

# MONTANA STRIKE ZONE

Issue XXI

September 2007



## **BILLINGS MOTHER & SON TAKE TOP HONORS AT INTERNATIONAL FAMILY TOURNAMENT**

**The Scholarship Dollars Just Keep Rolling In For Daniel Kagarise**  
By Tom Brendgord

Shown in the picture above, Daniel Kagarise and his mother, Melinda, received the BIG check for first place in the Parent/Youth division at the finals of the 2007 QubicaAMF International Family Tournament recently completed in Wyandotte, Michigan (a Detroit suburb). At only 11 years old, Daniel is already making a career of this event, which I have often referred to as the best kept secret in bowling. Last year Daniel and Melinda placed third at the international finals.

The odds of just making it to the international finals are incredibly tough, for a doubles team has to first win their division in our state finals. There are only two divisions so only two teams get to advance. The Kagarises, who hail from Billings, have won the Parent/Youth division at the Montana state finals the last two years. The odds of doing that are staggering, but not nearly as surreal as placing third and first in back-to-back international finals. Frankly, I like my chances of winning the lottery better.

So just how much in scholarships has Daniel won? In 2006 he won \$100 at the Montana eastern regional finals, \$150 at the state finals and \$2,500 at the international finals. This year he won \$150 at the state finals and \$5,000 at the international finals. That adds up to a whopping \$7,900 from one tournament over a two year span. Daniel claims that he wants to become either a diesel mechanic or a concrete engineer. Whatever he chooses, he has one heck of a head start toward his goal.

Incidentally, for those who don't know much about this tournament, here is some enlightening information. This is a handicap doubles event in which parents can bowl with their children or grandchildren. At the national level it is also sponsored by Pepsi Cola, Frito Lay and Nestle. \$70,000 in scholarships is awarded at the international finals. Every youth that attends the international finals wins a scholarship regardless of their final position. This is in addition to anything they might win at their

state level.

Here in Montana, we first conduct local qualifying, which must be done at a BPAA member center. Qualifying at that level is very easy, for all a team must do is roll a qualifying score of 1200 or better (3games + handicap based on 100% of a 440 team average). Regional qualifying is the next step with the eastern regional final usually being held in or near Billings and the western regional final held in Missoula. One out of three teams per division qualify for advancement to the state final, which is usually held in a centrally located Montana city. Local qualifying is available anytime after October 1st until about February 10th. The regional finals are usually conducted in February. This season (2007-08) the eastern regional final will be held at Town & Country Lanes in Billings on February 16-17, 2008. The western regional final will be at Westside Lanes in Missoula the following week on February 23-24, 2008. An advancing team may elect to enter either regional final, but not both. The other division is the Parent/Teen, which is for youths 13 to 18 years old. The Parent/Youth division is for youths who are 12 and under. If you are not sure if a bowling center in your area is a BPAA member, go to [BowlMontana.com](http://BowlMontana.com) and find out. For other information, contact Tom Brendgord at 453-2599.

## **MISSOULA KEGLERETTE WINS \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP AT 2007 YBC NATIONAL FINALS**

Missoula's Ashley Smigaj continues to make Montana proud of its youth bowlers as she captured third place in the Girls Division 2 of the 2007 Pepsi USBC Youth Bowling Championships that finished July 18th in Buffalo, New York. The Girls Division 2 is for bowlers whose average is between 92 and 150. The Pepsi YBC is a handicapped event.

This year's event consisted of nearly 200 athletes from all 50 United States, U.S. military zones, Puerto Rico and Canada competing for a total of \$24,000 in scholarships. All athletes in the Pepsi YBC rolled eight qualifying games on Tuesday, July 17, after which the field was reduced to the top 16 in each division for Wednesday's single-game, double-elimination match play. There were a total of four divisions being contested - Boys Division 1 (averages 164-204), Boys Division 2 (averages 107-163), Girls Division 1 (averages 151-205) and Girls Division 2 (averages 92-150).

Ashley lost out to 2nd place finisher Shelley Deakins of Kaneohe, Hawaii and eventual winner Kellie Golias of Sugarloaf, Pennsylvania. Ashley received a \$1,000 scholarship for her efforts. **GOOD JOB ASHLEY!**

## **New 8-Lane Training Facility at USBC**

Complete with video and still photography camera bays, a new state-of-the-art 8-lane training facility is scheduled to open in April 2008 adjacent to the current USBC Research Facility in Greendale, Wisconsin. This facility will be open to the public for a fee and is expected to be a resource in developing elite bowlers worldwide. World-class coaching along with the latest computer technology and an expanded pro shop will make this a training jewel for Team USA and others for years to come.

## SPARE NOTES

By Laurel Walker

If you were part of the 2007 Jamboree and Montana USBC annual meeting in Butte this past July, you know what a great time it was! As always, we were hosted well there, and we have Bob Shaw, Star Lanes, and all those gracious people who bowl in Butte, America, to thank for a really fun and informative weekend. We re-elected Tom Brendgord, Greg McCannel, Bert Stiles, Carol Flammond, and Sandy True to the state board, and Don Warner of Miles City has accepted an appointment to fill the year remaining as a Director of District IV. Tom Simkins of Anaconda and Belinda Sadler of Great Falls will join the Youth Directors. Many thanks go to all of these people, as well as the rest of the board members, for their continued willingness to serve the bowlers of Montana.

