

MONTANA STRIKE ZONE

Issue XXXVII

September 2012

International Family Tournament: Montana Continues Its Success

By Tom Brendgord

The names change every year, but the success rate seems to stay the same or get better. It doesn't seem to matter who represents Montana at the national finals of the family doubles tournament, the results are always exemplary. The 2012 edition of the IFT, conducted in Jupiter, Florida July 26-29, featured the parent/youth team of Gavin Bauman and his mother, Kristi, from Frenchtown plus the parent/teen team of Michael Foran and his mother, Jill, from Billings.

Both of these teams featured their own version of near misses. For the Forans, their near miss happened prior to the first cut. The format requires that each bowler rolls six games on the first day of qualifying. All scoring is handicapped at 100% of a 440 team average. After those six games, the field is cut to the top 8 teams. In this case 35 teams entered making the first cut pretty drastic. The Forans ended up in 13th place, which is not bad out of 35 teams. But what is not indicated by their final position is how close they came to making the cut to the top 8. They missed by 33 pins, which only goes to show how close the competition was. Thirty-three pins is miniscule over the course of 12 individual games, less than 3 pins per game. If you replace an open between strikes with a strike, you can make up 33 pins. That is how close they came to advancing. Incidentally, Michael bowled a 188 average for his six games, which was 50 pins over his average.

The Baumans were more successful, but still had their own version of a near miss. After the first cut was made, the eight advancing teams returned the next day to bowl 8 games using the Baker format (alternating frames) and then the field was cut to the top 3 teams for a stepladder final. Well, as you might have guessed, the Baumans finished in 5th place just missing the stepladder by 50 pins - once again, a miniscule amount, less than 7 pins per game. Gavin, who is only 8-years old, averaged 98 for his six individual games, which was 57 pins over his average.

Every youth competing at the national finals earns a scholarship regardless of their finish. In this case, Michael received a \$800 scholarship to complement the \$150 he won at the Montana finals. Gavin won a \$1,750 scholarship along with his Montana finals \$150. Congratulations!

Montana has been represented well in the last few years at this event. In 2007, Melinda Kagarise and her son, Daniel (from Billings), won the parent/youth division. And in 2008, Heather Kohlman and her daughter, Keilei (Billings), along with Tana Lambert and her son, Jake (Missoula), swept 1st place in both divisions. First place scholarships were worth \$5,000.

MAJOR CHANGES COMING TO PEPSI YBC - AGAIN!

By Tom Brendgord

The Pepsi Youth Championships will feature four divisions (in Montana) for both boys and girls - U8, U12, U15 and U20 starting in 2012-13, and all divisions will use **scratch** scores. Previously, the Pepsi had divisions for 11 and under and 12 and over using handicap, and a scratch division for 12 and over.

Chad Murphy, International Bowling Campus Managing Director of Youth Development, said "Moving toward aged-based divisions and scratch competition is important for the growth of youth bowling. Nearly all mainstream sports use age-based divisions without score adjustment or handicap. While this is a significant change, it is important to align the Pepsi Youth Championships with the same format as scholastic competition, North Pointe Junior Gold, and USA Bowling."

How will this change affect the Pepsi YBC in Montana? Nobody knows until we have our state tournament May 4-5, 2013 in Helena. However, it is this writer's opinion that entries will decrease. Montana doesn't have the population to support scratch bowling at all of the levels being introduced to this event. Hopefully, I am wrong.

Terri Johnson (Helena) and Debbie Martinich (Butte), this year's and last year's tournament directors, respectively, have teamed up to determine a very viable format for our state finals. It is very similar to previous YBC's using in-league qualifying to get to state, Saturday qualifying at state, and Sunday match play to determine the winners. The U15 and U20 winners will advance to the national finals in Detroit, Michigan next July.

State Tournament Changes

By Tom Brendgord

The Montana USBC board adopted a few changes to future state tournaments at their meeting in Great Falls on May 19, 2012. A summary of these changes is as follows:

- New division added for ages 50-54 in state and national Seniors try.
- Youth State will combine divisions 1 and 2 for award purposes.
- Open State to change handicap to 90% of 235.
- Women's State changed their divisions to: A - 150+; B - 131-149, and C - 130 and lower.
- Pepsi YBC is making major changes for 2012-13. See article this page.
- State tournament host site rotation effective 2013 is **unchanged**.

