In This Issue

* Bowlers from 15 countries join PBA World Championship
* Ferrer, Hendrickson, Curtis, Barber JBT Champs
* Tisha Carter - Our new local correspondent

Southern Nevada USBC Association 7231 W. Charleston Blvd. Suite 130, Las Vegas, NV 89117 702-778-2220 9am-4pm Mon-Fri

Non Optional November 2011

Informing and Entertaining bowlers everywhere from Las Vegas, Nevada
The Bowling Tournament Capital of the World!

“Hi! I’m Tisha… and I have news for you!”

Tina Stickney Crowned Tri-State Queen

By Paula Vidad

Henderson, NV - Tina Stickney, Phoenix, AZ was crowned the 2011 Women’s Bowling Alliance Tri-State Queen (AZ, CA, NV) by defeating Laurie Soto of Canyon Country, CA in the title match 234-209 at Sunset Station Strike Zone Lanes.

The anticipation for the championship match was high since the two athletes were tied after 7 games of round robin match play! Tina competed at a torrid pace of 235.88 during the 8 games and had a 4-4 match play record on the Kegel Beaten Path 41 ft. "Challenge" condition. Laurie was right behind her with a 232.13 match play average. Tina received $400 plus a $350 entry into the 2012 USBC Queens in Euless, TX.

Queens qualifying saw four women from Arizona take the Top 4 spots: 1. Savahna Porter, Mesa +198, 2. Tina Stickney +159, 3. Aeesha Turner +134, Tempe and 4. Bryanna Caldwell, Red Rock+118. Low to qualify was Debbie Ayers, El Cajon, CA +64.

Char Hammel, Las Vegas, NV captured the Senior (50+) Queens Division by defeating Diane Parker, Walnut, CA 666-621 in the 3 game championship match after Diane defeated Paula Vidad, Sun City, CA 686-615. Char received $400 plus a $250 entry into the 2012 USBC Senior Queens in Reno, NV. Hammel was high qualifier with +88 and Parker low to qualify with +15.

In the 189 and under handicapped Princess Division, Marilyn Barcelona, Leemore, CA defeated Maelinda Gehrke, Victoria, CA 611-566 in the 3 game championship match after Marilyn defeated Julie Caspillo, Tracy, CA 627-610. Marilyn received $400 for her title. Gehrke was high qualifier with +78 and Caspillo low to qualify with -13.

The WBA would like to thank Jim Welch, G.M. Strike Zone Lanes, Storm Bowling Products, 123-awards.com, 4th Street Pro Shop, San Jose, CA, Parks O.C. Bowling Supply, Tustin, CA, and Revolutions Bowling Supply, Victoria, CA. Women bowlers can find out more about the WBA and upcoming events at www.womensbowlingalliance.com

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Send your email address to tenpinvegas@cox.net
FROM THE PUBLISHER

Thanksgiving... again already?

Gee, it seems like only yesterday! One of the pitfalls (and sometimes blessings) of getting old is that the days, weeks and months seem to fly by. All of a sudden your grandkids are too big to giggle at your acting silly for them, and your finding things in your dresser drawer that you’ve had for 30 years, and haven’t been able to find for the last 20.

I still have Showboat stuff. That old twig that Joyce planted in the yard in 1984 is now a huge shade tree. My son Larry is now a daddy, and his son is a product of the 21st century road to success - he speaks English and Spanish!

So, it’s time to renew those things that I am thankful for...

* I’m thankful that Las Vegas remains the Bowling Tournament Capital of the World, with the World Series of Bowling and Tournament of Champions highlighting a full year of tournament activity in a valley that has many major bowling centers in such a relatively small area.
* I’m thankful that youth bowling at its highest level is well represented right here in Las Vegas, and that it will continue indefinitely.
* I’m thankful that there are local people like Jeff Hemer, David Pierce, Bobbi Hoven, Bob McDonough, Howie Loosebroock and scores of others like them who chose to guide young talented bowlers to higher achievement, not only in bowling, but also toward higher values in their lives.
* I’m thankful my feeble weak wrist that could never really hook the ball like the big guys still lets me bowl my four games a week. It’s only a matter of time when it will say “enough.”
* I’m thankful cable still carries “Bait Car” and “World’s Dumbest Criminals” so Joyce can be totally entertained while I type this out. And “Closer” starts back up this month — one of our mutual must-see shows.
* I’m thankful some pro bowlers we loved to hate have long since retired.
* I’m thankful for being around for all 51 years of PBA history. They started up when I was in the 8th grade. I know, some of you think I never made it out of the eighth grade...
* I’m thankful for discovering Tisha Carter. I believe she will add a lot of quality and class to our newspaper.
* I’m thankful that more and more of us are over 60. This way, I will be able to fit in more easily when that last strand of hair leaves the building.
* I’m thankful that Paula Vidad and friends are behind the Women’s Bowling Alliance. I’ve always been a big fan of women’s bowling, and I will afford every opportunity to support them. Give me the winning lottery ticket, and the ladies would have some exciting bowling years ahead.
* I’m thankful that there are so many bowlers, writers and industry people who have expressed genuine encouragement for us before, during and after our ordeal with the big C, and the continued asking about our health is humbling. We are truly grateful to have all of you as friends and family.

And least I forget, I am eternally grateful to the powers that be that I am able to share a page with my soulmate.

