

MONTANA STRIKE ZONE

Issue XXXI

September 2010

Montana Bowlers Continue to Shine at IFT

By Tom Brendgord

“If at first you don’t succeed, try try again” is a well known motto that doesn’t always apply to certain things. Take the BPAA International Family Tournament where parents bowl with their children in a doubles format that involves several levels of qualifying. A team making it to the international finals in one year seldom gets the opportunity to try it again the next year because of all the levels of success required to do so. This was not the case with the Billings team of Kerry Hardacre and her daughter Shea Lynn Hardacre-Stiles.

Last year (2009), Kerry and Shea Lynn earned the opportunity to represent Montana at the IFT finals in the parent/teen division and finished a respectable 12th place garnering Shea Lynn a \$700 scholarship. But that wasn’t good enough for this mother-daughter duo.

This year (2010), they won their division again in the Montana finals and the right to represent Montana at the IFT finals in Euless, Texas (a Dallas suburb) in late July. Only this time they improved a great deal taking 4th place giving Shea Lynn a \$2,000 scholarship. There has got to be a great deal of pressure on these young amateur bowlers, so having one year’s experience at this event had to be an invaluable asset to their nerves and perhaps gave them an edge over some of the other entries.

In fact, to begin with they must have had no nerves at all, for after the 12 games of qualifying (composite), they were leading the field of 31 teams by rolling a total of 370 pins over their composite average. Kerry entered with a 144 average and Shea Lynn a 130. Their combined average in the qualifying was 167.8. The scoring in the finals (top 8) must have been very high, for although they finished in 4th place, they still rolled another 117 pins over average.

The other division (parent/youth) was represented by the Billings mother-son duo of Solotair and Ashton Barcus. They finished in 15th place out of 31 teams with Ashton winning a \$800 scholarship. Although they missed the cut to the 8-team finals, they still bowled a respectable 280 pins over their composite average.

Montana has been represented well in the last few years at this event. In 2007, Melinda Kagarise and her son, Daniel (from Billings), won the parent/youth division. And in 2008, Heather Kohlman and her daughter, Keilei (Billings), along with Tana Lambert and her son, Jake (Missoula), swept 1st place in both divisions. First place scholarships were worth \$5,000. Who says you can’t earn a college education from bowling!

Montana Seniors Excel at 2010 USBC Senior Championships

By Tom Brendgord & Roz Gallup

It turns out that there is more to be won in Reno than just jackpots. For nine Montana senior bowlers the excitement didn’t end when they left the casino. The 2010 USBC Senior Championships left a favorable impression on these nine keglers from Troy, Dillon, and Roundup, Montana and all points in between.

Congratulations to Joy Lyman of Helena who won 1st place in the women’s Class A division. Congratulations also to Lillian Guthrie of Townsend who came in 3rd in the women’s Super Senior division.

Other notable finishes by Montanans include Terry Crowther, Roundup, 9th in the Open D; John Brown, Troy, 10th in the Open C; Frank Butori, Butte, 13th in the Open A; Judith Reighard, Sunburst, 14th in the women’s C; Ronda Scott, East Helena, 16th in the women’s D; Carl Meier, Dillon, 17th in the Open Super Senior; and Floyd Brunner, Great Falls, 19th in the Open B.

This year’s Senior State tournament will be held at Glacier Lanes in Cut Bank, Montana the first three weekends in October starting Oct. 2 and ending Oct. 17, 2010. Entry forms can be downloaded from bowlmontana.com.

2010 Final Averages

By Roz Gallup

The 2009-10 adult final averages are now on the state website, bowlmontana.com. The Montana USBC is not selling the disc this year as they have done in the past. This year the 2010 averages are available to everyone at no cost. If your association averages are not listed, it is because they were never received from your association manager. This a service provided by the Montana USBC.

State Tournament Host Site Rotation May Be Tweaked

By Tom Brendgord

When the Montana USBC tournament committee meets at the state Jamboree in Great Falls on September 24th, they will be discussing many topics one of which could be altering the rotation process for assigning the host sites for the Open, Women’s and Youth state tournaments. The rotation was established after the statewide merger in 2006 and involves six cities with the first rotation ending in 2012. New sites had until Sept. 1, 2010 to submit a bid to be considered in the rotation starting in 2013.

