

CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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TOM HESS WINS FIFTH PBA50 TITLE, BECOMES HALL OF FAME ELIGIBLE

by Jill Winters

The Southern California 2023 Junior Shootouts this week at Temecula Lanes on September 3rd..

\$200,000 in Smart Scholarship money is up for grabs. 4 Divisions, A 180+, B 161 - 185, C 136 - 160 and D 135 and below.

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See advertisement on page 3.

Call Temecula Lanes at (951) 676-1111 for more information.

PAUL WIEBER ROLLS VARIPAPA 300 GAME in Laughlin

by Frank Weiler

LAUGHLIN, NV. – Former PBA contender Paul Wieber is one of the most focused bowling competitors I have witnessed compete on the lanes in recent years. He is a brisk 72 years old and still as strong as a bull. As a result, he still rolls a powerful strike ball, accurately. He is all business on the lanes and wants to win as much as he did a half century ago.

Recently Paul headed from his home in Arizona to Laughlin, Nevada to compete in Riverside Lanes semiannual Senior Handicap No-Tap Championships. Four tournaments in four days. During the third day of competition Paul rolled games of 280-300-223 for a series of 803. With handicap he rolled a score of 878!

During that 878 series, from the third frame of Game 1 until the fifth frame as Game 2 Paul rolled fifteen natural strikes! The rolling of the first 12 of those 15 strikes meant that Paul rolled a Varipapa 300



Paul Wieber

game. A Varipapa 300 Game is rolled when a bowler rolls 12 consecutive strikes in more than one game. That's what Paul did at Riverside Lanes a couple of weeks ago. Paul was using a Global 900 Zen Soul bowling ball to roll his big score. It's one of his favorite balls but I can tell you that the man, Paul Wieber, is more responsible for his scores than the bowling balls he is using.

Paul is a protégé of the great GLENN ALLISON. As a young man Paul worked for Glenn as a pin setter and lane runner. Glenn gave Paul bowling lessons and helped make Paul into an outstanding bowler.

FORT MYERS, Florida — "It's a dream come true," Tom Hess said after winning the 2023 PBA50 Fort Myers Lightning Strikes Classic on Wednesday.

Ever since Hess joined the PBA50 Tour, he has been focused on earning his spot in the exclusive PBA Hall of Fame. After his fifth PBA50 title and two being major wins, he is now eligible to be voted in.

After falling to Chris Barnes in the Round of 8, Hess was the fifth seed. All he did was dominate his opponents — averaging 239 — as he climbed the stepladder.

"It's definitely more gratifying to take the road that I took," Hess said of his path to winning his



fifth PBA50 title. "I think Chris is the best bowler out here, so to beat him and get Hall of Fame eligible is going to add a little bit to it for me."

Hess never had the opportunity to bowl professionally full-time, between work and his family, so achieving his dream now is even more

meaningful.

"That makes these last couple of years really special," Hess said.

On the challenging 40-foot Amleto Monacelli oil pattern, Hess knew his opponents were going to use urethane, so he relied on valuable information he received from PBA player Tom Daugherty at a previous tournament.

"I crossed with Tom in Shawnee and a lot of guys were throwing urethane," Hess said. "He told me I needed to go to a clean, quicker ball, and that has always been in my mind to do that."

That moved paid off. Hess figured out a tricky left lane as he defeated Andres Gomez in the opening match, 249-140.

continued on page 5

\$5,070 In SMART Scholarship Awarded This Saturday at Westminster

17 More Shootout Events To Go With Over \$110K Up For Grabs

by David Yamauchi

WESTMINSTER – The Bowling Centers of Southern California's sixth event took place this weekend at Westminster Lanes. \$5,070 in scholarships were awarded to 19 bowlers in the four tournament divisions.

The **A Division** (\$40 entry, 5 games, over 185 average) saw Daniel Hong finally get a win and the \$550 scholarship as he bested Elias O'Hollaren in the championship match after three consecutive 2nd

place finishes.

In the **B Division** (\$35 entry, 4 games, 161-185 average) Jason Weed bowled great all day and took the title and the \$375 scholarship with Ethan Santos finishing 2nd and banking a \$290 scholarship.

C Division (\$30 entry, 3 games, 135-160 average) saw Jeremy Tokudomi win from the top-seed for a \$410 scholarship with Hunter Cao finishing 2nd and earning \$260. In the **D Division** (\$30 entry, 3

games, under 135 average) Sean McDougald made the best of his day by winning the title and a \$350 scholarship with top-seed Kal-EI Burnett settling for 2nd and \$350. Congratulations to all the scholarship winners!

