

EMPIRE BOWL Rocks at CHRISTMAS TIME

by Frank Weiler

REDLANDS – Happy Holidays from Santa’s playground, EMPIRE BOWL. In the photo DESIREE BUELL and LORDAN FERGUSON have a good laugh between frames as they celebrate the season. It is the season for fun, good times and good bowling.

Desiree is Empire Bowl’s top Desk Manager. That’s because she has “PERSONALITY”.

When Bobby Rydell composed and sang his hit song titled “Personality” some 50 years ago, he must have had someone like Desiree in mind. She is the personification of what the word “Personality” means and is all about. Desiree is always in a good mood, flashing a big smile and speaking an encouraging word for all.

Lordan is a great guy and fun to be around. On the concourse he is all smiles and full of cheer. However, on the lanes he is a serious competitor. He doesn’t let up or give an inch because it’s Christmas. The photo shows Lordan on the concourse where he is all smiles and wearing

one of his favorite bowling hats. He and Desiree are spreading Christmas Cheer.

Lordan loves to wear a hat while bowling. He has several favorites. If you look closely at the photo you will see his choice cha-peau for this Holiday Season. It’s a blue Canadian Mounty Cap. I bet he has a red Santa Clause hat in his bowling bag and the green stocking of the grinch as well.

In the past I’ve heard that Lordan has worn baseball hats, golf caps and clown apparel. I don’t know if any of its true but I do know that he loves to have fun while bowling. Lordan is also a winner and maybe he’s using the fun stuff to disarm and distract the opposition? Is non-contact disarming and distracting of an opponent a form of defense? Is Lordan is the first bowler who plays defense?

Whatever Lordan is up to he wishes everyone a MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Great look Lordan. Great personality Desiree. MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY HOLIDAYS everyone.



Desiree & Lordan At Empire Bowl

KYLE TROUP WINS 2021 CHRIS SCHENKEL PBA PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Two titles and the single-season earnings record separate Troup from the pack

by Jef Goodger

NEW YORK, N.Y.— On the strength of winning two Guaranteed Rate PBA Tour titles and setting the all-time single-season earnings record, Kyle Troup was named the 2021 Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year. Troup received the overwhelming majority of votes from PBA membership and veteran bowling writers, with François Lavoie finishing a distant second and Chris Via close behind Lavoie in third.

“Winning Player of the Year was one of my goals coming into the season,” said Troup. “In 2020, I won three titles and realized I might be closer than I



thought to having a shot at it. I put a lot of work in at the end of the 2020 season that got me mentally prepared to shoot for winning a major and Player of the Year.”

In 2021, Troup won the season-opening PBA Players Championship for his first major title, banking a PBA record-tying \$250,000 first prize for the win. Troup also won the PBA

Playoffs for his eighth career title, tying the total his father, Guppy, amassed on the PBA Tour.

“To catch my father with eight titles was such a

continued on page 5

MATTHEW RUSSO IS 2021 HARRY GOLDEN PBA ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Edges Zach Weidman, Anthony Neuer for the honor

by Jef Goodger

NEW YORK, N.Y.— Matthew Russo, whose victory in the PBA Jonesboro Open made him the only rookie to win a 2021 Guaranteed Rate PBA Tour title, was named the 2021 Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year after receiving the majority of votes from PBA membership and veteran bowling writers.

“I’ve been anxiously awaiting the news the last two or three weeks,” said Russo. “Am I going to win? What could I have done better if I don’t win? It was one of the best phone calls ever when (PBA Tour



commissioner) Tom Clark called to tell me.”

