

ADDITIONAL TV SHOWS AND FINALS ON FOX HIGHLIGHT CHANGES TO **2023 U.S. OPEN AND USBC MASTERS**

by Aaron Smith

ARLINGTON, Texas - The U.S. Open and United States Bowling Congress Masters each will feature a pair of television shows in 2023 with the major titles and \$100,000 top prizes being awarded live on FOX.

The arrangement for the 2023 events came together through cooperation between the Professional **Bowlers** Association, the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America and USBC.

To allow for the additional TV exposure, both events will have slight adjustments made to their traditional format.

At the U.S. Open, the removal of the fourth qualifying round will allow for a nine-player stepladder over two days at Woodland Bowl in Indianapolis. The first show, which will air live on FS1 on Feb. 4, will feature the No. 5 through No. 9 seeds in a traditional stepladder format. The advancer will join the top four seeds for the second stepladder Feb. 5 on FOX.

The 2023 event still will feature three eightgame qualifying rounds, but now the field will be cut to the top 24 athletes play after Round 3. Recent editions of the U.S. Open cut to the top 36 athletes after Round 3

with an additional eightgame round determining the top 24 for round-robin match play.

For 2023, 48-game totals, including bonus pins for each win in match play, will determine the nine finalists. Historically, the U.S. Open has featured 56 games.

At the USBC Masters, television matches will start in the Elimination Bracket on March 31 at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, Michigan, with four single-game matches replacing the final three-game headto-head round and fourplayer shootout to determine the finalists for the stepladder. These matches will be broadcast live on FS1.

Now, eight athletes will earn spots on TV at the 2023 Masters with four players advancing to the stepladder and a true double-elimination format for the top seed April 2 on FOX.

Qualifying and match play will remain consistent with previous editions of the event prior to the introduction of TV on March 31. The double-elimination bracket will be retained, and all matches leading up to for round-robin match the final eight competitors will feature threegame total-pinfall con-

continued on page 2

TEAM USA SET TO COMPETE AT 2022 IBF WORLD CUP IN QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

ARLINGTON, Texas Stefanie Johnson has put together an international resume that most bowlers can only dream

During a Team USA career that has spanned the better part of two decades, the 38-yearold right-hander from McKinney, Texas, has won 27 medals in international competition, 14 gold, eight silver and five bronze.

Johnson's most-recent Team USA triumphs came during the summer of 2019 when she partnered with best friend Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, to win a doubles gold medal at the Pan American Games in Lima, Peru, one month before helping the Team



Stefanie Johnson

USA women capture a bronze medal at the International Bowling Federation Women's World Championships in Las Vegas.

But despite her track record of proven success, all good things

must eventually come to an end, and that is why Johnson has decided to make the 2022 IBF World Cup her last event as a member of Team USA.

The 2022 IBF World Cup will run from Nov.

12-23 at Suncity Tenpin Bowl on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia.

"I have two kids who aren't getting any younger, so it felt like the right time to hang up my hat continued on page 4

PWBA ANNOUNCES 2023 TOUR SCHEDULE, **EXPANDS REGIONAL PROGRAM TO NINE EVENTS PLUS REGIONAL SHOWDOWN**

by Gene J. Kanak



ARLINGTON, Texas -The best women bowlers in the world will have no shortage of opportunities to compete this year as the 2023 Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour season will run from January to December and feature 12 PWBA National Tour events, nine PWBA Regionals, three majors

and the return of the Regional Showdown.

The regional season will kick off Jan. 21 at JB's Allen Bowl in Allen. Texas, where the PWBA will conduct a standalone tournament. One additional stand-alone regional will follow in March before the PWBA National Tour season ofcontinued on page 4

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U.S. Open/Masters continued from page 1

The TV matches on March 31 will implement a knockout-style format with the winners of the first two games advancing to the finals of the Elimination Bracket. The advancers then will take on players who lost in the semifinals of the Winners Bracket with each winner earning a spot in the opening match of the stepladder on April 2.