Frenchy Letourneau

More Interesting News from HLN’s Clark Howard

Clark Howard’s show airs on Headline News every Saturday and Sunday morning (locally cable channel 22)

Bank of America has backed down from its $5 monthly fee on debit cards in light of all the public outcry against this gotcha.

“We have listened to our customers very closely over the last few weeks and recognize their concern with our proposed debit usage fee,” Bank of America co-CEO David Darnell said in a statement. “Our customers’ voices are most important to us. As a result, we are not currently charging the fee and will not be moving forward with any additional plans to do so.”

Clark Howard says, “Unlike other banks, Bank of America didn’t really “test” the $5 monthly fee on debit cards; they just crammed it down people’s throats. I suspect that’s what made people so roaring mad. Regardless, this shows the power you can flex over the big banks.

“But there’s a warning here: The big banks have signaled they want more money out of your hide no matter what. So this will likely just happen in a different way now. If you’ve been on the fence about moving your money, don’t declare victory yet. I want you to still look at moving your money.”

“By the way, speaking of your money, Amazon now has a countdown to Black Friday and they’re offering “lightning deals” by the hour. This is part of a trend at retail of Black Friday becoming more of an idea, rather than a one-day blowout.”

Every night, I like to light candles in the room. It brings a sense of warmth and peace, and I can turn off the lights when watching television.

I use BIC butane lighters (the long ones) to light the candles. What amazes me is that every now and then I get one that works for a few times then goes belly-up.

I’m not afraid to take these back to the store and exchange them. What is equally amazing is that stores take these back without question.

I have to wonder if the quality control on these is so lacking that the fuel levels are introduced with minimal continuity, and they’d rather take one back every now and then rather than slow down productivity.

This sort of reminds me of the auto industry. Make billions in profits. Pay an occasional lawsuit, do a recall, shrug off some customers as collateral damage. And it’s us who are the guinea pigs. Welcome to the 21st Century.

Be kind to one another.

Joyce Letourneau

The Bowler’s Guide to Rip-Offs and Scams

Joyce Letourneau has dealt with consumer fraud, scams and commercial schemes all her life, as an auditor, tax processor and a savvy consumer who refuses to be ripped off. She is joint owner of Ten Pin Alley.

Our new email address is tenpinvegas@cox.net
Jordan Ferrer and Talon Hendrickson each put on excellent performances to capture JBT titles, but it was a runner-up who virtually stole the show, in thrilling season-opening Mojave Conference action at the beautiful Red Rock Lanes.

David Galvan opened up the handicap division stepladder finals with a 207-203 squeaker win over Veronica Schleicher. Galvan then rolled past KJ Martinez 205-185, but the fourth place finish tied KJ for first on the career handicap top-5 finishes list at 23. Jake Bryan then defeated Galvan 242-218 to advance to the title game.

Top seed Talon Hendrickson stayed in control the entire game, while the two-handed Bryan struggled a little with the drying out lanes. In the end, Talon sunk his game.

In the final, Tucker opened with a double, while Jordan went strike-spare, and at the nine frames was a spare in the seventh (on a wobbly 10-pin), and he finished with his own (all this on the Scorpion pattern that yielded a relatively low -41 cut) to leap into the lead. Hattori opened with a double, while Jordan went strike-spare, and at the rate that Zack was going, that looked like game over already. That's not how Jordan rates, and by the time the talented Douglas got zeroed in, there wasn't enough frames left to catch up. In the end, Tristan won the game 244-208 for the title, his second of the season already, and sixth of his JBT career.

Zach Hattori has just about done it all in youth bowling, and he added another chapter to his career with this stepladder performance. Qualifying fourth, he began with a 268-225 win over Eric Hatchett. Zack then rolled past 23-time JBT champion Cameron Smith 267-210 (that's 535 for two games). Next up was Jakob Butturff, who has had the upper hand against Zack in a most recent JBT matches. Jakob could only watch this time though, as his 207 effort fell to a perfect 300 game from Hattori, his first in JBT after many near misses and the exclamation mark to an 835 3-game stepladder set!

Zack still had more work to do with top seed Jordan Ferrer, who used a 276 of his own (all this on the Scorpion pattern that yielded a relatively low -41 cut) to leap into the lead. Hattori opened with a double, while Jordan went strike-spare, and at the rate that Zack was going, that looked like game over already. That's not how Jordan rates, and by the time the talented Douglas got zeroed in, there wasn't enough frames left to catch up. In the end, Tristan won the game 244-208 for the title, his second of the season already, and sixth of his JBT career.

Makayla Douglas destroyed the field en route to the JBT Girls Invitational title in July, and dominated the field here as well, leading four girls who made the cut in the open field. However, Tristan had a great look and was throwing great shots on the title match pair, and by the time the talented Douglas got zeroed in, there wasn't enough frames left to catch up. In the end, Tristan won the game 244-208 for the title, his second of the season already, and sixth of his JBT career.

Makayla did have a win on the day, defeating Courtney Couch (and avenging her previous day's loss to her) to earn the Women's Series title for the day, the first of three she'll need to qualify for the 2012 All-conference Girls' Championship next summer.

A Pacific Northwest Conference record 94 bowlers shared in over $1,800 in scholarships awarded to bowlers of all ages and averages.

Thanks as always to the team at Red Rock for another great job hosting our events. Over $1,400 in scholarships were awarded to bowlers of all ages and averages- want in on all this fun?

Come on out to the next JBT event, it's as simple as that!