The Board of Directors will be meeting in mid September to make plans for the coming bowling season. Among other issues, an Ad Hoc committee will offer suggestions gathered from a recent survey about the time, location, and format of our future Jamborees and annual meetings.

Thanks to those of you who sent those surveys to me. One of our strongest assets is our open lines of communications, and I welcome your input on our business of bowling.

As your leagues get started this fall, remember that you are a part of one of the largest sports organizations in the world! As we Irishmen like to say, "May the pins rise up to meet you!" and have a great bowling season.

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## THOMPSON FALLS NEWS

By Ginger Ward

The new youth committee of the Thompson Falls USBC is planning wonderful things for kids in that area. The local USBC is planning a side tournament to be held during regular league play. The proceeds from this tournament will be used to help a pre-selected group or organization in the community. The tournament will run for two weeks so that everyone interested can participate. Association Manager Debra Benton is also planning an eight pin no-tap tournament. Information will be available soon.

Debra has set up a web site for the Thompson Falls USBC. The address is [TFUSBC@blackfoot.net](mailto:TFUSBC@blackfoot.net). Sandy True was elected Director from District 1 at the Jamboree in Butte. Lee Martin and Ginger Ward were in attendance. They appreciated this meeting to learn more about running an association and how to help youth leagues.

HAPPY BOWLING FROM THOMPSON FALLS

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## Montana Strike Zone

*The official newspaper of the Montana USBC Association*

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### Advertising Rates

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\$ 40	1/8 page	\$ 50

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Want tournament information?  
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[www.BowlMontana.com](http://www.BowlMontana.com)

## MONTANA BIG SKY SCRIBES

By Elaine Lohrenz

The annual meeting of the Montana Big Sky Scribes was held at the Glass House at the Copper King Inn in Butte, Montana on July 22, 2007.

The officers are updating information on all the Scribes members and would like your input. If you have changes in your e-mail address or phone numbers please let me know. We have worked hard to keep articles rolling in for the state newsletter. Please contribute news from your area for others to read.

We are always looking for ways to improve the Scribes and increasing our membership. Dues are \$5.00 per year. If you have not paid please send the dues to me. My address is 2918 Ramada Dr., Billings, MT 59102-0733.

Our dedicated Secretary/Treasurer, Jo Laughlin had resigned for personal reasons. Jo will continue to see that news from your area gets to the publisher. Her e-mail address is [hglaugh@tein.net](mailto:hglaugh@tein.net).

Please help us continue to grow and spread the news.

### STATE TOURNAMENTS COMING SOON

**State Seniors: Oct. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 2007**

Northshore Lanes - Bigfork, Montana

**State Mixed: Oct. 20, 21, 27, 28, Nov. 3, 4, 2007**

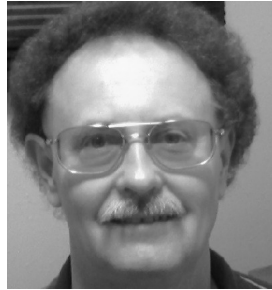
Town & Country Lanes - Billings, Montana

# On My Mind.....

## In-School Bowling

By Tom Brendgord

An old program with a new look is about to emerge in Montana and, hopefully, create a new era in youth bowling. The program is called the In-School Bowling Program and is designed to teach bowling to youths at the elementary and middle school levels. As I mentioned previously, this has been tried before, but never with the tenacity and level of organization that it has now achieved.



At the Montana Bowling Jamboree held in Butte in July, Pam Long from the Bowling Proprietors Association of America (BPAA) conducted a seminar on how to instruct teachers the proper techniques to teaching bowling in their physical education classes. About 25 friends of bowling attended and were amazed at how innovative and easy, not to mention entertaining, the concept of teaching basic bowling techniques to youths can be. With the Teacher's Curriculum Guide that also includes an In-School Bowling Instructional Video CD, any teacher can easily teach bowling to raw beginners. Kits are also available (for a fee) that consist of a mat about one-third the length of a normal lane that really looks like a bowling lane and a complete set of plastic pins and bowling balls.

On August 7th and 8th, Montana held its annual AHPERD conference at East Valley Middle School in East Helena. AHPERD is an acronym for Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. The AHPERD conference is a get together of physical education teachers and athletic directors from schools all over Montana. The Montana Bowling Proprietors Association, with assistance from the BPAA, set up an In-School Bowling booth that was operated by Sleeping Giant Lanes' (Helena) proprietor, Michelle Scherer and Westside Lanes' (Missoula) manager, Robyn Barker and Youth Director, Teri Hodges. Dozens of PE teachers inquired about the In-School program and took back information to their schools throughout Montana.