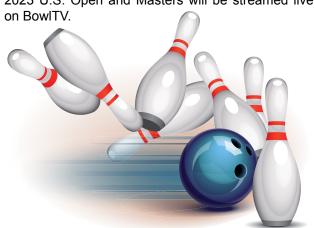
The two players who emerge victorious from the semifinals of the Winners Bracket will earn automatic spots on the April 2 broadcast, with a three-game total-pinfall match determining the top seed. This match will be broadcast at BowlTV.com.

With only four players advancing to the stepladder, the top seed will need to be defeated twice on FOX to be denied the title.

The 2023 U.S. Open is scheduled for Jan. 29 - Feb. 5, and the 2023 Masters is slated for March 26 - April 2. Both events are major championships on the 2023 PBA Tour schedule.

Anthony Simonsen of Las Vegas is the defending champion at both events and is a four-time major champion on the PBA Tour.

All rounds of qualifying and match play at both the 2023 U.S. Open and Masters will be streamed live



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THERESE WEILER Leads The Women of The Senior Laughlin League

by Frank Weiler

REDLANDS – A good bowler must be able to handle **Adversity** when it presents itself. **Therese Weiler** has done so many times, especially when she has competed in tournaments. Her experience at State and National Tournaments is serving her well this season because Empire Bowl's new Kegel Lane Machine has driven scoring down. These difficult lane conditions are presenting Empire bowlers with **Adversity**.

Therese is dealing with Empire Bowl's latest challenge better than most. She is currently leading the women of the Senior Laughlin League in average and has rolled the season high scratch series. By dealing successfully with today's **Adversity**, **Therese** is proving she is an outstanding bowler.

The TOP 5 female bowlers of the Senior Laughlin League follow:

-	•
Therese Weiler	164 Average
Gail Stormes	161
LeeAnn Malouff	155.8
Janise Rick	155.4
Deanna Stafford	155.2

The High Scratch Series to date:

Therese Weiler	538
Kathy Nakano	524
Barbara Bradley	522

The High Scratch Games to date:

Teresa Sachs	211
Peggy Laurel	210
Sara Lang	200

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Don't Go There?...

A History of Two-Hand Bowlers

by Dave Williams

After writing a column last week about the Bowling Ball Hardness Report that was finalized by USBC in a news release on November 1st, I began to wonder why more attention hasn't been given to the two-hand delivery that's being employed by more and more professional bowlers, and even league and casual bowlers everywhere.

Sure, the bowling ball hardness argument has been around for close to 40 years on the Pro Bowler's Tour, but what about the two-hand phenomenon that has now been with us for almost 20 years? The first bowler to popularize the two-hand delivery was a bowler from Finland that made the televised finals in the 2004 U.S. Open from the Anaheim Convention Center in Southern California.

His name was Osku Palermaa, a 20 year old bowler that was the first foreign born amateur to advance to the finals of a PBA major tournament. It wasn't until almost four years later that Jason Belmonte, another foreign player from Australia, burst upon the scene and became the 2008-2009 PBA Rookie of the Year, including his first PBA title at AMF Babylon Bowl in West Babylon, New York.

Has Anyone Ever Heard Of Chuck Lande?

The very first two-hand PBA member to win a title, if you include regional events, was Chuck Lande of Dallas, Texas, in 1987. He won five regional titles using a two-hand delivery in a five year period from 1987 to 1991. It was interesting to view Lande's account of his first national PBA event at the Forum Bowl in Grand Prairie, Texas, during a YouTube video provided by FloBowling and titled 'Two Hands On The Future.'

"During the practice session a very well known PBA player was watching behind me," said Lande. The next thing Chuck knew, Harry Golden, the PBA Tournament Director, came down and asked Lande about an extra hole in his ball, and if it was for his thumb? He replied that it wasn't and that it was a weight hole.