SPARE NOTES

By Mike Evjen - MUSBC President

NEW BEGINNINGS

That is what we look forward to at the start of each bowling season. For some it may mean having worked on an aspect of their game over the summer that will improve their scores. For others it may mean wanting to make new friends or find another way to enjoy their time, so they decide to join a league. For the Montana USBC it means beginning the 2010 – 2011 season with some new faces on the Board. Those faces are Robin Sullivan of Bozeman who was elected to serve as one of the District 4 Directors, Nancy Collick of Helena who has been appointed as one of the District 2 Directors. This position became open upon the election of Fred Sadler to the office of 2nd Vice President, and me, Mike Evjen as President of the MUSBC. After over 25 years of having served as a member of both the MWBA and the MUSBC Boards Laurel Walker decided not to run for the office of President and instead decided to take a step back and smell the roses. Laurel's joyous personality and positive outlook on life are what makes her such an inspiration to others and is also what will make her a hard act to follow. Bob Shaw of Whitehall was defeated by Robin Sullivan in the election for District 4 Director. Guy Rolison of Laurel decided that it was time to take a step back and opted not to run for re-election to his position. These people served the bowlers of Montana with integrity and pride over their many years on the respective Boards. The knowledge that they have about this sport is invaluable and I am glad to know they are only a phone call away if we have any questions. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Laurel, Bob, and Guy for all that they have done and accomplished for the bowlers of Montana and for the time given by them to us.

I would also like to say thank you to the delegates who have given me the opportunity to serve as your President for the next 2 years. I hope to be able to live up to your expectations as well as mine. The Montana Jamboree is right around the corner and I encourage everyone to attend if you are able to. For those that have never attended a Jamboree you should find it quite enlightening. The high awards for the Montana Youth Bowlers are handed out as well as a small bowling tournament is held. Steve Wunderlich is the representative from nationals that will be here this year. I have met Steve a couple of years ago and he is very enjoyable to listen to and speak with. I hope to see you there.

Be looking for the State Championship entries at a bowling center near you. The hosting associations for this year's tournaments are Great Falls for the MUSBC Women's and Helena for the MUSBC Open Championships. Cut Bank plays host for the State Senior Tournament and Butte will host both the Youth State Championships and the Youth YBC Tournament.

Good luck to all of the bowlers this season. Let the balls roll and the pins fall, but no matter what, remember to enjoy yourselves as you participate in this great sport.

STATE COORDINATORS NEEDED

Next 3 articles by: Ruth Sprankel

The Montana State 600 Club and 500 Club are seeking area coordinators to help in getting their annual mail-a-graphic tournament entry blanks distributed in their areas. These tournaments will be held during the first 2 weeks of February and entry blanks will be sent out January 1st. If you are interested in working with us, please contact Ruth Sprankel at iluvbeaches@msn.com, 252-5090 or Mary K. Hart at mkwindsor@msn.com, 259-6479. Support from local people will help us to continue to build these tournaments.

Montana Strike Zone

The official newspaper of the Montana USBC Association

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Advertising Rates

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\$140	1/2 page	\$160
\$ 75	1/4 page	\$ 90
\$ 40	1/8 page	\$ 50

This publication is distributed quarterly in March, June, September and December. Ads need to be submitted to Tom Brendgord ten days prior to the month of distribution .

Want tournament information?
Download entry forms? Results?

GO TO
www.BowlMontana.com

NEW COACHING SERIES FROM USBC

Every spring I make a commitment to myself to work on my bowling game during the summer months so that I'm better prepared for league competition on the fall. Well, it's nearly time to start a new season, and I haven't hit the lanes once. In an effort to gear up, I was delighted to learn of a new Coaching Series being launched on Bowl.com beginning Sept. 15th. Weekly bowling tips will be presented on Tuesday's for entry-level and intermediate bowlers. Friday's tips will target the more advanced and elite players. The majority of the tips will be written by members of USBC Coaching Department and will cover a wide range of topics including video tips and podcasts. Be sure to check out this new series on Bowl.com - I plan to!

THANK YOU MONTANA USBC

I wish to thank all of the Officers & Directors of the Montana State USBC for welcoming me into their Hall of Fame this past Spring. The induction ceremony was an event I will always re-

Attention Montana Strike Zone recipients. Please go online to BowlMontana.com, click on the Montana USBC tab, and view page 4 of this newspaper to see other articles. Mailing requirements would not allow its inclusion in this paper.

State tournament coming soon:
State Seniors: Oct. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 2010
Glacier Lanes - Cut Bank, Montana

On My Mind.....

League Management 101

By Tom Brendgord

Since I recently moved to Billings from Great Falls, I have noticed things about some leagues that distress me from both a proprietor and a league bowler's standpoint. What I am seeing is that handicap leagues (which are almost all of them nowadays) are not the most user-friendly toward their new and lower averaged members. This reminded me of a seminar I attended about 16 years ago that I would like to recount.



