

CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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It Wasn't Weber This Time, but Bill Stempke Got the Upper Hand on Another Foe

by Fred Eisenhammer

POINT MUGU – “A win.” That’s how Port Hueneme resident Bill Stempke casually described his first bowling outing in three years and he was definitely understating the result.

This was not merely a win. This was a crushing, overwhelming conquest. This was a personal triumph that ranked alongside all his achievements, including the one in which he defeated the celebrated Dick Weber with a 300 in the first game of the finals of a PBA regional tournament.

“I’ve been meaning to give it a try for some time,” said Stempke about bowling, “but there haven’t been any lanes open. Down the coast from Port Hueneme is Point Mugu. There are six lanes that are now open, and I’ve been thinking about dropping in and giving it a go.”



Bill Stempke has been making a nifty comeback after a three-year absence from bowling.

So Stempke did. On April 24, he visited Mugu Lanes at Point Mugu’s Naval Air Station. He came by himself. Stempke wanted to bowl one practice game.

He had no score in mind. The score mattered little.

The Bill Stempke that walked into Mugu Lanes was not the same Bill Stempke than the one who

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NLAC USBC ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR MAY 15

North LA County USBC has scheduled their annual meeting for Saturday, May 15th at 2pm (login by 1:45pm).

Your membership is valuable to us and we invite all current members to attend the annual meeting.

Your voice and vote are very important!

This year’s meeting will be virtual, and all attendees must be current 2020-21 NLAC USBC members. Any youth attending must be at least 14 years of age.

Anyone that is interested in attending the meeting must RSVP online at nlacbowling.com by April 30.

All verified attendees will receive an email with instructions on how to login for the meeting.

If you need to purchase your membership, adults can purchase their cards online at bowl.com or through the NLAC office.

Youth membership must be purchased through the NLAC office.

The main topics for the meeting are to vote on elections, state and national

delegates, and a potential merger with Southern LA County USBC. Additional information regarding the proposed merger can be found at nlacbowling.com.

As we all know, the sport of bowling has been negatively impacted greatly (particularly in California) because of the pandemic.

With the loss of some centers and bowlers, we want to reduce operational expenses and a consolidation should yield increased efficiency and monetary savings while maintaining a consistent level of service for our bowlers.

The consolidation will also allow for the elimination of transfer fees for those that bowl in league or tournaments within both associations.

We want to grow our organization and continue promoting this great sport, so please help us to shape and strengthen our association.

Contact us via email with any questions at nlacbowling@gmail.com. Thank you and hope to see you at the meeting!

PETE WEBER WINS FLORIDA BLUE MEDICARE PBA50 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Wins 5th Major & 12th Career PBA50 Tour Title

by Jerry Schneider

THE VILLAGES, Fla. – Top seed Pete Weber beat No. 2 seed Lennie Boresch Jr. 255-234 in the title match to win the Florida Blue Medicare PBA50 National Championship presented by Spanish Springs Lanes for his fifth PBA50 major and 12th career title overall on the tour for players 50 and over.

It was also Weber’s first PBA50 Tour title since winning the PBA50 DeHayes Insurance Group Championship in 2017.

Weber led qualifying and then posted a 15-1 record in Thursday’s match play to earn the top spot for the finals.

“The last match play block was key because it added to my confidence,” said the 57-year-old Weber. “I was worried about pin carry all day, but the key was I was able to play from the outside on the lane which gives you the best angle to the pocket.”

Weber also bowled through a slight strain of his leg in the title match which turned out to work in his benefit.

“I was using my legs too much,” said Weber. “Bowling with the strain forced me to stay more upright during my approach and that allowed me to have a more effective delivery where I wasn’t driving the ball into the lane.

“Just being able to throw the ball well with a lot of confidence is a great feeling,” he added. “When you’re relaxed and bowling with a lot of confidence you can work through some of those problems.”

In the second stepladder match, Boresch, who had won three of his four career PBA50 Tour titles at Spanish Springs Lanes including the 2018 PBA50 National Championship, defeated PBA50 Tour rookie No. 3 seed Tommy Hess 255-225

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Pete Weber

LIZ JOHNSON WINS 25TH PWBA TOUR TITLE, ROLLS 300 GAME AT 2021 PWBA LINCOLN OPEN

LINCOLN, Neb. – A day before her 47th birthday, Liz Johnson of Niagara Falls, New York, earned a long-awaited gift as she put together an unforgettable performance to win her 25th Professional Women’s Bowling Association Tour title at the 2021 PWBA Lincoln Open.

Johnson collected three victories to run the ladder in Saturday’s championship round at Sun Valley Lanes, averaging 261 in her three wins, which included a 300 game in the semifinal and a 238-213 victory over Kelly Kulick of Union, New Jersey, in the title match.

The 10-time major champion earned \$10,000 for the win, and a \$10,000 bonus from Go Bowling for rolling a perfect game during the stepladder finals.

BowlingTV.com provided wire-to-wire coverage of the 2021 PWBA Lincoln Open, including the stepladder finals.



Liz Johnson

“This is probably the best birthday present I’ve ever had,” said Johnson, a United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer. “I couldn’t ask for a better present, and this is one I’ll never forget.”

The title tilt featured Johnson holding the slight edge through the first seven frames, with a 7-10 split from Kulick in the eighth frame giving Johnson a 25-pin lead as the game neared its conclusion.

Needing eight pins in two shots to secure the win in the final frame, Johnson rolled a strike to claim her first title since the 2018 Nationwide PWBA Columbus Open.

The win moves Johnson into a tie for fourth place on the PWBA’s all-time titles list, joining Patty Costello and Tish Johnson. Lisa Wagner tops the list with 32 wins, with Aleta Sill and Leanne Hulsberg following with 31 and 27 victo-

ries, respectively.

