



Ron Burgess wins MDUSBC Super Senior Masters at Thunderbowl

Ronald Burgess of Westland won the MDUSBC Super Senior Masters title and the top prize of \$1,000 at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park with a 188-185 win over Michael McCleskey of Southfield. McCleskey settled for \$500.



Burgess qualified fifth with a five-game total of 1,088. He remained in the winner's bracket with victories over Dave Forfitt of Windsor 225-219, Walter Blackwell of Farmington Hills 192-169, Edward Flowers of West Bloomfield 236-183 and McCleskey the first time 203-153. He then had to wait for McCleskey to emerge from the loser's bracket. Burgess averaged 213.2 for 10 games of competition.



McCleskey qualified second with 1,170. He stayed in the winner's bracket with wins over Michael Lucente of Warren 229-220, David Bernhardt Sr. of Romeo 199-176 and Larry Walker of Garden City 255-164 before falling to Burgess 203-153. Once in the loser's bracket he beat defending champion Harold Sullins of Chesterfield 258-248 for the opportunity to avenge the earlier loss

to Burgess. McCleskey averaged 222.6 for 11 games of competition.

Sullins finished third for \$400 and Edwin Peart of Southfield fourth for \$300.

Defending champion Sullins was the top qualifier with 1,200. He lost his first match to Edward Flowers 225-189. In the loser's bracket he beat George Reeves of Detroit 217-197, David Bernhardt Sr. 214-206, Dave Forfitt 189-175, avenged the earlier loss to Flowers 229-203 and Edwin Peart 238-180 before falling to McCleskey 258-248. He averaged 227 for 12 games.

Peart qualified 14th with 1,028. In match play he lost his first match to Larry Walker 230-141. In the loser's bracket he beat Michael Raleigh of Clyde 201-121, Walter Blackwell 217-182, Leonard Kersten of Clarkston 186-181 before avenging the earlier loss to Walker 237-204. He then lost to Sullins 238-180 to end his day. He averaged 199.1 for 11 games.

William Schepke of Shelby Township won the special competition for non-qualifiers over the age of 70 with a 164-150 win over William Neiman of Warren. Schepke took home \$200 and Neiman \$175 for their efforts.

Sponsors of the MDUSBC Super Senior Masters are Turbo 2-N-1 Grips and Turbo Tech.

The MDUSBC Super Senior Masters Tournament is an USBC certified event operated by the Metro Detroit USBC.

(Final results @ mdusbc.com)



MDUSBC Senior Senior Masters titlist Ronald Burgess (r) is congratulated by runner-up Mike McCleskey (l) and MDUSBC President George Bresinski

Oczepek wins Women's Series



Julie Oczepek of Vassar won the Metro Detroit U S B C (M D U S B C) Women's Series event Sunday with a 231-192 triumph over Sandra

Schultz of Macomb at Mayflower Lanes in Redford. Oczepek took home the top prize of \$500, while Schultz settled for \$250.

Oczepek qualified eighth in the field of 37, with a four-game total of 827. She finished qualifying with a 225 game to make match play by three pins. In match play she beat Julie Halstead of Redford 252-209, top qualifier Lisa Bishop of Redford 206-202 and Jennifer Maples of Roseville 264-201 to advance to the finals.

Schultz qualified sixth with 864 including a high game of 238. By virtue of qualifying sixth she earned a



bye in the first round, but once match play started she beat Brandie Reamy of Livonia 269-203 and Angela Wilt of Westland 222-

214 on her way to the finals.

Lisa Bishop of Redford led the field with 912 on games of 277, 198, 224 and 213. She then lost her first match to Oczepek 206-202 and took home \$75.

Last year's Cup Champion Robin Orlikowski qualified second, but lost her first match to Angela Wilt 174-173 and took home \$75.

Complete results are available at www.mdusbc.com under "Tournaments" and Women's Series page.

Darren Alexander wins MDUSBC Men's Series complete details on page 4

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Next up: the Annual Meeting

From the Editor

Mark A. Martin

MDUSBC

Association Manager



The annual meeting of the Metro Detroit USBC will be held on Saturday, Feb. 2 at 2 p.m. at DeCarlo's Banquet and Convention Center in Warren.

All members of the Metro Detroit USBC Association are eligible to attend the meeting. All adults and youth over the age of 14 are eligible to vote.

On the agenda are reports on the progress the MDUSBC has made during the previous year, electing six adult members of the board, electing two youth representatives to the board of directors, electing state delegates and electing delegates to the USBC Annual Meeting.

There are no proposed bylaw changes for the meeting.

Anyone desiring to run for any of the positions should visit www.mdusbc.com to obtain an application to be forwarded to the nominating committee. You can also call the MDUSBC office for an application.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE MDUSBC

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Officers and Office Staff of the Metro Detroit USBC Association, I would like to extend holiday greetings to all of you. This is the time of year when we all enjoy family related activities, while celebrating the holidays in our own way. I hope that this holiday season is a joyful one for you and your family.

MDUSBC TOURNAMENTS

The Masters will be held at Rosebowl Lanes in Roseville, located at 28001 Groesbeck Hwy. The date for qualifying is Jan. 26 with match play on Jan. 26 & 28.

The entry fee is \$150 with a first prize of \$2,500, second place \$1,250 and final match play spot pays \$300 based on 120 entries. Justin Knowles of Okemos is the defending champion.

The field will be limited to the first 160 entries so it is critical for returning entrants to send their entry fee and blank in as soon as it is received.

The Senior Masters will be held at Indian Lanes in Wyandotte, located at 4500 13th. The date for qualifying is Feb. 9 with match play on Feb. 9 & 10.

Troy Stus of South Lyon is the defending champion. The entry fee is \$120 with a first prize of \$2,000, second place \$1,000 and the final match play spot \$250 based on 120 entries.

The Metro Detroit USBC will conduct Annual Women's & Open Championship Tournaments with both starting Sat., February 9 through March 17 at Century Bowl in Waterford. Squad times are 12:30 p.m. for the first three weekends of the tournament and 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. for the final two weekends.

All events, team, doubles and singles, for both tournaments will be contested at the same site. Handicap is based on 90 percent from 230. Squad organizers of 10 or more teams are eligible for \$10 per team organized. Spots can be paid for by check made out to MDUSBC, VISA or MasterCard. The prize ratio will be at least 1 in 10 entries.

For the Women's Championship there are two average divisions (165 and under and 166 average and up). The cost is \$25 per person per event and a \$5 all-events fee. The Women's Championship is open to all female members of the MDUSBC who bowled at least 21 games in the 2017-18 season in the Metro Detroit USBC Association or have 21 games or more in the current season in MDUSBC as of the time of bowling.

For the Open Championship the cost is \$25 per person per event and a \$10 all-events fee. There is an optional scratch feature in all of the events at a cost of \$10 per person per event. The Open Championship is open to all members of the MDUSBC who bowled at least 21 games in the 2017-18 season in the Metro Detroit USBC Association or have 21 games or more in the current season in MDUSBC as of the time of bowling.

In the Open Championship bowlers can bowl as many times as they wish in the team, doubles and singles events. They can even bowl with the same exact lineup twice, but only cash once with that lineup. To bowl other times a team can compete by changing two bowlers. In doubles the same two players can bowl together twice, but only cash one. In singles a bowler can only cash once.

For more information on the MDUSBC tournaments call the MDUSBC office at (248) 443-2695 ext. 105.