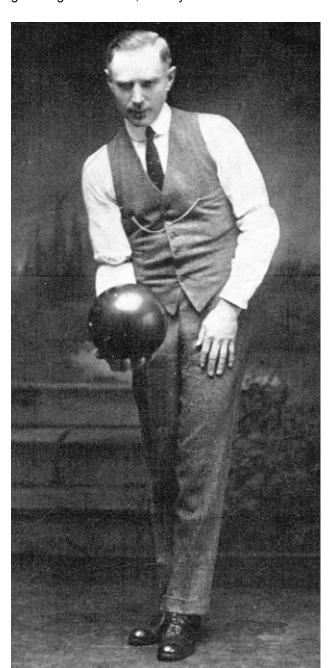


Jason Belmonte

According to Lande, Golden's reply was: "Because of the way that you bowl, you can't have a weight hole. Either you're going to have to put your thumb in that hole or you can't use it." Lande then said that he had to run into the pro shop and get another bowling ball drilled with a traditional grip and finish the tournament using that one bowling ball. Those comments reminded me so much of my first PBA national event at the very same Forum Bowl in Grand Prairie about fifteen years prior to Lande's experience.

In my encounter with Mr. Golden, he informed me during the practice session that I would have to purchase a pair of bowling shoes (I had brought my favorite pair of rental shoes all the way from California) and get a haircut before the first round the next day. Thankfully veteran pro Bobby Meadows, manager of another local bowling center owned by Jeanie Hulsey, overheard the conversation and set me up with a haircut from his barber, and a nice pair of Lind's Bowling Shoes.

The next day I started the first game with six strikes in a row, and down came Golden once again, this time to inform me of the unwritten "double jump" rule, which no one had explained, or even mentioned to me. This time it was veteran Billy Hardwick that came to my defense. Hardwick said, "If anyone gives you a dirty look, give it right back." So, I totally understand the frustration that Lande was experiencing that day.



Count Gengler

Miller And The Count

An argument could be made that Mike Miller of Albuquerque was the first touring professional to perfect the "thumbless" delivery, although Mike performed his incredible backswing and release without the use of a second hand as a guide. He must have been an incredibly strong individual in those years (1980-2000) to accomplish this rare feat.

I remember bowling with Mike in the early 1980's on tour, and his delivery was very straight, with the ability to roll the ball very fast. Consequently, he performed quite well in the late evening squads, when the heavy concentration of oil on the lanes was no longer present. Adding the thumbless delivery to his arsenal made him a superstar, and in 1991 he captured the coveted PBA National Championship and almost \$100,000 in total earnings.

Another famous thumbless (and fingerless!) bowler from the early part of the 20th century was Count Gengler. He came to this country from Luxembourg, according to an article by bowling historian J.R. Schmidt. "He soon began making a living as a traveling bowling hustler," states Schmidt. He must have had giant hands, as he would palm the ball without the use of thumb or fingers and used only one step.

Schmidt comments that until he became well known, he must have appeared to be an easy mark with his unorthodox style. The Count only bowled professionally for twelve years. He had a total of 6 recognized 300 games, but there are those that say he had many, many more in his hustling days. He retired at the age of 44 when he lost a well-publicized match to Jimmy Smith of New York in 1926. According to Schmidt, Gengler spent the rest of his life raising horses.

Singular Chirophobia - Is It Real?

Jason Belmonte has done a few videos about a disease known as singular chirophobia. Is it real? The whole experience reminded me of Orson Welles and "The War of the Worlds" radio broadcast from 1938. Welles famous broadcast contained a disclaimer at the beginning of the CBS broadcast, but if you tuned in after that, many thought that it was real, with creatures emerging from what Welles claimed to be an alien spacecraft.

Mr. Welles apologized the next day, but the damage had been done. The broadcast made the 23 year old a famous figure overnight. Belmonte did not need the presentation of the singular chirophobia vignettes to obtain popularity, but I'm still wondering if it is real, even after Jason created another humorous episode showing that he had been cured.

It would appear that Jason Belmonte has another career waiting for him... in Hollywood!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMWLFxE8fZA

Jason Belmonte photo provided by PBA, LLC.
John "Count" Gengler photo provided by bowlinghistory.wordpress.com

PWBA continued from page 1

ficially gets underway May 4 with the PWBA Stockton Open at Pacific Avenue Bowl in Stockton, California.