Back in 1994, the Montana Bowling Proprietors Association hired the services of a gentleman from Florida named Bob Jarlenski to speak at their annual convention. The topic was league bowler retention.

Bob was a short balding fellow, who looked more like a rocket scientist than a bowling guru. He was obviously a hard worker, who really enjoyed his passion – bowling. I got the impression that his hair loss was directly related to the late nights he spent worrying about things that so many others in the bowling industry didn't. He was a very motivational speaker who captured all of our attention that day in July when he taught us not only the value of a retained customer, but how best to achieve that retention.

Bob started by explaining how to analyze a league from year-to-year so that a person could tell how well the league was doing at retaining its members. A league analysis is actually quite easy. All you have to do is compare the league standing sheet of one year to the one from the previous year and see where names are missing. For example, if a league consisted of twelve 4-member teams, then the league would have a capacity of 48 members. Obviously, there would be more than 48 because of extra roster and substitute players. But for analysis purposes, 48 is the number of comparison.

The current league might always be full with twelve teams, but the point that Bob wanted to make was that it is rarely the same twelve teams. In this scenario, if the league had only 36 members from last year, then they had a loss of 12 members, which is a 25% turnover, which is huge.

Once a league discovers that it has a retention problem, Bob suggested reasons why and how to improve upon that. One suggestion was to go to split seasons with a playoff at the end of the season. Another suggestion was to take a good look at their handicap structure to make sure that teams of all strengths have a fair chance.

Handicap is determined by subtracting a person's average from a base score and then multiplying that difference times a percentage. For example, if the handicap system was 80% of 200, then a 150 average bowler would have a handicap of 40 per game. If the handicap was 90% of 220, then a 150 average bowler would have a 63 handicap, which is significantly higher. The idea is that for a handicap league to be fair to all, the handicap base needs to be as high as the highest bowler in the league. If the league has a handicap base of 200, but there is a 220 average bowler in the league, then that person is enjoying a 20 pin or more advantage over everyone in the league who averages under 200.

To put this kind of a scenario bluntly, if you are a 150 average bowler in a league using an 80% of 200 handicap system, then not only is that person with a 220 average a whole lot better than you,

but you are also spotting him 30 pins a game! If the handicap structure was 90% of 220, then the 150 average bowler would still be spotting the 220 person seven pins, but that is much better than 30.

Unfair handicap systems are more common than one would think. Most league bowlers have no clue how their league is handicapped. All they know is that they continually lose to the better bowlers. After a while they get tired of losing and eventually quit the league and bowling all together. That is not what a proprietor wants and that is not what this industry wants. And, by the way, this same concept applies to tournaments also.

BPAA International Family Doubles Tournament

Format: Handicap Doubles; handicap at 100% of 440 team average
Divisions: Parent/Youth (12 yrs or younger); Parent/Teen (13-18 yrs); Adult/Youth & Adult/Teen (contested at the local & regional levels only)
Parent definition: Parent, Step-parent, Grandparent, Step-grandparent, Great grandparent, Step-great grandparent, court appointed legal guardian
Levels of Competition:
Local qual: 3 games + hdcp. Score 1200 or more to advance
Regional Finals: 3 games + hdcp. 1:2 advance to state finals
State Finals: 3 games + hdcp. Parent/Youth & Parent/Teen winners awarded mostly-paid trip to international finals
International Finals: Every youth awarded a scholarship regardless of finish. \$70,000 total scholarships. \$5,000 1st.
Cost: Local qual (cost of lineage + \$2 per team), Regional (parent/child divisions \$45 per team, adult/child divisions \$32 per team), State (\$18 per team)
Eligible Centers: Must be BPAA member. Current members in Anaconda, Billings, Butte, Choteau, Cut Bank, Eureka, Fort Benton, Great Falls, Hardin, Havre, Helena, Laurel, Lewistown, Libby, Livingston, Missoula, Polson, Red Lodge, Ronan, Ruyard, Troy, Whitefish.
2010-11: Local qual. (October 1 thru Jan. 30), West Regional (Msla - Feb 5-6), East Regional (Laurel - Feb. 19-20), State Finals (Lewistown - March 19-20).