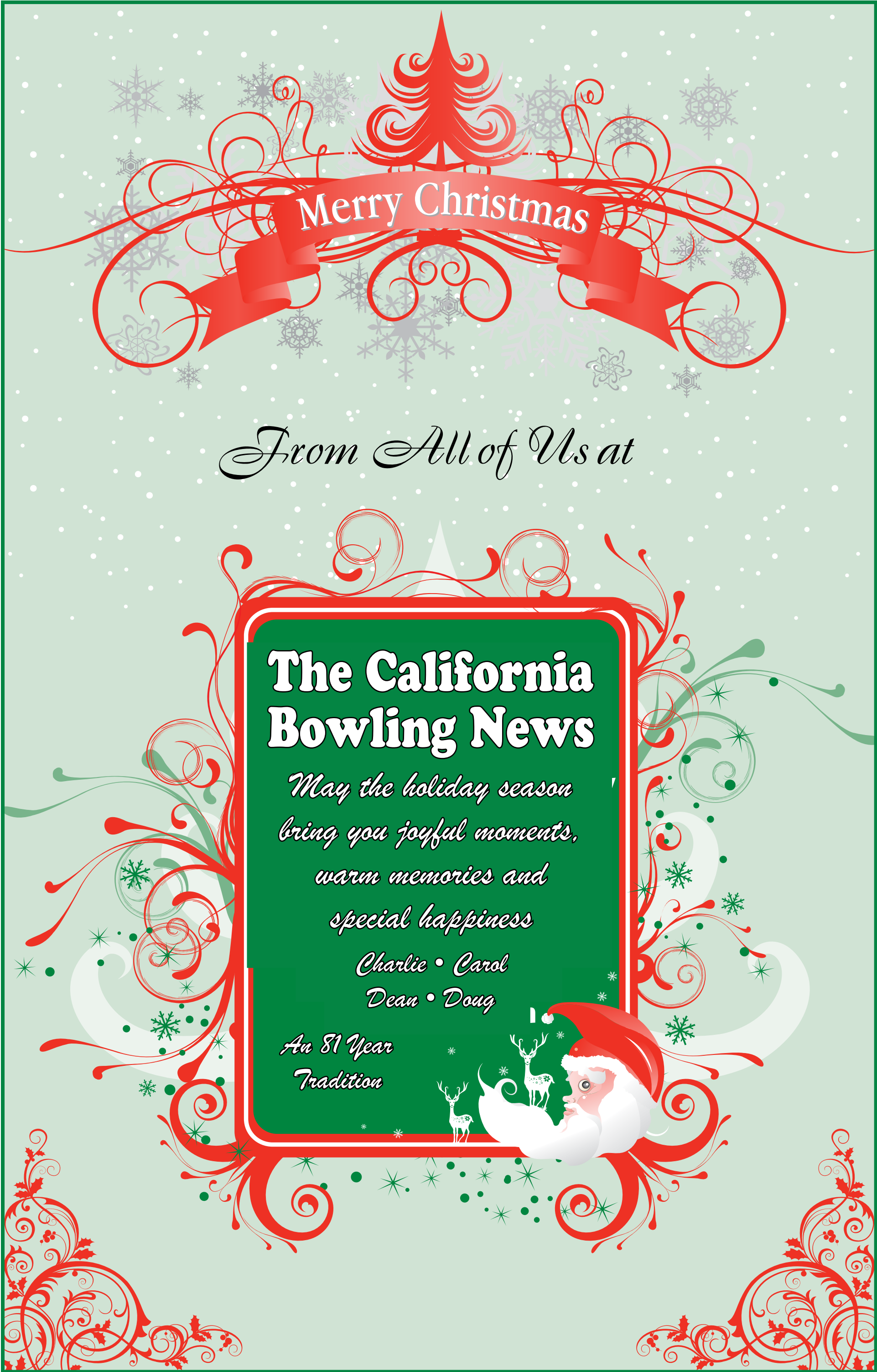
Russo, who along with his title also cashed more times than any other rookie, received 36% of the

vote. Zach Weidman, who led rookies in earnings and points with two top-10 finishes in majors, came in second at 29%. Anthony Neuer, whose third-place

finish in the U.S. Open included a 7-10 split conversion, was third with 19% of the vote.

Pursuing the Rookie of continued on page 11





My Love Affair With Homemade Christmas Cards

by Dave Williams

It's hard to believe that it's been almost 40 years since developing my first homemade card for Christmas. It all began when I started emulating the cards created each year by John Mazey, the AMF marketing genius that developed such famous slogans as "We Make Weekends" and "You Knock 'em Down, MagicScore Adds 'em Up."

John actually gave the credit for that second slogan to Yogi Berra, who spontaneously came up with it during the taping for a new computerized scoring system that AMF developed in the 1970's. Of course one of my favorites was "The Best Approach," when Mr. Mazey used my approach and backswing for a print advertisement that appeared in bowling publications and newspapers across the country in the 1980's.

