

# Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter

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## News- Honorary PBA Member

Welcome to this month's edition of the Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter. We will be looking at the Top 10 PBA events of the last decade and taking a look back at the '07 USBC Convention. The next topic is on the Earl Anthony Memorial Classic. We will talk with Kelly Kulick about the Tournament of Champions for the interview of the month. Finally, we will be discussing the history-making aspect of the Tournament of Champions. So, enjoy this edition of the Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter!

In the Tournament of Champions history was being made as Kelly Kulick defeated Chris Barnes 265-195 in the championship game. She not only became the first woman to win a PBA Tour title but she became the first woman to win a major tournament. She

not only beat Chris Barnes but she also beat Major Mika Koivuniemi in the semi-final game 227-223. She beat two superstars of the PBA Tour today. In the first match Mika beat Page 255-215 it appeared that Mika had a good line at the end of the first game.

En route to her first title Friday night, Kulick bowled back to back 270's games and a 267 in the position round game. The crowd was behind her the entire week, being the first woman to enter the Tournament of Champions. She reached this goal by winning the 2009 PBA Women's World Championship in the World Series of Bowling. She did not just win her first major and her first PBA title, but she regained her exemption for the Lumber Liquidators PBA Tour. She will be eligible for not one season, but two seasons on the PBA Tour. Not only did she shock the bowling world, but she shocked the sports world by winning a male dominated sporting event. No one else can say that their first PBA title was the Tournament of Champions! Only Kelly can say that one now.

The Earl Anthony Memorial Classic saw a former amateur, who was the highest amateur in the PBA Tournament, win his first pro title as a professional. None other than Anthony LaCaze won his first PBA title by beating Mike Machuga 214-206 in the championship game. In the first semifinal match, Mike Machuga defeated Sean Rash 188-183. Then, in the second semifinal match, LaCaze defeated Mike Wolfe 190-158. This was LaCaze's first Title, first appearance on television, and first title as a professional.



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## Strike Column— Top 10 PBA Events of the Last Decade

For this month's Strike Column, I thought I would talk about the first decade of this millennium. Just when you thought that our favorite sport was not going to have a professional aspect anymore, an ex-executive from Microsoft saved the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA).

10. The PBA gets a regular time slot for the TV show. This was a big hit because bowling fans would know when their sport was going to be on TV. Also, bowling had a set season from the end of October to the beginning of April instead of a calendar year.

9. The best event was the World Series of Bowling. Why? Because it was like a Mega-Bucks tournament for the best player in the world. No single player dominated the WSOB and this was a great new tournament concept that the PBA created.



8. At the start of the '05-'06 season, Denny's becomes the 1st title sponsor of the PBA Tour. This was exciting because the PBA could tie a national name to the Tour. No longer could a bowler say, "I'm on the PBA Tour." They would have to say, "I bowl on the Denny's PBA Tour,"

and now the "Lumber Liquidators PBA Tour."

7. At last, some-



body surpasses the great Earl Anthony, and it was none other than Walter Ray Williams. In 2006, Dyno Walter defeated Pete Weber 289-236 to win his 42nd PBA Tour title. Another legend met the challenge to surpass the legendary Earl Anthony.



6. For the first time you can finally see what was happening on Friday night before the TV show through the service of "Strike Pass" and now "Xtra Frame". For about \$8 a month, you can watch your favorite player bowl before he/she makes the championship round. This is what hardcore bowling fans



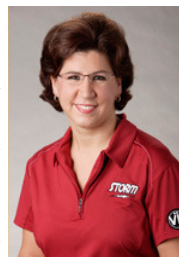
wanted to see— Friday night action.

5. During the '06 PBA Tour Trials, Kelly Kulick of Union, New Jersey, becomes the 1st woman to be an exempt player of the PBA Tour. She cashed 85 percent of the time she was in a tournament.



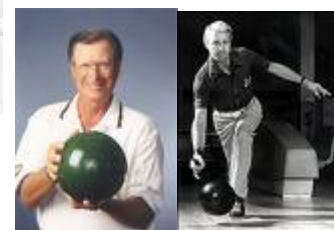
4. During the 2005 Banquet Open, for the first time in PBA Tour history, a woman makes the television show. Not only did Liz Johnson of Cheektowaga, N.Y., make it, but she had to qualify through TQR and beat some great pro bowlers. In the Round of 32, she beat Chris Barnes and in the Round of 16, she beat Mike DeVaney.

3. The '03-'04 season brings the announcement that the PBA was going to implement an exempt field for the tour.



This brought a new expectation to the best bowlers of the world. Now a typical house bowler had to qualify in order to bowl on the PBA Tour.

2. The bowling world loses not just two legends, but maybe the best two bowlers in the history of the PBA. Earl Anthony and Dick Weber passed away in the first decade of the millennium. They were truly great ambassadors of the sport of bowling and legends of the PBA. They are and will be greatly missed in the bowling community.



