

MONTANA STRIKE ZONE

Issue XXXIV

September 2011

International Family Tournament Continues To Be Successful

By Tom Brendgord

The 2011 rendition of the International Family Tournament wasn't quite as successful to the Montana representatives to the national finals as in some past years, but it still had its share of success. At least that is what 6-year old Caydann Cox and his father, Travers, from Helena, will tell you.

Their remarkable run in the 2010-11 IFT started Super Bowl weekend at Five Valley Center in Missoula where they wiped out the Parent/Youth division in the western regional finals with a 3-game handicap score of 1577. That was 151 pins higher than 2nd place, which coincidentally was the team of Travers Cox and his other child, Caylor. Travers, entering with a 209 average, rolled a 300 game and a 811 series en route to their victory. Caydann, entering with a 74 average, more than held up his end by rolling a 295 series, which was 24 pins over his average.

From there they went to the IFT state finals in Lewistown at Snowy Lanes. Once again they rolled a phenomenal 3-game set with a score of 1552 with Travers coming up big again with a 732 and Caydann rolling a 349 (42 pins over average). This time, however, they were closely challenged by Laurel's Bryan & Bailey Weiss with a 1532.

Next up was the International finals being conducted in Louisville, Kentucky in late July. This time they were not as dominant as previously in Montana, but still represented Montana very well. At the end of the first round of qualifying they were in 8th place out of 34 teams. After the 2nd and final qualifying round they were in 14th place missing the cut to the top 8 by only 50 pins. That division was eventually won by Brendin & Greg Wiltshire of Nebraska.

Caydann's scholarship total was mighty. He won \$125 at the western regional, \$150 at the Montana finals, and \$800 at the International finals for a total of \$1,075. He turns 7-years old on October 6. If he continues to shine in this tournament, he should easily have a good start on his college education by the time he graduates high school.

The other division (parent/teen) was to be represented by the Helena father-son duo of Robert & Levi Jester. Unfortunately they had a travel snafu and missed their flight to Louisville. However, Levi was awarded the last place scholarship of \$500, which helps ease the pain somewhat.

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 2011 USBC Senior Championships

By Roz Gallup

The 2011 National Senior Championship Tournament was held in Syracuse, NY, July 6th & 7th. Montana bowlers did very well. I was fortunate enough to represent Montana for my division and can say it is no doubt one of the most relaxed and fun tournaments I have attended plus being extremely well organized.

In the Women's divisions: Roberta Klingler, Sunburst, placed 3rd and because of a tie she had a 1 game roll off and won it. We had a good Montana cheering section during her roll off. Carole Herron, Helena, - 14th; Carole McNulty, Billings, 11th; Della Johnson, Great Falls, 23rd. I placed 3rd in my division, which was a complete surprise since my goal was only to bowl well enough to be respectable.

In the Open divisions: JW Eaton, Cut Bank - 6th; Jim Watkins, Dillon - 8th; Terry Vandercook, Park City - 18th; Jack Dahlman, Butte - 20th.

This year's tournament is scheduled for Fort Benton, starting September 30th. Being it is a 6 lane center, we have included Friday evenings for your convenience. The Fort Benton association is very excited to host and plan on making this a fun tournament for everyone. Entry forms have been sent out to prior entrants and the bowling centers. They can also be obtained from our website. The 2012 Senior National is scheduled for Reno in late spring.

State Tournament Changes

By Tom Brendgord

The Montana USBC board adopted many changes to future state tournaments at their meeting in Helena on May 21, 2011. A summary of these changes is as follows:

- Entry fee increases effective 2012 to \$22 per event (Open & Women's)
- All-Events will increase to \$5, both scratch & hdcp (Open & Women's)
- Entry fee increase to \$15 per event (\$12 Div. 7) (Youth State)
- Entry fees to decrease & scholarships to increase (Pepsi YBC)
- Entry fee increase to \$45 effective 2011 Senior State tournament
- State tournament host site rotation changes effective 2013:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Open</u>	<u>Women's</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>YBC</u>
2013	Butte	Missoula	Gt. Falls	Helena
2014	Anaconda	Billings	Helena	Butte
2015	Missoula	Butte	Anaconda	TBA
2016	Helena	Gt. Falls	Missoula	TBA
2017	Billings	Anaconda	Butte	TBA
2018	Gt. Falls	Helena	Billings	TBA

- Effective 2012 Open State, 3 divisions instead of 4 as follows:
"A" Division - 180 & Over; "B" Division - 165-179; "C" Division - 164 & Under
- Standardized lane conditions (White #2) effective 2012 (Open, Women, Youth)
- 2012 Open State (Gt. Falls) to retain 4-member team event (no change)

SPARE NOTES

By Mike Evjen - MUSBC President

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the 2011-2012 season as it gets underway. I find it funny sometimes how as one season progresses we as bowlers can't wait for it to be over so that we can finally get outside and enjoy the fresh air but after a few months we are ready to get back to the lanes where we can enjoy and relish in the friendships of those that we may not see otherwise.

