Tenpin Rap Bowling Column

Sunday, April 14, 2024

By Joan Taylor

SPOTLIGHT ON…NIDIA HANEVELD

Nidia Haneveld, Dover, has been bowling for 32 years. I have seen her in leagues and tournaments and she can throw that ball! In 2009 she posted her third 300 game. After that she was still doing well, cashing in many if not all the tournaments she entered, and enjoying the company of her bowling family friends at Rockaway Lanes. But any further perfect game was proving elusive.

Suddenly she rolled perfection in November in her Monday night league, and again this past February in her Thursday league, both at Rockaway Lanes. The Monday perfecto was with a Storm Physix and her fifth was rolled with a Storm Code Red. The punchline is that she took the Code Red “out of retirement after seven years. I won the (Morris County WBA) Queens with that one and had a 299 with it at the tournament (Sparta Lanes).”

Ken Yokobosky at the Pro Image Pro Shop at Rockaway Lanes drills all of Nidia’s bowling equipment. She credits both him and pro Marianne DiRupo with having coached her.

While I would not say that Rockaway Lanes is her home-away-from-home, Nidia enjoys four leagues per week there and substitutes at Hanover Lanes as well.

Her league averages are nothing to sneeze at: Monday Mixed, 198, Monday Trios, 196, Thursday Night Mixed, 200 and Friday Night, 196. By now those numbers may have even gone up.

Her biggest bowling achievement(s) so far have been the five perfect games and her Queens title. Her goal is to post an 800 series, having come close with a 789. She said, “The day I shoot my 800 I will retire.” Don’t bet on it.

When she is not bowling, Nidia is a hairdresser at the Your Desire Hair Salon in Ledgewood. She is mother to: Jennifer, 43, Daniel Richard 41, Rachel, 34, and Steven 32. Her six grandchildren are: Wilber Lee, 24, Jacob, 15, going on 16, Daniel Richard, Junior, 15, Julien, 8, Savanna, 7, Dakota, 6.

I always ask bowlers if they want to add anything after the standard interview questions. She said, “I want to mention (boyfriend) Jim Testa. We have known each other for more than 20 years from bowling at Rockaway. We started dating in 2017 and he is my doubles partner. He is always there supporting me. He has bowled 800s and has 12 300s. Competitive? I always try to beat him and he gets angry when I do.

More than anything, though, I want to thank God for my children, grandchildren, and for bringing Jimmy into my life.”

Speaking of Jim Testa, he has been updating and maintaining the Morris County NJ Bowling Association website at [www.morriscountynjusbc.com](http://www.morriscountynjusbc.com). In addition to information about everything from Halls of Fame to Tournaments to lane reps there are general announcements and news on the home page. The most recent item is: “Morris County Bowlers, please keep our former President of the Morris County NJ USBC, bowler, and my friend, Noel Colwell in your thoughts and prayers as he has been fighting heart problems for years, which ultimately led him to be hospitalized many times over the course of the last year. He has just had a successful heart transplant. His recovery road will be a long one, and I hope you can all say a prayer for him and his family that he ends up well and can get back to a normal life. Get well soon Noel.”

**MEMORY “LANES”**

Talking with Nidia took me back to my early experiences at Rockaway Lanes. I bowled in a summer league there in the 1970s and Phil Filus was the manager. He was everybody’s favorite uncle. Rockaway had its family of regulars. While I forgot most of their names, I remember a tradition when the league was done for the night. Many bowlers would go into the bar area and play “You Picked a Fine Time to Leave Me (Lucille)” on the jukebox with an impromptu singalong.

When Phil passed, it was devastating to his bowling family as well as his biological family and anyone else who knew him. The memory gets a little sketchy but I believe the bowling center’s accountant, Jim Coleman, took over management temporarily. Enter Bernard Mark and eventually his son Rich. Both have carried on the tradition that Rockaway Lanes maintains as a warm and welcoming center for its bowling family veterans, new bowling family members, and the Rockaway Lanes youth bowlers.

**TOURNAMENT NOTICES**

The county has been hosting many Spring tournaments, each offering fun, fellowship, and of course prize money. Check the county website for all the details and entry forms.

**Eighth Annual Doubles Tournament:** Bel-Pike Lanes Belvidere May 18 and 19. All female, male or mixed doubles are welcome.

**Queens/Princess Tournament:** Boonton Lanes, Sunday, June 2.

**67th Annual Champion of Champions Tournament, an invitational open to all first place teams from Morris County sanctioned leagues for 2023-24 season and summer 2023 leagues.** Saturday and Sunday, June 22 and 23.

**NINTH ANNUAL MIXED CHARITY TOURNAMENT TO BENEFIT THE BOWLERS TO VETERANS LINK (BVL)** Sunday, July 14 Sparta Lanes. Squad times 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Doubles and Singles.

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