MDUSBC WOMEN'S / MEN'S SERIES

The MDUSBC Women's Series has returned for the eighth season. Along side the Women's Series will be the companion Men's Series.

Bowling Showcase News

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Qualifying is four games and match play will be single-game single elimination to determine a winner. The competition is expected to last less than four hours.

The entry fee is \$45 (\$50 if paid on site) and first place will pay \$500 based on 24 entries.

The next event will be Sunday, Dec. 9 at 10 a.m. at Westland Bowl in Westland.

Other events are scheduled for Jan. 13; March 10; and April 7.



Bowling TV Schedule



Saturday, Dec. 1 - 10 a.m.	WADL-Detroit	Bowling Showcase Youth Challenge - First round from Merri-Bowl Woodland vs Merri-Bowl Pin Crushers
Saturday, Dec. 8 - 10 a.m.	WADL-Detroit	Bowling Showcase Magazine show
Saturday, Dec. 15 - 10 a.m.	WADL-Detroit	Bowling Showcase Youth Challenge - First round from Merri-Bowl Five Star Lanes vs Thunderbowl Lanes
Saturday, Dec. 22 - 10 a.m.	WADL-Detroit	Bowling Showcase Youth Challenge - Semi-Final from Merri-Bowl Cherry Hill Lanes North vs Merri-Bowl Phantom Strikers
Sunday, Dec. 23 - 2:30 p.m.	FOX	PBA
Saturday, Dec. 29 - 10 a.m.	WADL-Detroit	Bowling Showcase Youth Challenge - Semi-Final from Merri-Bowl Woodland Lanes vs Five Star Lanes

Watch



On



Every Saturday at 10 a.m.

A Time of Thanksgiving

Personal Perspectives

Libbi Fletcher
MDUSBC Director



I am so thankful to bowl in the Bowling Capital of the World!

Not because we are the biggest association in USBC, not because we have the BEST bowlers in the world, not because we now have the PBA Player of the Year (Andrew Anderson), but because our bowlers are so special!

This year again, our league bowlers have stepped up to the challenge to donate to BVL to support our veterans. Once again, we sold all 1000 of our \$10 raffle tickets for November and checks are being sent out to the lucky winners (still waiting for my winner). Thanks to all the MDUSBC Board of Directors and supporters who stepped up to help sell these tickets each year. Also, thanks to all our amazing leagues who pass the envelope or donate 50/50 raffle money to BVL. So far this year we are over \$8000 from league donations!! If your league hasn't sent their envelope in yet, there is still time! Please pass the envelope and drop

it in our delivery bucket as soon as you can so we can continue to help our veterans.

Thank you so much for your support.

You have one more opportunity to continue your support of our veterans. **SAVE THE DATE!** January 19th at Universal Lanes, at noon, we will conduct our first ever event:

DROP DOWN AND GIVE ME 40 – 40 Frame Game!!! There will be a raffle table, 50/50 and prizes. Details and the entry form will be out very soon. We hope you can join us for the bowling, but if not, please consider donating a basket for the raffle, gift cards, or cash!

Again, this year, I had the pleasure of attending the Veteran's Day Services at Arlington National Cemetery. It was a glorious day in November. The President and Vice-President of the United States were both at other events, but the new Secretary of the VA, Robert Wilkie honored our veterans during the service and laying of the wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. BVL brought a check representing all the donations from last year which totaled \$1,143,292.35 – our second year to recently present over \$1 million. **THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!**

December 12th, we will hold our annual Christmas Luncheon at Thunderbowl for our Volunteer Services group from the John Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit. It is always so much fun and so fulfilling. Pictures and report to follow next month!

On behalf of the BVL, MDUSBC, and all veterans, thank you for your support and have a wonderful holiday. God Bless you and your family, our veterans and the United States of America.

For donations to BVL, go to www.bvl.org.

Eight Month Commitment

On The Lanes With Shane

Shane Ferris
MDUSBC Director



Every season I see new bowlers that open bowl 2 or 3 times a week but when asked to join a league the response is usually, "That's too long of a commitment" or "I'm too busy to bowl every week". My response at that point is you come bowling for fun every week though. Sometimes 2 and 3 times a week. Leagues are nothing more than organized open bowling but with more perks and more people. I usually make some headway with that statement and get a commitment to a short season league to start. Now my goal after that is to transition them into a full season league. That is a 50/50 shot at best. But why?

The reality is that most all of us bowlers look at a 32 week season as standard or the norm. 2 halves or 3 thirds but usually always bowling September through April or pretty close to it. Some of us have had to cut back to 1 or 2 leagues a week for family, work, finances and many other reasons over the years. What if leagues were different though? What if there was another option along with the standard 32 weeks? Sanctioned, competitive and with jackpots, prize fund and all the trimmings. Some

leagues are doing it now and simply not promoting the concept. Leagues that are split into quarters and pay prize fund immediately after each quarter ends. With that said, why not advertise a new league every quarter?

Whether it's golf and softball season ending late in September or even October. Or those same sports starting in April, kids activities and sports that make a 8 month season unrealistic for some of us. Right down to work schedules and finances being tight before Christmas. Would more people bowl leagues if they could a 16 week season or even an 8 week season that would start at different times throughout September through April? I think they would. I think all it would take is some of our current leagues to be a pioneer, adopt this concept and promote it. There would be pros and cons like in anything else. Teams that have overall champions, first half winners against second half winners and such. Sure, that would have to get worked out a little differently but getting your prize fund money earlier than April and 3 or 4 times throughout the season might be nice for a ton of reasons. The most important question is, would it get more people to join leagues?

Can you imagine being able to say instead of I bowl 2 leagues throughout the season that you bowl 4 or 5 at different times? Because now you're able to fit it into your schedule around other obligations throughout the normal 8 month season? It's an interesting topic that I've heard more and more about and I believe could be an alternative for some to keep bowling leagues. Could you and your league benefit from this concept? Maybe someone reading this will be the pioneer to start such an idea and increase league bowling! I'll never claim to have all the right answers but I hope I've given you a different perspective.

See you on the lanes.



STATE TOURNAMENTS: Just a few changes to know about

(Ann)ouncements

Ann Block
MDUSBC Director



I am sitting at my desk writing this column thinking about Christmas. The bowling season is in full swing. Prize fund lists should be voted on and distributed by this time. Two position rounds have probably occurred in the schedule by now. Tournament forms have been sent and confirmations are coming back to the captains. This is the first year that the new merged state association will be handling all three championship tournaments. As the new Michigan State USBC finds its footing some captains may see some changes in the process. Some of the old processes have been changed to better service all the bowlers. Let's hit upon a few of the changes.

The Open Championship participants who use a credit card will incur a service fee. In the past the service fee was handled as part of the expenses of the tournament. All participants shared the cost of any who chose to use a credit card. It is convenient to use a credit card and in the everyday world many chose this route for this reason. Many chose this route for reward points. That being said the former association which ran the Open Championship incurred a nearly \$10,000 service fee for members to do this. In the everyday business world, the service fee is generally absorbed by the party using the service. The new association did not feel this fee should be absorbed by all participants by way of an additional expense of running the tournament. Many participants pay in check or money order. Some even come to the office and pay in cash. Having multiple ways to pay is a good thing but every method is not the same.

All reservations will be honored according to availability. No large group will take precedence over another one. All entries for a squad

should be sent in the same envelope. Reservations must be turned in on time. If you need help call the state office, they are there to help.