There are still 17 events left on the schedule with up to \$6,000 up for grabs at each event. With entry fees from \$30, these are fun, affordable events for Southern California junior bowlers to have a chance to earn SMART Scholarship

funds for their future.

Bowlers entering at least three events in the series will be eligible to enter the Southern California Grand Championships in January of 2024.

Over \$100,000 in scholarships will be available in the mega-event thanks to the Bowling Proprietors of Southern California.

Hope to see you for this weekend's event Sunday, September 3rd at Temecula Lanes with check-in starting at 8:30 a.m.



A Division - Champion Daniel Hong and 2nd Elias O'Hollaren



B Division - Champion Jason Weed and 2nd Ethan Santos



C Division - Champion Jeremy Tokudomi and 2nd Hunter Cao

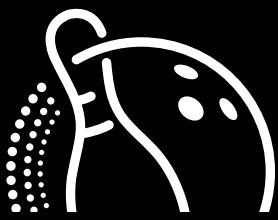


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BRANDOLINO, FURUKAWA TAKE U18 TITLES AT 2023 JUNIOR GOLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Gene J. Kanak

INDIANAPOLIS - Aidan Furukawa of Sunbury, Ohio, and Gianna Brandolino of Joliet, Illinois, were the national champions in the 18-and-under division at the 2023 Junior Gold Championships.

Aidan took home the U18 boys title by defeating Andrew Robitaille of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, 197-181, during the final match of this year's tournament.

Any good bowler will tell you that making spares is crucial to being successful on the lanes, and that fact was on full display during this championship bout.

Aidan didn't record a double and only struck four times in total, but he also made each and every spare conversion he was forced to contend with.

Andrew, meanwhile, was saddled with four splits in the first seven frames, and despite some very solid spare attempts, each split led to an open frame.

Those opens outweighed any and all benefits created by his six strikes and allowed Aidan to wrap up the victory before the 10th frame was completed.

Aidan didn't come to Junior Gold 2023 with victory on his mind, so the gravity of what he had just accomplished hadn't yet sunk in during the moments immediately following the match.

"My only goal coming into this year was to try to make the first cut, so the fact that I won and am now on Junior Team USA is a lot to take in," Aidan said. "This feels amazing, but it's going to take a while to really comprehend how it feels."

Another thing that took a moment to comprehend was how nerve-racking it was to bowl on TV for a national title.

Aidan appeared to be handling that pressure just fine as he was smiling and playing to the crowd from the moment he walked onto the set.

However, according to Aidan, the relaxed, light-hearted appearance on the outside masked what he was truly feeling inside.

"I looked calm, but deep down I was terrified," Aidan said. "I just did my best not to let that show on the outside."

He definitely accomplished that, but his more impressive accomplishments were taking home the U18 title and earning his first berth on Junior Team USA.

Again, those goals weren't necessarily on his list at the start of this year's tournament, but he is certainly glad that he'll be able to add both to his resume from this point forward.

"I've never accomplished anything like this before,

so getting this win and earning my way onto Junior Team USA definitely ranks first among anything I've ever done," Aidan said. "I didn't expect to get here, but being here feels amazing."

Andrew earned the opportunity to play spoiler by using a late five-bagger to erase an early deficit and rally past No. 2 seed Daniel Robertson, 226-214, in the semifinals.

Andrew's momentum slowed during the championship match, however, which allowed Aidan to walk away as champion while Andrew settled for third place.

U18 Girls

Gianna delighted her sizable cheering section by coming away with the U18 girls crown by virtue of a 228-202 defeat of Karina Capron of Fremont, Nebraska.

Karina certainly didn't go down without a fight, throwing a clutch four-bagger in frames six through nine to force Gianna to get a strike and six pins in the 10th frame to win.

The top seed proved that she was up to the challenge, however, getting the all-important strike and then counting nine on her next ball to officially lock up her first Junior Gold title.

Despite her young age, Gianna has already accomplished plenty on the lanes; nevertheless, becoming a Junior Gold champion immediately jumped to the top of her personal list of achievements.

"Winning today, by far, ranks first among all the wins I've had so far," Brandolino said. "Me and my team won the USA Bowling Championships last year, and that was No. 1 at the time, but winning this has a different feeling. Knowing that I accomplished this by myself is just great."

Gianna was certainly great during the title match, staying clean and using an opening double and a turkey in the sixth, seventh and eighth frames to keep the advantage firmly on her side.