COACHING SEMINAR

OCT. 13 at 1 pm Star Lanes - Butte, MT

Hank Boomershine, instructor

Seminar for Youth & becoming Level I instructor.

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SPARE NOTES

By Mike Evjen - MUSBC President

It is an honor and a privilege to be able to welcome all of you to the 2012-13 bowling season here in Montana. No matter which part of the state that you live in it is with certainty that your local centers and Associations have been working throughout the summer months to ensure that this upcoming season is full of enjoyment for you and your bowling family.

I would like to invite all of you to kick off the league season with the Montana USBC Jamboree, which will be held in Missoula this year. The dates for the Jamboree are September 28th – 30th and the host location is the Broadway Inn. Rooms have also been reserved at the Guesthouse Inn in case the Broadway sells out. This is a great opportunity for all of the bowlers to hear from the USBC Field Representative and to visit with friends and members of our bowling family from across the state to swap ideas and learn about what other associations are doing. This year the State Seniors Tournament will be held in Bigfork, the Open Championships is going to be held in Butte, the Women's Championships will be held in Missoula and the Youth Championships will be held in Great Falls. I do hope that all of you take the time to try and participate in these tournaments. It is only with your support that the tournaments are successful.

There are some new members of the State Board this season. Tamara Hopkins is the Youth Director for District 1, Teri Hodges is the District 1 Director, and Tom Brendgord returns to the Board in the position of Director at Large. Ron Curtiss was elected to the 2nd Vice President position. I would like to welcome these new members of the Board and wish them good luck in their new positions. At the same time I would like to thank Robyn Barker, Fred Sadler and Shelly Ellis for their service and commitment to the bowlers of Montana while serving on the Board of Directors. These three people were initial members of the newly elected USBC Board of Directors when the Associations merged back in 2006. They helped lead us into the new era of bowling and will continue doing so in their own way. Once again I extend my thank you to them.

SOME NEW USBC RULE CHANGES OF INTEREST

By Roz Gallup, Montana USBC Assn. Mgr.

There are some new league and tournament rules that were adopted at the national delegate meeting that bowlers should be aware of.

League rules 113b and 113c pertain to games in a playoff or a special contest. The rule now states that these games bowled will now count toward individual averages.

Tournament rule 319a pertains to the highest previous season's average. The rule now states that a bowler must now use (a) the highest league average of 21 or more or; (b)

Montana Strike Zone

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a composite average of USBC leagues including leagues with less than 21 games bowled. So a bowler will now be required to use the higher of these two unless the tournament rules state otherwise. This rule will not affect most bowlers, but will affect those who bowl a high average with less than 21 games, as this will now be included in their composite average. The rule will also help those who have bowled in two or more leagues that do not have a total of 21 games in any one of the leagues. They will now have a possible 21-game composite average.

Our state tournaments are **not** using the 21-game composite average this year. We have ruled to use the highest 21-game league average which includes the summer averages.

Attention Montana Strike Zone recipients. Please go online to BowlMontana.com, click on the Montana USBC tab, and view page 4 of this newspaper to see other articles. Mailing requirements would not allow its inclusion in this paper.

State tournament coming soon:

State Seniors:

Oct. 5, 6, 7; 12, 13, 14; 19, 20, 21, 2012
Picks Lanes - Bigfork, Montana

National Bowling Stadium Renovations Highlight New USBC-Reno Agreement
Agreement continues rotation of USBC Championships to Reno through 2030

The National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada is already a showcase facility, as those who have seen it already know. Now it is about to become a whole lot nicer thanks to a new agreement between the United States Bowling Congress, the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority, and the city of Reno. Up to \$15 million in upgrades is projected to the “Stadium” with funding coming from a public-approved, dedicated surcharge on hotel rooms in Reno. As a result of this extraordinary public commitment to bowling, USBC will continue to bring the USBC Open and Women’s Championships to the National Bowling Stadium in a regular rotation through the year 2030.