Johnson’s historic run Saturday, which also included the right-hander becoming the first bowler in PWBA history to roll multiple 300 games in championship-round appearances, was the result of trying to do something different in attacking the event’s 46-foot oil pattern after the scoring pace slowed down toward the end of qualifying.

There have been five perfect games rolled in championship rounds on the PWBA Tour, with the last being achieved at the 2019 Pepsi PWBA Louisville Open by Ukraine’s Dasha Kovalova. Kovalova’s 300 game was against Johnson in the title match.

“They were brutal earlier today, and after talking to my ball reps, we tried something out,” said Johnson, who rolled her first 300 in a championship-

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A Couple of Bowling Legends... Ted Rebain and Chief Halftown

by Dave Williams

As this writer continued in a search of information that had been left to me by Ted Rebain, a lifelong promoter of the game of bowling, I came across an interesting association that had been arranged by Mr. Rebain during his time at Parkade Lanes in Manchester, Connecticut. This association involved a legend in television broadcasting named Chief Halftown.

Traynor Ora Halftown, also known as Chief Halftown, was born on February 24, 1917. The Chief grew up in Buffalo, New York, just a few miles from his ancestral home at the Seneca Tribal Reservation, where both of his parents were born. Throughout his life he would often correct interviewers when they referred to him as the more "politically correct" anacronym of Native American, saying instead that he was a full-blooded Indian and a member of the Seneca Tribe.

As a teen, Halftown worked as a pin boy in Jamestown, New York. He would continue his association with bowling while stationed at Carlisle, Pennsylvania during World War II, competing with a three-state championship military team. Halftown was also an accomplished singer, traveling with the Buddy Wilson Band. He was featured as "The Singing Seneca."

After the war was over, Halftown went searching for singing gigs in Pennsylvania. He even recorded an album, "Chief Halftown Sings," which included hits like Lonely Wind, Sleepy Head, Goldmine in the Sky, and Dream Time (these selections can still be heard on YouTube). While Halftown admitted to a "Perry Como style of singing," this writer cannot help but detect a strong similarity to Don Ho, particularly in Sleepy Head, which has the same cadence as the popular "Tiny Bubbles."

When a singing career did not pan out, Chief Halftown decided to try television and interviewed with WFIL-TV Channel 6 (later changing their call letters to the current WPVI-TV) in Philadelphia for a six-week test pilot that would evolve into a 49-year children's television program - "Chief Halftown and His Friends." In order to promote the kid's television show, Halftown would make public appearances at shopping malls, carnivals, street parades, and bowling centers.

That's when a bright mind at the Brunswick Corporation decided to bring Chief Halftown onto their Advisory Staff as a showman for the game of bowling. It was not

long after that when Ted Rebain, an enterprising young supervisor from the Middle Atlantic Region of the American International Bowling Corporation (AIBC), invited the Chief to come and perform before a group of 350 youngsters at Parkade Lanes in Manchester, Connecticut.

Joan Rebain, Ted's wife of almost 70 years before Ted's passing in 2020, shared a humorous story with me in 2015 regarding Chief Halftown's visit to Parkade Lanes. "We arranged to meet Chief Halftown at the Hartford Airport and drive him to the bowling center in Manchester," said Joan. "As we approached within a couple of blocks of the bowling center, Chief Halftown told Ted to pull over."

"You're not taking me to the exhibition in this," said the Chief, referring to the Rebain's automobile. "I'm a star!" They finally agreed that Ted and Joan would leave Chief Halftown there, and have the children meet him outside the bowling center as he approached the parking lot on foot.

"The next week Ted got a nice raise from the company, and we bought a new car," Joan fondly remembered. However, that wasn't all that Ted got from his relationship with Chief Halftown, as Rebain utilized the Chief's format of instruction from that exhibition to develop bowling clubs with elementary schools for many years to follow (with or without Halftown in attendance).



BOWLING LEGENDS: (l-r) Ted Rebain and Chief Halftown at a Youth Awards Picnic (Photo provided by Dave Williams)

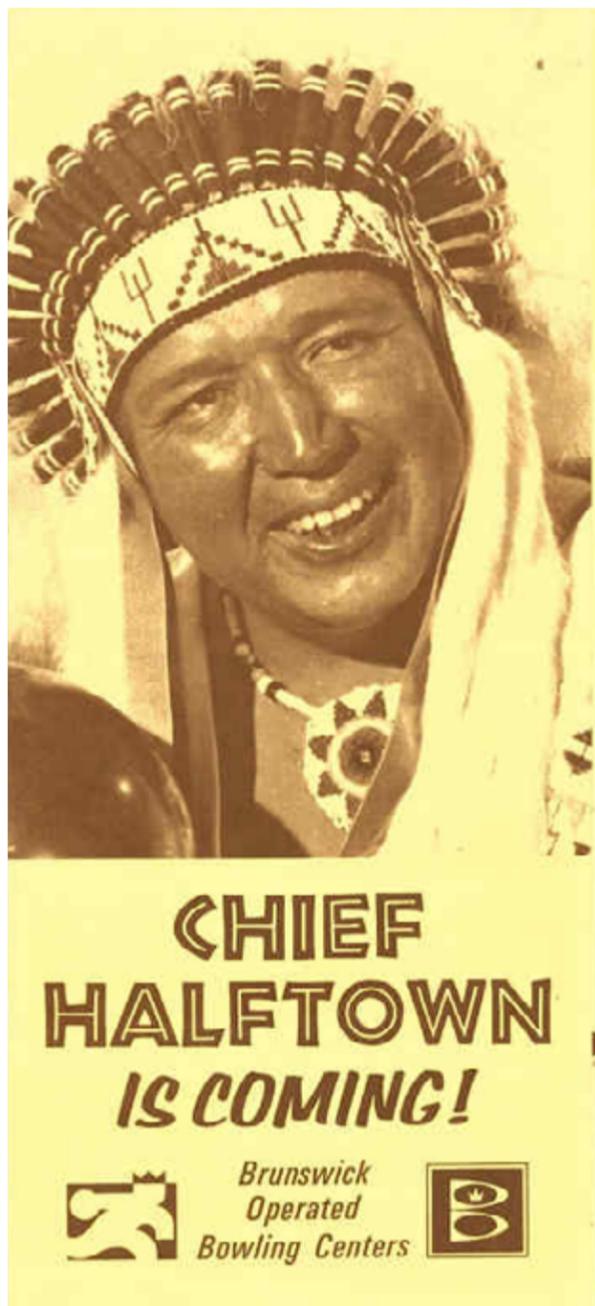
In similar manner, Chief Halftown credited that Manchester visit as the very first "Chief Halftown Junior Bowling Club." When all was said and done, Chief Halftown had formed 256 such clubs in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Panama, Peru and 7 European countries under the auspices of the Brunswick Corporation.