That advantage was bolstered by the fact that Karina left a pair of early splits that led to open frames.

Still, Karina wasn't about to give up, and when she came up with that late four-bagger, suddenly, Gianna had something to think about.

A lesser player may have stumbled as the pressure mounted, but not Gianna. Perhaps that's because her mom often seems to be willing to fact that pressure for the both of them.

"I'd like to say that I'm the one who's the most continued on page 5

Southern CALIFORNIA
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He's Back...

The Man Behind The Mask Wins \$13,090 at New Mexico Open

by Dave Williams

During the COVID years I wrote about Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) member Francois Lavoie on more than one occasion, dubbing him "the face masked crusader," a tongue in cheek reference to my childhood hero Batman.

Francois, or Frankie as his friends call him, was so dominant while wearing a mask that it's surprising that his fellow PBA members didn't fight harder to abandon the face mask rule at their earliest possible convenience.

His career peaked in 2021, when as a 6 year veteran of the bowling wars, he amassed a total of \$375,145 in earnings. Since then, his career has come back to earth, winning only \$30,100 in 2022. I searched for an earnings record in 2023, but all I could find was a \$3,000 victory in a regional event in Overland Park, Kansas (will the PBA website ever catch up?).

It's as though the face mask gave Lavoie some sort of mystical strength, just like the Batman's cowl. Frankie, a soft spoken French Canadian now living in Wichita, Kansas, seemed to have an advantage over the other competitors when wearing a mask, just like the caped crusader known as Batman.

Don't Call Him A Christian Rocker

Another famous individual, Alice Cooper, who was born Vincent Furnier in Detroit, Michigan, in 1948, rose to fame by recording such songs as *He's Back (The Man Behind the Mask)*, in 1986. Many interpretations of the lyrics have been made over the years, but one that seems fitting is Cooper's addiction to alcohol. The repeated warning of "he's back" could emphasize the return of the dreaded alcohol into Cooper's life.

Cooper is actually the son of a clergyman in the Church of Jesus Christ. Once termed one of the



Francois Lavoie (left) and Tournament Director Steve Mackie conduct post tournament interview



Francois Lavoie holds \$13,000 winners check and trophy

hardest partying men in music, he credits his return to faith in the mid-1980's with saving his marriage, and miraculously curing him from his addictions, according to an article that appeared at eightieskids.com.

His doctor told him that he would die if he continued to drink. However, if he stopped drinking, his internal problems, over time, would naturally heal. Cooper recalled that upon leaving the hospital, he went straight to a bar. "I sat down, and I ordered a Coca-Cola, waiting for the craving (for alcohol) to come... and nothing happened."

Cooper continues, "I had my Coca-Cola, and I left. I thought, by tomorrow this thing's going to hit me like an avalanche. I'm going to wake up needing a drink. Thirty years later, I have never had that craving. Even in the most pressured situation, the thought of having a drink has never occurred to me. So, I really believe

that the Lord just took it away from me."

Contrasting his newfound faith with his profession, Cooper stated, "I don't do Christian rock, but I'm a Christian that does rock."

Lavoie Is Back With Win At New Mexico Open

After finishing second twice in the New Mexico Open, Lavoie proved the third time was the charm in claiming \$13,090 for his victory from the record \$73,430 prize fund. His runner up finishes came to Jakob Butturff in 2015, and Dylan Taylor in 2021. His loss to Taylor was by only one pin.

In the televised finals covered by Emil Williams and BowlStreamTV.com, Fero Williams of Oklahoma bested Steven Novak of Kentucky by a score of 208-169. Novak took home a paycheck of \$2,650 for fourth place. Next up was local favorite J.D. Nance from Rio Rancho, N.M., who put together a string of eight consecutive strikes against Fero for a 259-215 win. Williams garnered \$3,250 for third place.

In the title match, it came down to the final frame, where Lavoie needed a double plus one pin to take home the victory. He promptly buried two strikes solidly in the pocket, and then a nine count on the final roll, for a 202-194 victory. Nance received \$6,810 for his runner up finish.

What a clutch performance by Lavoie. Just like Alice Cooper, Frankie has demonstrated that he no longer needs the mask to be a dominant player in a professional bowling tournament.

Photos provided by Rich Coffel, and courtesy of Tenpins & More



Action shot of Francois Lavoie delivering a strike during championship match

JR GOLD continued from page 2

nervous in those big moments, but it's probably my mom," Gianna said. "She's always pacing up and down. She just wants the best for me. I want the best for myself too, so I just have to push the nerves aside and go out and do what I do."