Like all of my Mazey adventures, I really didn't know what to expect regarding "The Best Approach" advertisement until we arrived on the set. In this particular instance it was at the producer's home, and after interviewing me for a few minutes, he mentioned to Mazey that we could probably complete the scene in his home, rather than at a studio.

The producer then asked me to change into my bowling shoes and to stand just beyond an archway, in a hallway on the other side. He then asked me to assume the position of a bowler in the apex of the backswing. As I tried to construct in my mind the position of feet and arms for a realistic appearance, the producer shouted "That's, it! Now just swing your arm a little higher."

Higher and higher I swung my arm, reaching a level that was not even achieved by the great Mark



Christmas Card Greeting from 1998

Roth in those days. To further illustrate the authenticity of the shot, I focused my eyes on a door knob about halfway down the hallway, so that it would appear that I was aiming at my target on a bowling lane. The result, like most of Mazey's creations, was a hit, as MagicScore continued to outsell the more cumbersome Brunswick scoring device.

Just like his success with advertising campaigns, Mazey's homemade Christmas cards each year were well thought out and definitely "out of the box" in terms of traditional thinking. Many of the cards incorporated another dimension — with ribbons, or bows, or intricate three fold formations that included a little something extra, like a peppermint candy. My cards could never match John's creativity... but he was my inspiration!

One year I decided to use a photo with a Christmas greeting. The photo was from one of my favorite spots in Jersey City, N.J. - a new Starbucks that had just opened near the Newport Mall, with a breathtaking view of the New York City skyline from along the western shore of the Hudson River. Without realizing it immediately, I had cap-

tured one of my friends, a particular entrepreneurial seagull with an eye for Starbucks's scones!

Almost everyday I would visit that particular Starbucks, either in the morning before heading to the office, or later in the day to purchase/refresh my cup of coffee prior to hitting the road for one of the bowling centers operated by Nationwide Bowling Corporation. On the way back to my car (this was before the days of Starbucks drive thru's), I would stop to see my friend the seagull and toss a piece of my scone into the air. He never failed to catch it in mid-air!

When I sent out the card that year, I mentioned the seagull story and made reference to the gull in the picture, no doubt waiting for me to toss a portion of my scone into the air. One of the responses that I received about the gull was from Dick Weber, who had a similar experience while on a cruise. Weber said that every morning he would spot a gull outside their private balcony and toss a snack to the bird as he flew in harmony with the ship... and at the exact same speed!

With all of the new friends made as a result of emails centered around the writing of this column in the past few years, I decided to scan that particular Christmas card and send it out as a holiday greeting, instead of going through the laborious task of asking for a mailing address from everyone. As I scanned the card at a local Staples, my hope was that the gull would be noticeable in the sky, as he blended into the hazy blue and white backdrop.

The resulting image speaks for itself! The scene of the Manhattan skyline from 1998, featuring the Twin Towers that were destroyed on September 11th, 2001, appear inside a white semicircle that highlights their dominance of the skyline, while the gull is just outside the semicircle in the azure blue sky that was the entire color of the atmosphere in the original. Now here's the rub: I have been scanning photos and documents in the do-it-yourself section of Office Depot or Staples for over ten years (including two other scans on this visit), and an alteration like this has never happened before!

I'm never quite sure what I'll be writing about each week, but usually by mid-week I've come up with an idea. To say that the topics for some of the articles have been inspired by a higher source would appear to be appropriate; especially after this most recent experience with the unexplained semicircle that calls attention to the World Trade Center, and my enterprising new seagull friend.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone - keep the faith!



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desk and the information is simultaneously being transmitted to computer memory. Within minutes after the last team of a league finishes, there can be a printout of new team standings, bowler averages, high series, high games, etc. Your bowlers can have their records, not next week, but that very night.

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JAKE PETERS NAMED 2021 PBA STEVE NAGY SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD WINNER

Deemed most sportsmanlike by his fellow PBA Tour competitors

by Jef Goodger

NEW YORK, N.Y.—PBA Tour champion Jake Peters of Henderson, Nev. was named by his peers to receive the 2021 PBA Steve Nagy Sportsmanship Award. Peters was the only nominee for the award, which receives nominations from and is voted on exclusively by national touring PBA Tour professionals.