The first phase of upgrades is planned for the 2013 Open Championships and includes ten new Showcase Lanes on the first floor of the stadium. The Showcase Lanes will be an exciting feature for Open and Women’s Championships bowlers to enjoy in the stadium next year. This will allow more coaching to be offered along with new side events in the stadium.

The other major upgrades planned for 2013 include enhancements of the stadium scoreboards and video displays. As part of the agreement, renovations of the NBS continue through 2018 and include:

- Squad room renovation and expansion
- Adjustment of stadium seating to create additional space for exhibits or vendors
- New restaurant
- Replacement of the 78 primary competition lanes
- Exterior renovations

As part of the agreement, USBC will bring a total of 10 championship tournaments to the stadium from 2019 through 2030. The 2015 Open will be hosted by El Paso, Texas, while 2017 and 2018 are out for bid. Reno will host both the Open and Women’s Championships in 2013 and 2014. The Open will be conducted at the NBS, while the Women’s will be held on specially-constructed lanes inside the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. The 2016 Open and 2018 Women’s already have been scheduled for the National Bowling Stadium as part of a previous agreement.

MONTANA USBC HIGH AWARD WINNERS 2011-12

150 AND UNDER MEMBERSHIP:

HIGH SERIES – FEMALE – ANGIE BURK (746)-CHOTEAU
 HIGH SERIES – MALE – WAYNE MAURER (755)-CHOTEAU
 HIGH AVERAGE – MALE – KEITH VANSETTEN (213)-CHOTEAU
 MOST IMPROVED – FEMALE – MELISSA DUFFNER (24 PINS)-CHOTEAU
 MOST IMPROVED – MALE – DOUG VALLINE (21 PINS)-CHOTEAU

151 TO 300 MEMBERSHIP:

HIGH SERIES – FEMALE – DEBBIE JETTI (699)-ANACONDA
 HIGH SERIES – MALE – JJ POTVIN (815)-ANACONDA
 HIGH AVERAGE – FEMALE – NILDA ZACHER (202)-ANACONDA
 HIGH AVERAGE – MALE – JULIAN DULLINGER (229)- RONAN
 MOST IMPROVED – FEMALE – STACEY ROUSH (21 PINS)- CUTBANK
 MOST IMPROVED – MALE – TIM FREED (18 PINS)-CUTBANK

301 AND OVER MEMBERSHIP:

HIGH SERIES – FEMALE – JULIE REDFERN (792)-BILLINGS
 HIGH SERIES – MALE – NICK HANEY (847)-BILLINGS
 HIGH AVERAGE – FEMALE – KRISTEN DEHN (218)-GREAT FALLS
 HIGH AVERAGE – MALE – NICK HANEY (245)-BILLINGS
 MOST IMPROVED – FEMALE – JOYCE SAMPLE (30 PINS)-MISSOULA
 MOST IMPROVED – MALE – JOSHUA MAY (40 PINS)-GREAT FALLS

SPORT BOWLING:

HIGH SERIES – FEMALE – MARY PORTER (672)-MISSOULA
 HIGH SERIES – MALE – MATT SEARS (783)-MISSOULA
 HIGH AVERAGE – FEMALE – MARY PORTER (187)-MISSOULA
 HIGH AVERAGE – MALE – DAVE SEARS (195)-MISSOULA

(BOWLING FAMILY OF THE YEAR – SEARS FAMILY-LOLO)

YOUTH AWARDS:

11 AND UNDER BOYS:

HIGH GAME – RILEY CORNEIL (257)-BILLINGS
 HIGH SERIES – RILEY CORNEIL (628)-BILLINGS
 HIGH AVERAGE – CAYLOR COX (172)-HELENA

11 AND UNDER GIRLS:

HIGH GAME – OLIVIA KOLPPA (201)-HELENA
 HIGH SERIES – OLIVIA KOLPPA (453)-HELENA
 HIGH AVERAGE – OLIVIA KOLPPA (126)-HELENA

12- 14 BOYS:

