

Bowling Ambassador, Longtime USBC Convention Attendee John Simanalla Dies At Age 97

ARLINGTON, Texas
For six decades, John Simanella of Middleburg Heights, Ohio, has been a staple at the United States Bowling Congress Convention, a nearly flawless participation streak that allowed him to share his passion for the sport, while representing the Clevelandarea and Ohio bowling communities.
He even has been described by USBC Convention organizers and staff as a symbol of the event over the last decade, proudly welcoming delegates to the Convention floor and excitedly celebrating the countdown to his 60th appearance at the event, which happened in 2019. Sadly, when the virtual 2021 USBC Convention gets underway April 26, Simanella's beaming smile will be noticeably absent from the computer screens of the Convention attendees. He died Friday at age 97

A 1992 inductee into the Greater Cleveland Bowling Association Hall of Fame and a member of the 1997 Ohio State USBC Hall of Fame class in the meritorious service category, Simanella might be best known for his dedication to the future of the sport.

He spent countless hours teaching bowling as part of the local college curriculum, and his knowledge forever has been immortalized in a book he wrote called "Simplified Bowling," which can be found on BOWL.com.

Anytime the Professional Bowlers Association Tour visited Ohio, you could find Simanella there, volunteering to help with the event. Simanella also spent time as an ambassador for In-School Bowl-
ing and doing all he could to make sure Ohio's youth knew about the sport, often before they even stepped foot in a bowling center. Among his successes in youth bowling was creating Junior Bowling Day in the Cleveland area.

Since the 1960s, Si manella served a variety of roles for the Greater Cleveland Bowling Association and Ohio State USBC, from committee-level positions to chairman roles to serving as president at each level, lastly as Ohio State BA President in 2003 and 2004. His service to the Greater Cleveland BA and Cleveland USBC spanned more than 50 years.

Simanella also was a great competitor, with a high game of 300 and 48 appearances at the USBC Open Championships from 1960-2012. And, he was a family man - a father of eight and grandfather of nine. Outside of bowling, he was a music lover, and he often shared his favorite tunes as a disc jockey at local retirement facilities and community centers.

All of the above came well after a stint in the U.S. Army Air Forces, a component of the U.S. Army, where he was a B-24 bomber gunner in World War II. After surviving 30 missions, he was able to return home to complete his college education, start a family and get to work on his bowling legacy.

Funeral services will be held at Middleburg Heights' St. Bartholomew Church and Interment Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery on March 4, at 9 a.m. local time. Friends will be received from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. at the A. Ripepi and Sons Funeral Home.

## François Lavoie Wins Kia PBA Tournament of Champins For Third Major Titite

The fifth seed wins all four matches and defeats Anthony Simonsen in the title match to earn $\$ 100,000$

Jupiter, Fla. - Fifth seed François Lavoie defeated four of his fellow major champions to claim the 2021 Kia PBA Tournament of Champions title. With wins over Sean Rash, Jesper Svensson, Jason Belmonte and top seed Anthony Simonsen, Lavoie earned his fifth career PBA Tour title and third major.
"It's really special," said Lavoie of winning an event with such a high caliber of opponents. "I got through the first match against Sean and it wasn't easy, but I got a little more comfortable as it went along. It is the Tournament of Champions, so I wouldn't expect anything less. It was tough but I wouldn't want it any other way."
In the championship match, Lavoie struck in

five of the first six frames, building a lead over Simonsen, who left an 8-10 split in the fourth frame. Simonsen rolled three consecutive strikes after the split, but Lavoie's lead proved to be insurmountable.

I knew I had a lead halfway through the game, but I wasn't looking at the scores," said Lavoie. "The
last thing I wanted to do was get ahead of myself Against someone as talented as Anthony, you can never let up until it's mathematically over. I kept telling myself to stay here, stay in the moment and keep doing my thing.'