Although millions of people experience bowling at some level, not very many of them have ever been taught even the basics of bowling. That is why we see large grownups using six and eight pound bowling balls and young kids trying to bowl by palming the ball instead of using the thumb hole. Sure they are having fun, but there is also a sport side to bowling in addition to the recreational side. Bumpers make bowling seem easy to young children and are great for birthday parties, but some people, including kids, like more of a challenge than that. With In-School Bowling finding its way into the elementary and middle schools, kids will be able to learn the proper way to hold a bowling ball, the proper approach and the proper swing. Who knows! They may even be able to teach their parents a thing or two.

I applaud our proprietors who tended the booth those two days in August and hope that there will be a lot of response from the teachers who were there. For more information, Michelle can be reached at Sleeping Giant Lanes (442-1004) and Robyn and Teri can be reached at Westside Lanes (721-5263). Pam Long can be reached in Arlington, Texas at 800-343-1329.

This is just a start, but what better place to start than with our youth. I firmly believe that bowling will some day be an Olympic sport. In-School bowling could be the precursor to our next Olympians.

## U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN RETURNS AFTER 4 YEAR HIATUS Great Falls Woman Represents Montana Nicely At Open

By Tom Brendgord

Doris Kimmerle, from Great Falls, earned the right to represent Montana at the first U.S. Women's Open tournament to be held since 2003 when she captured first place at the U.S. Open Qualifier held last February in Helena. The "new version" of the U.S. Women's Open was conducted last month at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada. 132 women representing the best women bowlers in the world entered this grueling event that consisted of 32 qualifying games rolled on four different PBA Experience lane conditions.

So, how did Doris fare? She finished in 88th place by virtue of averaging 180.75 for her 32 games. By league standards that may not seem so good, but this was far from league conditions and, remember, she beat one-third of the field.

Only 16 women qualified to advance to the next level consisting of four quarterfinals weekends in which they will bowl one-game, single-elimination matches to be televised on ESPN beginning Sept. 16 and continue on Sept. 23, 30 and Oct. 7. The four weekend champions will return to Reno for the televised finals on October 14.

After the champion is crowned October 14th, most of these same women (with four exceptions) will continue on to bowl in four special events for women that will run concurrently with the Denny's PBA Tour. The women's portion of those PBA stops will also be televised on ESPN on Nov. 4, 11, 18, & Dec. 2.

The Montana Bowling Proprietors Association, which conducts the U.S. Open Qualifier, is very proud of Doris' effort and hope that she and many others will be back in Helena at Sleeping Giant Lanes for this year's qualifier on Feb. 23-24, 2008.

 <p><i>Little's Lanes</i> Great Falls, MT Presents</p>	
<b>JOHN WILLEY MEMORIAL OPEN</b> <b>October 6-7, 2007</b>	<b>LADIES SCRATCH CLASSIC</b> <b>Nov. 10-11, 2007</b>
<b>\$3000.00 Added Money</b>	<b>\$1500 Estimated Added Money</b>
Top 32 Qualify for Match Play At Least top 32 cash Limited to 144 entries <b>Entry Fee \$150.00</b>	<b>Entry Fee \$80.00</b> No lineage fees on Sunday for qualifiers
Shift Times: 8AM-1PM-7PM Multiple re-entry allowed <b>\$100-Hi Qualifier-8AM Shift</b>	Qual. Shifts: Sat. 1PM & 4 PM Re-entry allowed
<b>Last Year's Champion won \$1,600</b>	<b>FIRST 24 PAID ENTRIES WILL GO INTO A DRAWING FOR A BRAND NEW REACTIVE BOWLING BALL DONATED BY LITTLE'S LANES.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ 8 games qualifying on Sat.</li><li>◆ 8 rounds match play Sun.</li><li>◆ Cut top 16-4 more rds match play</li><li>◆ Top 5 bowl stepladder final</li><li>◆ Free practice session Fri. 3-5</li><li>◆ No lineage fees on Sunday</li><li>◆ Optional Side Pots &amp; Brackets</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 6 games qualifying on Sat.</li><li>● All Sunday qualifiers will cash</li><li>● Round Robin Match Play on Sunday with stepladder final</li><li>● Optional Side Pots &amp; Brackets</li><li>● Calcutta &amp; Feed Saturday night</li></ul>
<b>Phone entries to (406) 452-4116</b>	

Montana Strike Zone  
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# *Westside Lanes & Fun Center*

## 2007-08 Tournament Schedule

- ◆ **Oct. 13-14: SISBA (Sr. Intermountain Scratch Bowling Assn.)**
- ◆ **Oct. 27-28: 1st Annual Women's Calcutta**
- ◆ **Nov. 3, 4, 10, 11: Missoula Women's City**
- ◆ **Jan. 5-6: Mixed Doubles Calcutta**
- ◆ **Feb. 3: Swiss Trio**
- ◆ **Feb. 2, 9, 10: Missoula Mixed City**
- ◆ **Feb. 16-17: Young-Youngest**
- ◆ **Mar. 29: Teen Masters**

Montana's Largest  
Bowling Center

## ***BOWL DOG LOUNGE***

- Happy Hour Monday - Sunday 4:30-6 PM
- Karaoke Thursdays and Saturdays
- Live Music most Fridays



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