What she did on Saturday night was capture her first Junior Gold title, and that's a memory she won't soon forget.

"It's an honor to know that my name is going to be on the same banner as players like Landin Jordan and Stefanie Johnson," Gianna said. "Also, it's crazy to think that next year I'm going to come and see my name and picture listed among the champions."

Karina was hoping to add her name to that exclusive list on Saturday night, but that goal will have to wait at least one more year.

Still, she performed admirably all night long.

She earned her place in the title match by doubling in the 10th frame to beat No. 3 seed Kaitlyn Stull of Raleigh, North Carolina, 231-226, during a thrilling U18 girls semifinal.

Then, she fought hard and gave Gianna all she could handle before eventually running out of frames and being forced to settle for third-place honors.

Junior Team USA 2024

Six boys and six girls from the U18 division also earned spots on Junior Team USA for 2024 based on their performances this week at the Junior Gold Championships.

The boys team will feature Furukawa, Robitaille, Braden Mallasch of Waupaca, Wisconsin; Christian Liquori of Merritt Island, Florida; Garrett Andrus of Austin, Texas; and Josh Hammons of Topeka, Kansas.

Brandolino, Capron, and Stull will be joined on the girls team in 2024 by Victoria Varano of Stony Point,

New York; Erin Klemencic of Powder Springs, Georgia; and Katelyn Abigania of San Diego.

The U18 division featured 588 girls and 1,313 boys at the 2023 Junior Gold Championships.

More than 3,250 United States Bowling Congress Youth members competed at Junior Gold 2023, traveling across six bowling centers in the Indianapolis area in hopes of winning a sizable portion of the approximately \$450,000 scholarship fund, making a run at a national title and claiming a spot on Junior Team USA.

BowlTV.com provided livestream coverage of every round of the 2023 event leading up to the stepladder finals in each division.

The finals in each division were taped for broadcast on CBS Sports Network and played throughout the month of August. The final telecast in the series will feature the U20 stepladder finals and will air on Tuesday, Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. Eastern.

PBA50 continued from page 1

He kept the striking going in match two, defeating John Janawicz 254-182.

Then came a match against Brad Angelo, the defending champion of the PBA50 Fort Myers Lightning Strikes Classic. Hess kept striking to get the win 259-197.

It was then time for a rematch against Chris Barnes, who had outscored him 783-631 in the Round of 8, for the title match. These two players have seen a lot of each other, and Hess has a lot of respect for Barnes who is a USBC and PBA Hall of Famer.

In the closest match of the day, Hess struck on three of his first four shots followed by four straight spares. Barnes had two open frames in the first six frames, finishing with 167. Hess got the win with a 194.

Hess, who ranks second in points this year, has cashed in every tournament. It's been a memorable season.

"Absolutely incredible," Hess said. "I just want to keep winning."

The final PBA50 event of the year is a major at the Johnny Petraglia BVL Tournament of Champions, which begins Aug. 27 in Lakeland, Florida.

FINAL ROUND SCORES

- Match 1: Hess def. Gomez 249-140
- Match 2: Hess def. Janawicz 254-182
- Match 3: Hess def. Angelo 259-197
- Championship match: Hess def. Barnes 194-167

FINAL STANDINGS

1. Tom Hess \$7,500
2. Chris Barnes \$4,000
3. Brad Angelo \$3,000
4. John Janawicz \$2,500
5. Andres Gomez \$2,000

[Final standings - PBA50 Lightning Strikes Lanes Classic](#)

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THARPS, REYNOSO CROWNED U15 CHAMPS AT 2023 JUNIOR GOLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Gene J. Kanak

INDIANAPOLIS - Larielle Tharps of Orlando, Florida, and Ernesto Reynoso of Folsom, California, topped all challengers and emerged national champions in the 15-and-under division at the 2023 Junior Gold Championships.

In what was arguably the most exciting title match of this year's tournament, Larielle captured the U15 girls title by topping Macy Jones of Shobonier, Illinois, (10-7) in a one-ball roll-off after the two players finished 10 frames tied at 226.

Larielle opted to begin the roll-off on the right lane, which was where she struck on her fill ball just moments earlier to force the extra session.

Wasting no time, Larielle calmly stepped up and delivered another flush strike, which Macy needed to match in order to extend the roll-off and keep her national championship dreams alive.

Macy's shot appeared to be on target as it raced down the lane, but it wound up hooking high through the head pin, leaving the 4-7-10 split and ending the match in Larielle's favor.