HIGH GAME – TANNER ROUTZHAN (263)-HELENA
 HIGH SERIES – TANNER ROUTZHAN (684)-HELENA
 HIGH AVERAGE – TANNER ROUTZHAN (191)-HELENA

12- 14 GIRLS:

HIGH GAME – CAITLYN MURPHY (247)-HELENA
 HIGH SERIES – CAITLYN MURPHY (595)-HELENA
 HIGH AVERAGE – CAITLYN MURPHY (174)-HELENA

15 AND OVER BOYS:

HIGH GAME – JEFFERY PRESTON (290)-BUTTE AND ALSO JASE WILLEMS (290)-BOZEMAN
 HIGH SERIES – JEFFERY PRESTON (789)-BUTTE
 HIGH AVERAGE – JEFFERY PRESTON (206)-BUTTE

15 AND OVER GIRLS:

HIGH GAME – AUBREE ANDERSON (264)-BUTTE
 HIGH SERIES – PAIGE COLLICK (616)-HELENA
 HIGH AVERAGE – PAIGE COLLICK (173)-HELENA

SPORT AVERAGE ADJUSTMENT SCALE MODIFIED

The USBC has made a major change to the average adjustment scale for those bowlers having only a Sport League average, who want to enter handicap or classified tournaments. The new scale can be found in the USBC Rule Book under Rule #202a. Some examples of the new adjustments are:

Sport League Avg	Adjusted Avg
160	184
170	193
180	201
190	208
200	207

These changes are effective with the 2012-13 season and are the first changes since the 2008-09 season.

2012 MONTANA USBC PEPSI YBC FINALISTS - BUTTE

PLACE	WINNER	TOWN	SCHOLARSHIP	PLACE	WINNER	TOWN	SCHOLARSHIP
BOYS 11 & UNDER				GIRLS 12 & OVER HANDICAP			
1st	Liamm Villasenor	Anaconda	\$450	1st	Tiana Garcia	Billings	\$400
2nd	Ryle Birchell	Big Timber	\$350	2nd	Leah Becker	Bozeman	\$300
3rd	Blake Allen	Butte	\$275	3rd	Ghia Mulonet	Chinook	\$250
4th	Karson Klapan	Whitehall	\$200	4th	Nicolle Jauquet	Frenchtown	\$175
5th	Michael Jewell	Billings	\$150	5th	Anyssa Roush	Cut Bank	\$150
6th	Tristan Lehman	E. Helena	\$125	6th	Amber Hoyt	Billings	\$125
GIRLS 11 & UNDER				Alternate	Keilei Kohlman	Billings	\$50
1st	Maya Grosfield	Big Timber	\$425	BOYS 12 & OVER SCRATCH			
2nd	Corrine Baldwin	Anaconda	\$325	1st	Cordell Bird	Billings	\$375
3rd	Jayden Miller	Chinook	\$250	2nd	Trae Robertson	Missoula	\$275
4th	Dakota Tonkin	Butte	\$175	3rd	Casey Degner	Billings	\$225
5th	Sabrina Hart	Billings	\$150	4th	Matthew Henrichs	Anaconda	\$175
6th	Charli Kelly	Anaconda	\$125	5th	Jeff Preston	Butte	\$150
Alternate	Mia Davis (tie)	Anaconda	\$50	6th	Matthias Becker	Bozeman	\$125
Alternate	Emily Kendall (tie)	Butte	\$50	Alternate	Koby Doherty	Butte	\$50
BOYS 12 & OVER HANDICAP				GIRLS 12 & OVER SCRATCH			
1st	Taylor Faw	Reed Point	\$425	1st	Paige Collick	Helena	\$350
2nd	Collin McDowell	Helena	\$325	2nd	Caitlyn Murphy	Clancy	\$250
3rd	Travis Sheesley	Laurel	\$250	3rd	Ali Coster	Great Falls	\$200
4th	Timothy Faw	Reed Point	\$175	4th	Kristin Knotte	Billings	\$175
5th	Brett Lawson	Great Falls	\$150	5th	Ollecka Hilliard	Missoula	\$150
6th	Dustin Gervais	Anaconda	\$125	6th	Kyann Adams	Great Falls	\$125
Alternate	Luke Padden	Billings	\$50	Alternate	Kayla Olson	Lewistown	\$50