Check out an exceptional interview of Chief Halftown (compliments of Bowlers Gazette): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zeud5hfykDU>

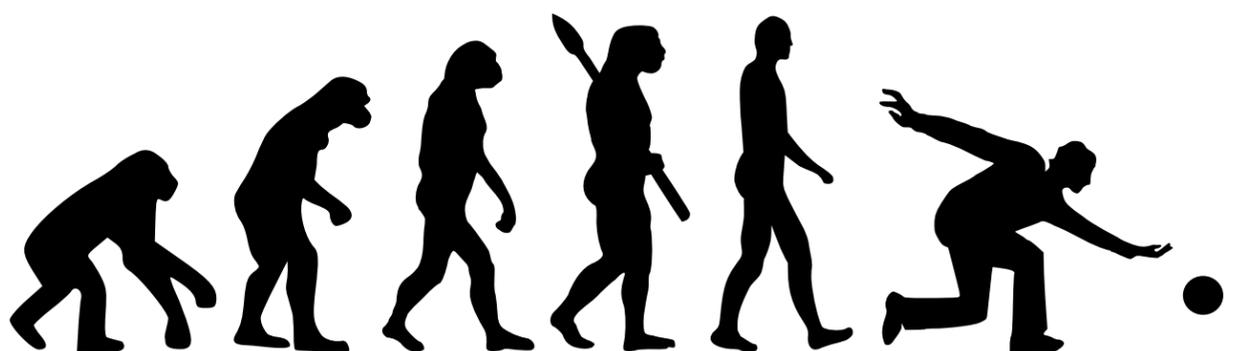
Excerpts of Chief Halftown's early life adapted from broadcastpioneers.com.

Traynor Ora Halftown (Chief Halftown) - Passed away on 7/5/2003 at age 86

Thaddeus F. Rebain (Ted) - Passed away on 1/20/2020 at age 89



CHIEF HALFTOWN HANDOUT: This tri-fold brochure was used by Brunswick whenever Chief Halftown made a personal appearance (Provided by Dave Williams)





2021 USBC VIRTUAL CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING COME TO A CLOSE

ARLINGTON, Texas – United States Bowling Congress delegates elected three board members and voted on 19 legislative proposals from 2020 and 2021, as the 2021 USBC Virtual Convention and Annual Meeting came to a close Thursday.

The ballot for the USBC Board of Directors election had five candidates slated by the USBC Nominating Committee - Jay Daryman of York, Pennsylvania; Dennis Hacker of Longtown, Missouri; Johnny Harris of Lynchburg, Virginia; Chrissy Lee of Tampa, Florida; and Jonathan Van Hees of Hope Valley, Rhode Island - with candidate Sue Schreiber of Medford, Wisconsin, running from the floor.

On the first ballot, Lee (437 votes), Hacker (378) and Daryman (351) were elected, with Schreiber receiving 333 votes, Van Hees receiving 232 votes and Harris receiving 158 votes.

A candidate had to receive a majority of votes from the 642 votes cast to be elected. The newly elected board members will begin their three-year terms on Aug. 1, 2021.

The delegates also ratified the 2020 appointments of Adam Mitchell of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Glenda Beckett of Palmetto Bay, Florida, and Tina Williams of Pflugerville, Texas, to the USBC Board.

Becky Young of McDonough, Georgia, and Dicki Ward of Oklahoma City will be joining the International Bowling Campus Youth Committee, which also returns current members Blair Blumenscheid of Harrisville, Utah, and Chad Estes of Statesville, North Carolina.

In addition to the board elections, delegates voted on proposals from 2020 and 2021 amendments, with six related to league rules, five for tournament rules and eight proposals for bylaws.

The 2020 USBC Convention and Annual Meeting were canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Delegates approved of a league rule amendment that allows a league officer to authorize practice if a game or series is interrupted. One amendment to national bylaws was approved, which provides for the board to make emergency decisions, in extreme situations, to temporarily suspend bylaws and rules.

Two local associations also were recognized and celebrated based on their outstanding performance and service to their members. The Sioux Falls Regional USBC of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Fort Collins USBC of Fort Collins, Colorado, were selected for the USBC Association Excellence Awards for 2020 and 2021, respectively.

The presentation of national awards for 2020 and 2021 also were conducted during the week, including the recognition of the Alberta E. Crowe Star of Tomorrow Award winners Caroline Thesier of Mooresville, North Carolina (2020), and Katharina Mente of Keller, Texas (2021). Ryan Gattton of Owensboro, Kentucky, and Zachary Lewis of Medina, Ohio, were recognized as the 2020 and 2021 Chuck Hall Star of Tomorrow Award winners, respectively.