This year's tournament honorees for the two adult tournaments have Metro Detroit USBC connections. The Women's Championship Tournament has Tanisha Burris as its honoree. Tanisha is originally from the Lansing area. She has bowled in Jackson, Battle Creek, Grand Rapids, and Metro Detroit. Tanisha has three 300 games and four 299 games on her resume. She holds two Greater Jackson USBC Queens titles. Tanisha has been the actual champion in singles, doubles, and all-events in Lansing. She bowls regularly in the Metro Detroit USBC Women's Series. Tanisha has been a regular participant and qualifier for the Michigan Queens Tournament. She is a member of five actual team title championships in Michigan Women's Championship competition. Tanisha is a squad leader in the Michigan Women's Tournament. She brings several teams of girls to bowl in the tournament. Tanisha is a consummate bowling promoter, bringing new female bowlers to bowl tournaments, especially the state championships. She promotes her sport and enjoys sharing the competition with others.

The Open Championships has as its honoree the Metro Detroit association manager, Mark Martin. Until the merger, Mark served on the Michigan State USBC Bowling Association Board of Directors. He is also serving his last term on the national USBC Board. He is a member of the Greater Detroit and Michigan Halls of Fame. Mark is the manager of the largest bowling association in the world. He handles the office operations of 13+ tournaments. Mark is the editor of the Bowling Showcase as well as a monthly contributor. He is the host of the Metro Detroit bowling show on WADL also called Bowling Showcase. Mark is a regular league bowler and tournament participant. He organizes squad for both the Metro Detroit and Michigan State Open Tournaments. Although he chose not to run for the new merged state board he is a member of the Hall of Fame committee.

Congratulations, to both Tanisha and Mark for being this year's tournament honoree.

Merry Christmas to one and all. Until next time!

DARREN ALEXANDER WINS MEN'S SERIES EVENT AT MAYFLOWER LANES

Darren Alexander of Essex, Ontario won the Metro Detroit USBC (MDUSBC) Men's Series event Sunday with a 235-222 triumph over Dan Pollak of Clinton Township at Mayflower Lanes in Redford. Alexander took home the top prize of \$500, while Pollak settled for \$250.



Alexander qualified second in the field of 36, with a four-game total of 993 on games of 267, 232, 215 and 279. He was seeded into the second round by virtue of his qualifying position. In match play he defeated Drew Klingler of Grand Rapids 248-227 and Leslie Collins of Detroit 249-235 to advance to the championship match.

Pollak qualified ninth with 920, including a high game of 277. In match play he beat DJ Rose of Belleville 279-257, top qualifier Brian Odom of Romulus 255-190 and Lonnie Olsen of Warren 253-225 on his way to the finals.

Odom led the field with 1,002 on games of 210, 268, 279 and 245. He then lost his first match to Pollak 255-190 and took home \$75.

Complete results are available at www.mdusbc.com under "Tournaments" and Men's Series page.

LOTITO FATHER & SON ROLL PERFECTOS

As we all know, bowling is great family fun, and there is nothing better than rolling a set with your Dad or your son. The Lotito family, with a long history of bowling locally, in many classic and traveling leagues, have enjoyed their bowling passion together for decades. Ken Lotito, the family bowling patriarch, taught his two boys, Mike & Tim to bowl as small children. He would let the boys practice while he bowled in league. The boys were very competitive from the start, and remain that way today. Their competitive nature led them to excellence, and they all have multiple 300's and 800's. Mike K. Lotito has about over twenty 300 games and twenty 800 series. Grandpa Ken, is approaching 80, and still averages over 200 in senior classic leagues around town.

Mike K.'s son, Mike R. Lotito, didn't start bowling till he was a junior in High School, as his passion was baseball. But very quickly he had two 300 games before he graduated from High School. That Lotito blood is a gifted mix of red and white cells, that know how to carry 7 and 10 pins.

After bowling together for five years at the Detroit Athletic club, Mike K. and Mike R. experienced something few father and sons have. On Nov. 6th, 2018, at the Detroit Athletic Club, in the Tuesday 5:30 league, Mike K. Lotito, and Mike R. Lotito both scored 300, in the same game, on the same team, as 4th and 5th men. It was a game they will remember all their lives, and the highlight of a gifted passion.

PS—Their team lost the game, as the Detroit Athletic Club has 100% handicap, so 600 pins from the 4th and 5th spot were not enough. Somehow they managed the biggest grin of their lives anyway!!!

Contributed by George J. Henry



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300 BOWL (52)	100 S Cass Lake Rd	Waterford	48328	(248) 682-6300
ALLEY 59 (24)	44925 N Groesbeck Hwy	Clinton Township	48036	(586) 469-6411
APOLLO LANES (14)	29410 Gratiot Ave	Roseville	48066	(586) 772-2070
ASTRO LANES (48)	32388 John R Rd	Madison Heights	48071	(248) 585-3132
AVON NORTH HILL LANES (32)	150 W Tienken Rd	Rochester Hills	48306	(248) 651-8544
BEECH LANES (16)	15492 Beech Daly Rd	Redford	48239	(313) 531-3800
BELMAR LANES (16)	4035 Fort St	Lincoln Park	48146	(313) 381-4242
BIDDLE BOWL (8)	708 Biddle St.	Wyandotte	48192	(734) 283-0660
BONANZA LANES (44)	24600 Hoover Rd	Warren	48089	(586) 756-3000
BOWL ONE LANES (40)	1639 E 14 Mile Rd	Troy	48083	(248) 588-4850
BOWLERO LANES (16)	4209 Coolidge Hwy	Royal Oak	48073	(248) 549-7500
BOWLING IQ (8)	7023 E 14 Mile Road	Sterling Heights	48312	(586) 268-4001
CENTURY BOWL (52)	7345 Highland Rd	Waterford	48327	(248) 666-4700
CHERRY HILL LANES (52)	300 N Inkster Rd	Dearborn Heights	48127	(313) 278-0400
CHERRY HILL NORTH (36)	6697 Dixie Hwy	Clarkston	48346	(248) 625-5011
CLASSIC LANES (32)	2145 Avon Industrial Dr	Rochester Hills	48309	(248) 852-9100
COLLIER LANES (32)	879 S Lapeer Rd	Oxford	48371	(248) 628-2851
COUNTRY CLUB OF DETROIT (6)	2220 Country Club Dr.	Grosse Pointe Farms	48236	(313) 881-8000
COUNTRY LANES (32)	30250 W 9 Mile Rd	Farmington	48336	(248) 476-3201
DETROIT ATHLETIC CLUB (8)	241 Madison St	Detroit	48226	(313) 442-1003
ESCAPE (Formerly TROY LANES) (30)	1950 E Square Lake Rd	Troy	48085	(248) 879-8122
FERNHILL COUNTRY CLUB (12)	17600 Clinton River Rd	Clinton Township	48038	(586) 286-4700
FIVE STAR LANES (50)	2666 Metropolitan Pkwy	Sterling Hts	48310	(586) 939-2550
FORD LANES (24)	23100 Van Born Rd	Dearborn Heights	48125	(313) 292-1700
FRASER STAR LANES (16)	33042 Garfield Rd	Fraser	48026	(586) 293-5590
GARDEN BOWL (16)	4120 Woodward Ave	Detroit	48201	(313) 833-9850
GROSSE PTE YACHT CLUB (6)	788 Lake Shore Rd	Grosse Pointe Shores	48236	(313) 884-2500
HARBOR LANES (20)	25419 Jefferson Ave	Saint Clair Shores	48081	(586) 772-1200
HARTFIELD LANES (52)	3490 12 Mile Rd	Berkley	48072	(248) 543-9338
IMPERIAL LANES (80)	44650 Garfield Rd	Clinton Twp	48038	(586) 286-8700
INDIAN LANES (32)	4500 13th St	Wyandotte	48192	(734) 283-4700
LAKE SHORE LANES (16)	31025 Jefferson Ave	Saint Clair Shores	48082	(586) 293-2722
LANGAN'S ALL STAR LANES (18)	257 Ladd Rd	Walled Lake	48390	(248) 669-5400