BOWLERS SUPPORT MILITARY PROGRAM

By Ruth Sprankel

I have bowled on a few leagues that have done donations to the USBC sponsored BVL program, but until recently I did not fully realize the extent of USBC's involvement in such a worthwhile program. The Bowlers to Veterans Link (BVL) is a national nonprofit charity that supports America's veteran and active duty service men and women. Founded in 1942, BVL is the sport of bowling's oldest charity and has raised almost \$30 million dollars. It is America's only national sports organization specifically devoted to those who have served our country.

The money raised through bowlers is used to provide sports activities, arts & crafts programs, music programs, board games and much more to help boost spirits, speed recuperation and improve morale. It supports veterans recuperating in VA centers and responds to veterans in need - recuperating veterans, veterans suffering from PTSD and aging veterans - as well as active duty service men & women by giving them an outlet for the joy, freedom and friendship that recreation and sports can bring.

Veterans Day is November 11th. This would be a very fitting time to ask your league bowlers to consider a fund-raising project

for this cause. **OUR VETERANS NEED & DESERVE RECOGNITION FOR ALL THEY HAVE GIVEN TO US AS A COUNTRY. Let's show our support!**

2013 JUNIOR GOLD & YOUTH OPEN

The Detroit area will play host to bowling's biggest youth tournaments in 2013, the North Pointe Junior Gold and the USBC Youth Open Championships. The Junior Gold is scheduled for July 13-19 while the Youth Open will run July 11-28. Detroit last played host to these events in 2008.

The North Pointe Junior Gold features the top youth bowlers in the nation competing for national titles in four divisions - U15 boys, U15 girls, U20 boys, U20 girls - and for spots on Junior Team USA in addition to the pool of \$250,000 in scholarships.

This tournament was created in 2011 by the merger of the USBC Junior Gold Championships and the BPAA North Pointe High School Singles Championships.

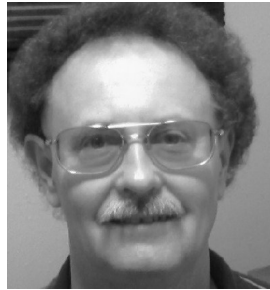
The USBC Youth Open is open to all USBC Youth members. It has four average-based divisions and bowlers are placed into divisions based on skill, not age or gender. Each participant bowls 9 games - three games each of singles, doubles and 4-player team. Bowl.com has more information on both events.

On My Mind.....

Hindsight Is Always 20/20

By Tom Brendgord

About three months ago in June of this year I had the privilege to be present at an historic bowling event - the first-ever outdoor final of the U.S. Women's Open tournament. The stepladder final was conducted on Virginia Street under the Reno Arch in Reno, Nevada. It happened on Wednesday night, June 27, 2012. Unfortunately, what should go down in history as one of the greatest U.S. Women's Open final will probably go down as one of the biggest flops in professional bowling history.



It all started about a week earlier on June 21 at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno. 201 ladies entered this tournament including Montana's lone entry, Guyla Streit from Great Falls, who won Montana's U.S. Women's Open Qualifier in February. Former Montanan, Shawna Lane-Strause, who now resides in Tucson, Arizona, was also entered. There were also another 60 entries for the U.S. Women's Senior Open that bowled alongside their younger counterparts.

The ladies bowled 6 games each day for three days and then the field was cut to the top 25%, who then bowled six more games before the final cut to the top 16. The top 16 women (top 8 for the seniors) then bowled 16 round-robin games of match play ending on Tuesday, June 26.

I was privileged to watch parts of the match play that was conducted at the National Bowling Stadium on both Monday and Tuesday. I saw phenomenal scoring from the most talented women bowlers in the world. I saw Kelly Kulick, the eventual champion, roll consecutive games of 299, 279 and 256 at one point on Monday. But she wasn't the only one bowling fantastic. In fact, of the five women who made the stepladder finals, there were only 7 games below 200 rolled by them in their final 8 games. In that stretch of games those five averaged 227.6. I was absolutely mesmerized by what I was seeing. It was beautiful to watch and historic to the point that I didn't mind missing a couple of hours at the blackjack table.