USBC President Melissa McDaniel and USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy presented their annual reports, and delegates heard reports from the USBC Strategic Planning Committee and from the International Bowling Campus Youth Development team.

During this week's convention, which kicked off April 26, delegates attended virtual educational seminars. The convention also featured video presentations from USBC charity partners Bowlers to Veterans Link, which provides recreational and therapeutic programs and services to America's active duty and veteran service men and women, and Bowl for the Cure®, the year-round fundraising initiative sponsored by USBC in partnership with Susan G. Komen®.

In 2022, the USBC Convention will head to The Orleans in Las Vegas, with the event scheduled to run from April 27-30.

RESULTS OF 2021 USBC ANNUAL MEETING LEGISLATIVE SESSION

2020 LEGISLATION

League Rules (majority needed)

Amendment No. LR 1 - Rejected (214 accept, 516 reject)

Rule 105, Absentee and Vacancy Scores

Requires the use of a vacancy score until the person actually bowls.

Tournament Rules (majority needed)

Amendment No. TR 1 - Adopted (552 accept, 87 reject)

Rule 309a, Cash, Bonds or Merchandise Prizes

Requires tournament managers to provide copies of prize lists and financial statements to tournament participants.

Amendment No. TR 2 - Rejected (51 accept, 586 reject)

Rule 319c, Average Adjustments (Rerating)

Limits the ability of a tournament manager to adjust a player's average upward for future events.

Amendment No. TR 3 - Rejected (61 accept, 569 reject)

Rule 319c, Average Adjustments (Rerating)

Allows the player who has had their average adjusted in a commercial tournament to appeal this adjustment to USBC.

Amendment No. TR 4 - Rejected (24 accept, 600 reject)

Rule 319c, Average Adjustments (Rerating)

Eliminates the reporting requirement of average adjustments.

Amendment No. TR 5 - Rejected (31 accept, 603 reject)

Rule 319c, Average Adjustments (Rerating)

Limits the reporting period for average adjustments to 12 months.

Bylaws (two-third votes needed)

Amendment No. B 1 - Rejected (136 accept, 492 reject)

USBC National Bylaws

Article III, Membership and Dues

Section B, Dues

Makes the payment of state dues optional.

Amendment No. B 2 - Rejected (142 accept, 482 reject)

USBC National Bylaws

Article III, Membership and Dues

Section B, Dues

Waives all dues (national, state and local) for those age 80 and over.

Amendment No. B 3 - Rejected (167 accept, 449 reject)

USBC National Bylaws

Article III, Membership and Dues

Section B, Dues

Allows membership bought in a summer league to extend through July 31 of the following year.

Amendment No. B 4 - Adopted (574 accept, 49 reject)

USBC National Bylaws

Article IV, Board of Directors

Section A, Eligibility

Requires an individual who intends to run for a position on the USBC Board of Directors to meet eligibility requirements prior to nomination.

Amendment No. B 6 - Adopted (588 accept, 29 reject)

USBC National Bylaws

Article VII, Committees

Section A, Standing Committees, Item 1

Allows the Chair of the Nominating Committee to be appointed by the USBC President.

Amendment No. B 7 - Adopted (553 accept, 51 reject)

USBC State Association Bylaws

Article V, Board of Directors - Management

Section C, Election of Directors

Allows the state to adopt a deadline for the submission of qualifications for nominations to be submitted at least 24 hours, but no more than seven days, prior to the opening of the annual meeting.

Amendment No. B 8 - Adopted (559 accept, 35 reject)

USBC State Association Bylaws

Article VI, Officers

Section B, Election

Allows the state to adopt a deadline for the submission of qualifications for nominations to be submitted at least 24 hours, but no more than seven days, prior to the opening of the annual meeting.

2021 LEGISLATION

League Rules (majority needed)

Amendment No. LR 1 - Rejected (39 accept, 557 reject)

Rule 100g, Handicap

Mandates adult leagues use handicap based on 100% of 300.

Amendment No. LR 2 - Rejected (25 accept, 553 reject)

Rule 100g Handicap

1. Defaults handicap to 100% of 300 if no league rule.

2. Mandates negative handicap if not using 100% of 300.

Amendment No. LR 3 - Adopted (511 accept, 75 reject)

Rule 106c, Interrupted Game/Series

Allows a league officer to authorize practice.

Amendment No. LR 4 - Rejected (126 accept, 466 reject)

USBC Playing Rules

Rule 113a, Definitions

Allows leagues to adopt a rule to allow total pinfall to break ties.

Amendment No. LR 5 - Rejected (15 accept, 570 reject)

Rule 122, Meetings

Requires rule changes to be handled the prior season, and any changes for the new season requires written and unanimous consent of all team captains, with exception to "league cap" and "average handicap."

Bylaws (two-third votes needed)

Amendment No. B 1 - Adopted (545 accept, 35 reject)

USBC National Bylaws

Article IV, Board of Directors

Section E, Authority and Duties

Provides for the board to make emergency decisions, in extreme situations, to temporarily suspend bylaws and rules.

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AZCONA, TACKETT UPSET HIGHER SEEDS TO ADVANCE TO KIA PBA PLAYOFFS QUARTERFINALS

Cristian Azcona sweeps Chris Via, EJ Tackett eliminates Kris Prather in a roll-off

by Jef Goodger

MILFORD, Conn.—Cristian Azcona, the No. 15 seed, and 10th-seeded EJ Tackett advanced to the Kia PBA Playoffs quarterfinals by defeating No. 2 seed Chris Via and No. 7 seed Kris Prather, respectively. In a race-to-two-points format, Azcona swept Via in two games, while Tackett and Prather split their set, forcing a ninth-and-10th-frame roll-off to break the tie.