The Stockton Open will be a landmark event in PWBA history as it will be the 100th tournament to award a tour title since the relaunch in 2015.

The season's first major will come shortly thereafter when the United States Bowling Congress Queens takes place May 17-23 at Sam's Town Bowling Center in Las Vegas. Many memorable tournaments have been contested at Sam's Town over the years; nevertheless, the 2023 USBC Queens will mark the first time the venue has hosted PWBA competition since the 2000 Sam's Town Invitational.

"There will be a lot of exciting things happening on the PWBA Tour this season," Bowling Proprietors' Association of America Executive Director Frank De-Socio said. "We'll have the chance to celebrate some important milestones, to return to some amazing venues and to break lots of new ground as we continue trying to improve the tour experience for our players and fans."

Germany's Birgit Noreiks broke some new ground last season, capturing her first major title at the 2022 Queens at Stardust Bowl in Addison, Illinois. This year, she will look to defend as Queens champion just as Erin McCarthy of Elkhorn, Nebraska (U.S. Women's Open), and Stephanie Zavala of Downey, California (PWBA Tour Championship), hope to repeat as titlists when the season's other two majors roll around in June and August, respectively.

Plans call for the stepladder finals of all three majors to be broadcast live on national television. Additional details including the complete 2023 television schedule for all USBC and IBC programming will be announced at a later date. All rounds leading up to the stepladder finals will be broadcast on BowlTV.com.

Events not featuring a national television broadcast will conclude live on BowlTV.

Players will be competing for an overall prize fund of approximately \$1.4 million during the 2023 tour season, which matches last season in offering the largest average purse per national tour event since the tour's relaunch.

The three majors will once again feature the most lucrative purses with the champion taking home \$60,000 at both the Queens and U.S. Women's Open and \$50,000 at the PWBA Tour Championship.

Standard PWBA Tour events will award \$20,000 for first place while PWBA Classic Series event winners will take home \$10,000.

The 2023 PWBA season will wrap up in December with the PWBA Regional Showdown, which will be held at the International Training and Research Center in Arlington, Texas. This will mark the second time the PWBA Regional Showdown has been contested – Julia Bond won the inaugural event in 2019.

Details for this season-ending regional tournament will be announced soon along with the dates for the remaining stand-alone and in-season regional tour events. Entries for the first two regional events in January and March will open Nov. 11.

Athletes will be able to purchase their 2023 PWBA memberships starting Jan. 11, 2023.

"The PWBA continues to be a great success story for bowling," USBC President Melissa McDaniel said. "The 2023 schedule provides a wonderful opportunity to showcase the highest level of women's bowling in person and through our media channels."

2023 PWBA TOUR SCHEDULE

With dates, event, center, location and broadcast channel (subject to change):

May 4-6, PWBA Stockton Open, Pacific Avenue Bowl, Stockton, Calif., BowlTV May 11-13, PWBA GoBowling! Spokane Open, Lilac Lanes & Casino, Spokane, Wash., BowlTV

May 17-23, USBC Queens, Sam's Town, Las Vegas, National TV

May 31-June 2, PWBA Grand Rapids Classic – Great Lakes, Spectrum Lanes, Wyoming, Mich., BowlTV

June 3-4, PWBA BowITV Classic – Great Lakes, Spectrum Lanes, Wyoming, Mich., BowITV

June 5-6, PWBA Great Lakes Classic – Great Lakes, Spectrum Lanes, Wyoming, Mich., BowlTV

June 8-10, **PWBA Bowlers Journal Cleveland Open**, Yorktown Lanes, Parma Heights, Ohio, BowlTV

June 13-20, U.S. Women's Open, ABC Gates Bowl, Rochester, N.Y., National TV

July 27-30, PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles, Copperfield Bowl, Houston, BowlTV

Aug. 8-10, PWBA Waterloo Classic - Waterloo, Cadillac Xtreme Bowling Center, Waterloo, Iowa, BowlTV

Aug. 11-12, PWBA Pepsi Classic - Waterloo, Cadillac Xtreme Bowling Center, Waterloo, Iowa, BowlTV

Aug. 13-15, PWBA Tour Championship - Waterloo, Cadillac Xtreme Bowling Center, Waterloo, Iowa, National TV

Team USA continued from page 1

and put the Team USA jersey away," Johnson said. "Plus, Shannon (O'Keefe) and I started this journey together in 2005, and we always talked about ending it together as well."