I couldn't wait to see the stepladder finals, which was scheduled for Wednesday night outside the stadium on Virginia Street - a first-time ever happening. What happened next was like a scene from a Steven Spielberg movie.

The wind was blowing about 20 mph Wednesday night. Some of the ladies had a hard time keeping their hair out of their face. Having lived a good share of my life in Great Falls, I know all about wind. It is not fun to play sports in, especially indoor sports, but what the swirling dirt and dust did to those lane conditions was catastrophic. The television cameras vividly showed the paths that the balls made each time they travelled down the lane. The lanes dried up faster than a Montana drought. And along with the changing conditions, the scores plummeted.

Match #1: Stefanie Nation defeats Lynda Barnes 166-158.
Match #2: Shannon O'Keefe defeats Stefanie 182-165. Match #3: Missy Parkin defeats Shannon 150-148. Championship Match: Kelly Kulick defeats Missy 170-160. The field average was 162.3. The field average in the stepladder finals of the Seniors, which was conducted **inside** the Stadium was 212.8 - 50 pins higher for women who were much older. Incidentally, the Seniors was won by Robin Romeo, who defeated Lucy Sandelin 225-188. But there

are some things to learn from this, as is in most of my articles.

First, no matter how good you are, you are never too good to be humbled. Secondly, no matter how bad the conditions are they are the same for everyone. Fortunately, in this case, they all threw with the same hand. Thirdly, when something new is tried and fails, people are quick to blame the person in charge. In this case it was Stefanie Nation, who works for the Bowling Proprietors Association of America. Frankly, I applaud her for thinking outside the box and having the courage to try something new. That probably won't be tried again for a long time, but it was fun, different and something that I will never forget.

BPAA International Family Doubles Tournament

Format: Handicap Doubles; handicap at 100% of 440 team average

Divisions: Parent/Youth (11 yrs or younger); Parent/Teen (12-18 yrs);

Adult/Youth & Adult/Teen (contested at the local & regional levels only)

Parent definition: Parent, Step-parent, Grandparent, Step-grandparent, Great grandparent, Step-great grandparent, court appointed legal guardian

Levels of Competition:

Local qual: 3 games + hdcp. Score 1200 or more to advance

Regional Finals: 3 games + hdcp. 1:2 advance to state finals

State Finals: 3 games + hdcp. Parent/Youth & Parent/Teen winners awarded mostly-paid trip to international finals

International Finals: Every youth awarded a scholarship regardless of finish. \$70,000 total scholarships. \$5,000 1st.

Cost: Local qual (cost of lineage + \$2 per team), Regional (parent/child divisions \$50 per team, adult/child divisions \$35 per team), State (\$20 per team)

Eligible Centers: Must be BPAA member. Current members in Anaconda, Billings, Browning, Butte, Choteau, Cut Bank, Eureka, Fort Benton, Great Falls, Hardin, Havre, Helena, Laurel, Lewistown, Libby, Livingston, Missoula, Polson, Red Lodge, Ronan, Rudyard, Troy, Whitefish.

2012-13: Local qual. (October 1 thru Jan. 20), West Regional (Msla - Feb 9-10), East Regional (Billings - Jan. 26-27), State Finals (Helena - March 23-24).



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Great Falls, MT

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Estimated**

**Top 32 Qualify for Match Play
At Least top 32 cash
Limited to 144 entries
Entry Fee \$165.00**

Shift Times: 8AM-1PM-7PM
Multiple re-entry allowed

- ◆ 8 games qualifying on Sat.
- ◆ 8 rounds match play Sun.
- ◆ Cut top 16-4 more rounds match play
- ◆ Top 5 bowl stepladder final
- ◆ Free practice session Fri. 3-5
- ◆ No lineage fees on Sunday
- ◆ Optional Side Pots & Brackets