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 c. IN (56 L)

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Bowling Centers of the Metro Detroit USBC



BOWLING CENTER NAME (# of Lanes)	ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE	PHONE
LUXURY LANES (16)	600 E 9 Mile Rd	Ferndale	48220	(248) 544-0530
MADISON PARK BOWL (16)	25023 John R Rd	Madison Heights	48071	(248) 541-9305
MAYFLOWER LANES (32)	26600 Plymouth Rd	Redford	48239	(313) 937-8420
MERRI-BOWL LANES (40)	30950 5 Mile Rd	Livonia	48154	(734) 427-2900
NORWEST LANES (16)	32905 Northwestern Highway	Farmington Hills	48334	(248) 626-2422
NOVI BOWL (40)	21700 Novi Road	Novi	48375	(248) 348-9120
PERFECT GAME (Formerly DRAKESHIRE) (32)	35000 Grand River Ave	Farmington Hills	48335	(248) 478-2230
PLAZA LANES (40)	42001 Ann Arbor Rd E	Plymouth	48170	(734) 453-4880
PLUM HOLLOW LANES (24)	21900 W 9 Mile Rd	Southfield	48075	(248) 353-6540
PREMIER LANES (34)	33151 23 Mile Rd.	Chesterfield	48047	(586) 725-2228
RECREATION BOWL (8)	40 Crocker Blvd	Mount Clemens	48043	(586) 468-7746
REGAL LANES (34)	27663 Mound Rd	Warren	48092	(586) 751-4770
RENAISSANCE FAMILY CTR (40)	19600 Woodward Ave	Detroit	48203	(313) 368-5123
ROOSEVELT LANES (20)	6701 Roosevelt Ave	Allen Park	48101	(313) 381-0222
ROSEBOWL LANES (48)	28001 Groesbeck Hwy	Roseville	48066	(586) 771-4140
SHELBY LANES (24)	50721 Van Dyke Ave	Utica	48317	(586) 731-4800
SHORE LANES (40)	31100 Harper Ave	Saint Clair Shores	48082	(586) 293-0880
SKORE LANES (48)	22255 Ecorse Rd	Taylor	48180	(313) 291-6220
STERLING LANES (50)	33200 Schoenherr Rd	Sterling Hts	48312	(586) 979-5200
SUMMIT SPORT CENTER (36)	66600 Van Dyke Avenue	Washington	48095	(586) 752-7006
SUPER BOWL (60)	45100 Ford Rd	Canton	48187	(734) 459-6070
TEN PINS OF TRENTON (32)	2591 Fort St	Trenton	48183	(734) 675-2695
THUNDERBOWL LANES (90)	4200 Allen Rd	Allen Park	48101	(313) 928-4688
TOTAL SPORTS LANES (20)	40501 Production Drive	Harrison Township	48045	(586) 463-2000
TURBO 2-N-1 RESEARCH FACILITY (2)	46460 Continental	Chesterfield	48047	(586) 598-3948
UNIVERSAL LANES (28)	2101 E 12 Mile Rd	Warren	48092	(586) 751-2828
VISION LANES (32)	38250 Ford Rd	Westland	48185	(734) 641-8181
WATERFORD LANES (40)	7100 Cooley Lake Road	Waterford	48327	(248) 366-4778
WAYNE BOWL & RECREATION (40)	36900 Michigan Ave	Wayne	48184	(734) 721-7530
WESTLAND BOWL (60)	5940 N Wayne Rd	Westland	48185	(734) 722-7570
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After breaking down the stats in painstaking detail, my vote for 2018 PBA Player of the Year vote will go to Andrew Anderson

11th Frame.com

Jeff Richgels



I spent about an hour on Wednesday analyzing the statistics and researching the 2018 PBA Tour season and I still struggled with my vote for 2018 PBA Player of the Year.

Just consider how a single pin falling or standing could have changed the POY race completely.

What if E.J. Tackett had not left the 10-pin in the 10th frame of his match with Dom Barrett in the stepladder finals, and gone on to win the U.S. Open? He would be close to a slam dunk with four titles that included a major.

What if Barrett had missed that 6-pin on his final shot of the U.S. Open title match instead of barely sliding it

over, and Jakob Butturff had won the ensuing roll-off for the title? With three titles that included a major and the long-format PBA 60th Anniversary Classic, wouldn't Butturff look like a POY winner?

Who knows how many other tournaments we could go back through in 2018 and find single shots and pins that could have made choosing a POY much easier?

Instead, the task is one of difficult sorting involving more legitimate candidates than I can remember for PBA members and media to sort through.

Any analysis should start with the most important thing in any sport: winning.

Tackett won three times in 2018, and Andrew Anderson, Barrett, Jason Belmonte, Butturff and Anthony Simonsen each won two times.

Winning majors tops it all and of the multiple winners the major winners were Anderson (USBC Masters) and Barrett (U.S. Open). (Matt O'Grady won the Tournament of Champions, Tom Smallwood the Players Championship and the World Championship was not held in 2018, as the World Series was moved to March 2019.)

I eliminated Belmonte from consideration because his two titles were the Roth-Holman Doubles (with Bill O'Neill) and the small-field PBA Tour Finals. He did lead the 2018 PBA Tour in earnings and average, but those stats can be skewed, and his understandably not traveling to the U.S. for Xtra Frame events relegated him to sixth in points, which is reflective of overall performance in a season more than money or average.

How different Belmonte's season might have been had he done better in the TV finals of the Players Championship, where he finished second, and the TOC, where he finished fourth. While he tied for the most top 5 finishes with seven, he also had a poor finish to the season at the Fall Swing and U.S. Open, where he didn't cash in 46th.

Barrett also missed most of the Xtra Frame events as he understandably didn't travel from England for weekend events, and therefore was just 10th in points although he was second in earnings.

Would those two overseas players have won more in the Xtra Frame events? Perhaps, but those are things you can't assume.

Simonsen led the PBA Tour in cashes with 19 in 21 events, was second in points, third in money, and tied for the most top 5 finishes, while posting the most interesting win when he fired back-up balls to take the Xtra Frame Gene Carter Pro Shop Classic. But Simonsen's wins in that event and the Flo Wolf Open were both short format events that can't be equated to majors.

Don't be surprised if Simonsen some year has a POY year of supreme dominance: he is that good, that creative and that fearless. Remember, he is still a young man growing as a bowler.

I was prepared to vote for Butturff if he won the U.S. Open, but when he didn't win and I examined his record in detail, he falls a bit short. One of his title is an Xtra Frame event, but the biggest knock against him is that he cashed just six times, four times less than the next lowest among the multiple titlists. Yes, he is left-handed, which sometimes leaving him at a bad

disadvantage, but that doesn't erase the stats. In addition, Butturff bowled in just 14 events, the same as Belmonte.

That leaves Tackett and Anderson.