“It’s incredibly shocking,” said Peters. “I was not expecting this whatsoever. The honor of being chosen by my peers is really awesome and having my name attached to this award is a true honor. It’s unbelievable to find out I was the only nominee. It’s really humbling to be recognized and supported by the players like this.”

Peters, who has always been well liked by his fellow competitors, maintained his positive disposition this year despite suffering tremendous personal tragedy.

In late May, Peters lost his wife, Melissa, who had been fighting an aggressive form of breast cancer called HER2-positive. Peters was overwhelmed with the support of the bowling community throughout the entire battle and is further astounded by receiving the Steve Nagy Sportsmanship Award from his fellow competitors.

“It makes me feel even more grateful for how amazing our community is,” said Peters. “The players have been absolutely supportive through everything my family and I went through and I’m so humbled to be accepted and appreciated by them. I still look at myself as a we and Mel is just as big a part of my career as I am. I know she’s up there telling me, ‘You’re welcome.’”

Peters competed in 11 events during the 2021 season, most notably finishing second in the PBA Lubbock Sports Open in July in his return to the PBA Tour. He plans to resume full-time competition in 2022.

“I feel really good,” he said. “I’m focusing all my time and energy on being ready and hoping 2022 is my best season yet.”

First presented in 1966, the PBA’s sportsmanship award honors Steve Nagy, a PBA Hall of Famer and founding member who was instrumental to the success of the PBA Tour in its early years.

Player of the Year

continued from page 1

humbling, great experience for my family and me,” said Troup. “One of my goals for next season is to pass Gup. I need to put the time in and keep working hard, but I think eventually I’m going to be the boss of the family when it comes to bowling.”

One of three players, along with Tom Daugherty and Shawn Maldonado, to win two titles in 2021, Troup also finished fifth in the Guaranteed Rate PBA World Championship and seventh in the Kia PBA Tournament of Champions, giving him three top-10 finishes in majors among nine top 10s overall. Troup also posted three runner-up finishes during the season.

“I need to stay present,” said Troup. “It’s a humbling feeling to join the list of great bowlers who have earned this honor, but now I need to work even harder, get smarter and get tuned up for the beginning of the year if I want to stay on top. There are a lot of guys who can pop off three or four wins in a season, so 2022 might be the toughest yet to win Player of the Year.”

In 2021, Troup competed in 16 events and led all players in competition points (19,922.5) and earnings (\$496,900), breaking the previous PBA record of \$419,700 set by Walter Ray Williams Jr. during the 2002-2003 season.

“I’ve always wanted to win titles, majors and get into the Hall of Fame, but to hold a record?” said Troup. “That’s one thing I never really dreamed about. And to pass Walter Ray, one of the best ever to throw a bowling ball, is a special moment. It’s very nice to have but I want to see the record broken in the future. I want to see someone win a million dollars in a year.”

Troup will begin the 2022 season as the defending champion in the PBA Players Championship, which begins with the regional qualifying rounds on January 15.

The California Bowling Writers has adopted Operation Freedom Paws! Operation Freedom Paws nonprofit organization was founded by “California Bowler and Veteran” Mary Cortani in 2010 that has provided service dogs and training support to veterans and others who suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome, complex PTSD, traumatic brain injury and other physical, neurological, psychological and mobility needs. According to experts, service dogs help empower people with disabilities to live quality lives. Operation Freedom Paws carefully matches clients with their specially chosen four-legged companions, most of which come from rescue shelters. The partners then begin a 48-week program which trains the clients to train their own dogs. At the end of the program, they’re certified together as service dog teams.