The 28 -year-old Lavoie now has five PBA Tour titles, including three majors,
making him performanceeligible for the PBA Hall of Fame.
"That hadn't crossed my mind," said Lavoie. "It certainly is nice to be in that class of players who are eligible for the Hall of Fame When I started bowling on Tour, I didn't know if it was going to work out, whether continued on page 5

## With Their Visas How Approvedil Verity Crawley and Daria Pajak LookToward PBWA Tour Return

It may have been a long and winding road from where they were to where they finally have gotten, but neither England's Verity Crawley nor Poland's Daria Pajak are complaining about that now.
The former Webber International teammates each were devastated to have to sit out the PWBA Kickoff Classic in January after their visas were not renewed. But, over the past several days, they each got the news they had spent months hoping for. Pajak saw her application for an athlete visa approved on Feb. 17, while Crawley was approved for a tourist visa days later.

I genuinely think I am just going to be so much more grateful and embrace the moment a little bit more," Crawley said of the opportunity to contend for a PWBA Tour title for the first time since 2019. "I'm just going to be thankful

that I have the opportunity sessed. But it does give her to be there. I'm really excit- 90 days to be in the U.S. ed for that mindset change starting with her planned as well."

Crawley explained that the tourist visa "is not the original plan that I had," which was to obtain the athlete visa she once pos-
return on March 27, when she is scheduled to board flight to Orlando and then spend the next several weeks training at the Kegel Training Center in Lake

Wales, Florida, for the resumption of the PWBA Tour's 2021 season when the Twin Cities Open gets underway at Cedarvale Lanes in Eagan, Minnesota, on April 22.

That 90-day duration perfectly complements the PWBA Tour's schedule, as it enables Crawley to bowl all the stops currently scheduled from April 22 in Minnesota through the Louisville Open in midJune.

Then there is a little bit of a break before the Lucy in July," said Crawley, referring to the start of the Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles tournament scheduled to kick off July 29 at Copperfield Bowl in Houston. "So it does allow me to be in the country for 90 days and then to leave to reset the visa.'

For Pajak, the prevailing emotion she felt when she continued on page 4

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# Kjule Troun- AChinOOf The Oll Block 

by Dave Williams
What is it about bowling that gets under a person's skin? The Oxford Dictionary of Languages defines that phrase as the ability to fill someone's mind in a compelling and persistent way. That's bowling!

It's the same "bug" that must have captivated Ted Rebain, a man that I wrote about a few short weeks ago, as he worked for virtually every major bowling corporation throughout his 65 year career in promoting the game of ten pins.

And it must have been that same bug that lassoed Guppy Troup, Kyle's father, into a lifelong career in the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) beginning in 1976. I remember that date for a couple of reasons; because that is also the year that I joined the national tour, and also because Guppy was one of the individuals that toured in a motorhome.

Although I was not a part of the motorhome contingent, I was somewhat familiar with the group because I traveled from stop to stop with Larry Laub, one of the most famous of the RV set. Each week he would bus myself, Ron Lisher, Bobby Knipple, Marty Anderson and others to the next stop in return for gas money.

One of my favorite stories involves traveling from Las Vegas to Denver in the winter of 1976. After we left Vegas, I learned that we were to take turns driving, and that I was to be the next driver after Laub. I warned Larry that I had never driven a motorhome, but he assured me that there was nothing to it and that he would copilot for a few miles while I got the hang of it.

My "opportunity" came at St. George, Utah, where Larry pulled over and said that it was my turn. He sat with me for a few miles and then climbed into the back where the others were fast asleep. I still have nightmares about that driving experience! The eerie pillars of rocks in the light of midnight, and the roaring winds that played havoc with the motorhome, were about all that I could handle. When we got to Salina, Utah, I pulled over and woke up my friend Ron Lisher and said that this responsibility was a bit more than I could bear.

Lisher took over the driving duty and I was his copilot all the way to Vail, Colo., where we ran out of gas. We parked in line at a filling station that was to open the next morning. This was during the gas shortage, so we were grateful that we were one of the first in line, and that the heater in the motorhome was working!