Tackett, the 2016 POY, was third in points, and cashed in 18 of 20 events, just behind Simonsen's 19 of 21. But his wins were two short-format events — the Xtra Frame Parkside Lanes Open and Flo Bear Open, and the third title was the Xtra Frame Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles.

And then there's my favorite metric I calculate every year: total finishes in majors.

Tackett finished 26th in the Players Championship, 13th in the TOC, 188th in the Masters, and fourth in the U.S. Open to total 235 points. That is the second-worst total of the 12 players on the PBA POY ballot stats sheet, better than only the 257 points of Butturff (70-18-167-2).

Kris Prather was the leader with 50 points (4-10-33-3), Stuart Williams was second with 71 (7-42-9-13), and Belmonte third at 77 (2-4-25-46).

Anderson, meanwhile, won the USBC Masters, was sixth with 103 major points (67-3-1-32), led in points by a huge margin (24,195-20,909 for Simonsen), tied for the lead in top 5 finishes at seven, cashed in 16 of 19 events, was fifth in average, and fourth in money.

It's hard to imagine that before he made the TV finals of the TOC in February only serious fans knew of Anderson, and his profile was so low that he wasn't even drafted for the 2018 PBA League(!).

Anderson's giant points lead I believe will help carry him to the POY crown as it is a mark of consistent excellence that I think his fellow players and media will recognize.

But it's a razor thin margin for me that rested on Barrett and Butturff not winning the U.S. Open.

Ballots are due back by midnight on Sunday and the winner will be announced at the PBA Clash that will be taped on Dec. 10 and air on FOX on Dec. 23.

Also on the ballot is the 2018 PBA Rookie of the Year list, which includes five players.

Annop Arornsaranon of Thailand won the only title among the rookies with the PBA-WBT Busan Cup in South Korea, but he only competed in three tournaments.

Rafiq Ismail of Malaysia was the only player with multiple top 5 finishes, but he only competed in four tournaments.

The three players who bowled a more extended schedule — Kamron Doyle, Nick Pate and Mitch Hupe — all possess beautiful games that could eventually carry them to stardom.

None really stood out in 2018, though, which is not uncommon for rookies — heck, I finished second to Ryan Shafer in the 1987 ROY voting!

Doyle had the most cashes with seven in 15 tournaments, tied with Pate at one top 5 finish, led rookies in points, and money among the three regular competitors.

Doyle's name will be on my ballot, although that easily could have changed if the Asian duo had competed in more PBA Tour events in 2018.

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and subscribe for more of
Jeff Richgels posts**

Editor's Note: Jeff Richgels wrote the above piece before the PBA announcement about Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year.

Jeff Richgels is a pretty good prognosticator as both Andrew Anderson and Kamron Doyle won Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year, respectively.

See page 9 for the details.

Special Olympics Update

Bowling, etc.

Phil Goodman
Figure 8 Networking



A number of prior articles have included programs in partnership with the Special Olympics of Michigan and schools. More specifically, Unified Champion Schools and a program combining high school age Special Olympic Athletes with Varsity Bowlers just prior to the beginning of the MHSAA bowling season. In follow up to these articles and conclusion of the first Michigan Unified Champion High (MUCH) School Bowling Team Challenge, a few items should be noted.

Sixteen high schools participated in the inaugural season and reported significant success in two respects. First and the most visible is the joy seen when the Special Olympic Athletes and High School Bowlers competed together on the bowling lanes. Much joy, engagement and yes, competition could be seen. Secondly and behind the scenes is the requirement for high schools funded by the Special Olympics of Michigan Unified Champion School programs to form a peer to peer Youth Activation Committee (YAC). Many programs will host a month worth of events at their schools in the Spring when the focus is "Spread the Word to End the Word" which encourages people to help

eliminate use of the R-word for those with physical, emotional and cognitive challenges. The largest individual league this season, Jo Brighton Skills Centers and Downriver area high schools, is taking a different approach to inclusiveness. On November 30th, they are having a pizza and dance party together in a local school gym.

Fortunately, the USBC has recognized the value of Special Olympic Athletes and created a category for their certification. Participation in tournaments and visible rewards/awards are critical in the development of Special Olympic Athletes. The numerous and colorful awards created by USBC demonstrates both an understanding and willingness to meet the needs of each individual athlete. In the spring, the Jo Brighton bowlers noted above will have their own league with 40-50 bowlers. After discussion with the MDUSBC and Executive Director, Mark Martin, the parents and coaches of the Jo Brighton bowlers were approached regarding the opportunity to certify their league. The response was overwhelmingly positive to have the bowling industry include their bowlers in youth tournaments, special divisions within tournaments when needed and awards. Discussion will begin soon to make this opportunity a reality.

Let us know if you are interested in participating with us to serve bowlers of all abilities. Recruitment of schools, funding, and coaching are always needed. For more information, please contact us by phone at 248-210-3953 or email, f8nLeaders@gmail.com.

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Jo Brighton Unified teams

Anderson snags PBA Player of the Year honors

AUSTIN, Texas – Second-year Professional Bowlers Association member Andrew Anderson of Holly, Mich., has been selected as the 2018 Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year, and 20-year-old Kamron Doyle of Brentwood, Tenn., has won 2018 Harry Golden PBA Rookie of the Year honors, PBA CEO and Commissioner Tom Clark announced Tuesday.

In a live-stream presentation airing on Xtra Frame on FloBowling, Clark also announced Tom Smallwood of Saginaw, Mich., has been selected by his fellow Go Bowling! PBA Tour competitors as winner of the 2018 Steve Nagy Sportsmanship Award while 2018 PBA Hall of Fame inductee Chris Barnes of Double Oak, Texas, has been selected as the PBA Tony Reyes Memorial Community Service Award winner.

Anderson and Doyle will be recognized on national television during the PBA Clash telecast that will air on FOX on Sunday, Dec. 23. Smallwood and Barnes will receive their awards during the PBA Hall of Fame induction ceremonies that will be live-streamed by Xtra Frame on FloBowling on Saturday, Jan. 5, from the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame in Arlington, Texas.

Through the advancements in technology, Anderson had just deplaned in Hong Kong, where he will bowl with Team USA in the World Bowling Men's Championships later this week, and was able to watch PBA CEO & Commissioner Tom Clark announce on FloBowling that he had won the 2018 Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year award. Anderson immediately send Clark a note:

"I sat in the airport after getting off before going through customs or anything to have WiFi," Anderson noted. "Thank you so much. I had two agents asked if I was okay because I had tears in my eyes at the airport so that's embarrassing. Really appreciate the way you explained my year, quote the heartbreak in Indy (where he was bypassed in the PBA League selection process), but could only go up from there."

Anderson, a 23-year-old right-hander who is still pursuing a degree in elementary education, returned to Go Bowling! PBA Tour competition in 2018 highly motivated after not being selected to participate in the PBA League Elias Cup competition and

won a pair of titles: the United States Bowling Congress Masters (his first major) and the Xtra Frame Greater Jonesboro Open on his way to winning the 2018 Harry Smith PBA Points Leader award. He cashed in 16 of the 19 events he entered and had five top-five finishes, including a third-place finish in the PBA Tournament of Champions. He is the second-youngest player ever to win the award, behind only the late Billy Hardwick who was 22 when he was selected as PBA's first Player of the Year in 1963.