Jeff Hemer, JBT

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www.bowljbt.com
Bowling lost one of its historical giants recently when Remo Picchietti died at age 81. Picchietti, of Bannockburn, Ill., was recognized as a major pioneer in the field of bowling lane maintenance and the research and development of dozens of products used worldwide. He followed in the footsteps of his father who started the business. Remo took over after his father passed away, even though he had followed a different path, primarily law and politics.

He was a legal expert, a city judge, councilman and also mayor of Bannockburn for close to 20 years. He did all this while running a successful business and becoming involved in every phase of bowling. Over the years he served as president of the National Bowling Council, Billiard and Bowling Institute of America, National Association of Independent Resurfacers, Tech Ed Publishing Company and the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame. He was an author of numerous technical papers and books, designed college courses on bowling subjects and lectured around the world.

He also effectively and successfully lobbied major publishers to put bowling books into print, an area that had previously been overlooked.

Because of his expertise in law and bowling he often was called as a special witness in bowling related cases, and his calm and cool in debating impressed all. Picchietti had it all and gave his all to his sport in any way he could. He was a teacher and a scholar who used his business, legal, political, creative and financial experience. He influenced every phase of bowling—all for the better.

He was elected to the American Bowling Congress Hall of Fame for meritorious service in 1993, one of the most popular selections ever.

I had the pleasure of working with Picchietti on many committees and he was a thinker who had the mental capacity to go all the way on any project, controversial or not, and still come out as a nice guy.

One of his overlooked contributions was the establishment of one of the most unique and cherished recognitions in bowling—the Humanitarian Award, honoring persons in bowling because they cared, showed it, and were not looking for personal gain. If bowling ever created a mountain to salutate its memorable personalities, Picchietti could easily head the list.

BRIEF—In his acceptance speech as one of the newest members of the New Jersey State Men’s Hall of Fame, John Petraglia cited how his life would have been fulfilled if he didn’t meet all the people he met in his bowling activities. Also inducted were Tom Jordan, John York and Calvin Wynn, proud to be a new part of one of the strongest Halls in the nation. The Hall now has a total of 143 members, and 10 of them are also members of the USBC national Hall.

Idle Bowling Thoughts

* While you look at the numbers of local associations across the country, men’s and women’s and youth, you wonder why more haven’t merged their groups and why more associations, hit by loss of bowling centers and membership numbers, don’t make deeper studies of coupling of now independent groups. Of course there are problems, but none that can’t be solved if give and take rules. The advantages are still obvious, less duplication of administrative needs, better and higher entry tournaments, halls of fame, special events, charitable endeavors and civic presence.

* I’m impressed when I see bowling events, pro-ams, tournaments and other bowling themed happenings raise big bucks for all sorts of groups, up to $300,000 in single weekends. I’d be more impressed if more of these events had bowling’s needs answered. Bowling is big time and should be treated that way, particularly by bowling itself.

* In recent reorganization conferences the World Tenpin Association, with membership of 150+ national bowling federations around the world and the World Ninepin Bowling Association, with 30 nations in membership, will be able to make more of their own decisions. Haven’t heard from Canada yet—don’t they have a game called Fivepins?

* The 2011-12 PBA Tour exempt player list includes three two-handed bowlers and fans will flock to see the acrobatic talent with the style that is becoming more and more noticed around the globe.

There will also be nine first-time exempt players, most of them almost unknown. The best way for an unknown to speedily become a known is to star on the PBA Tour. TV still vaults names to fame, and bowling should strive to have as much and as regular TV exposure as it can get.

* How come there hasn’t been a comeback of high top bowling shoes?

* If your league does not have position or bumper rounds in its schedule, when teams compete first against second, third vs. fourth and so on, give it a try. Position rounds add competitive spice.

* How come there hasn’t been a comeback of high top bowling shoes?

* * *
New WBA Event Premieres January 24-29, 2012 at South Point Casino, Hotel & Spa, Las Vegas, NV
$10,000 1st Place Guaranteed with Mega Bonus

The Women’s Bowling Alliance is proud to announce the first of many scratch women’s events! Starting the new year off in conjunction with the Amateur Bowlers Tour (ABT) Winter Nationals, the WBA event will boast a $10,000 1st Place guaranteed prize with Mega Bonus (a $25 option that pays 200 to 1). Pre-Paid entry fee is $125. Unlike our traditional qualifying squads of bowling multiple days in a row, this event will mirror many of the amateur and international events. You will have 5 days to bowl any of the 5 game qualifying squads to reach the semi-finals. Each “block” consisting of 2 squads will generate semi-finalists using a 1 in 5 ratio. Even though the tournament begins on Tuesday, you can arrange your qualifying squads later in the week and bowl the semi-finals/finals on Sunday. But, there are definitely advantages of bowling earlier in the week. So don’t worry, you don’t have to take 4 days off from work to bowl the event!

In addition to the WBA Scratch Event, many women that are eligible, may bowl the ABT handicapped event running concurrently with the WBA event and offers a $25,000 1st Place with Mega Bonus. Bowl both events with a possibility of winning a combined $35,000 with Mega Bonus. Let’s show the ABT support since they are hosting our WBA event. See ABT rules for eligibility. www.abtbowling.com

For those seeking even more scratch competition, the Mini-Eliminator and World Tenpin Bowling Association (WTBA) International Open will be held at Sunset Station - Strike Zone the following week with guaranteed prize funds.