O'Keefe retired from international competition at the conclusion of the 2022 PANAM Bowling Champion of Champions in Rio de Janeiro back in August.

In addition to it allowing her to walk off into the sunset hand in hand with her best friend, Johnson also sees her retirement as creating an opportunity for another young woman to step up and take a shot at making her own Team USA dreams come true.

"By stepping away, I'm giving a gift to someone else because now that person will get to experience the thrill of bowling for their country and get to do everything that I've gotten to do while representing the red, white and blue," Johnson said.

It remains to be seen who will take Johnson's spot on the women's team and don the red, white and blue in years to come, but the decision as to who will be sharing the lanes with her at the World Cup has already been decided.

Johnson will be joined on the women's team by Bryanna Coté of Tucson, Arizona; Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York; and Jordan Richard of Maumee, Ohio. The men's team will be represented by Jakob Butturff of Tempe, Arizona; A.J. Johnson of Oswego, Illinois; Kris Prather of Romeoville, Illinois; and Kyle Troup of Taylorsville, North Carolina.

This year's World Cup will be the first to be conducted using a newly adopted format that, according to the IBF website, was designed to "showcase individual performance and teamwork with skill, endurance, knowledge and strategy as key ingredients to be able to walk as champions."

The event will feature a combination of singles matches and four-person Baker team play with individuals and teams earning points for their countries and contributing to team totals that will determine the overall winners.

Stefanie Johnson is hoping to do her part to help Team USA find success at the World Cup, but she is also going to be sure not to let the pressure outweigh the pleasure.

"This is actually my first World Cup, so I was excited when I got the call to say that I'd been selected to compete," Johnson said. "I've prepared as hard as I can for myself and for my teammates, and I'm going to give it everything I've got. Of course, I want to do well, but I'm just going to enjoy every moment of it and let nature happens how it happens."

Thankfully for Johnson, she won't have to carry the load herself as Coté, McEwan and Richard should all be brimming with confidence after having helped Team USA author an outstanding performance at the recent PANAM Bowling Women's Championships in Lima, Peru.

Butturff, Prather and A.J. Johnson have their own past successes to call upon in order to instill confidence as all three were part of the Team USA crew that won the trios gold medal at the 2021 IBF Super World Championships in Dubai.

But should confidence wane at any point, Team USA Head Coach Bryan O'Keefe and Junior Team USA Head Coach Kelly Kulick, who will be on hand to assist O'Keefe in Queensland after having competed as a member of Team USA herself just one year ago, will be there to help get the team back on track.

"Kelly (Kulick) and I are very fortunate to get to coach another amazingly talented group of bowlers at this year's World Cup," O'Keefe said. "There is nothing that these men and women can't do on the lanes, so it will just be a matter of staying patient, staying confident and controlling the things that we can control. If we can do that, we have a chance to be very successful and to probably come home with some medals."

For more information on Team USA, visit BOWL.com/TeamUSA.



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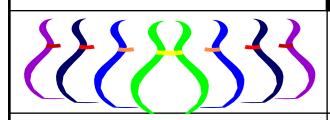
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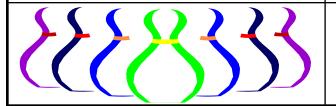
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Finishing Touch Floors Keeps Rolling In Week Three

by David Yamauchi

lanes for the third week on the new short pattern. Finishing Touch Floors and DV8 were looking to pad their leads with both teams sitting at 9-1 entering the night and looking to keep the momentum going.