Anderson out-distanced runner-up EJ Tackett of Bluffton, Ind., the 2016 Player of the Year, and Dom Barrett of England in voting by his fellow PBA members and veteran bowling writers. In one of the most balanced seasons in recent memory, 12 players qualified by rule to make the Player of the Year ballot and 10 of the candidates received votes.

Doyle also dominated voting, winning "rookie" honors easily over Thailand's Annap Arromsaranon, the only first-year PBA member to win a title (the PBA-World Bowling Tour Busan Cup in South Korea). Doyle cashed in seven of the 15 events he entered, and had a personal-best third-place finish in the Xtra Frame Gene Carter's Pro Shop Classic in Middletown, Del.

Doyle's arrival into the PBA Tour ranks has been highly-anticipated since 2010 when he became the youngest bowler ever to cash in a PBA Regional tournament at the age of 12, followed by becoming the youngest bowler ever to cash in the U.S. Open two years later as a 5-foot-5, 105-pound, 14-year-old eighth grader.

Smallwood, a 41-year-old country music fan and avid deer hunter, is one of a handful of PBA Tour players to win the Steve Nagy Sportsmanship Award more than once. The 2016 Nagy recipient has earned the admiration of his fellow players despite his quiet, unassuming ability to beat them when the pressure is on. His three PBA Tour titles include a pair of majors: an historic win in the 2009 PBA World Championship after losing his job in the auto industry, and a pressure-packed four-match climb to the title in the 2018 Barbasol PBA Players Championship. He has four additional top-five finishes in majors among his 23 career championship round appearances.

MDUSBC 300/800 October 2018

Name	Date	Center	League	Name	Date	Center	League
Stephen McKalko	Oct 1 2018	Detroit Athletic Club	Joe Paulus Classic	Michael Pretko	Oct 17 2018	Ten Pins Of Trenton	Thursday Invitational
Daniel Badalamenti	Oct 1 2018	Sterling Lanes	San Marino Mens	Jimmie Burke	Oct 17 2018	Thunderbowl Lanes	Semi Seniors Invitational
DeMari Rice	Oct 1 2018	Westland Bowl	T.C.A.C.	Christopher Steward	Oct 18 2018	300 Bowl	3 Man Major
William Swanson	Oct 2 2018	Astro Lanes	Eagles Nest Classic	David Olivier	Oct 18 2018	Astro Lanes	Thursday Nite Men
Bryan Bulgarelli	Oct 2 2018	Sterling Lanes	Metro East Men	Robert Hoisington	Oct 18 2018	Harbor Lanes	Thursday Nite Mens
John Robertson	Oct 2 2018	Wonderland Lanes	Tuesday Mens Invitational	Theon Tinker	Oct 18 2018	Renaissance Bowl	World Traveler's Mixed
Dan Vandercook	Oct 3 2018	Country Lanes	Country Keglers	Bryan Jones	Oct 18 2018	Super Bowl	Ford Invitational
Renee Divozzo	Oct 3 2018	Shore Lanes	Wednesday Night Belles	Gregory Sierzan	Oct 18 2018	Total Sports Lanes	I O S Bowling Lge
Tempel Johnson	Oct 3 2018	Thunderbowl Lanes	Semi Seniors Invitational	Adam Stanley	Oct 18 2018	Universal Lanes	Thursday Community
David Scott	Oct 3 2018	Thunderbowl Lanes	Semi Seniors Invitational	Daryl Schou	Oct 18 2018	Wayne Bowl	Wayne Invitational Men's Leagu
Marvin Tibbs	Oct 3 2018	Thunderbowl Lanes	Semi Seniors Invitational	John Buffa	Oct 19 2018	Five Star Lanes	Mixed Nuts
Christopher Steward	Oct 4 2018	300 Bowl	3 Man Major	Joshua Lipanski	Oct 19 2018	Five Star Lanes	Mixed Nuts
Brian Mackowiak	Oct 4 2018	Alley 59	Victory League	Christopher Klein	Oct 19 2018	Ford Lanes	Friday Five
Steve Painter	Oct 4 2018	Alley 59	Victory League	Erin Nelson	Oct 19 2018	Imperial Lanes	Imperial Women
Michael Churchill	Oct 4 2018	Astro Lanes	Thursday Nite Men	James Autrey	Oct 19 2018	Thunderbowl Lanes	26 Mixed
Derek Thompson	Oct 4 2018	Indian Lanes	Detroit All Star Classic	James Liker	Oct 20 2018	Wonderland Lanes	High Rollers
Joseph Pollak	Oct 4 2018	Shelby Lanes	League 2604	Anthony Anderson Sr	Oct 22 2018	Bonanza Lanes	Local 961
Brian Curren	Oct 5 2018	Ford Lanes	Friday Five	James McPhail Jr	Oct 22 2018	Plaza Lanes	Plaza Men
Justin Neiman	Oct 5 2018	Harbor Lanes	Friday Night Invitational	TeQuentin Hutson	Oct 22 2018	Regal Lanes	Monday Night Football Trio
Robert Tedeschi Jr	Oct 5 2018	Harbor Lanes	Friday Night Invitational	Brian Hoskins	Oct 22 2018	Shelby Lanes	Greater Utica Men
Maurice Warren	Oct 5 2018	Wayne Bowl	Friday Night Live	Jeffrey Hoff	Oct 22 2018	Shelby Lanes	Greater Utica Men
Michael Magolan	Oct 6 2018	Imperial Lanes	Imperial Merry Mixers	Edward Burnette	Oct 23 2018	Cherry Hill North	Waterford Merchants
Mason Brantley	Oct 7 2018	Thunderbowl Lanes	Free Enterprize	Jacob Howell	Oct 23 2018	Five Star Lanes	Chrysler Central Engineering
Garrett Nagle	Oct 8 2018	Plaza Lanes	Plaza Men	Steven Kukuk	Oct 24 2018	Alley 59	Wednesday Inv Bowling Lge
Aaron Madsen	Oct 8 2018	Plaza Lanes	Plaza Men	Andrew Lechkun	Oct 24 2018	Harbor Lanes	Knights Of St John
Richard Pratt	Oct 9 2018	Total Sports Lanes	Tuesday Jr House	Derrick Hill	Oct 24 2018	Mayflower Lanes	Eloise Mixed League
Darrin Turner	Oct 9 2018	Woodland Lanes	Tuesday Night Mix Inv'l	Douglas Sewesky	Oct 24 2018	Super Bowl	Double Nickel
Richard Bidinger	Oct 10 2018	Astro Lanes	Hazel Park Eagles Mens	Lamont Neal	Oct 24 2018	Thunderbowl Lanes	Semi Seniors Invitational
Alan Pittman	Oct 10 2018	Collier Lanes	Oxford Wildcats	Jerry Dismuke Jr	Oct 25 2018	300 Bowl	Pontiac Motor Inter Office
David McGinty	Oct 10 2018	Five Star Lanes	St Jane Men	Christopher Nielson	Oct 25 2018	Apollo Lanes	Detroit All Star Classic
David Tulak	Oct 10 2018	Plaza Lanes	Bill Brown Ford Invitational	Stephen Angelo	Oct 25 2018	Harbor Lanes	Thursday Nite Mens
Shearard Westbrook Jr	Oct 10 2018	Plaza Lanes	Plaza Wed Nite Men	Jason Francis	Oct 26 2018	Harbor Lanes	Friday Night Invitational
Anthony Jones	Oct 11 2018	Alley 59	Victory League	Anthony Parrino Jr	Oct 26 2018	Harbor Lanes	Friday Night Invitational
Nevin Alexis	Oct 11 2018	Belmar Lanes	Stempien Memorial	Rob Lademan II	Oct 26 2018	Vision Lanes	Friday Night Out
Larry Quince Jr	Oct 11 2018	Century Bowl	Thursday Mens House	Willie Price Jr	Oct 28 2018	Thunderbowl Lanes	Free Enterprize
James Henderson	Oct 11 2018	Woodland Lanes	Allstate Trio	Murphy James Jr	Oct 29 2018	Astro Lanes	Hoosier Mens League
Virginia Austin	Oct 12 2018	Bonanza Lanes	Friday Nite DPL	Jeromy Wagner	Oct 29 2018	Cherry Hill North	Dixie All Stars
Brian Brennan	Oct 12 2018	Harbor Lanes	Friday Night Invitational	Nicholas Grobbel	Oct 29 2018	Five Star Lanes	Monday Night Guys & Dolls
Nicholas Prytula	Oct 13 2018	Harbor Lanes	Saturday Night Swingers	Kevin Wemyss	Oct 29 2018	Shelby Lanes	Greater Utica Men
Ronnie Urquhart	Oct 14 2018	Bonanza Lanes	Sunday Gents	Wayne Merrifield	Oct 29 2018	Sterling Lanes	San Marino Mens
Ronald Bradley Jr	Oct 14 2018	Bonanza Lanes	Sunday Gents	Stephen Krywy	Oct 29 2018	Sterling Lanes	San Marino Mens
Tim Brittain	Oct 15 2018	Cherry Hill North	Dixie All Stars	John Zawacki	Oct 29 2018	Universal Lanes	Monday Night Mens
Virginia Austin	Oct 15 2018	Luxury Lanes	Luxury Ladies Inv. League	Anthony Smith	Oct 29 2018	Westland Bowl	T.C.A.C.
Robert Painter	Oct 15 2018	Plaza Lanes	Plaza Men	Anthony Smith	Oct 29 2018	Westland Bowl	T.C.A.C.
Keontae Adams	Oct 15 2018	Westland Bowl	T.C.A.C.	Rodney Evans	Oct 29 2018	Westland Bowl	T.C.A.C.
David Steele III	Oct 15 2018	Westland Bowl	T.C.A.C.	Steven McGartland	Oct 30 2018	Cherry Hill North	Waterford Merchants
Kimberly Williams	Oct 15 2018	Westland Bowl	T.C.A.C.	Alan Pittman	Oct 30 2018	Cherry Hill North	Waterford Merchants
Scott Watko II	Oct 16 2018	Harbor Lanes	Tuesday Night Mens	Gerald Redmond	Oct 30 2018	Westland Bowl	Tues Men Invitational
George Pizzo Jr	Oct 17 2018	Astro Lanes	Hazel Park Eagles Mens	Donald Wilcox Sr	Oct 31 2018	Bonanza Lanes	Wednesday Nite Mixed
Gregg Miller	Oct 17 2018	Imperial Lanes	Clinton First	Thomas McClintic	Oct 31 2018	Collier Lanes	Oxford Wildcats
Steven Jaciuk	Oct 17 2018	Indian Lanes	Wyandotte Wed Men 2017-18	Jeffery Padgett	Oct 31 2018	Imperial Lanes	Clinton First
Alger Walker	Oct 17 2018	Mayflower Lanes	Eloise Mixed League				