Another interesting twist to the story - this was the week that Elvis Presley had purchased a handful of Cadillac's for the mayor of Vail and some of the police force that had acted as security for Elvis and his entourage during their stay in Vail. I remember buying a cap at the filling station that commemorates Presley's visit to Vail in the winter of 1976 (still have it - somewhere!).

After the Denver stop, I returned to California, which became my pattern for the next couple of seasons. I don't know if it was that ride along l-15, or homesickness, or the lane conditions, but I never got any further east than Denver... except for the U.S. Open tournament in Grand Prairie, Texas, where I won an all expense paid trip from a qualifying event in 1975. Although my earnings for 1976 topped those of Guppy Troup, I was off the national circuit by 1978, while Guppy was just finding his way with his first tour victory at Battle Creek, Michigan.

A little over ten years passed, when I was firmly entrenched in the AMF Corporate Offices in Richmond, Virginia, and Guppy's name came up. It seems that he was parking his motorhome along the side of Major League Lanes in

(l-r) Guppy Troup and son Kyle Troup
Columbia, South Carolina (now AMF Columbia Lanes), whenever there was a lull in PBA tournament action. Beverley Armstrong, the President and managing partner of AMF, had no objections but felt that Troup should be reimbursing the company for utility costs and perhaps rent for the space being occupied by the motorhome.

Although I was not involved in operations, my understanding was that a compromise was reached where Troup would provide an agreed upon payment, in addition to paying $\$ 1$ per game for his practice and wearing a shirt with his name while rolling the approximate 100 games per week that he was known to chalk up. From a marketing point of view, it was nice having Guppy associated with the lanes, because by this time he had become one of the top performers with his outlandish outfits and afro hairstyle

Yes, that's right, Kyle's father actually perfected the colorful outfits and afro hairstyle that have made the younger Mr. Troup the most recognizable professional kegler on the PBA Tour. But Kyle has taken it to another level, with the matching shirt and trousers, and an even larger 'fro. His win at the PBA Player's Championship in Jupiter, Fla., was the largest single payout in PBA history, tying the top prize in the 2011 Tournament of Champions event.

Kyle's win at Jupiter represents more than most professional bowlers will accumulate in a lifetime. He has, in his own words, become "Main Event Kyle instead of Sideshow Bob." His magical smile now beams with the confidence of a seasoned professional, and his unique hairstyle, walk and fashion statements make him a chip off the old block.

Editors Note: Saturdays at 3:30pm channel 7 was never missed at my household, Guppy was always fun to watch! A great bowler and stylist. Watching Kyle now ... Dave nailed it! A Chip Off The Old Block!!


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## Bungled Entry Keens Kyle Sherman Out Of 2021 PBA Tournament Of Champions

by Lucas Wiseman - FloBowling.com
JUPITER, Fla. - PBA champion Kyle Sherman is not competing this week in the 2021 Kia PBA Tournament of Champions after he failed to actually enter the event, FloBowling has learned.

Sherman was on site at Bowlero Jupiter and it wasn't determined until after Monday's PTQ that he wasn't actually on the roster, sources told FloBowling. With the field full after the PTQ, there was no space for Sherman to enter the event.

Players are responsible for entering events on their own and ensuring they are on the roster for upcoming events. Sherman simply didn't get his entry in and therefore was not able to compete.

Players with national titles have entry priority to ensure they have a spot in the event. Any spots not used then fall to the players in the PTQ made up of regional and PBA50 champions.

The field features 47 national champions and 17 players who advanced through the PTQ to fill the field at 64 players.

When reached by FloBowling, Sherman declined to comment Tuesday. On Wednesday morning, he did offer his thoughts on the Brad and Kyle YouTube channel, confirming what FloBowling reported. Click here to view.