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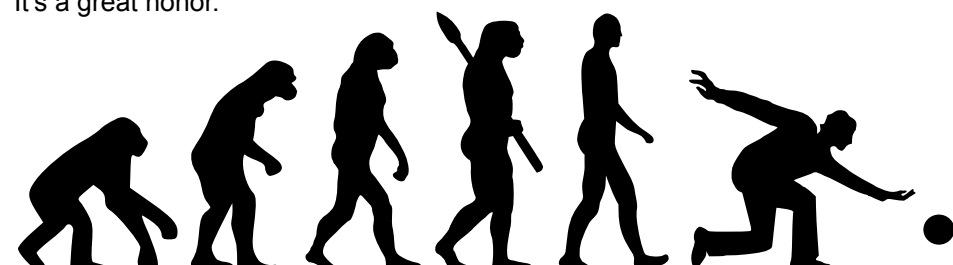
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For more than two decades, Kulick has been a standout on the lanes for Team USA, earning dozens of medals across the globe. She is a 17-time member of the team and was a Junior Team USA member in 1998 and 2000. The 44-year-old right-hander won her first international medal in 1998 and most recently took home a pair of medals and co-Most Valuable Player honors at the 2021 International Bowling Federation Super World Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The years in between have been filled with success on the Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour and as a pioneer on the Professional Bowlers Association Tour, where she became the first woman to win a PBA Tour title. She won the PBA Tournament of Champions in 2010.

Kulick also has been involved in the administrative side of the sport, serving three terms on the USBC Board of Directors. Her stint concluded at the end of the 2019-2020 season, but she continues to serve as a member of the USBC Hall of Fame Committee.

When not competing or carrying out her committee responsibilities, Kulick has been passionate about helping others improve and succeed - in bowling and in other areas of life and fitness.

Coaching bowling is a journey that started close to home as a student, and later as an instructor, for New Jersey's Dick Ritger Bowling Camps. She has been a Level 3 Master Dick Ritger coach since 1995.

Kulick's coaching endeavors have taken her as far as Australia for regular clinics and appearances, and her official debut as part of the Team USA coaching staff came at the 2018 IBF World Youth Championships in the Detroit area.

"Kelly has been a huge part of Team USA's on-lane success over the last 20 years, and she has been a great influence for the Junior Team USA players through her role as an assistant coach," O'Keefe said. "Her transition to this new opportunity is a logical next step in her career, and I know it will be seamless due to her experience as a player and coach and because of her familiarity with international competition. I respect Kelly as a competitor and as a colleague, and I know she will be a great leader for the next generation of young standouts."

While bowling became Kulick's career since graduating from Morehead State University in 2000, her bachelor's degree in physical and health education has served her well for her own fitness goals and in helping others.

She is part of the National Exercise Trainers Association and certified in kettlebell and foam rolling. She also teaches line dancing and group exercise classes and can offer advice as a nutrition specialty coach. The latter stemmed from a passion for food and cooking.

USBC HALL OF FAMER KELLY KULICK NAMED JUNIOR TEAM USA HEAD COACH

by Matt Cannizzaro

ARLINGTON, Texas - Most bowling fans know Kelly Kulick of Union, New Jersey, as one of the world's top competitors or even as a personality on various bowling telecasts, but they'll get to see her in a new capacity in 2022 as the head coach for the Junior Team USA bowling program.

Kulick, a United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer and USBC Silver coach, will assume the position vacated by Bryan O'Keefe, who was named head coach of Team USA in June. The two have worked together for the past four years and will continue to do so in their new positions.

Since 2017, Kulick has been one of seven assistant coaches for Team USA, offering her expertise at a variety of camps and international events.

Her new role puts her at the helm of the expanding junior program that now includes more than two dozen Junior Team USA members and the members of the developmental team. Kulick will begin her tenure at the upcoming USBC Team USA Trials, an event she won in 2019 and 2020.

"There are few things more special and rewarding than standing on the podium and hearing our national anthem, but helping others experience that for the first time might be one of those things," Kulick said. "I'm extremely proud of my career with Team USA, and I'm excited to continue that by helping the next generation of champions reach their dreams."



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Rookie of the Year

continued from page 1

the Year Award was on Russo’s mind all season.

“I had a feeling going into the season who the top rookies would be,” said Russo, noting that several, including Weidman, Wesley Low Jr. and Benjy Martinez, made it to the regional finals telecasts in the season-opening PBA Players Championship.

“I had a chance to make the Players Championship show but I didn’t,” Russo continued. “I knew I was already behind, but I told myself to build on it event to event. My goal was to make a show and have a chance to win. I felt like I was close when I made the Chameleon cut. I lost to Butturff in match play but I felt like I was doing the right things and improving every week.”

