

Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter



Welcome to this edition of the Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter. This month we will be talking about Norm Duke's third major in a row, the Golden Anniversary Championship, and with PBA vice president Tom Clark. We will also be talking about the greatest match that I ever attended. So, enjoy this edition of the Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter.

In the season opener of the Lumber Liquidators PBA tour Norm Duke made history by becoming the first player to win three majors in a row. He did this by defeating Chris Barnes with a score of 259-189 one of the greatest moments in the Lumber Liquidators PBA Tour. This was a great moment to watch. Norm Duke might be one of the greatest pro bowlers in the Lumber Liquidators PBA Tour if not the greatest of all time.

As for the Golden Anniversary Championship, Walter Ray Williams Jr. won his 45th Lumber Liquidators PBA Tour title. He did this by defeating Bill O'Neil with a score of 246-202. Parker Bohn III was down 3-1 against Craig Tuholski, but turned the match around in game five by shooting a 300 leading to an 835 in his last three games to win the match 4-3. In the round of 16 Parker defeated Tommy Delutz Jr. 4-2 and went on to face Walter Ray Williams Jr. in the round of 8. Walter Ray Williams Jr. swept Parker 4-0 in the round of 8. What a match up in the round of 8! Two former Player of the Year and two PBA Hall of Famers. This would set the pace for Walter Ray to win his 45th Lumber Liquidators PBA Tour title. In the round of 64, Pete Weber averaged 242 to vault him into 4th place. As for the Seniors, Tim Kauble won his first PBA Senior Tour title by defeating Hugh Miller with a score of 235-185. In the round of 8 he defeated two-time Tournament of Champion winner Mark Williams 4-2. In the round of 4, he defeated Michael Henry 4-2. Kauble made it interesting because in the first round of qualifying he led the field by 36 of pins, but in the evening he kind of stumbled and just barely made it to the next round by qualifying eighth. From being the leader, to just making it, and then to winning the title says a lot about a pro bowler. Congratulations Timothy Kauble for winning your first PBA Senior Title.



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Moments in history

For this month's "Moment in History", I thought I would write about going to see two legends of the time duke it out for the tour title and Player of the Year honors. The match was between Parker Bohn III and Walter Ray Williams Jr. at the 1999 Track Open. Parker Bohn III led the field by 500 pins and he had one game to bowl for the title. Walter Ray had beat Brian Himmler and Amleto, he was going to face Parker Bohn III for the championship. To be the best you have to beat the best and this is what Parker was going to have to do when he bowled with Walter Ray Jr. for the title. Parker had the front 3 then left the 7 pin then strung the next 7. That's what you have to do to the greatest bowler in the world. He did just that. It was a great honor being there seeing Parker and Walter duke it out. The final score was "279-245".



Interview of the month : Tom Clark, COO of the PBA

Q: What are your goals for the PBA both in the short term and long term?

A: The ultimate goals include the desire to increase our fan base, increase our television ratings, improve the value of the PBA brand, create stars from our sport that all sports fans can identify, increase corporate sponsorships, increase prize money, increase traffic on pba.com and improve the fan experience at our events. In order to get there we have to make many improvements and maintain high levels of productivity every day to put the PBA in the best possible position to achieve those goals.

Q: How does it feel to work for the PBA?

A: It is a great privilege to be able to try to help the PBA. I have been a fan of the PBA my entire life and have seen every show since the late 1970s. I have a great respect for the talents of the players on Tour and want to help as many people inside and outside our sport enjoy it as much as I have my whole life.

Q: Any future plans for network TV, i.e. a bowling channel?

A: The closest thing to a bowling channel might be our Xtra Frame initiative on pba.com. This year, we have successfully been streaming live video from the match play rounds of each tournament on Xtra Frame, which is a great achievement for the PBA and for its fans. Other things available on Xtra Frame include tips and interviews with top Tour players, past ESPN bowling shows and even the ESPN commercials promoting the PBA. Hopefully with more subscribers we can grow Xtra Frame so it is the "bowling channel."

Q: How do you think that you can make the PBA better?

A: In my position I can influence the television show to be more entertaining, educational, attractive and informative. I can improve our efforts to secure space covering our sport in mainstream media (newspapers, magazines, television shows and web sites). I can improve our web site pba.com to have more content and photography and keep people entertained, informed and educated for longer periods of

time online. I can use marketing techniques and communication devices to better motivate and engage our loyal fan base.

Q: Which is better for TV? High or low scores?

A: The best thing for TV is close matches featuring compelling players. Of course higher scores are a bit more exciting for most fans, but a low scoring match in an event like the US Open, for example, with extremely challenging lane conditions can be just as exciting and intense, if not more so, because of the difficulty level. As long as the TV show is able to educate fans as to why the players may be struggling for every strike they can get.

Q: Please add any comments you would like to about the PBA.

A: This is the 50th Anniversary season of the PBA Tour, so it is a very significant and exciting time. We are celebrating the 50 Greatest Players in PBA history all year long on the shows, and have many different initiatives in place to help fans enjoy the 50th Anniversary season, including a book, trading cards and displays on site at each tournament. With the help of fans like the ones reading this interview, we can go another 50 years.

CONCLUSION

50 years ago an attorney from Akron, OH wanted to showcase the greatest bowlers. Recently I went to the Golden Anniversary Tournament in Hammond, IN. What a winner for the Golden Anniversary Championship that the greatest player in the history of the PBA, Walter Ray Williams Jr., walked away with the title. It was great to see one of the legendary bowlers win the title. PBA founder, Eddie Elias wanted to create a place where the greatest bowlers in the world could make a living throwing a bowling ball. He wanted to create a premier bowling league. He did just that by forming the Professional Bowlers Association. In my opinion the PBA is the greatest thing that has happened in the history of bowling. It promotes the best bowlers to make a living by throwing a bowling ball. It's a great honor to be a member of this great premier bowling league. Thanks for reading this edition of the Josh Hyde's Bowling



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