Name	Score	Date	Center	League
William Penson	821	Oct 2 2018	Classic Lanes	Untouchables Mixed
Thomas Kopeck	820	Oct 3 2018	Five Star Lanes	St Jane Men
David Scott	804	Oct 3 2018	Thunderbowl Lanes	Semi Seniors Invitational
Derek Thompson	812	Oct 4 2018	Indian Lanes	Detroit All Star Classic
Zachary VanVleet	801	Oct 4 2018	Shelby Lanes	Thursday Night Men
Garrett Nagle	803	Oct 8 2018	Plaza Lanes	Plaza Men
Derek Thompson	808	Oct 9 2018	Alley 59	Tuesday American Classic
Anthony Radtke	826	Oct 9 2018	Imperial Lanes	Knights & Guards
George Juszczak Jr	802	Oct 10 2018	Plaza Lanes	Bill Brown Ford Invitational
Nevin Alexis	824	Oct 11 2018	Belmar Lanes	Stempien Memorial
Brian Brennan	802	Oct 12 2018	Harbor Lanes	Friday Night Invitational
Shane Kinnell	815	Oct 14 2018	Skore Lanes	Bob Sparks T V N
David Dwojakowski	806	Oct 18 2018	Imperial Lanes	Business & Industrial
John Buffa	813	Oct 19 2018	Five Star Lanes	Mixed Nuts
Ronald Cole	810	Oct 24 2018	Astro Lanes	Hazel Park Eagles Mens
Willie Price Jr	801	Oct 28 2018	Thunderbowl Lanes	Free Enterprize
Stephen Krywy	802	Oct 29 2018	Sterling Lanes	San Marino Mens
Anthony Watson	810	Oct 29 2018	Waterford Lanes	Monday Mens
Anthony Smith	847	Oct 29 2018	Westland Bowl	T.C.A.C.

A Little Bit of Human Kindness

for the Holidays... and All Year

STRIKES ME

By Bob Johnson
Bowlers Journal
International



There's something about the holiday season that brings out the best in people. For every story you hear about a couple of hotheads getting into a fistfight over a pair of discounted jeans at a Black Friday sale, there's another tale about an act of human kindness.

The holiday season came early this year for one young man in Oklahoma City. Perhaps it could serve as an example for others to follow, and to take even further.

We all know that every birthday is special. But it's especially true when you're a child, and even more so if you're a child who is on the autism spectrum.

Autism may be the most misunderstood of all neurological conditions because of how wide its spectrum is. Just like everyone else, those on the spectrum have good days and bad days. For a young boy named Brody, his most recent birthday was shaping up to be a very bad day.

Brody's mother, a kind woman named Susan, had arranged for Brody to celebrate his birthday at the Main Event Entertainment Center in Oklahoma City. She had waited until school was back in session so Brody could invite several of his friends.

But on the day of the party, inexplicably, nobody showed up. Susan waited, hoping that the parents were simply running behind. That can happen when one is the parent of an autistic child.

More time passed, and when it became painfully obvious that nobody was coming, Susan walked out to the parking lot, trying unsuccessfully to hold back tears.

The General Manager of the center, Mark Green, noticed, and asked the party host what was going on. When Susan came back in, she told Green that she didn't know what she was going to do. Green responded that she didn't need to worry.

Then the Main Event team went to work. First, Green called Brody over and asked him what he'd like to do. He said that he'd like to play laser tag.

"My staff took it from there," Green said, beaming with pride. "They ran with it, and they did a phenomenal job."

By running with it, Green meant that members of his team played laser tag with Brody. They also gathered around the birthday cake made of cupcakes and sang "Happy Birthday" to him. Everybody on hand signed a birthday card. And Brody was given a bowling pin to take home.

Pretty much everyone in the building got involved, from party hosts to games employees, and from servers to managers. Green estimated that between 25 and 30 staff members participated.

When the party was winding down, Susan gave Green a big hug. Later, she told a local television station, "They gave us the party of my son's life."

The next hug came from Brody, who thanked Green for making it such a special day. "That's when I almost lost it," Green admitted.