This is just the beginning of many more scratch events the WBA is looking forward to scheduling. The next WBA event is penciled for July 2012 in Las Vegas. If we can show support, 4 of these events could be scheduled in 2013. Visit the official WBA website for more information and entry form: www.womensbowlingalliance.com

Please pass this information on to scratch women bowlers you know. Spread the word, “Women’s Bowling is Back!”
I am proud to announce this will be the first of my monthly Las Vegas Local Bowlers news columns for TenPin Alley. Now you never have to miss the bowling action in the Las Vegas area. There are tournaments every week and on every skill level, and a wide range of entry fees. With so many tournament clubs in the area and out-of-town tournaments along with centers across the valley hosting events, let's find the time to make it out to one, even if it is just to support the bowlers in the tournament. Hopefully, the articles and information will inspire you to get out and bowl, or get out and bowl some more!

I've been a bowler since youth and have bowled & worked in many parts of the country. One of my first jobs was working as an Assistant Youth Director/Counter Gal at Northrock Lanes in Wichita, KS in 1988. Growing up with Wichita locals and college bowlers attending WSU, I immediately learned this sport, in any aspect, was for me.

I worked for 15 years for the USBC Tournament (then the ABC), first as a Lane Monitor beginning in Wichita in 1989, then moving on to the Bracket Department after the new-found action was brought into play in 1996. I was able to have a family on the road and soon my daughter, Abby, learned how to pick up and move from school to school. Working in the financial area is where I remained until I left the National Tournament in 2004, when I moved to Las Vegas.

I noticed right away that there was one tournament after another every weekend. Bowling still had its place with me, and I still had a place in the bowling centers. According to my new friends, I had unfortunately missed the 'Good Ol' Days' of Vegas bowling, but it still seems that bowlers are still hitting the lanes every day and making bowling news in Vegas.

I recently started a Facebook page, ‘Las Vegas Bowlers’. This is an informal forum to represent the history and present local bowling news surrounding our community.

The following are bits and pieces of some of the October tournaments and events I was able to keep up with:

On October 15th, The Orleans hosted a 5-gamer with a small number of entries, but a lot of talent was in the field. Steve Smith took the $400 win followed by Les Shirwinski and Matt Anderson in third. Matt is a newcomer to Vegas, but seems to fit in nicely. Highest game I saw out was a 269, but strikes were flying when it came down to the money balls and Mike needed all three of his in the 10th frame to keep David Haynes out of the cash by one pin.

On October 23rd, the South Point hosted one of many of it’s 9-pin No-Tap Tournaments. With only a $20 entry fee, it had a great turnout for being the first of the run. Rick Gosso had the first win of the season with a nice 1125 for 4-games.

Every month you can look forward to another tournament. Plus, to keep your interest, when you bowl 5 of the events, you’ll be entered FREE into the End-of-the-Season Tournament that will have a nice $300 1st Place Prize!

The next tournament will be on November 20th at 2:30pm. However, this is not the only 9-pin No-Tap game in town. The Orleans has a couple of 9-pin No-Tap tournaments coming up in November: one on the 13th and again on the 19th, both at 7:00pm. You can also give these a shot with another low entry fee of only $25.00. They even offer separate pots for men, women, and scratch bowlers.

Texas Star Lanes hosted the ABT Tournament on October 29 & 30 with First Place going to Hu Taing. This is his second ABT title and this one brought him home $1,000. Second Place went to Wilma Jalem, winning $350. The ABT is one of the strongest tournament clubs here in Vegas. This tournament brought in 121 entries!

Back to the scratch side.

This past month the SNBT hosted a few events with Eric Forkel bringing home a double whammy: back-to-back wins. And, just before that, John Congro had back-to-back wins! It appears that in this tournament when you bring home a win, you better show up at the next event just to see if you have a streak in you, too!

Another 5-gamer tournament in November will happen on the 19th at The South Point at 7:00 pm. This will be the last of the regular SNBT events for 2011.

Looking forward to some great scores, as these bowlers are fighting for point rankings for bowler of the year and the top 28. These are the bowlers who will be invited to the End-of-Year tournament coming up soon.
Q. I am having difficulty hitting my target. My fingers seem to turn around the ball and inside my target line, causing me to miss the spot by approximately two boards. I bought a lighter ball and this did not help.

A. It is common for most people to miss their target to the left. For many people it is usually about two boards, but some people may miss by more. Your target is right of your eye (right-hander, opposite for lefties), so you are actually seeing the right edge of the ball hitting your target, and not the center of the ball.

Provided there is not a physical problem causing you to miss to the left of your target, I would suggest that you look two boards to the right of what you are trying to hit. Example: If playing the second arrow, which is the 10th board, you will want to look at the 8th board.

Q. In all the articles on weights and balances I have read, they say a ball should be drilled according to where your ball track is. My question is: If a bowler has a half-dozen different ways of delivering the ball for different lane conditions, and these different ways would change the ball track, what’s the best way to have the ball drilled?

A. The type of ball you are using is a hard plastic (85 on the D-scale), which is best suited for hooking lanes. I would suggest getting a soft ball with a hardness of about 78. If you are strong enough you might want to consider getting a ball one pound heavier. And if you are using a conventional grip, you might want to try a relaxed fingertip grip.