**LADIES SCRATCH CLASSIC
Nov. 10-11, 2012**

\$1500 Estimated Added Money

Entry Fee \$90.00

No lineage fees on Sunday for qualifiers

**Qual. Shifts: Sat. 1PM & 4 PM
Re-entry allowed**

**First 24 paid entries will go
into a drawing for a brand
new reactive bowling ball
donated by Little's Lanes.**

- 6 games qualifying on Sat.
- All Sunday qualifiers will cash
- Round Robin Match Play on Sunday with stepladder final
- Optional Side Pots & Brackets
- Feed provided Saturday night

Phone entries to (406) 452-4116

California Teen Becomes 20th Bowler To Roll 900 Series

By Tom Brendgord

Although I have always thought of myself as a perfectionist, I have never really felt that perfectionism was something 100% attainable. That is why I have always had doubts when somebody does something "perfect". So when I hear about a bowler rolling a perfect 900 series, I immediately start to shake my head. Such was the case when I received the April 23, 2012, email from USBC headquarters identifying 18-year old Jimmy Schmitzer of Riverside, California as the 20th bowler to record a perfect 900 series in USBC history - a history that goes back 117 years to 1895.

Now if you are a fairly new bowler and haven't done your homework, you would think that 20 perfectos in 117 years is reasonable. That is about one in every six years. But what you probably don't know is that the first-ever "approved" 900 series happened only 15 years ago on February 2, 1997, by Jeremy Sonnenfeld, a righthanded bowler from Lincoln, Nebraska. In all fairness to Jeremy, he had a lot more incentive to bowl good that day, for it was previously announced that the ground hog had seen his shadow earlier and Jeremy was staring six more weeks of winter square in the face.

There is a footnote to this story, however. When I said that Jeremy Sonnenfeld had the first-ever **approved** 900 series, that was the key word to this whole subject. You see, there actually was another 900 series rolled 15 years before Jeremy's, but it was denied approval by the American Bowling Congress, the governing body of bowling back then. The reason was "non-complying lane conditions". One has to sympathize with Glenn Allison, who rolled that series at age 52 and at a bowling center (LaHabra, CA) that had both a 299 game and a 300 game previously approved that same year. Glenn had also been inducted into the ABC Hall of Fame in 1979, so his record spoke for itself. He was definitely no slouch.

One could infer that bowling proprietors have gotten much better about putting out complying lane conditions the past 15 years than the previous 102 years, but the truth of the matter is that the ABC/USBC has lessened their constraints since the 1990's. The bottom line is that it is now a lot easier to be "perfect" than it used to be, so don't be surprised to see a couple of dozen more 900's in the near future. In fact, I predict that in the year 2020, there will be 20 perfectos rolled and every one of them by bowlers with perfect 20/20 vision.

Just for the record, of the 20 perfect 900's rolled so far, 15 were by righthanders, 4 by lefthanders, and the most recent one by Jimmy Schmitzer rolled two-handed, which is quickly becoming the rage by younger bowlers. Schmitzer's goes into the record book as righthanded even though he is a natural lefty - **GO FIGURE!** I rest my case.

Westside Lanes & Fun Center

**Montana's Largest
Bowling Center**

KING OF THE HILL

October 14, 2012

\$40.00 per person

- Handicap: 90% of 210
- One shift: starting at 8:30 am
- **Object is to not receive 3 stars.**
- **Everyone bowls one game with bottom 1/2 receiving 1 star.**
- **All remaining games are position rds with losers receiving a star.**
- **After 3 stars, you are eliminated.**

Tournament Schedule 2012-13

King of the Hill Oct. 14, 2012

Big Brothers & Sisters Nov. 10-11

29th Annual Mixed Dbls Calcutta
January 5-6, 2013

Swiss Trio February 3, 2013

Int'l Family Dbls Tourney Feb. 9-10
Western Regional Finals

Ladies Young & Youngest (No Tap)
February 16, 2013

Same Sex Calcutta March 2-3, 2013

BOWL DOG LOUNGE

- **Happy Hour Monday - Sunday 4:30-6 PM**
Two drinks for the price of one
- **Karaoke Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays**
- **Live Music most Fridays**



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