

Beginnings and Endings

September is always about beginnings and endings...beginning a new bowling season and school year, and the ending of summer for Michiganders.

This year is a little different. It was the beginning of the PWBA tour, which included the Detroit Open. I cannot tell you how proud I was to be able to help out at Super Bowl in Canton for this event. When I walked into that center and saw the PWBA logo up on the masking units, tears came to my eyes! What a proud moment to see women's bowling back alive and well. The Detroit Open sold out as the largest stop before the U.S. Open with 120 participants. There were over 200 local bowlers who bowled the pro-am tournaments. There were so many spectators, especially on Friday that even Mark and Diane Voight were surprised when they arrived at the center Friday morning. This tournament was ran like a well-oiled machine!

A very special shout out to the many volunteers who helped out with being score monitors and anything else that was needed to make this a successful event, especially the Metro Detroit USBC Board members. Yeah, we rocked! My Fitbit said 7.1 miles on Friday!!!

Thanks to all of the ladies who bowled and represent our sport so well. They were so accommodating and pleasant to their fans, as was displayed by the smiles on the youth bowlers' faces.

I hope we did our job well enough that the PWBA will bring us another stop next year! If so, count me in!

It is also the beginning of the new bowling season. Good luck to all of you in your leagues this year. Everyone needs to invite one person who has never bowled, or maybe hasn't bowled in a while. Sometimes people just want to be asked. Let's grow this sport we all love so much!

We cannot speak of endings without saying so long to Sunnybrook Golf and Bowl. There has been so much said on social media, both good and bad, about the closing of this wonderful center with so much rich history in our market.

I want to personally thank Randy and Cheryl Shank, along with their incredible staff, especially John Casbar, on being absolute ambassadors to our sport locally and nationally. You set the bar rather high for proprietors to follow. I know this was not an easy decision for you and I know how much you love this sport which you displayed the day after the announcement when you put on the Pin Pal costume and sweated it out at the Dream Cruise to promote the sport. I wish you all the best, I love you both and THANK YOU!

Sunnybrook wasn't the only center we lost this year. We say good-bye to Cloverlanes and Thunderbird Lanes as well. This is a tremendous amount of lane beds lost in our area, and displaced bowlers who need to find homes. MDUSBC has worked very hard to assist in any way possible to assist bowlers in finding homes. If you know someone who bowled at these centers, please reach out to them and make sure they have a league to join.

The next beginning is tournament season. Please watch our website for the tournament listings for this season. We have something for every skill level, gender, and age group.

See you on the lanes!

Libbi Fletcher