## USBC Hall of Fame coninued foom page 1

received an email on Feb. 17 informing her that her visa application has been approved was relief.
"No more having to pay the lawyers to try to fight this again. This fight is partially over," Pajak said.

Partially, she explained, because "I still have a second stage when I have to go to the embassy. I was just doing the paperwork for this. I have to have an appointment to get them to put the visa in my passport. They're going to interview me again and they will see that I was approved by the USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services). But they can still deny me if they feel like something is wrong, or maybe USCIS made a mistake. So I cannot really say that I have the visa in my passport and I can fly anywhere I want now, because I cannot yet."

That cautionary note aside, Pajak said she plans on returning to the U.S. in early April, at which time she plans to spend time getting acclimated to the very latest bowling balls available, which she did not have access to during her time in Poland.
"I'm in Europe right now, and a lot of new balls haven't gotten to distributors here yet, so I don't have a lot of new balls. I am just throwing the balls I received months ago," she explained.
"When I think about being able to bowl on tour for a title, just qualifying and everything, seeing the people It's going to be a year-and-a-half since I have seen some of the people. I'm just going to be the most thankful person, and I just feel like when I walk into the bowling center, I am just going to sit down and cry. Because all these emotions have been gathering in me so strongly."
"I'm very happy that, now that I have been approved by USCIS, it's getting closer and closer. But I'm not going to be a hundred percent certain, and I'm not going to throw a party yet celebrating my visa, until I have it physically in my passport."
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The Wisconsin-Whitewater men and Iowa Central Community College women picked up victories Saturday at the Golden Eagle Invite in Rockford, Illinois.

The one-day event included 10 men's varsity teams and four women's programs. All teams bowled five traditional games, with total pinfall determining the winner in each division.

In the men's division, Wisconsin-Whitewater built an early lead but found trouble in Game 3. An 819 game dropped the Warhawks to second behind Iowa Western CC. Wisconsin-Whitewater rebounded quickly, bouncing back with the two highest games of the event (1,031 and 1,062 ) to secure the win with a 4,902 total.

Iowa Western CC finished as the runner-up with 4,791, and Iowa Central CC was third with 4,636.

Wisconsin-Whitewater's Drake Bazzy and Iowa Central CC's Raymond Wiegand tied for the top spot in the individual standings with 1,045 , a 209 average. Reece Kelly of Iowa Western CC was third with 1,039 , and WisconsinWhitewater's Quinn Sheehy and Iowa Central CC's Jacob Kraft rounded out the top five with 1,036 and 1,010 , respectively.

Iowa Central CC posted a wire-to-wire victory in the women's division, cruising to a 4,612 total. Clarke finished in second with 4,499, and Iowa Western CC was third with 4,405 .

In the women's individual standings, Shalee Bradley of Iowa Western CC rolled 256 in her final game to move to the top of the standings with a 1,011 total, a 202.2 average. Bradley was followed by Iowa Central CC's Olivia Nolte (985), Clarke's Brooke Puckett (958), Iowa Central CC's Leah Sanck (954) and Clarke's Amber Bertschinger (948).

## In other collegiate action:

- At the Hoosier Classic in Indianapolis, eight teams in two divisions earned victories last weekend. Get the full recap by clicking here.
- In a pair of Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference events in Greensboro, North Carolina, the North Carolina A\&T women earned the top spot in both the Baker and traditional blocks.
- At the Arizona Cup I and II in Glendale, Arizona, the Arizona State men and Grand Canyon women led the way in their respective divisions at each event.
- At the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) I - North in Erie, Pennsylvania, the Medaille women posted the top score.
- At the AMCC I - South in Pittsburgh, the Mount Aloysius women claimed the top spot in Baker competition.

For more information on USBC Collegiate, visit BOWL.com/Collegiate or CollegeBowling.Bowl.com.

## PBA TOC

I would be doing this for a while or try something else. I'm really happy with where I am now."

