**TenPinRap Bowling Column**

**By Joan Taylor**

**March 22, 2024**

**FUN AT THE EAST REGION PWBA TOURNAMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA**

Braving Saturday’s rain, I drove to Steel City Bowl and Brews in Bethlehem (PA) to watch the center’s first hosting of a Professional Women’s Bowling Association (PWBA) event, the PWBA Eastern Regional.

The center was packed, not only with the bowlers, their families, and bowling fans, but also with innumerable triple-ball bags. This was the new look of tournaments.

I was especially interested in watching our local ladies: Jackie Evans (Stanhope NJ), Amanda Granata (Florham Park, NJ), Jenna Henderson (Washington, NJ), Leyna Kratzer (Bangor, PA) and Shannon Quick (Phillipsburg, NJ).

There was another bowler I knew, Karsyn Lukosius, Jackson, NJ. Karsyn was the third of my pro partners in last summer’s BVL fundraising tournament at Howell Lanes.

Eventually four finalists emerged for the stepladder final rounds. Melia Mitscavich Dubois. PA led the field. I was able to talk with her mother, the former Penn State women’s bowling standout, Jackie Mitscavich. The other finalists were Stephanie Sheridan, Dalton, PA and Haley Carroll, Williamsville, New York. All matches were thrilling, just to watch these athletes, who had each bowled an 8-game block to get there. The first match was close between Karsyn and Haley, even when Haley had to face a 4-7-9 split, and converted it. A late open in the ninth frame with a washout left her with a 191 total. Karsyn stepped up to the plate to post 202. Of note was not only Karsyn’s mother’s enthusiasm, but also her Mom being able to talk to her during the competition. I found out later that Carol Lukosius had coached both of her daughters in high school bowling. The next match pitted Karsyn against Stephanie Sheridan, who converted the 4-7-10 to stay in play. The final: 202 (again) – 189 with Karsyn’s victory. For the championship match, Karsyn poured it on for a 258 game over Melia’s 195 for her second PWBA Regional title.

My observations: Jenna Henderson made it to low to cash by toughing it out in the final game of a grueling 8-game block. Leyna Kratzer finished at 12th and our other local, Amanda Granata finished right above her at 11th. Note: Leyna has given a verbal commitment to Youngstown State University, notably where Amanda Granata is a student.

More Notes: Not only was the food at Steel City great, but also the prices were reasonable. I have been to tournaments where the host center jacked up the food and beverage prices for a tournament weekend. Kudos to the parents and partners who were caddying three-ball bags after each of the eight qualifying games. Despite a very challenging shot, I didn’t hear any whining or complaining.

Kudos to TJ Clark, Lee and Krista Sandt, the food and beverage staff, and the behind-the-scenes staff for a well-run tournament.

But there’s more. The center will host the PBA Tour Finals the weekend of June 8 and 9, with pro-ams on Wednesday, June 5th, a meet and greet on June 7th, two “finals” shows on Saturday June 8th and the remaining three shows on Sunday June 9th. For more information, call Steel City Bowl and Brews at (610) 867-0587. The center has already committed to host another PWBA Regional Tournament.

**Morris County NJ Website**

The MCUSBC has undergone a facelift and is looking great! <https://www.morriscountynjusbc.com/>

There is so much information, it boggles the mind! For starters, the home page cites Amelia Lemanowicz, Morris Tech as the NJ Girls Bowler of the year and All State First Team member.

The **Annual County Meeting**: Sunday, April 28th at 10 a.m. at the Hopatcong Senior Center, 32 Lakeside Boulevard, Hopatcong. All sanctioned bowlers are invited. Not only will this be informative, but also there are usually elections. This meeting will feature the presentation of county awards…and oh yes; light refreshments.

**County Tournaments:**

This weekend the women’s county tournament, held at Oakwood and Bel-Pike Lanes, will conclude. Carol Scheu and I are bowling in our 25th consecutive tournament. Did we start bowling in this that long ago?

**April 6-7, 60th Annual Youth Championship Tournament at Rockaway Lanes**

**April 24, 20 and 21: The 87th Annual Open Championship Tournament at Boonton Lanes. Applications close April 1st, so there is still time to enter!**

**April 6, 7, 14: New Jersey State Women’s Championship Tournament at Howell Lanes.**

**Saturday May 18 and Sunday, May 19: Morris County NJ USBC 8th Annual Doubles Tournament, Bel-Pike Lanes, Belvidere. For additional information call 973-288-1764. Entries close on May 15.**

**Sunday, June 2: Sophie Hendershot Memorial Queens and Princess Tournament, Boonton Lanes. Walk-ins will be accepted as well, but entering by May 17th is recommended. Call 973-886-2697 for information.**

**Sunday, July 14: Morris County NJ USBC 9th Annual Mixed Charity Tournament, Sparta Lanes. This is a Doubles and Singles event. Entry fee is $35 per person per event for this most worthy fundraiser. Proceeds benefit the Bowlers to Veterans link (BVL). Google the BVL and prepare to be amazed.**

**NEED NOMINEES FOR “SPOTLIGHT ON” COLUMNS**

I need names from you bowlers and bowling family members for “Spotlight On.” This isn’t limited to bowling achievements. If someone from the bowling family has a human-interest story, send it here! Send nominees to my email which is published on tenpinrap.com. I can be messaged through Facebook as well. And finally, you can send me a text. All I need is his/her phone number, email address, or reference to their Facebook page (once you ask their permission) so I can send a message. Everyone likes to see their name in print, and what better way than to put it here, along with their story?

**…AND ALL BOWLING NEWS NEEDED!**

**E-mail me with your stories and achievements. This extends to bowling family news such as births and engagements. The same goes for tournament notices, entry forms, and tournament results. I am no longer restricted to Morris County, NJ, so let me help you get the word out in the tri-state area and beyond!**

**WHAT DO YOU WANT TO READ ABOUT?**

***Send to*** [***joaness2@yahoo.com***](mailto:joaness2@yahoo.com) ***or call the bowling hotline at 570-242-4709***.

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