The win was especially gratifying for Larielle because she had come so close twice before, grabbing a runner-up finish in the U12 girls division in 2021 and finishing in the top five in U15 action last year in Grand Rapids.

"This feels wonderful because it makes it clear that all the time and practice I put in this past year has paid off," Larielle said.

Early on, it looked like Larielle was going to enjoy a smooth and easy path to the title as she used an opening four-bagger to jump out to a 42 pin lead over Macy just four frames into the match.

Larielle's pace would slow from there, however, with her striking just twice over the course of the next five frames.

Macy, meanwhile, recovered from an open in the fourth frame by notching a four-bagger of her own in frames five through eight to cut Larielle's lead down to just 10 pins heading into the 10th frame.

Feeling the momentum shifting in her favor, Macy delivered three must-have strikes in the tenth to put even more weight upon Larielle's shoulders.

Nevertheless, as Larielle stepped up for her own 10th frame, her destiny rested solely in her own hands.

If she struck on her first ball, she would win. If she didn't, she'd have to convert the spare and strike on the fill ball to tie.

Larielle's first shot in the tenth hit the pocket, but it left a flat 10 pin, meaning the right-hander would have to make the spare and strike to push the match to a roll-off.

Showing the moxie of a player more than twice her age, Larielle did just that, covering the 10 pin with ease and then delivering a no-doubt strike to force the roll-off she'd go on to win.

Although she appeared perfectly calm throughout those heart-stopping frames, afterward, Larielle admitted to feeling a lot more pressure than she was letting on.

"Going into the 10th frame, my nerves were at an all-time high," Larielle said. "I didn't know what was going to happen, so I just tried to breath and trust my ball. Thankfully, I was able to spare and strike.

"I took the opportunity to go first in the roll-off to apply the pressure so that I wouldn't have all of it on myself. I was hesitant on that last shot on whether it would hold or not, but thankfully it did."

It certainly did, and that allowed Larielle to finally break through and collect the Junior Gold victory that had so narrowly escaped her twice before.

"When I realized I'd won, my first thought was 'wow, I can't believe I did this,'" Larielle said. "This is just so awesome and amazing; it's all that I've ever wished for, and I'm so glad that it finally happened."

Macy earned the right to battle Larielle for the title by defeating No. 2 seed Anna Antony of Farmington, Connecticut, 212-161, in the semifinals.

Anna bowled amazing all week long enroute to the second seed; unfortunately, she got off to a slow start on the TV pair, opening the first three frames to allow Macy to quickly jump out to a 64 pin lead.

As expected, Anna kept battling until the very end, but she was simply unable to erase the damage and was forced to settle for a third-place finish.

U15 Boys

In just his third appearance, Ernesto reached the Junior Gold winner's circle for the first time by defeating top seed Matteo Quintero of Smyrna, Tennessee, 237-198.

Although Matteo, who won the 2021 U12 boys title, was the player with previous Junior Gold stepladder finals experience, Ernesto looked like the seasoned veteran on this day, delivering a clutch six-bagger in frames four through nine to keep Matteo at arm's length.

As expected, Matteo fought from start to finish; however, when his attempted conversion of the 2-4-5-7 left the 5 pin standing, resulting in an open frame in the seventh, Ernesto's lead was just too big to overcome. That allowed Ernesto to secure the victory and become the newest U15 boys national champion.

The victory capped off a long and challenging week for Ernesto, but the outcome made it all worthwhile.

"This week was a long grind, so I knew I needed to stay patient and make my spares," Ernesto said. "That approach allowed me to qualify second, get through the advancers rounds and make the show.

"Once I reached the stepladder, I knew that I needed to stay patient, not let the nerves get the best of me and make my best shots. I did that, and that's what allowed me to be standing here holding this trophy."

In addition to the trophy, this week's stellar effort allowed Ernesto to earn a spot on the 2024 Junior Team USA Developmental Team, and that meant just as much to him as the Junior Gold title.

"The trophy and the Team USA jacket are about equally special to me," Ernesto said. "I was happy with whatever happened on TV because I had already earned the jacket. To be on Junior Team USA and get the win makes this even better. Honestly, once I'd realized I'd won, I was like 'wow, there's no way I just did that.'" But he did, and he made the lanes look fairly easy in the process.

Before shooting 237 against Matteo in the title match, Ernesto rattled off a seven-bagger in frames four through 10 to defeat No. 2 seed Landon Dreibelbis of Ashland, Ohio, 246-200, in the semifinals.