Little's Lanes

**Great Falls, MT
Presents**

**JOHN WILLEY MEMORIAL OPEN
October 2-3, 2010**

**\$3000.00 Added Money
Estimated**

**Top 32 Qualify for Match Play
At Least top 32 cash
Limited to 144 entries
Entry Fee \$160.00**

Shift Times: 8AM-1PM-7PM
Multiple re-entry allowed

- ◆ 8 games qualifying on Sat.
- ◆ 8 rounds match play Sun.
- ◆ Cut top 16-4 more rounds match play
- ◆ Top 5 bowl stepladder final
- ◆ Free practice session Fri. 3-5
- ◆ No lineage fees on Sunday
- ◆ Optional Side Pots & Brackets

**LADIES SCRATCH CLASSIC
Nov. 13-14, 2010**

\$1500 Estimated Added Money

Entry Fee \$90.00
No lineage fees on Sunday for qualifiers

**Qual. Shifts: Sat. 1PM & 4 PM
Re-entry allowed**

**First 24 paid entries will go
into a drawing for a brand
new reactive bowling ball
donated by Little's Lanes.**

- 6 games qualifying on Sat.
- All Sunday qualifiers will cash
- Round Robin Match Play on Sunday with stepladder final
- Optional Side Pots & Brackets
- Feed provided Saturday night

Phone entries to (406) 452-4116

RICHEST TOURNAMENT IN PROFESSIONAL BOWLING HISTORY PLANS UNVEILED

The Professional Bowlers Association is gearing up for the richest tournament in professional bowling history, the \$1 million PBA Tournament of Champions, and for the first time is creating an opportunity for any player who has ever won a PBA title to take a shot at the record \$250,000 first prize.

The PBA Tournament of Champions will be conducted January 16-22, 2011 at Red Rock Lanes in Las Vegas, Nevada and it will feature an all-new format featuring a "Champions field" to determine the players who will advance to the "Elite field."

The "Elite field" will be composed of: 2010-11 Lumber Liquidators PBA Tour exempt players; any player who was listed among the "50 Greatest Players in PBA History" during the PBA Tour's 50th anniversary celebration in 2009; any PBA Hall of Famer; any player who has won five or more PBA Tour titles; any player who has won a PBA major championship; the 2010 PBA Senior U.S. Open and USBC Senior Masters champions, and 2010 PBA Regional Players Championship and Regional Players Invitational

2010 YBC Finalists - Butte, Montana

Boys 12-21 Handicap

			Scholarship
1st	Preston Downard	Missoula	\$250
2nd	Tyler Pierre	Helena	\$200
3rd	Tanner Routzhan	Helena	\$150

Girls 12-21 Handicap

1st	Courtney Ruckdash	Butte	\$250
2nd	Karlee Steen	Billings	\$200
3rd	Ollecka Hilliard	Missoula	\$150

Boys 12-21 Scratch

1st	Travis Bird	Billings	\$250
2nd	Ryan Sears	Missoula	\$200
3rd	Cordell Bird	Billings	\$150

Girls 12-21 Scratch

1st	Paige Collick	Helena	\$250
2nd	Olivia Johnson	Helena	\$200
3rd	Kati Humphries	Helena	\$150

Boys 11 & Under

1st	Ryan Evjen	Missoula	\$250
2nd	Kasey Krzan	Butte	\$100
3rd	Gaige Deshazer	Missoula	\$ 75

Girls 11 & Under

1st	Karrissa Kohlman	Billings	\$250
2nd	Brittany Long	Butte	\$100
3rd	Cheyenne Hafer	Helena	\$ 75

Westside Lanes & Fun Center

Montana's Largest Bowling Center

STAR WARS

October 3, 2010

\$40.00 per person

- Handicap: 90% of 210
- One shift: starting at 10am, ck in 9:45
- Object is to not receive 3 stars.
- Everyone bowls one game with bottom 1/2 receiving 1 star.
- All remaining games are position rds with losers receiving a star.
- After 3 stars, you are eliminated.

Tournament Schedule 2010-11

Star Wars	Oct. 3, 2010

Same Sex Calcutta	Nov. 6-7, 2010

27th Annual Mixed Dbls Calcutta	January 8-9, 2011

Swiss Trio	February 6, 2011

Ladies Young & Youngest	February 12-13, 2011

U.S. Open Qual.	Feb. 26-27, 2011

Harry Davids Bar Tny	March 5, 2011

Eagles Lodge Bar Tny	April 2, 2011

BOWL DOG LOUNGE

- Happy Hour Monday - Sunday 4:30-6 PM
Two drinks for the price of one
- Karaoke Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
- Live Music most Fridays



1615 Wyoming - Missoula, MT

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