The "A" match featured Finishing Touch Floors and DV8. Two teams; one team averaging 801 and one team averaging 699 but both sitting at 9-1 going into the night. DV8 finished game one big to take the first game but it was all Finishing Touch Floors from there as they struck to a 4-1 win on the back of Bobby Hornacek's huge 684 series. Jeff Carr led DV8 with a 565 set to help get the one win. Finishing Touch Floors will remain in the "A" match next week sitting at 13-2 for the round.

The "B" match was also two teams with big average differences as Bowling Guys at 8.5-1.5 met up with Cal Bowl at 8-2. Cal Bowl came out with the game one win but Bowling Guys struck back to take game two. Game three went big to Cal Bowl as they went on to the 4-1 win. Leonard Ruiz Jr. struck to the lead for Cal Bowl with a 616 set while Ross Rios put up a 551 series to lead Bowling Guys. Cal Bowl will move to the "A" match next week to try and put a stop to Finishing Touch Flooring.

The 5th vs. 6th place match featured J.K. Inc. and Junior Amateur Tour with both teams looking to bounce back from tough matchups in week 2. Junior Amateur Tour came out quickly as they took the first game by 38, then cruised to a 5-0 sweep. Sean Sosebee led J.K. Inc. with a 472 set while Anthony Santos again was high for Junior Amateur Tour with a 603 series.

Bowlium met Allied Paving in the middle of the

DOWNEY- The Brunswick Invitational took the at 6-4 and Allied Paving an even 5-5. This match was all Bowlium as they swept through Allied Paving 5-0. Ramiro Garcia put up a consistent 607 series to pace Bowlium while Juan Zavala led Allied Paving with a 556 set.

> Professional Approach was the lower of the 5-5 teams matched up against short-handed 1st round winners Family Ties. Family Ties came out strong, taking the first two games, but Professional Approach took game 3 for the 4-1 result. David Cogswell paced Family Ties with a 588 series while sub Kevin Jones broke six with a 606 set for Professional Approach.

> Westminster Lanes was looking to keep their momentum going after a 3-win week as they battled US Foods who was looking to get back into the round after a rough start. US Foods bounced back in on week three sweeping through Westminster Lanes on the back of Paul Barraco's 602 and Gabriel Martinez' 603 sets. Jonathan Gale led Westminster with a 556 set.

> HB Complete Builders, Threadworks, Forest Lanes and Don Julio Tequila rounded out the matches this week. Threadworks was all over HB Complete Builders as they took the first game by 67 and never looked back. Ray Minter paced Threadworks with a 553 set while Kevin Cowden managed 461 to lead HB Complete Builders. Forest Lanes ran through Don Julio Tequila for a 5-0 result led by J.T. Diso's 607 series. William Morris paced Don Julio with a 509 series.

The Financial Advisor's Pot went to Anthony Santos (254) for \$160 with 2nd to J.T. Diso (246) for \$70. Sidepots went to Vince Duarte (244) and Anthony Santo (254) for \$54 each with 2nd to Ray MInter (216) and J.T. Diso (247) for \$27 each. SuperPot went to Leonard Ruiz Jr. (257) for \$162 and 2nd to matches with Bowlium sitting one game above .500 Bobby Hornacek (237) for \$81. The Clean 30 pot

TOP 10 TEAMS ROUND TWO

Bowling Guys 9.5
Family Ties \$8
U.S. Foods8
Forest Lanes 7
Threadworks7

TOP 10 THIS WEEK

Bobby Hornacek684	Gabriel Martinez 603
Leonard Ruiz Jr 616	Anthony Santos 603
JT Diso607	Paul Barraco 602
Ramiro Garcia607	Billy Myers Jr593
Kevin Jones604	Ramsey Basurto 591

SUPER SWEEPER POT

Sponsored by Dean Sanderson of Transamerica Financial Advisors Inc. 1st Anthony Santos 254 \$160 • 2nd JT Diso 246 \$70

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was tickled with a Clean-29 but ended up as a carryover.

Come on out and watch Southern California's Richest League battle as the scores continue to be all over the board as the bowlers adjust for next Monday at 8:00!

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