Azcona, who became the first player born in Puerto Rico to win a PBA Tour title when he won the 2018 PBA Wilmington Open, faced a tough battle with Via in the first game. Through eight frames, both players had six strikes and two spares. In the ninth, Via failed to convert the 3-6-10 for the only open frame by either player in the game. Azcona rolled the back four strikes, giving him a total of 10 strikes in the game and a 258-226 victory.

The story was similar in game two. Both players struck or spared in each of the first eight frames, but a 4-10 split in the ninth for Via was again the only open frame for either player and again the difference in the game. Azcona rolled the back three strikes for a 238-215 win, ousting the 2021 U.S. Open champion in a two-point sweep.

13-time PBA Tour champion Tackett built an insurmountable lead by putting up the first six strikes against 2019 PBA Playoffs champion Kris Prather, who opened twice in as many frames. Tackett cruised to a 267-170 win.

In the second game, Prather took the early lead before Tackett fought back, keeping the score within a few pins after nine frames. In the 10th, Tackett left a 2-8-10 split, picking up two pins for an open frame and a final score of 188. Prather finished with 205, forcing the roll-off.

Prather, as the higher seed, opted for Tackett to begin the roll-off on the left lane. After a strike from Tackett, Prather left and converted a 2-4-8 combination in the ninth, then left a 2-8-10 of his own in the 10th. Tackett filled 18 pins in his half of the 10th to take a 38-26 win and advance to the quarterfinals, in which he'll face Azcona.

The winner of the PBA Playoffs will receive a PBA Tour title, \$100,000 and an official WWE championship title belt.

Viewers can live stream the PBA on the FOX Sports and FOX NOW apps or at FOX-Sports.com. Select highlights will be available on @FOXSports social handles across Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. International fans can watch live on Flo-Bowling.com.

ROUND OF 16 RESULTS (SATURDAY, APR. 24 ON FS1)

Bowlero Milford, Milford, Conn.

No. 1 Kyle Troup def. No. 16 Andrew Anderson, 2-1

Game 1 – Troup def. Anderson, 234-233

Game 2 – Anderson def. Troup, 225-212

Roll-off – Troup def. Anderson, 58-26

No. 9 Thomas Larsen def. No. 8 Anthony Simonsen, 2-0

Game 1 – Larsen def. Simonsen, 244-238

Game 2 – Larsen def. Simonsen, 279-224

ROUND OF 16 RESULTS (SUNDAY, APR. 25 ON FS1)

No. 4 François Lavoie def. No. 13 Dick Allen, 2-1

Game 1 – Lavoie def. Allen, 266-185

Game 2 – Allen def. Lavoie, 258-238

Roll-off – Lavoie def. Allen, 59-50

No. 12 Bill O'Neill def. No. 5 Jakob Butturff, 2-1

Game 1 – Butturff def. O'Neill, 257-193

Game 2 – O'Neill def. Butturff, 227-222

Roll-off – O'Neill def. Butturff, 49-39

ROUND OF 16 RESULTS (SATURDAY, MAY 1 ON FS1)

No. 15 Cristian Azcona def. No. 2 Chris Via, 2-0

Game 1 – Azcona def. Via, 258-226

Game 2 – Azcona def. Via, 238-215

No. 10 EJ Tackett def. No. 7 Kris Prather, 2-1

Game 1 – Tackett def. Prather, 267-170

Game 2 – Prather def. Tackett, 205-188

Roll-off – Tackett def. Prather, 38-26

ROUND OF 16 (SUNDAY, MAY 2 AT 7 P.M. ET ON FS1)

No. 3 Tom Daugherty def. No. 14 Jason Sterner, 2-1

Game 1 – Daugherty def. Sterner, 245-204



DAUGHERTY AND COOLEY FILL OUT KIA PBA PLAYOFFS QUARTERFINALS AFTER ROLL-OFFS

Tom Daugherty knocks out Jason Sterner, Sam Cooley defeats Jesper Svensson

by Jef Goodger

MILFORD, Conn.—Tom Daugherty and Sam Cooley earned the final two berths in the Kia PBA Playoffs quarterfinals, winning tie-breaking roll-offs against Jason Sterner and Jesper Svensson, respectively. Daugherty, who has won two Guaranteed Rate PBA Tour titles in 2021 including the Guaranteed Rate PBA World Championship, and Cooley, who won his first career PBA Tour title in the PBA Cheetah Championship, will face each other in the quarterfinals.

In a race-to-two-points format, each game is worth one point. If the players are tied after two games, a ninth-and-10th-frame roll-off decides the winner of the match.

In his opening game against Sterner, No. 3 seed Daugherty rolled the first seven strikes before a 7-10 split derailed his pursuit of perfection. It did not derail his big lead, though, and Daugherty took game one, 245-204.

Sterner, the 14th seed, countered in game two, throwing the front four on his way to a 225-213 win and forcing a ninth-and-10th-frame roll-off. For the first time in this season's PBA Playoffs, an additional one-ball sudden-death roll-off was needed when both players posted scores of 39 in the first attempt to break the tie.

Daugherty, the higher seed, opted to have Sterner start the first roll-off, meaning Daugherty would finish on the left lane. In the one-ball roll-off, Daugherty chose to bowl first on the right lane. Daugherty struck and Sterner left a 10 pin, advancing Daugherty into the quarterfinals.

