plus, after defeating Tom Adcock, Tom Hess and Parker Bohn III to make it to the show, he was enjoying the journey. “They definitely inspire me to keep working. Today was a good day,” he said.

In Cirigliano’s next match against Link, Cirigliano opened with a bad break leaving a 7-10 in the first frame. Link, who is also right-handed, started with spare, strike, spare before getting three strikes in a row. Cirigliano went spare then a double before throwing his worst shot of the day leaving the 3-4-6-10 and getting just two. He got lined back up ending the match with seven straight strikes for 231. Link got a spare followed by three straight strikes and a single-pin spare to finish with 238 to advance.

The final event of the PBA50 season is the Tournament of Champions from AMF Riviera Lanes. “I have never actually bowled there but I have been there. To be able to bowl the TOC in a place that has so much history is going to be very special to me,” he said. “I just try to maintain a high level of play for as long as my body will allow. That is about all I can ask for.”

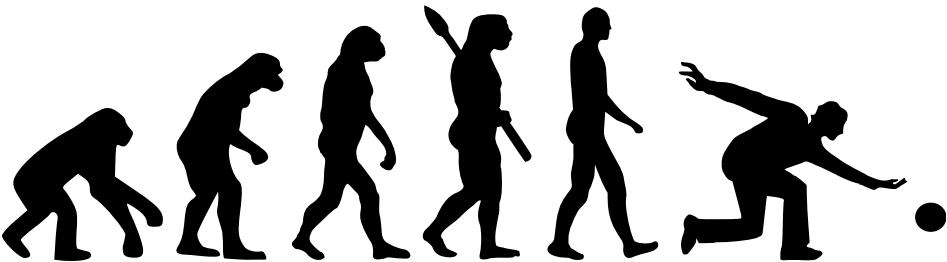
MATCH SCORES:

- Match 1: Cirigliano def. Marsala 300-201
- Match 2: Link def. Cirigliano 238-231
- Match 3: Koivuniemi def. Link 204-195
- Championship match: Janawicz def. Koivuniemi 234-205

PBA50 SOUTH SHORE CLASSIC FINAL STANDINGS:

- 1. John Janawicz, \$7,500
- 2. Mika Koivuniemi, \$4,000
- 3. Brian Link, \$3,000
- 4. Dave Cirigliano, \$2,500
- 5. John Marsala, \$ 2,000

[Final standings - 2024 South Shore Classic](#)



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New Hui Fen Wins 2024 PWBA Greater Detroit Open for Second Career Title

ALLEN PARK, Mich- Singapore’s New Hui Fen is back in the winner’s circle for the first time in eight years, defeating teammate Cherie Tan in a close title match, 212-206, at Thunderbowl Lanes to start Professional Women’s Bowling Association Tour Championship Week.

“It’s a different feeling than the first time,” said New after winning the title and \$10,000 top prize. She last won on the PWBA Tour in 2016, where she won that year’s Tour Championship major.

Since that 2016 title, New has put in the work to improve her mental game as well as rehab injuries she sustained over the years, noting that she’s pain free after 25 games in two days.

“I don’t feel much pain. Mostly just mental fatigue from thinking too much and now I don’t need to think,” she said with a laugh.

New earned the No. 1 seed in the stepladder by going 9-3 in match play, including a position round win against Tan, averaging over 224 before bonus pins. Tan and New had previously battled for a title this season in Nashville at the BowlTV Classic, which Tan won. They also competed against each other in that 2016 PWBA Tour Championship for New’s only title until today.

The Singaporean teammates started the title match exchanging strikes and spares before Tan opened in the fifth frame, allowing New to jump ahead as she stayed clean through out the match. New also ball changed on the left lane in the middle of the game as that lane brought inconsistent ball reaction until the change, which proved to be the difference as New struck the next time on that lane.

Getting all three strikes in the 10th frame wasn’t enough for Tan as New stayed clean for 212 and the win. Tan earned \$5,000 for her runner-up finish.

The stepladder started with Crystal Elliott of Palm Bay, Florida, and Ashly Galante of Palm Harbor, Florida. Galante was in full control in the match until three straight unlucky shots brought Elliott back in the game.

In the eighth frame, Galante left a stone 8 pin, then a stone 7 pin in the ninth, before a stone 9 pin in the first ball of the 10th. She converted all three single pins and only needed five in the fill to lock up the match.

Galante proceeded to only knock down the 1-2-5-8 pins in the fill frame for 209 and giving new life for Elliott, who now needed all three strikes in the 10th to win.

Elliott got the first two strikes, but the third was left off her hand and only knocked down eight for 208, allowing Galante to survive and advance to face Bryanna Coté of Tucson, Arizona. Elliott earned \$2,200 for her fifth-place finish.

The second match did not bring as much drama as the first, as Coté opened with a spare and eight straight strikes, finishing with 268 while Galante was unable to keep up and finished with 162. Galante earned \$2,500 for fourth.

Coté faced Tan in the semifinal match, where Coté encountered issues with carry, including a six frame stretched where she left three 10 pins, a high flush 4 pin and a pocket 7-10 split. Those unfortunate frames put her at 194, while Tan got the first one in the 10th to advance with 204. Coté pocketed \$3,500 for the third-place finish and Tan advanced to the title match.

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