Q. I am a 13-year-old boy who throws a hook and averages 145. I’m having trouble getting strikes on good balls. I put the ball right into the pocket and leave the 5-7, 5-10, or just the 5. The lanes are fairly oily and I use a hard plastic 14 pound ball. What can I do?

A. I would not recommend stopping your weightlifting, but I’d design a program that would enhance your bowling. If you are lifting to add bulk, it won’t be beneficial to your bowling. If you are lifting for strength, endurance, and flexibility, it will help your bowling. Many of today’s professional bowlers train during the off season and many train during the season. The PBA tour is very grueling, so you need endurance and strength, which weight training can provide.

Q. I have questions on the use of sandpaper on a bowling ball. Can you sand the ball in any way? Is it illegal? I understand that it is illegal, but others say it’s legal.

A. The sanding of bowling balls is legal according to the USBC and PBA. The USBC has no written rule about sanding the ball, but at their annual championships they allow you to sand a ball, provided you sand the whole ball uniformly. You cannot put grooves in the ball or put any foreign substance on the surface of the ball, such as rosin, pro grip, tape, etc.

The PBA allows you to sand the ball any way you want, provided you don’t put grooves in the track area or put foreign substances on the surface. In 1984, the PBA tournament committee passed a rule requiring that pros only sand their ball before the start of competition. Once they start, they cannot alter the surface of the ball in any way, and that includes polishing.

The PBA adopted its new rule for two reasons. First of all, a sanded ball is very rough and it can actually damage the lane surface. Second, a sanded ball will take a lot of oil from the lane and change the lane condition much faster than normal. The reason players sand their ball is to rough up the ball’s surface to make it grab the lane. The sanding of bowling balls is not new. It’s been done on the pro tour for years. When sanding started, it was primarily used to take the shine off highly polished balls. But today, some players sand their ball on every shot to make it hook more on tight lanes. Because today urethane balls are so porous, sanding them removes the oil from the “pores” and helps maintain the balls’ hooking characteristics.

Sanding a ball during competition is like letting a baseball pitcher use sandpaper on the ball when he pitches—it causes the ball to overreact and do things it isn’t supposed to do. There are enough types of bowling balls on the market today to cover all conditions without having to resort to sanding.
THE CURVED CEILING
WHY MANY BETTER BOWLERS CAN'T GET BETTER - Part 2

I have been fortunate enough to teach a bowling seminar with the well known Hall of Fame Coach of the Pros John Jowdy, whose articles used to appear in this publication. At those times I always learned something. Not just from the great coach…that goes without saying, since he is undeniably the premier teacher of our sport on the planet today. I mean I also continually learned something from the bowlers.

Since coach Jowdy's sessions are primarily for better bowlers, one thing continues to surprise me…that even among the best …220 average and up players (including professionals), the solutions to their individual problems virtually always involve the same fundamentals as those for the beginner. So the answers to any bowler's improvement usually lie in some simple, fundamental tactic which has either never been learned or just temporarily lost.

So here I have picked out some of the specific fundamentals whose omission will create scoring problems for virtually any bowler…beginner or advanced.

Have you ever heard that old saying, “The lawyer who defends himself has a fool for a client?”

Well, an old tenet among attorneys is, never handle a case in which you're emotionally involved…which you certainly are, if you defend yourself.

The question is, does this necessarily apply to sports as well? Does it mean that the athlete who teaches himself is as good as any student? Well, in spite of the fact that a few greatly talented athletes have achieved a certain amount of success without any coaching, those who became champions or even successful pros, are so rare as to be almost non-existent. Babe Ruth was one. The great Olympian, Jim Thorpe was another. But I know of no big money PBA or PWBA pro who has never had help.

What’s my point? Just that better players can usually monitor themselves…check themselves…to see whether certain techniques they’ve already learned are being correctly executed. But checking yourself and teaching yourself are two different things. To initially learn the majority of proper fundamentals and their execution virtually always requires the help of a good teacher! So what follows is an example of a common problem, which seems to get many bowlers into trouble for the reasons stated above:

MUSCULATING THE BALL TO INCREASE SPEED

There’s something about ball speed we haven’t previously covered, so stick with me. Actually, I’ve been asked questions like, “Why do I keep missing my target (or break point) so badly whenever I try to push or swing away from the pins?”

Let’s get to the final part of this we haven’t talked about before. For this we’ll assume you’ve already developed the all important free armswing. This means you’ve mastered the technique of allowing the ball’s gravity to create your backswing, then waited for the ball rather than pulling on it with your arm (muscling) to bring it into play.

So you’ve done everything right so far, yet you still want more speed. The answer is not in the arm, as many believe, but in the hand! A few degrees before the bottom of the swing, just before the release, propel the ball forward with the hand only. Done correctly, this will give you an entirely different sensation than pulling the ball down from the top of the backswing to gain speed. The difference is that the force travels from the hand upward toward the shoulder, rather than from the shoulder down to the hand as it does when muscling the ball.

This difference can be felt as you execute it. You can actually sense this speed-up force traveling up your arm rather than down from the shoulder. So by letting the ball do the swinging you have gained the best of both worlds…a smooth, free pendulum swing with the extra ball speed you wanted. From a greater natural backswing height, the ball will of course develop a bigger downward force as well, thus generating more unmuscled speed at the release point than a shorter downswing could.