1. At the beginning of the decade nobody wanted a part of the PBA because there was no money to be made on the PBA Tour. Then Chris Peters, a former executive from Microsoft, decided he wanted to buy the PBA. Who would have thought that a guy like him would want to save the PBA? This guy wanted to make bowling cool again. This is exactly what he did when he bought the PBA. He also established a regular TV time slot for the PBA to be aired. That way the bowling fans would know when bowling was going to be on.

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## Kingpin Column

### Moments in History

The year was 2007. I had decided to go to the United States Bowling Congress Convention. I raised \$1,800 and wanted to go to see what the convention was like. This was an opportunity to learn how a bowling organization worked.

With the \$1,800, I was able to go down in a van, pay for gas, and also pay my caregiver. The one neat thing was that I was able to ask about ramp bowling in a USBC



competition and they said "yes." This meant that I could compete as a bowler with a sanctioned average to

leagues or tournaments. This was one of the steps to becoming an actual bowler, and not only a fan. They also told me I could compete in the national tournament as well.

Another interesting thing happened when Roger Dalkin, the USBC Executive Director, introduced me as a "PBA Superfan" when I asked my question. Going to the USBC convention was one of my dreams come true.

### Interview – Kelly Kulick



**Q:** What are your goals?

**A:** To see a competitive sports on the tour that leads to more titles and to send a message to ladies that they can compete.

**Q:** Which was harder to meet: Mika or Barnes?

**A:** Mika, otherwise I wouldn't have been in that position.

**Q:** How would you rank your major wins?

**A:** This one would be first a tie with the Tournament of Champions, the

World Women's Championship is second, and the US Open is third.

**Q:** How did you overcome having a lower rev (revolution) rate?

**A:** Men have more ball speed, but I played my A-Game the whole time.

**Q:** Do you think you can compete with the men again?

**A:** My winning today will justify my position. Further wins will prove it. I learned a great deal from bowling with the men. I was critical of myself. Now I'm smarter and make moves faster. I think I'll be better prepared next time around. It really has benefitted my mental game.

**Q:** Do you believe you brought bowling back?

**A:** I think so. As a player we always hear about the tour, but this is a positive thing that has happened to bowling—that America turned in on Sunday.

**Q:** What advice do you have for underdogs?

**A:** "It is truly better to be an underdog—one who fights their way to the top."

**Comment:** As a player, we hear about the tour, but this is a positive thing that has happened to bowling, but America turned in on Sunday.



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## Commentary

Bowling is back the way it happened is strange but we needed something to happen for a long time. Between Kelly and Smallwood winning their first titles not only their first titles but their first majors there's only one word that sums it all up WOW! Now we are getting points in the Neilson points rating like never before. Kelly might have brought the sport back.

Bowling has been slowly but surely coming back from the last decade till now from Chris Peters saving the PBA to Kelly winning the Tournament of Champions bowling is being recognized as a sport. My hope is that bowling will get stronger and stronger in years to come. Hard core bowling fans have been waiting for



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something to happened like this. This meaning something or somebody making bowling cool again. In 2000 they had a show called Ed featuring a lawyer having his practice in a bowling center. People might have said that was a fluke but the bowling industry had to do something. The bowling industry has been hurting for a long time. I give kudos to Kelly and Smallwood for putting bowling back in the sporting world. I also hope that our industry supports the stars of the Lumber Liquidators PBA Tour by not turning their back on bowling when its on.

Both Kelly and Smallwood beat the best fields in the tournaments that they won. It will be interesting in the Master's next month who will win it. Will it be another underdog or will it be a star of the PBA? Never in the history of the PBA has there been more than one bowler win their first title as a major in a single season. In Webster's dictionary the word underdog means expected to lose.

During my interview with Kelly she said that she had nothing to lose and that's what helped her win the Tournament of Champions. It also makes me wonder if the Joe Bowler our there is wondering if he can compete with Walter and Duke on the Lumber Liquidators PBA Tour? The PBA is beginning to succeed at having the best bowling tournament in the world.



## PBA Trivia Wizard

Please submit your answers via e-mail to: [jhbnl@comcast.net](mailto:jhbnl@comcast.net). The first person that answer this correctly will get a 10% coupon sponsored by bowlinggift.com. Thank you bowlinggift.com for contributing to the Josh Hyde's Bowling Newsletter.

### Who will be the next PBA Trivia Wizard?

1. Who won the 1993 Firestone Tournament of Champions?
2. Who became the first woman to advance to the finals of a PBA Tournament?

### Last Month's PBA Wizard Trivia Winner

#### Not Awarded!

#### Last Month's Answers:

- 1.) Mike Aulby
- 2.) David Ozio



Thanks for reading this month's edition of the Josh Hyde Bowling Newsletter.