I would like to remind everyone of the Montana USBC Jamboree which will be held in Billings, September 23rd – 25th at the Holiday Inn. This year our guest speaker from USBC is once again Steve Wunderlich. Steve joined us last year and we are proud to be able to have him again this year. Jamboree is also where we present the Scholarship winners with their awards and this year on Sunday there will be a delegates meeting. I hope to see you there. I would like to let you know about our tournaments for the year. The Open tournament will be held in Great Falls this season with Team being held at the Elks and the Doubles and Singles being held at Little's Lanes. The Women's tournament will be held in Helena at Sleeping Giant Lanes and the Youth tournament will be held in Billings. This year the YBC will be held in Butte once again.

We all have someone in our communities/associations that deserves to be honored in a special way such as the Hall of Fame or Family of the Year. The applications for these two awards have dropped off dramatically over the past years. I am asking everyone to think of who that person could be in your area and get an application filled out for them.

I am looking forward to another exciting season and I wish every one of you all the best on

LEAGUE PRESIDENT DUTIES

By Ruth Sprankel

Most fall & winter leagues are now under way (just think only 30-some weeks to go!). That also means that most leagues have also had their meetings to vote on league rules and make other decisions regarding your league. It is a good time for league Presidents to review their responsibilities. Too many times all of the work and decisions are left with the league Secretary. The league president **MUST:**

- *Have the league bank statements sent to the President.
- *Verify the league account monthly. USBC has

Montana Strike Zone

The official newspaper of the Montana USBC Association

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Advertising Rates

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\$ 75	1/4 page	\$ 90
\$ 40	1/8 page	\$ 50

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Want tournament information?
Download entry forms? Results?

GO TO
www.BowlMontana.com

provided a worksheet to assist you in verifying the funds in the account.

- *Appoint a Prize committee and be sure that the committee presents a prize list - or lists - to the league membership for acceptance by the **5th week of bowling**.
- *Appoint an Audit Committee that must function and present a written report to the league.
- *Enforce all rules and regulations of the league.
- *Preside at all league meetings.

Why not give your league secretary a break this year and do your part by carrying out these responsibilities.

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:

Sep. 30, Oct. 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 2011
Jack's Bar & Lanes - Fort Benton, Montana

On My Mind.....

A Big Loss For Bowling in Montana; Bylaw Changes

By Tom Brendgord



On Thursday, July 14, 2011, bowlers in Montana experienced a huge loss to their sport. Curt Backa, a copy editor and sports writer for the Great Falls Tribune passed away after a long bout with cancer. Curt penned a weekly local bowling column in the Tribune throughout the bowling season. But make no bones about it, Curt's column was more than "just a column". He did it with pizzazz and flare.

Curt was every bowler's friend. He had his favorites and not-so-favorites, but he never let his feelings interfere with his professional journalism. He reported the facts first, sometimes would inject a personal opinion and always applied his own brand of humor.

Curt reported on all bowling, not just that in Great Falls. He would search online for hours to find results of Montanans entered in national events. All bowling events were treated equally by Curt be they adult or youth, team or singles, scratch or handicap. I repeat - **he was every bowler's friend.**

But Curt and I were more than just friends. I met him in the late 80's when he worked at the Tribune the first time. We became instant friends. He then worked in Butte for a few years for the Montana Standard, but eventually came back to the Tribune where he worked until his passing. Curt had tremendous respect for me (as I did him) and often conferred with me before printing some of his articles.

He even worked for me as a second job for a few years in the small restaurant that my wife and I owned. He was energetic, highly intelligent and always had that sense of humor. I really enjoyed working alongside him. It was like having my own inside track to all sports. We shared a lot of interests.

One highlight we shared was a trip to Las Vegas in the late 90's to attend Bowl Expo, the national bowling convention. I went as a represent of the Montana Bowling Proprietors Association and he went as a member of the Bowling Writers Association of America. We took our wives and had a fabulous time. We were truly great friends.

Curt was inducted into the Montana USBC Hall of Fame at the HoF ceremony in Billings in April 2010. That followed his induction into the Great Falls Hall of Fame the previous year. Curt's compatriot from the Billings Gazette, Bill Bighaus, was inducted with him in 2010. The two of them have done more to promote and support bowling in Montana than any ten people in the media that I know.

Curt loved to bowl as much as he loved writing about bowling. He wasn't the best bowler, but he was far from the worst. He was forever using technical jargon to prove that he wasn't all talk and that he actually knew what he was talking about.

If you never met Curt, you missed out on one of the finest ever to be involved in our sport. All who knew him will miss him. The sport of bowling in Montana will miss him. I already miss him. He truly was **every bowler's friend.**

There are some really important bylaw changes to be considered by the Montana delegates at their meeting in Billings on Sunday, September 25 in conjunction with the Montana Bowling Jamboree.