Landon recorded eight strikes during that battle, but a pair of splits led to open frames in the third and sixth frames, which was all the room Ernesto needed to jump ahead and never look back. For his efforts, Landon exited Junior Gold 2023 with a solid third-place finish.

Junior Team USA Developmental Team 2024

The U15 division also served as a qualifier for automatic spots on the 2024 Junior Team USA Developmental Team. In the boys and girls divisions, the top two qualifiers after 26 games of qualifying, the event champion, and the event runner-up earned places on the team.

Based on those criteria, the automatic qualifiers for the 2024 Junior Team USA Developmental Team are as follows:

Boys Division

Braden McDonough, Coppell, Texas (first after 26 games of qualifying)
Ernesto Reynoso, Folsom, California (second after 26 games of qualifying and event champion)
*Dylan Harnden, Shelby Township, Michigan (third after 26 games of qualifying)
Matteo Quintero, Smyrna, Tennessee (event runner-up)

*Since event champion Ernesto Reynoso also finished second after 26 games of qualifying, Harnden makes the team as the third-place finisher after qualifying.

Girls Division

Bella Castillo, Odessa, Texas (first after 26 games of qualifying)
Malayna Calo, Riverview, Florida (second after 26 games of qualifying)
Larielle Tharps, Orlando, Florida (event champion)
Macy Jones, Shobonier, Illinois (event runner-up)

The U15 division at the 2023 Junior Gold Championships included 326 girls and 700 boys.

More than 3,250 United States Bowling Congress Youth members competed at Junior Gold 2023, traveling across six bowling centers in the Indianapolis area in hopes of winning a sizable portion of the approximately \$450,000 scholarship fund, making a run at a national title and claiming a spot on Junior Team USA.

BowlTV.com provided livestream coverage of every round of the 2023 event leading up to the stepladder finals in each division.

The finals in each division were taped for broadcast on CBS Sports Network with telecasts adhering to the following schedule: U18 (Tuesday, Aug. 22 at 9 p.m. Eastern); and U20 (Tuesday, Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. Eastern).

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<p>QUALIFYING: October 14, 2023 1:00pm</p> <p>Six games moving pairs after each game. Highest scratch series will determine 16 qualifiers (*1 senior for every 8 entries; max 4)</p>	<p>**FINALS: October 15, 2023 11:00am</p> <p>Top 16 will bowl scratch in a two game single elimination bracket until a Champion is determined.</p>
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Contact Andre with any questions:
(323) 252-7904
Email: aweubanks@yahoo.com

MAIL ENTRY and PAYMENT TO:
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- \$65 Entry Fee / \$80 Entry Fee after 10/1/23
- 2023-24 USBC Membership required

<p>Sat., October 14, 2023 1pm</p> <p>Sun., October 15, 2023 10am</p>
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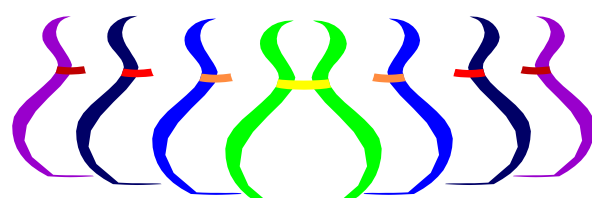
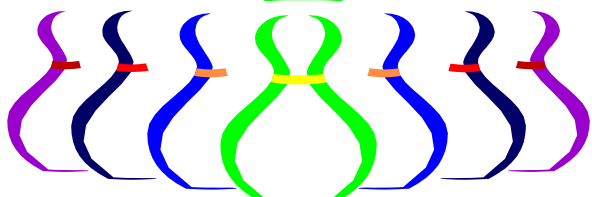
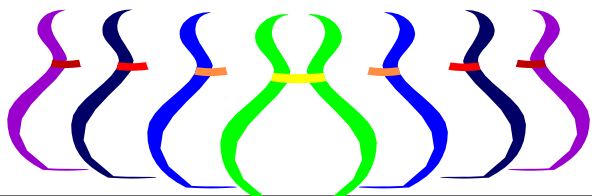
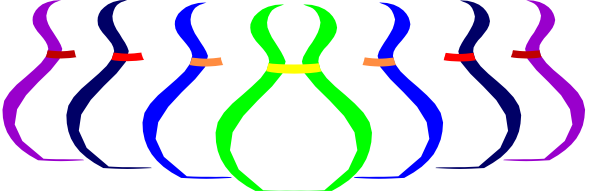
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