A two-time U.S. Open champion, Lavoie has now finished in the top five in each of the past three majors dating back to the 2020 PBA World Championship.
"Lately, what's been successful for me is my ability to strategize," said Lavoie. "I come up with a good game plan and stick to it. If the plan doesn't go exactly as I wanted, I have different options."

Lavoie becomes the second player, after PBA Players Championship winner Kyle Troup, to qualify for the PBA Super Slam, which will feature all five 2021 major winners and air April 18 on FOX Broadcast Channel.

## KIA PBA TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

Bowlero Jupiter - Jupiter, Fla.
FINAL STANDINGS
François Lavoie, earns $\$ 100,000$
Anthony Simonsen, \$60,000
Jason Belmonte, $\$ 45,000$
Jesper Svensson, $\$ 40,000$
Sean Rash, $\$ 35,000$
MATCH SCORES
Match 1 - No. 5 Lavoie def. No. 4 Rash, 225-209 Match 2 - No. 5 Lavoie def. No. 3 Svensson, 236-201 Match 3 - No. 5 Lavoie def. No. 2 Belmonte, 220-194 Match 4 - No. 5 Lavoie def. No. 1 Simonsen, 233-187



# REGISTRATION SET TO BEGIN FOR 2022 USBC OPEN AND WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHITS 

by Matt Cannizzaro

ARLINGTON, Texas - The United States Bowling Congress announced Thursday that registration for the 2022 USBC Open Championships and USBC Women's Championships will open as scheduled in the coming weeks, each with a new fee structure that includes a $\$ 15$-per-event increase at the Open Championships and $\$ 11$ at the Women's Championships.

Of the increase at each tournament, $70 \%$ will go directly into the respective prize funds. The new fee structure will be the first change at the Open Championships since 2013 and first at the Women's Championships since 2014

The changes will increase the prize money across the two events by more than $\$ 2$ million, while also improving the prize fund-to-expense ratios. The Open Championships ratio will improve from $56 / 44$ to 59/41, and the Women's Championships will change from 49/51 to 56/44.

For 2022, the Open Championships will return to the South Point Bowling Plaza in Las Vegas, as announced in June 2020, and will run from March 12 until July 3.

Coordinators at the Open Championships since 2019 will have the opportunity to reserve spots for 2022, beginning March 1. The registration portal will open to the public March 29.

The Women's Championships will head to Stardust Bowl in Addison, Illinois, in 2022 and take place April 24-July 11.

Coordinators at the Women's Championships since 2019 will be able to begin selecting their dates and times for 2022 on March 22, and the registration portal will open to the public on April 19.

The entry fees for the 2022 Open Championships will be $\$ 70$ per event (team, doubles, singles), plus an optional $\$ 15$ for all-events, for a $\$ 225$ total, per bowler. As it has since 2017, the Open Championships includes three average-based divisions.

For all-events, while the entry fee won't change, adjusting the payout ratio back to $1: 8$ will mean bigger prize amounts for those who finish their nine games above the cash line.

All competition at the 2022 Open Championships will take place at the South Point Bowling Plaza. Team squads will be held at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m., and doubles/singles squads will be at 7 a.m., 10 a.m., 5 p.m. and 11:45 p.m.

At the Women's Championships, which features four average-based divisions for team competition
and six for doubles, singles and all-events, bowlers will pay $\$ 55$ per event and $\$ 15$ for the optional allevents, for a $\$ 180$ total. Since 2014, the fee structure has been $\$ 44$ per event and $\$ 8$ for all-events.

Consistent with the Open Championships, $70 \%$ of the increase for team, doubles and singles will go to the prize fund, while the entire increase for all-events entries will be added to the respective all-events prize funds.

Because Addison's Stardust Bowl has 84 lanes, there will be fewer squad times at the 2022 Women's Championships. Team competition will take place at 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., and doubles/singles squads will run at 7:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Initially, the 5:30 p.m. squad only will be offered on weekends. It will be a team event on Saturday and a doubles/singles squad on Sunday. Other days may be added based on demand.