SPEED WITHOUT SACRIFICING ACCURACY

This will also answer many bowlers who have trouble hitting their mark when trying for more ball speed. Why? Because such players usually force the ball downward from the top of the backswing, causing excessive shoulder shifting during the downswing. Since such unintentional shoulder movement often forces the swing out of alignment, the release usually ends up missing the target.

This is why the proper pushaway is so important. Because we’ve discussed this before, I’ll be brief in case some haven’t read it. The recommended pushaway for most is:

Bigger (more extended) than the accompanying step;

Fairly fast (not deliberately slowed down);

Pushed slightly upward rather than downward;

Pushed toward the intended target.

This type of motion allows the ball’s weight to take over the backswing, thus making the actual push toward the intended target.

One is because this allows for a natural, ball driven gravity backswing. The other, is that such a backswing will be higher without having to pull on the ball to bring it up (important because pulling the backswing higher can force pulling it down, also).

Also, a downward pushaway would achieve neither of these results, plus making timing more difficult. From a greater natural backswing height, the ball will of course develop a bigger downward force as well, thus generating more unmuscled speed at the release point than a shorter downswing could.

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Combining this technique with the extra hand speed described above will add ball speed with out muscling. A technique allowing an accommodation of unnecessary upper body and shoulder jerking usually accompanied by muscling the ball. The expression, “Solid at the line” should be taken very seriously. This is sure to become more even as the new sport conditions come into increased use.

Among the greatest victims of the so called ‘bumper bowling for adults’ lane conditions since

1992 is just that…accuracy! So sport condition bowlers, in addition to becoming more adept at various releases, equipment choices, etc., will be forced to become more accurate and remain accurate even when changing ball speeds in varying conditions.

DIFFERENT STROKES

Having said all this, I need to add that not all successful touring pros necessarily use a completely free armswing. But even those winners who control parts of their swing remain accurate because they’ve developed ways to consistently get the bowling shoulder into a solid, consistent position at the line and keep it there long enough to remain accurate. Let’s admit that physical strength and condition also help. Robert Smith can accurately throw a ball with a great variety of speeds, yet never seems to lose his form.

So you practice games don’t hurt, either. Walter Ray Williams, Pete Weber and Parker Bohn III get in their share of practice games per month, as did the super accurate Earl Anthony.

So give these techniques a try. Speed control while maintaining accuracy will bring rewards in the new sport bowling environment as well. Remember the old adage, Force is never as effective as leverage!” John Katan of Arizona State University remonstrated me of that one.
Ask Bob — Bob Korth

Q. I am just about to turn 70 years old and my problem is the center that I bowl in has gotten much dryer. I am not used to the ball hooking so much. I usually play around the ten board and have always averaged in the area of 190 to 195. I am now playing in around the seventeen board and have almost no control. My average has dropped into the 150’s. I have tried to throw harder with no luck. Do you have any suggestions?

A. There are a few things that could be the cause of dropping the ball. Proper fit is essential. No bowler can overcome a bad fit. This could also be a timing problem. For a solution to a timing problem, you will need to find a coach in your area to watch you and see what is going on in your approach. Try to find a coach that does video so you can see your approach and see it in slow motion. If it is timing, it could be a little longer steps and this will increase your speed without muscling. You will have a nice free swing.

Q. I have a bad habit of dropping the ball at the line, do you have any idea what the cause might be?

A. There are a few things that could be the cause of dropping the ball. Proper fit is essential. No bowler can overcome a bad fit. If you have room to back up on the approach, try backing up about 6 inches, then raise the ball up toward your shoulders and push the ball away further. This will elongate the swing. Combine this with a little longer steps and this will increase your speed without muscling. You will have a nice free swing.

Q. I have a bad habit of dropping the ball at the line, do you have any idea what the cause might be?

A. You cannot gain speed by just trying to throw harder. Trying to throw harder will cause muscling, and that adds up to loss of control. You have to accomplish this by increasing your free swing.

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A. The result is you don’t feel comfortable enough to make a good shot.

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Humor Me

The cop got out of his car and the kid, who was stopped for speeding, rolled down his window. “I’ve been waiting for you all day,” the cop said.

The kid replied, “Yeah, well I got here as fast as I could.”

When the cop finally stopped laughing, he sent the kid on his way without a ticket.

A policeman pulled over a car, walked up to the driver’s window, and asked the man if he knew why he was pulled over.

“No,” the man replied. “You failed to stop at the stop sign,” the cop explained.

“But I did slow down!” the guy argued. The cop shook his head.

“You are required to stop. That’s why they’re called stop signs.”

The man started to get belligerent. “Stop, slow down — what’s the difference?”

The cop pulled out his baton. “I can show you. I’m going to start hitting you with my baton. You tell me if you want me to stop or slow down.”

The sheriff of a small town was also the town’s animal Vet. One night the phone rang, and his wife answered. An agitated voice inquired, “Is your husband there?”

“Do you require his services as a sheriff or as a vet?” the wife asked.

“Both!” was the reply. “We can’t get our dog’s mouth open, and there’s a burglar in it.”

One day, there was this lawyer who had just bought a new car, and he was eager to show it off to his colleagues, when all of a sudden an eighteen wheeler came out of nowhere and took off the driver’s side door with him standing right there.

“NOOO!” he screamed, because he knew that no matter how good a mechanic tried to fix it, it never would be the same.

Finally, a cop came by, and the lawyer ran up to him yelling. “MY JAGUAR DOOR WAS JUST RUINED BY SOME FOOLISH DRIVER!!” he exclaimed.