In early August, Russo earned the No. 2 seed for the stepladder finals in the PBA Jonesboro Open, getting a win back against Butturff in the semifinal match before defeating 2019 PBA Rookie of the Year Mykel Holliman for the title.

“Everything changed after that,” said Russo. “It solidified that I can be out here and I can win. Ever since I was a kid, this was something I wanted to accomplish. I couldn’t be more grateful.”

The PBA Rookie of the Year Award is named after legendary PBA Tour tournament director Harry “Goose” Golden, who was inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame in 1983.





Carol's Corner

by Carol Mancini
E-mail: CarolMancini83@icloud.com

Now is the time for us bowlers to thank the many proprietors who are closed and survived.

Imagine, throwing out the food in the freezers, notifying employees that the doors will be locked and unemployment could be possible, and there wouldn’t be a Christmas party or even a hug goodbye.

Proprietors were faced with rent, utilities, insurance, repairs, etc. etc. and no income.

How did they survive?
We Bowlers have no idea! But, if they used their money, or our prize funds, we are joyous that the doors are open. The lane machine has prepared the playing field, plus old friends can “join up” and bowl, bowl, bowl. Thank you proprietors! Open the doors and we will come!

When the Bowling Centers closed, for the first time in years, proprietors and managers had time to clean storage rooms and hiding spots.

Imagine the piles of old trophies, damaged balls, broken pins, average books, league sheets, 200 pins, towels, mismatched shoes, barstools, Team champion pictures, etc. etc. etc.

My question this week is;
Why doesn’t California have a Hall of Fame and Museum??? We have the most bowlers, (great bowlers), beautiful centers, history makers, and PBA champs.

The “idea” of a Museum conjures up many questions. Who would finance it? Where to locate it? Who would run it on a daily basis? How to gather histories articles? Who decides what’s in or not?

OK, I hear each one of you saying “yes” to the idea, but “no” I can’t help. Guess I answered my own question!

Your thoughts and ideas are always welcome.
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Bowling Centers of Southern California



Happy Holidays

from

Bowling Centers of Southern California

We are working hard on your behalf
to get your Bowling Centers open
May the New Year bring joy back to the lanes

(657) 210-2695

www.socalbowling.com



2022 CALIFORNIA OPEN & WOMEN'S STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Open to all certified adult members of the California USBC Association

TEAM, DOUBLES, SINGLES & ALL-EVENTS:

FOREST LANES

22771 Centre Dr., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • (949) 770-0055

4 Person Teams

Brackets & Side Pots available

HANDICAP:

90% of 230

Optional Scratch Division available in each event!

Register Teams & Pay Online at CALUSBC.com
No Processing Fees!

ENTRY FEES:

\$40 Per Event
\$20 All-Events

TEAM SQUAD TIMES:

Saturday: 12:30pm
Sunday: 12:30pm

D/S SQUAD TIMES:

Saturday: 9am & 4:30pm
Sunday: 9am

*Sign up early...
Squads are filling up fast!*

DOWNLOAD ENTRY FORMS & RULES AT CALUSBC.COM

\$10,000

Added Prize Money from



Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Supporter

★ **Prize Money**
awarded in Team, Doubles, Singles and All-Events

★ **USBC Certified**

Advanced Registrations must submit Official Entries with rosters and balance by MARCH 15. Failure to meet this deadline will result in reservations relinquished and refunds issued. VALID ID'S WITH USBC CARDS MUST BE PRESENTED AT CHECK-IN AND FOR BRACKETS.

Questions? Contact (415) 492-8880, Option #1
E-mail: CACHampionships@calusbc.com

The Handicap Team Champions will earn a FREE team entry into the 2023 State Championships!

SQUAD DATES:

Check CALUSBC.com for availability

April 30-May 1

May 14-15

May 21-22

May 28-29

Memorial Weekend

DARK WEEKENDS:

Easter, Mother's Day and
CUSBC Convention (June 11-12)

**When space is available*

BOWL MULTIPLE TIMES!

***Re-enter with different team mates for Doubles and Team Event.**

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Happy Holidays!



**From our family to yours, we hope your holidays
are filled with joy, gratitude and relaxation**

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