Even as the attention begins to turn to the 2022 tournaments, there definitely still will be some loose ends due to the cancellation of the 2020 events and the COVID-19-shortened 2021 editions.

Team captains who originally rolled over their entries from 2020 or 2021 to the 2022 events will be provided a credit toward their 2022 entries. USBC will be providing extra time to pay the difference in entry fees. More details are included in the FAQ document.

For all bowlers still scheduled to compete in 2021, both tournaments are set to kick off as planned, though things might look a little different with social distancing and other CDC-recommended restrictions in place.

The 2021 Open Championships will return to South Point in Las Vegas from May 1-July 18, with team competition taking place at the South Point Bowling Plaza, and doubles/singles being contested at the South Point Bowling Center.

The Women's Championships and USBC Queens will return to the iconic National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada, in 2021. The Women's Championships will begin April 23 and conclude July 4, taking a break for the Queens, which will borrow the spotlight from May 12-18.

As a reminder, bowlers who were registered to bowl in 2020 and/or 2021, but unable to compete due to the pandemic, will not lose their consecutive streaks at either event.

Details about safety protocols for each event in 2021 will be published and shared in the coming weeks.


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The Madonna men came up big down the stretch to claim the victory at the Alma Scotty Classic, while Lawrence Tech maintained an early lead to record the win in the women's division in Jackson, Michigan, last weekend.

The 2021 Alma Scotty Classic featured nine varsity men's teams and 10 women's teams. The one-day event featured three traditional games and 12 Baker games, with total pinfall determining the winner in each division.

In the men's division, a back-and-forth battle for the top spot between Madonna and Trine took place throughout the Baker block, with Trine holding a 39-pin lead with wo games to go. Madonna rolled games of 227 and 204 to finish the event and make up the difference, recording a four-pin victory with a 5,659 total.
Trine ended with a 5,655 total, and Lawrence Tech finished third with 5,501

Trine's Destin Kuhn posted a three-game set of 686 to earn his spot at the top of the individual standings in the men's division. Madonna's Aric Kurash (680), Lawrence Tech's Mitchell Rusinek (674) and Bowling Green State's Derek May (668) followed closely behind, and Concordia's Korey Reichard and Madonna's Noah Campbell tied for the last spot in the top five with 660 .

The Lawrence Tech women built a 147 -pin advantage over the field during the traditional set and kept the competition at bay during the Baker block, finishing with a 5,190 total to claim the win.

Madonna was the only team in the women's division to average more than 200 during the Baker block and jumped from sixth to second in the standings with a 5,104 total. Adrian was third with 4,947 .

Concordia's Makayla Lancioni was the top individual performer in the women's division, rolling 656 for her three games. Trine's Jaden Howard was second with 649, Lawrence Tech's Victoria Giardina was third with 637 and Adrian teammates Mollie Gizicki (604) and Abigail Bird (600) earned the final spots in the top five.

## In other collegiate action:

At the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC) 4B in Grandville, Michigan, the Concordia women and Lawrence Tech men kicked off the weekend with victories.

- At the Storm Flyer Classic in Lockport, Illinois, the McKendree women captured the bracket victory over Maryville, 4-3.
- At the Bulldog Classic I in Dallas, the Vanderbilt women led the way in total pinfall.

At the James Brown Invitational in Baltimore, the North Carolina A\&T women bested Delaware State in the bracket finals, 4-1

At the Cedar Valley Invitational I and II in Waterloo, Iowa, the Mount Mercy men and women swept the top spots.

At the Garden State Classic in North Brunswick, New Jersey, the Fairleigh Dickinson women topped the Baker standings, while Monmouth posted the top score in the traditional games.

- At the Ohio Bowling Conference II in Columbus, Ohio, the Northwestern Ohio men and Notre Dame-Ohio women claimed the top spots

At the Brew City Classic I and II in Milwaukee, the Viterbo women and Wisconsin-Whitewater men finished at the top of the leaderboard

At the Lincoln Memorial Collegiate Challenge in Harrogate, Tennessee, the Emmanuel men and Pikeville women rolled to big wins.