“You’re a lawyer aren’t you?” asked the policeman. “Yes, I am, but what does this have to do with my car?!” the lawyer asked.

“HA! Your lawyers are always so materialistic. All you care about is your possessions. I bet you didn’t even notice that your left arm is missing did you?” the cop said.

The lawyer looked down at his side and exclaimed “MY ROLEX!”

A rookie police officer was out for his first ride in a cruiser with an experienced partner. A call came in telling them to disperse some people who were loitering. The officers drove to the street and observed a small crowd standing on a corner.

The rookie rolled down his window and said, “Let’s get off the corner people.” A few glances, but no one moved, so he barked again, “Let’s get off that corner... NOW!” Intimidated, the group of people began to leave, casting puzzled stares in his direction.

Proud of his first official act, the young policeman turned to his partner and asked, “Well, how did I do?”

“Pretty good,” chuckled the vet, “especially since this is a bus stop.”

Seeing is believing...

“Has anyone seen our cat Tabby? He was last seen playing with a ball...!”

Then it is agreed.

Surrender the others, and you alone shall be spared.
It occurs to me that most of what I write is aimed at higher-average, regular league bowlers: the bowlers who read Ten Pin Alley. This makes lots of sense, for why would I write to people who don’t read what I write? With this in mind, I started thinking that you, the regular league bowler have a tremendous opportunity to help to save the sport of bowling by taking a new bowler under your wing. Let’s face it, the easiest way to get people to enjoy bowling more, is to help them to get better.

Helping a new, struggling bowler to get better can be very easy. Following are eight ways that you can help a new bowler to “get hooked” on the sport we love:

1. If your new bowler doesn’t own his/her own equipment, encourage them to buy their own bowling shoes. An entry-level pair of shoes that fit properly will help them more than anything else to become comfortable on the lanes. This “more than anything else” includes their own bowling ball. Shoes come first.

2. Once they have their own pair of bowling shoes, they’ll probably want to get their own bowling ball. Since bowlers quickly want to see their ball curve, it’s a good idea to encourage them to buy an entry-level reactive ball, rather than buying a plastic ball that they will never be able to hook. If they buy a plastic ball, many will either try to throw it without putting their thumb in the thumbhole, or will become frustrated and just throw it straight up the middle arrow.

3. Speaking of throwing the ball straight up over the middle arrow, we often tend to forget that most beginning bowlers look at the pins when they first start to bowl. Suggesting that a beginner aim at the arrows rather than the pins can be a real eye-opening experience for a beginner. Just point out how much easier it is to hit a target that’s fifteen feet away than one that’s sixty feet away.

4. While we’re on the subject of the arrows, you don’t need to get into a full-blown discussion of the difference in the volume of oil in the middle of the lane compared to the outside part of the lane (they’d probably think you’re crazy anyway, since they can’t see the oil). You should, however, suggest that they line up to target the second arrow so that they can get enough angle to throw an occasional strike.

5. The easiest way to help a bowler to dramatically raise their average is to help to teach them how to pick up spares. One more converted spare a game equals a ten pin jump in average. That’s huge! The easiest way to help your newbie bowler get their second arrow so that they can get enough angle to throw an occasional strike.

6. Accuracy is a big issue for beginning bowlers, and nothing affects a bowler’s accuracy more than bad timing. Now I’m not suggesting that you take on the role of the certified bowling coach. I’m simply suggesting that you become aware of the bare basics of timing. Timing is nothing more than the position of the ball in relation to the sliding foot when it comes to a stop at the foul line. Ideally, a beginning bowler’s ball will get to the line at the same time that the slide foot stops sliding. This is called neutral timing and it is the ideal for beginning bowlers. When the ball is in front of the sliding foot when it stops sliding, the ball will miss the target to the left (for a right-handed bowler). When the ball is behind the sliding foot, it will miss to the right.

When you notice that a novice bowler is missing consistently to one side or the other, suggest that they become aware of when they push the ball away as they start their approach. For a right-handed bowler who takes four steps, the ball should move with the first step (right foot). For a five-step bowler, the ball should move with the second step, Above all, if you are going to offer assistance, keep it simple. When you feel that you have done all you can, refer to #8 below.

7. Another thing that will affect a new bowler’s accuracy is where the ball is held when they first start the approach. Most beginning bowlers want to hold the ball directly in front of their bodies. The forces them to circle the ball around the body. Once the ball is moving around the body, rather than in a straight line, it must be released with perfect timing or it will be off line. Encourage your newbie bowler to start the approach with the ball held directly under the shoulder of the bowling arm.

8. If you are feeling some trepidation at the prospect of “coaching” a beginning bowler, and you should, the best thing that you can do to help them is to encourage them to seek some professional coaching. Coaching can be expensive, but it doesn’t have to be. Here in Las Vegas there are numerous low cost group clinics where new bowlers, as well as seasoned bowlers who want to improve their games can go to get highly qualified help.

David Pierce holds regular clinics for both junior and adult bowlers at the Suncoast Bowling Center. Call the Suncoast for more information. Howie Partell regularly helps groups of bowlers at the Southpoint Bowling Center, and Duffy McDonough really gets around, holding Clinics on Sunday mornings at the Gold Coast, Sunday afternoons at Sunset Station, and Thursday evenings at Texas Station. You can contact Duffy by phone or text at (702) 232-9633, or check out his web site: duffy@teambob.com.