Now that the Montana USBC is 5 years old, it is experiencing a loss of deeply talented board members due to term limits imposed at its inception. Term limits are normally a good thing - if you have a vast pool of qualified applicants to fill vacant positions. However, the Montana USBC is experiencing a void of candidates in general (qualified or otherwise) and is in jeopardy of losing much of its key leadership in the next year or two.

Bylaw amendments are being introduced that will allow past board members to return after a year's absence and create more At-Large positions. It is extremely important that these changes be passed. **Please support these changes.**

BPAA International Family Doubles Tournament

Format: Handicap Doubles; handicap at 100% of 440 team average

Divisions: Parent/Youth (11 yrs or younger); Parent/Teen (12-18 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.

2011-12: Local qual. (October 1 thru Feb. 12), West Regional (Msla - Feb 18-19), East Regional (Billings - Mar. 3-4), State Finals (Lewistown - March 24-25).



Little's Lanes

Great Falls, MT

Presents

**JOHN WILLEY MEMORIAL OPEN
October 1-2, 2011**

**\$3000.00 Added Money
Estimated**

**Top 32 Qualify for Match Play
At Least top 32 cash
Limited to 144 entries
Entry Fee \$165.00**

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. 12-13, 2011**

\$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

2011 Montana Youth Scholarship Recipients

<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Top Youth Bowler	Ashleigh Preston	Butte	\$1,000
Youth Girl	Paige Collick	Helena	\$1,000
Youth Boy	Sam Lustig	Billings	\$1,000
Isabel Cummings	Wendy White	Hingham	\$ 750
Isabel Cummings	Danielle Jacobs	Gt. Falls	\$ 500
Harvey L. Pierce	Derek Vetch	Billings	\$ 750
Harvey L. Pierce	Connor Kline	Rudyard	\$ 500
Steve Ryan Memorial	Cody Haagenson	Gt. Falls	\$ 500
Steve Ryan Memorial	Paige Collick	Helena	\$ 500
Gary Gerhardt Mem	Wendy White	Hingham	\$ 500

2012 Major Events

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
USBC Masters	Jan. 22-29	Henderson, Nv
USBC Open Champs	Feb 11-July 9	Baton Rouge, La
Intercollegiate Team Ch	Apr 18-21	Lincoln, Ne
USBC Women's Champs	Apr 14-July 8	Reno, Nv
USBC Queens	Apr 20-25	Eules, Tx
USBC Convention	Apr 25-28	Arlington, Tx
Intercollegiate Sgls Ch	May 20-22	Eules, Tx
U.S. Women's Open	June 22-29	Reno, Nv
USBC Senior Champs	July 9-10	Reno, Nv
USBC Senior Queens	July 9-14	Reno, Nv
USBC Youth Open	July 13-29	Indianapolis, In
USBC Junior Gold	July 14-20	Indianapolis, In

Bowling's Top Youth Events Merge To Create \$250,000 Scholarship Tournament

The two largest youth scholarship tournaments in the nation have joined to develop an unprecedented opportunity for youth bowlers by combining the North Pointe High School Championships with the Junior Gold Championships to create the North Pointe Junior Gold Championships presented by Brunswick. This event scheduled for July 2012 in Indianapolis, Indiana, features a \$250,000 scholarship fund and will also be held in conjunction with the USBC Youth Open, also in Indianapolis.

There will be two major changes for this event:

- ◆ USBC Junior Gold membership no longer will have a minimum average requirement.
- ◆ There will be two age divisions - 20 and Under, 15 and Under - for both boys and girls.

Organizers of this event realize that there is a critical development stage between youth ages 15 and 16, thus, the reason for creating the age divisions.

The North Pointe Junior Gold Championships will continue to be open to youth bowlers who qualify throughout the season at regional Junior Gold events around the country and will feature automatic bids to Junior Team USA as part of the competition.

North Pointe Insurance is the nation's largest insurer of independent bowling centers. In addition to its sponsorship of the Junior Gold Championships, North Pointe has made a multi-year commitment to the Youth Education Services (YES) Fund and will be recognized as a YES Fund founding partner.

Westside Lanes & Fun Center

Montana's Largest Bowling Center

STAR WARS

October 16, 2011

\$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 2011-12

Star Wars	Oct. 16, 2011

Big Brothers & Sisters	Nov. 5-6

Sr. Christmas Invitational	Dec. 19

28th Annual Mixed Dbls Calcutta	January 7-8, 2012

Swiss Trio	February 5, 2012

Ladies Young & Youngest	February 11-12, 2012

Nat'l Family Dbls Tourney	Feb. 18-19

U.S. Open Qual.	Feb. 25-26, 2012

Same Sex Calcutta	April 7-8, 2012

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



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