At the WHAC 4 in Adrian, Michigan, the Indiana Tech women and men walked away with the victories.

For more information on USBC Collegiate, visit BOWL.com/Collegiate or CollegeBowling.Bowl.com.
S.O.S. Equals Southern Oregon Sign-in. Snowmen are appearing overnight. The deer are munching on the lawn grass in front of our house! About three blocks up the hill is a large pond. The wild ducks and geese stopped overnight on their flight south. Noisy quacking and honking echoes across the valley.

I set a bowl of Cheerios out on the patio for the squirrel who comes by daily and looks in the patio door. A shake of his tail and off he goes.

Last week my daughter Wendy and I took a ride up into the snowy mountains. As we rounded the curve in the road, there stood a big buck, a mama and a small fawn. They looked up and scrolled to the side of the road.

A Goat Farm produced (for sale) goat milk, goat cheese, and goat meat. Goat tacos were offered at a nearby bar.

On our 110 mile loop around the lake we only saw one other car. No gas, groceries, doctors or schools. The forest rangers waved as we passed. If you want to live alone... land and homes are available!

Do I miss California? You bet your bippy!!
So, We all miss Bowling..
I remember 60 years on the lanes.
45 W.I.B.C. National Tournaments and 32 State Events.

Will the Bowling World ever be the same?
Will our entire world ever be a place where we can breathe, hug, travel and love our neighbors?

Keep the balls polished, it won't be long.

## The Return of The PWBA Brings Back Memories of Lisa Rathyeber Wagner

## AIPBTILavies Pro Bowlers Tourt Sulperstar

by Frank Weiler

Lisa Wagner turned professional bowler at the age of 19 and was selected 1980 LPBT rookie of the year. It took a couple of years for her to win her first title but by the time she retired in 2001 she won a record 32 National Titles. Her total of National Titles is still a record.

During her professional career Lisa dominated the decade of the 1980s. She was nicknamed "The Rocket" because her " $A$ " game was rolling her ball from the corner at high speed. In baseball they would call it a high hard one.

Some of Lisa's notable accomplishments include:
Inducted into WPBA and USBC Halls of Fame Selected Bowler of The Decade for the 1980s Five USBC Women's Open Championships Four Bowler of The Year Awards
1988 Women's US Open Champion
1996 USBC Queens Champion
1980 LPBT Rookie of The Yea
Some experts consider Lisa the Greatest of All Time (G.O.A.T.), that is the "Greatest Female Bowler of All Time". Her resume of accomplishments justifies such an assessment but only GOD knows for sure who is the G.O.A.T. In my opinion Lisa is definitely a candidate for that mythical title.

I saw Lisa compete on the LPBT in the 1980s. She developed into the most dominant player on tour during that decade and generally was the odds-on favorite to win most tournaments.

As a fan I never found anything to dislike about Lisa Wagner. She was a tough competitor who always put on a great show during match play. When I first met Lisa, she was a little shy but had a great personality. She was always fan friendly, courteous and willing to sign autographs.


I spoke to her regularly when she was off the lanes. She came from Florida and was the product of a great family. It was her family upbringing that was responsible for her old-fashioned values. She was the "girl next door". While she didn't have the looks of a movie star, she was very attractive because of her great smile and curly hair. It's special when a talented superstar is down to earth and so friendly. That was Lisa Wagner in those days.

My memories of Lisa Wagner bring joy to mind. A bowling superstar without pretense. A superstar like the girl next door. Someone who was authentic. No frills, nothing fancy, just old-fashioned personality.

THANK YOU, Lisa, for so many memories, THANK YOU for being a great example of what a champion should be, THANK YOU for being a great example for young girls everywhere. THANK YOU, Lisa, for being Lisa.


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