Cooley and Svensson battled in a high-scoring first game, with Svensson rolling nine strikes on the way to a 268-248 win. In the second game, Svensson finished first with a 223, forcing Cooley to get all three strikes in the 10th to split the series and force a tie-breaking roll-off. Cooley got the first two strikes, but a 10 pin on his fill ball left the players tied at 223.

To decide the winner of game two, the players duelled in a single-ball roll-off. No. 6 seed Svensson decided to bowl first on the left lane, leaving a 7 pin. Cooley left a 10 pin, requiring another shot from each player. On the right lane, Svensson again got nine, but Cooley struck, claiming game two and forcing the ninth-and-10th-frame roll-off to decide the match.

Cooley took over from there, striking in the ninth frame before Svensson opened in both the ninth and the 10th, sending Cooley into the quarterfinals.

The Kia PBA Playoffs quarterfinals begin Sunday, May 9 at noon ET on Fox Sports' FS1 and will feature Kyle Troup versus Thomas Larsen and François Lavoie taking on Bill O'Neill.

The winner of the PBA Playoffs will receive a PBA Tour title, \$100,000 and an official WWE championship title belt.

Viewers can live stream the PBA on the FOX Sports and FOX NOW apps or at FOX-Sports.com. Select highlights will be available on @FOXSports social handles across Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. International fans can watch live on Flo-Bowling.com.

Game 2 – Sterner def. Daugherty, 225-213

Roll-off – Daugherty def. Sterner, 39-39 (10-9)

No. 11 Sam Cooley def. No. 6 Jesper Svensson, 2-1

Game 1 – Svensson def. Cooley, 268-248

Game 2 – Cooley def. Svensson, 223-223 (9-9, 10-9)

Roll-off – Cooley def. Svensson, 35-16

QUARTERFINALS (SUNDAY, MAY 9 AT NOON ET ON FS1)

No. 1 Kyle Troup vs. No. 9 Thomas Larsen

No. 4 François Lavoie vs. No. 12 Bill O'Neill

QUARTERFINALS (MONDAY, MAY 10 AT 8 P.M. ET ON FS1)

To be determined after Round of 16

SEMIFINALS (SATURDAY, MAY 15 AT 11 A.M. ET ON FS1)

To be determined after quarterfinals

KIA PBA PLAYOFFS CHAMPIONSHIP (SUNDAY, MAY 16 AT 2 P.M. ET ON FOX)

To be determined after semifinals



THE PBA RETURNS TO BAYSIDE BOWL WITH TWO SPECIAL EVENT SERIES STARTING JUNE 15

PBA King of the Lanes, and the brand-new PBA King of the Lanes: Empress Edition series to air live on Fox Sports' FS1

by Jill Laufer - PBA Public Relations

PORTLAND, Maine – After a year and a half away from beloved Bayside Bowl in Portland, Maine, the Professional Bowlers Association is officially heading back to the famed center for not one, but two special PBA King of the Lanes events, the first 2021 Guaranteed Rate PBA Tour events with fans in attendance.

“The PBA is thrilled to be returning to Bayside Bowl and to welcome back our loyal fans for the first time since March 2020,” said Colie Edison, CEO of the PBA. “We are grateful for Bayside Bowl’s long-time support and anyone who has been there or watched a telecast filmed there knows the BoPo crowd embodies the spirit and energy of the PBA fan base. We can’t wait to bring the exciting format of the PBA King of the Lanes series to such a deserving audience.”

The event series kicks off with the all-new PBA King of the Lanes: Empress Edition, featuring the world’s top professional female bowlers. This new installment of the fan-favorite event will be a five-part series airing in primetime on Tuesday, June 15, and Wednesday, June 16 on FS1.

The series will see a powerhouse field of women competing in head-to-head matches to determine an “Empress” of each show. Each Empress will defend her crown throughout the series but will have competition from two new contenders looking to take the throne.

Kelly Kulick, the first woman to win a PBA Tour title and the only woman to win a PBA Tour Major Title, will start as the first Empress and face competition from ten PWBA pros who are ready to capture the crown. Amongst the competitors are Hall of Famers, Major champions, and international superstars.

The five-part PBA King of the Lanes: Empress Edition series will air live on FS1. Tuesday, June 15 – 8-9 p.m. ET

Contenders Match: Clara Guerrero vs. Daria Pajak
Empress Match 1: Kelly Kulick vs. Contenders Winner

Tuesday, June 15 – 9-10 p.m. ET

Contenders Match: Danielle McEwan vs. Maria Jose Rodriguez
Empress Match 2: Winner from Empress 1 vs. Contenders Winner

Tuesday, June 15 – 10-11 p.m. ET

Contenders Match: Missy Parkin vs. Diana Zavjalova
Empress Match 3: Winner from Empress 2 vs. Contenders Winner

Wednesday, June 16 – 8-9 p.m. ET

Contenders Match: Liz Johnson vs. Ashly Galante
Empress Match 4: Winner from Empress 3 vs. Contenders Winner

Wednesday, June 16 – 9-10 p.m. ET

Contenders Match: Stefanie Johnson vs. Verity Crawley
Empress Match 5: Winner from Empress 4 vs. Contenders Winner

Just three days after the final Empress is crowned, the men will have their turn to try and dethrone Kris Prather, reigning king from last summer’s PBA King of the Lanes series.

The five-part 2021 PBA King of the Lanes will feature PBA pros from Hall of Famers to the Tour’s current stars, plus Portland Lumberjacks very own team manager, Tim Mack competing live on Saturday, June 19, and Sunday, June 20 on FS1.