You'd hope that any party host, whether at a bowling center or some other venue, would have reacted similarly, but we know that Brody's party might not have ended so happily somewhere else.

"I can't tell you how proud I am of my team," Green said. "That's our culture at Main Event. We empower our people to do things like that. They knew they had the autonomy to take it and run with it. It's about showing compassion and respect for our fellow man."

In a time when there is so much fury and vitriol in the world, acts of human kindness matter more than ever. The employees at Main Event could have turned their heads, done the bare minimum and moved on to the next party.

Instead, they transformed what could have been a terribly sad day for a boy on the spectrum into a happy day he will never forget.

For that, Main Event deserves every positive comment, "Like" and "share" it gets on social media — especially because recognition was not the reason those team members stepped up.

BOWLING JOBS

My first "real job," other than doing odd jobs at our family bakery, was as a busboy at the Kona Lanes Coffee Shop in Costa Mesa, Calif., during the summer of 1973. I was 15 years old, and I worked the overnight shift — 10 p.m. until 6 a.m.

I'm pretty sure that would not be legal today, but those were different times. Neither my folks nor my boss saw anything wrong with a 15-year-old boy riding his bike four miles to work after the sun had gone down, riding it another five miles to the bakery just before sunrise, then catching up on his sleep on the beach after a few hours of frying donuts. That summer-long regimen is the reason my dermatologist does not allow me to do any tanning whatsoever today.

Kona Lanes had a lounge called the Outrigger Room, which had a rear entrance that led into the Coffee Shop. When the bar closed at 2 a.m., about a dozen patrons could be counted upon to walk through that door. Rarely did a night go by that at least one of the sugar containers was either spilled or broken — sending the on-duty busboy into cleanup mode. (My guess is that the person who came up with the idea of single-serve sugar packets was a former busboy.)

What kept those patrons at the lounge until closing time? The message board under the big Kona Lanes sign told the story: "Roscoe Holland Entertains Nightly." After their 6 o'clock or 9 o'clock league ended, lots of bowlers migrated to the Outrigger Room to enjoy live music and libations.

I saw pretty much everything there was to see on that shift, although most of the people were nice. Everyone seemed to know everyone, and giving it some thought, it was probably my first exposure to what we've come to know as "the bowling family."

LESSONS LEARNED

I learned a lot that summer — about responsibility, working hard, the importance of getting to know customers and being a member of a team. All of these are traits that many people on the autism spectrum possess.

How do I know this? Because when I married my lovely bride three autumns ago, I received a bonus daughter as part of the package — a daughter who is on what they call "the high end" of the spectrum.

In high school, she was a talented flute player in a marching band that was judged one of the best in Southern California. She also was a member of the school orchestra, which also received widespread acclaim.

In junior college, she was a founding member of a group that assisted students on the spectrum, and was appointed its director by the college's staff liaison.

And what simultaneously makes me very proud and really ticks me off is that she typically beats me each weekday evening when we wind down from the day's work and other activities by watching "Jeopardy" as a family. This 22-year-old "kid" is smart.

She's also loyal, hard-working, determined and trainable. But because she is on the spectrum, job interviews could be a challenge — not for her, but for the person doing the interview. Because she speaks just a little more slowly than today's rapid-fire-like-you-know-like-conversation-seems-to-like-you-know-flow, she wasn't taken seriously by interviewer after interviewer.

Countless times, she was passed over for younger, less experienced, less loyal people — many of whom lasted only a week or two before the employer had to start the hiring process all over again.

Finally, a local pizza restaurant owner decided to give her a chance. His method of testing potential hires was to bring them into the restaurant, put them to work, and see how they performed — kind of like the "stress test" you see on the "Bar Rescue" program.

Two-and-a-half hours later, my bonus daughter was sent home by an admittedly surprised employer with a promise of a full schedule of shifts once all of the hiring paperwork was handled.

Thinking back to my days as a busboy at a bowling center's restaurant, and being quite familiar with just about every job there is to do at a center, I know that people on the spectrum would not only fit in, but perform like stars — perhaps not in every job, but certainly in several of them.

I hope proprietors and managers reading this column will not immediately dismiss people on the spectrum when they apply for jobs. You'll not only be giving worthy people an opportunity to show what they can do, but you'll be showing your community that you believe in making your center a place for all people.

As the manager of the Main Event Entertainment Center in Oklahoma City will tell you, a little bit of human kindness goes a long way in building a center's reputation.

Bob Johnson is Editor of Bowling Center Management magazine and Senior Editor of Bowlers Journal International. For BJI subscription information, visit bowlersjournal.com.





Senior Singles Open
www.ssoopen.org

2019 SCHEDULE

DATE	CENTER	TIME
1/5/19	THUNDERBOWL LANES	10 AM
1/19/19	WOODHAVEN LANES	10 AM
2/23/19	BONANZA LANES	10 AM
3/23/19	NOVI BOWL	10 AM
4/6/19	ROSE BOWL LANES (OVER / UNDER 50)	10 AM
4/27/19	ASTRO LANES	10 AM
5/18/19	OAK LANES	10 AM
6/22/19	TOWN & COUNTRY LANES	10 AM
7/20/19	WESTLAND BOWL	10 AM
8/3/19	CENTURY BOWL (NON CHAMPIONS)	10 AM
8/24/19	300 BOWL	10 AM
9/21/19	WAYNE BOWL	10 AM
10/26/19	PLAZA LANES - HOF	10 AM
11/16/19	5 STAR LANES	10 AM
12/7/19	ASTRO LANES (GRAND FINALS)	9 AM


EBONITE


Turbo
Driven to Bowl


Red Robin
GOURMET BURGERS AND BEERS


Hamtramck
Singles Classic



2018 - 2019 SCHEDULE OF TOURNAMENTS & EVENTS

MIXED

Nov. 3, 4, 10, 11, 2018
WAYNE BOWL, WAYNE

QUEENS

Oct. 20, 21, 2018
GARDEN BOWL, DETROIT

SUPER SENIOR MASTERS

Nov. 3, 4, 2018
THUNDERBOWL LANES, ALLEN PARK

YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

Nov. 4, 11, 18, 2018
Dec. 2, 9, 2018
SUPERBOWL, CANTON

500 CLUB

Dec. 2, 2018
BOWL ONE LANES, TROY

MASTERS

Jan. 26, 27, 2019
ROSEBOWL LANES, ROSEVILLE

SENIOR MASTERS

Feb. 9, 10, 2019
INDIAN LANES, WYANDOTTE

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Feb. 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 2019
March 9, 10, 16, 17, 2019
CENTURY BOWL, WATERFORD

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Feb. 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 2019
March 9, 10, 16, 17, 2019
CENTURY BOWL, WATERFORD

ADULT / YOUTH BAKER

March 3, 10, 2019
THUNDERBOWL LANES, ALLEN PARK

SENIOR TEAM

March 16, 23, 30, 2019
STERLING LANES, STERLING HGTS

JUNIOR MASTERS

March 23, 2019
BOWL ONE LANES, TROY

WOMEN'S / MEN'S SERIES

Nov. 11, 2018 - MAYFLOWER LANES
Dec. 9, 2018 - WESTLAND BOWL
Jan. 13, 2019 - THUNDERBOWL LANES
March 10, 2019 - MAYFLOWER LANES
April 7, 2019 - FORD LANES
May 5, 2019 - SHELBY LANES



**WATCH BOWLING SHOWCASE
SATURDAYS @ 10 A.M.
WADL-TV DETROIT**