Whatever you can do to encourage beginning bowlers to improve their bowling skills, you will be helping to preserve the sport that we love. You might also find that you make some great new friends along the way. Bowl well!

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**FLIP SIDE**

with Rob Mautner

Save Our Sport: Adopt a Bowler!

Contact Rob Mautner * 228-8959 * robbob5@embarqmail.com

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**Storm Celebrates 20 Years of Making Bowling Balls**

Storm Products, Inc is honored to celebrate twenty years of making bowling balls. High Score Products (HSP) was originally founded in 1985 to sell a cleaner called U Clean/U Score Urethane Bowling Ball Cleaner, but it wasn’t until 1991 that an opportunity to make bowling balls presented itself to Bill Chrisman.

With the opportunity at hand, Mr. Chrisman hired Keith Orton, a pioneer in manufacturing high performance urethane bowling balls, to set up a facility to manufacture bowling balls for High Score Products. HSP produced their first bowling balls in 1991 and the name ‘Storm’ was selected as the trade name for the new bowling balls. As the Storm name gained prominence, it overshadowed the HSP company name. “When we started making bowling balls in 1991, our goal was to make innovative products that you could depend on,” commented Corbet Austin, Storm’s Vice President of operations. “Every year we have been able to do that better and better. It has been great to be a part of a company that grows every year!"

In 1994, the company name was changed to Storm Products, Inc. “We are where we are, because of our people,” said Dave Symes, President of Storm Products, Inc. “Our success is because we have taken care of our customers. We have had our ups and downs over the past 20 years, but we have always taken care of them.”

Present day, Storm’s production facility and corporate office is located in Brigham City, Utah. The company employs more than 125 people that are dedicated to the success of the company. “With all of the changes in manufacturing processes and materials over the past 20 years, we have managed to stay at the forefront of innovation thanks largely to our fans, employees, and suppliers with whom we feel a sense of teamwork,” commented Shane Blakely, Storm’s production manager. “We just celebrated our first 20 year employee, Joe Hardy, and milestones like this help us to remember who and what, is really important.”

Today Storm bowling balls can be found in the hands of millions of bowlers around the world. The brand name is synonymous with quality and performance. “Every year we try to be a little bit better,” said Symes. “We will continue to strive to be the best we can be for many years to come!”

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**TEN PIN ALLEY**

November 2011
As the centerpiece of the 2011 Professional Bowlers Association World Series of Bowling and the first major championship of the season, the PBA World Championship will again live up to its name when an expected field of 240 PBA and international stars from more than 15 different countries convene at South Point Bowling Center beginning Nov. 5.

Chris Barnes of Double Oak, Texas, will be on hand to defend his 2010 victory in the World Championship, a 267-237 upset win over top qualifier Bill O’Neill of Southampton, Pa., that proved to be a milestone victory for Barnes. With the title, he became the sixth player in history to complete the PBA’s Triple Crown and in all likelihood locked up his eventual election to the PBA Hall of Fame.

The elite Triple Crown club (U.S. Open, PBA World Championship, PBA Tournament of Champions) includes Billy Hardwick, Johnny Petraglia, Pete Weber, Mike Aulby and Norm Duke – all PBA Hall of Famers.

In 2011, the PBA World Championship will be decided in similar fashion to 2010. All World Series players will bowl eight games each on the Viper, Chameleon, Scorpion and Shark patterns. After 32 games, the top 60 (based on a full field) will advance to an eight-game cashers round.

After a total of 40 games, the top qualifier will earn a $5,000 bonus and the top 16 will advance to a series of ESPN-televised divisional elimination rounds named in honor of four past PBA World Champions who also are among the sport’s greatest players ever: Don Carter, Billy Hardwick, Johnny Petraglia and Mike Aulby. Carter won the inaugural PBA Championship in 1960. Hardwick, the initial PBA Triple Crown winner, won in 1963. Petraglia, also a Triple Crown winner, was the 1980 winner. Aulby, the first PBA Grand Slam winner, won the 1985 PBA Championship.

For the ESPN-televised rounds, four groups of four players will bowl in the four divisional finals. In each divisional final, the highest seeded player will select the lane condition for the championship round.

All PBA World Championship rounds will be contested on Saturday, Nov. 19, and will be part of the World Series lineup of PBA Tour ESPN-taped telecasts which will take place Nov. 17-20 on a special arena lanes setup at the South Point.

All of the preliminary rounds will be covered live on pba.com’s exclusive video-streaming service, Xtra Frame. To subscribe to Xtra Frame, visit pba.com and click on the Xtra Frame logo. Look for information on a special World Series of Bowling subscription offer.

First prize in the 2011 PBA World Champion will be $50,000. If reigning PBA Player of the Year Mika Koivuniemi or 13-time PBA Tour titlist Tommy Jones should happen to win, the PBA Triple Crown club will have its seventh member.

The third annual World Series of Bowling is a two-week multi-event competition offering bowling fans an opportunity to witness several PBA Tour events all in one location. World Series events include the Viper Open, Chameleon Open, Scorpion Open, Shark Open, PBA World Championship (a major), Carmen Salvino Classic Championship, PBA Exempt Players Championship, Carmen Buchignani Classic Championship, PBA Doubles Championship and World Bowling Tour finals.

Admission is free for all PBA World Series telecasts. For a complete schedule and additional information visit www.pba.com.