The five-part PBA King of the Lanes series will air live on FS1 is as follows:

Saturday, June 19 – 2-3 p.m. ET

Contenders Match: Chris Barnes vs. AJ Johnson
King Match 1: Kris Prather vs. Contenders Winner

Saturday, June 19 – 3-4 p.m. ET

Contenders Match: Jesper Svensson vs. Parker Bohn III
King Match 2: Winner from King 1 vs. Contenders Winner

Saturday, June 19 – 4-5 p.m. ET

Contenders Match: Chris Via vs. Anthony Neuer
King Match 3: Winner from King 2 vs. Contenders Winner

Sunday, June 20 – 2-3 p.m. ET

Contenders Match: Tim Mack vs. Jason Sterner
King Match 4: Winner from King 3 vs. Contenders Winner

Sunday, June 20 – 3-4 p.m. ET

Contenders Match: Tom Daugherty vs. Francois Lavoie
King Match 5: Winner from King 4 vs. Contenders Winner

Viewers can live stream the PBA on the FOX Sports and FOX NOW apps or at FOXSports.com. Select highlights will be available on @FOXSports social handles across Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. International fans can watch live on FloBowling.com.

Stempke

continued from page 1

had rolled countless perfect games and had out bowled Weber in that regional match.

This Bill Stempke was now attempting to bowl after being diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease, a movement disorder that affects the nervous system. Symptoms result from low or falling levels of dopamine levels in the brain.

Stempke, a former pro shop owner at now-defunct Mission Hills Bowl, had noticed something was wrong a few years ago when he had difficulty walking. Initially, he blamed his falling and walking problems on his knee replacement in 2000.

But after he consulted a neurologist, tests and a brain scan showed several mini strokes. The diagnosis was Parkinsonism, which represents any condition that causes a combination of movement abnormalities seen in Parkinson’s disease. Stempke fought back.

Although there is no cure for Parkinson’s disease, patients can undergo treatment to relieve the symptoms and maintain one’s quality of life. As Stempke tells it: “In October of last year, my longtime best friend, Linda, signed me up for a boxing class: ‘Rock Steady Boxing.’ These are Zoom classes, five days a week, and they last over an hour. There is a cadre of six coaches with Lisa Oliver and Yvette, the main two.

“I’ve been doing these since October. It has made a tremendous improvement in me as far as physical fitness and mental health. When I started, I weighed 215. I’m down to a manageable 190. The target is 180.

“The classes and exercises are designed for and aimed at fighting Parkinson’s.”

So when the 81-year-old Bill Stempke entered Mugu Lanes on that Friday night, he didn’t know what was going to happen. “Early days, I fell several times just going around so I was concerned how stable I would be bowling. So, the point is I went bowling to see if I could actually do it without hurting myself. I could.”

Bill Stempke came to bowl one practice game at Mugu Lanes and he finished it.

His score was 84 after nine frames. At that point – for the first time – Stempke thought about his score. It would sure be nice to bowl 100 or even break it, he thought.

He called out to a solitary employee working the counter that he needed a spare and a good count in the 10th to reach his goal.

“He was not impressed,” said Stempke wryly. “I was.” Stempke then got his 10th-frame spare and knocked down seven pins on his next shot. Final score: 101.

Stempke talked about his recent bowling experience on his Facebook page and got a landslide of congratulations. One of them was from longtime friend (30 years!) Dave Murrell, another bowler with a plethora of perfect games on his resume.

“It was very much an awesome accomplishment amid a crippling disease that we don’t have a cure for,” Murrell said. “Bill’s a great guy and it’s sad to see he’s got that disease.”

Murrell added: “I was very surprised that he came back and bowled. But once it’s in your blood, it’s always there. I was very happy he was able to do it. I was overjoyed and overwhelmed for him. It’s now a big milestone in his life.”

As for Stempke’s future plans, he said he planned to return to Mugu Lanes the following Friday night for a second go-around. And he did. Shot a 137 this time.

For Bill Stempke, the trend is definitely his friend.

PWBA

continued from page 1

round appearance during the title match of the 2001 Paula Carter Classic. “I wanted to take a ball and put some surface on it to see how it looked from the outside part of the lane. It was the same ball I had used most of the week, but from different angles. I was fortunate to find the right combination.

“I felt really focused tonight. It was probably the most I’ve been in a long time, and everything kind of fell into place. My mindset was good, I felt great physically and was making the shots I needed. I was very excited to have another chance to shoot 300, and being able to do that and win tonight was absolutely amazing.”

Johnson’s 300 game in the semifinal was against Gazmine Mason of Cranston, Rhode Island, who was making her first championship-round appearance on the national tour after winning a pair of regional titles in 2019 and 2020. Mason rolled 232 in the match.

Saturday’s opening game featured Johnson besting Shannon Pluhowsky of Dayton, Ohio, 245-223. Mason and Pluhowsky were part of a large contingent of former University of Nebraska standouts competing at the PWBA Lincoln Open this week.

Mason helped the Cornhuskers win the 2015 NCAA Women’s Bowling Championship, while Pluhowsky was part of three national-title-winning teams (2001 Intercollegiate Team Championships and 2004 and 2005 NCAA) and recently helped Nebraska claim the 2021 NCAA title as an assistant coach.

Johnson qualified as the No. 4 seed for the stepladder after rolling 216 in her final qualifying game to jump into the top four. Kulick, who finished third at last week’s PWBA Twin Cities Open and was looking for her seventh PWBA Tour title, earned the top seed by averaging more than 224 for 24 games, finishing with a 5,381 total.

The 65-player field bowled 12 games Friday, before the first cut to the top 32 athletes. Advancers bowled an additional six-game block Saturday morning, with the top 12 competing in a final six-game round to determine the four bowlers for the stepladder finals, based on 24-game pinfall totals. The 2021 PWBA Tour season, which features 20 events, will head next to Yorktown Lanes in Parma Heights, Ohio, for the PWBA Greater Cleveland Open. The event will take place May 6-8.

PBA50

continued from page 1

in the semifinal match to advance to the title match.

Hess, a PBA Tour veteran who won the 2011 USBC Masters, also posted a 15-1 record in match play. It was a dramatic surge to reach the finals after being as low as 17th in match play.

In the opening match Hess beat No. 5 seed Walter Ray Williams Jr. 211-199 to advance to the second match where he defeated No. 4 seed 2018 PBA50 Player of the Year Michael Haugen Jr. 257-215. Williams was trying for his second win of the season after winning the PBA50 Lightning Strikes Open for his record 15th career PBA50 Tour title. Haugen’s fourth-place finish was his third consecutive final appearance after finishing second in the first two tournaments of the season. Norm Duke, who led the first two rounds and eventually finished sixth in qualifying, finished 20th after a disappointing 2-6 record in the first match play round failing to make the cut to the second round.

The next stop for the PBA50 Tour will be the PBA50 Granville Open at Sandhills Bowling Center in Aberdeen, North Carolina May 2-5.

FINAL STANDINGS

Pete Weber, \$15,000
Lennie Boresch Jr., \$7,500
Tommy Hess, \$4,000
Michael Haugen Jr., \$3,000
Walter Ray Williams Jr., \$2,500

Stepladder Results

Match 1 – No. 4 Hess def. No. 5 Williams, 211-199
Match 2 – Hess def. No. 3 Haugen, 257-215
Semifinal match – No. 2 Boresch def. Hess, 255-225
Championship match –
No. 1 Weber def. Boresch, 255-234



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USBC SMART PROGRAM MAKES \$7 MILLION EARNING ALLOCATION PROPOSES POLICY REVISIONS TO DELIVER MORE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS TO YOUTH BOWLERS

ARLINGTON, Texas - The Scholarship Management and Account Reporting for Tenpins (SMART) program is making an investment earnings allocation of \$7 million to provide additional scholarships for youth bowlers. The \$7 million allocation is the largest investment earnings allocation in SMART history and will be designated as Unassigned funds for Providers to use for scholarships.

In addition to announcing the \$7 million allocation for SMART Provider use, the USBC SMART Committee is proposing a series of policy changes designed to increase scholarship benefits for SMART Recipients. No policy changes are final, and all proposals will have a comment period until June 30.

The proposed policy revisions include the portion of future investment gains and expired scholarships to SMART Recipient accounts, adding bonus scholarships for those actively using SMART funds and creation of a new SMART Recipient grant program.

Proposed policy revisions for SMART Providers include requiring Providers use Unassigned funds received from SMART within two years.

"The SMART program was established to safeguard and manage the scholarships awarded to USBC Youth bowlers and has been successful in those goals with the fund growing to nearly \$100 million," said Frank Wilkinson, chair of the USBC SMART Committee and the former president of USBC. "But we are seeing too small a percentage of the dollars in SMART actually being used by bowlers for their education. These policy revisions will provide more scholarships to youth bowlers, especially those actively using their SMART scholarships, so they can pursue their educational goals."

The SMART fund has grown from \$39 million to more than \$96 million since 2010. Earnings on investments allocations for Provider usage have increased as well, however many of those funds remain unassigned and unused.

In 2015, Unassigned funds were \$4.7 million but have grown to more than \$18 million today. While the SMART fund is approaching \$100 million, each year Recipients only request about \$5 million in scholarships annually. Data shows many Recipient scholarships are not used, expire and recycle and, based on an ongoing research project and SMART historical trends, USBC projects 40% of the SMART fund never will be used under the current policy.

Currently, when a USBC Youth athlete (Recipient) earns a scholarship in a competition, the event operator (Provider) deposits the funds in SMART and, when the Recipient attends college, he or she will request the funds be paid directly to the school. SMART places the largest portion of the scholarships in conservative securities, with remaining assets invested in a diversified portfolio expected to yield larger returns, and each year any investment earnings plus expired Recipient scholarships are available for Provider as Unassigned funds to be used for new scholarships.

The proposed policy revisions include splitting future allocations of investment gains and expired Recipient scholarships between new Unassigned funds for Providers use and added scholarship funds directly to Recipients.

The allocation to Recipients will send 50% of additional funds to active Recipients who have requested funds during the calendar year while 25% will be added to all Recipient accounts as new scholarships, with the percentage based on the amount in the account. The remaining 25% will go toward grants with the criteria, including eligibility, established by the SMART Oversight Committee.

The USBC SMART Committee also is seeking to have the annual expiration date of funds not used by Recipients be moved from the end of the year to Feb. 14, so those funds can be allocated with any possible income distribution. It also has proposed allowing Recipients, after they reach age 21 and before the funds expire, the ability to transfer their scholarship funds to another family member who meets the IRS definition of a 529 plan family member beneficiary. To qualify, transfer Recipients must have at least four (4) years of USBC bowling history and they may not surpass eight-years from their high school graduation date.



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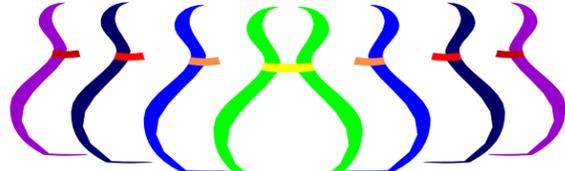
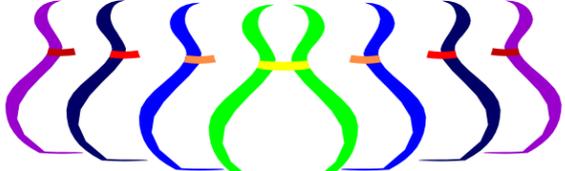
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