

# Bowlers' Buzz

News and Resources For Bowlers

February 2011 Vol. 6, Issue 2

*Mission: To provide the bowling community with an unbiased resource*

## Koivuniemi Wins PBA Tournament of Champions



*This picture says it all. Koivuniemi is on the floor as he is overwhelmed with emotions after bowling a 299 on television. Tom Daugherty looks on. Mika left the dreaded 10-pin!*  
Photos Courtesy PBA



*Mika with his TOC trophy.*

coming the first player in PBA history to shoot two nationally-televised 300 games. The 42-year-old right-hander rolled a perfect game against Jason Couch of Clermont, Florida, in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, in 2003.

Koivuniemi easily defeated Daugherty, 299-100, because Daugherty's television debut was a disaster. The 35-year-old Floridian left seven difficult – if not unmakeable – splits in rolling the lowest nationally-televised game in PBA history. Daugherty converted

By Bill Vint, PBA

Finnish native Mika Koivuniemi of Hartland, Michigan, defeated top qualifier Tom Smallwood of Saginaw, Michigan 269-207, Saturday to win the \$250,000 first prize in the \$1 million Professional Bowlers Association Tournament of Champions at Red Rock Lanes. After rolling a 299 game against Tom Daugherty of Wesley Chapel, Fla., in the semifinal match, Koivuniemi threw another 10 strikes on 12 tries against Smallwood to become the first international player ever to win the PBA's signature tournament.

"I can't even say what this title means right now," Koivuniemi said. "It was my third major and I have nine titles now. I hope I can win a few more and secure a spot in the hall of fame. And my oldest daughter is starting college next year, so the money will help. "It helped to get past my first match," he added. "I haven't had a lot of breaks on TV lately. Even after I shot the 299, I held myself back and stayed focused. It would have been nice to shoot 300, but it's more important to win the title."

Koivuniemi earned the nickname "Major Mika" after winning the 2000 USBC Masters and the 2001 U.S. Open – both major championships – for his first two PBA titles after a highly successful international career where he won titles in 15 different countries.

"Mika bowled great. He won," said Smallwood, who earned \$100,000 as runner-up. "He out-bowled all of us. He had a great look at the lane condition and he made the shots. And winning \$100,000 can make you a good loser."

In the semifinal match, Koivuniemi came within a wobbling 10 pin of be-

two pins after leaving the 4-6-7-10 split in the 10th frame to shoot an even 100, erasing the 129 bowled by Steve Jaros in Lake Zurich, Illinois, in 1992. Despite his record low score, Daugherty took home \$50,000 for third place. "I destroyed Jaros' record," Daugherty grinned. "I would have been more upset if I'd shot 260 and lost. I really wasn't nervous. I just threw the wrong ball and made some bad shots. Once I was down 50 pins and threw another split, I was just trying to get out of Mika's way. "But I still had the most fun I've ever had in my life this week, including today. I'd rather shoot 100 today than earlier in the week. I made \$500 a pin today. That's more than Mika made, pin for pin."

Koivuniemi began his march to the title with a 224-220 win over Gomez in the opening match when Gomez failed to double in the 10th frame. Both players showed early jitters. Koivuniemi leaving a pocket 7-10 split on his first shot and Gomez missing a 7 pin in his second frame – but both recovered with strings of strikes. Gomez used his string of five in a row to take the lead heading into the ninth frame, but made his biggest mistake, leaving and missing the 3-4-6-7 split to hand the lead back to the Finnish native.

Koivuniemi had a chance to lock up the match with a strike on his first shot in the 10th frame, but left a 10 pin to give Gomez a chance. Gomez earned \$40,000 for his fourth place finish.

The first prize and total prize fund were the richest in bowling history. The finals, which aired in high-definition for the first time in PBA history, returned to ABC for the first time in 14 years.

**IMPORTANT TOURNAMENT INFO — HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET? HURRY DON'T BE LEFT OUT!**

**ENTRIES EXTENDED FOR 2011 WOMEN'S AND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS— See complete story page 3.**

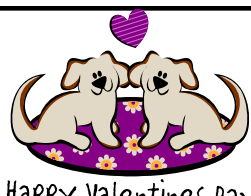
**BLUEBONNET QUEENS AND THE TEXAS STATE MASTERS ARE COMING TO HOUSTON ON FEBRUARY 26-27!!!**

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# Ask Bea!



Happy Valentines Day!

**Dear Bea:** My boyfriend and I bowl together every Friday night on a league. I love bowling with him. Last week when league was over he said, "If you loved me, you would get lessons and bowl better for me." Is that true? **Lover**

**Dear Lover:** Yes! Bowling *is* love!

**Dear Bea:** I am not a bowler but would like to get my wife a nice little something from me for Valentines Day. Should I give her a bowling ball or a gift certificate? **Doubter**

**Dear Doubter:** Yes and yes. Well, you do care a lot, right?

**Dear Bea:** My husband gave me a new bowling ball for Christmas. Should I give him one for Valentines Day or buy me some new bowling shoes and a bag. **Giver**

**Dear Giver:** Loving yourself is always good—it is said you must love yourself before you can love someone else—buy your shoes and a bag *first* then buy him a ball.

**Dear Bea:** I want to bowl in the Bluebonnet Queens Tournament. I am a better bowler than my husband. He wants to bowl in the Masters. We only have money for one of us. Who bowls? **Bowler**

**Dear Bowler:** Good luck and may the best woman win!

*Bowlers: Please send in your questions for totally useless advice. It probably won't solve them—but it could help you (and all of us) to laugh at them. Life is too short to take it all seriously—let us laugh with you.*



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*Send in your famous recipes! Fast-cheap-good we want them all!*

## Napa Cabbage Salad

By Wendy Koepke

Gather:

- 1 Cup Sugar
- 1 Cup Liquid Vegetable Oil
- 1/2 Cup Red Wine Vinegar
- 1/4 Cup Soy Sauce
- 1 Large Head Napa Cabbage Shred into little pieces
- 1 Bunch Green Onions diced
- 2 Packages Raman Noodles Crushed (noodles only)
- 1 Small Bag of Almonds Sliced
- 2 Tablespoons Butter



The day before this is to be served mix: 1 cup of sugar, 1 cup liquid vegetable oil, 1/2 cup red wine vinegar, 1/4 cup soy sauce. Put in refrigerator.

On serving day, brown noodles and almonds in two tablespoons of butter. Take off of burner. Allow to cool.

Take mixture from refrigerator and shake very well.

In large bowl put cabbage in first, then noodles and almond mixture. Top with liquid mixture. Toss well to coat and serve.



## Spicy Cranberry Salsa

By Varion Howard

Gather:

- 1 Package of Fresh Cranberries, rinsed, drained & coarsely chopped
- 1 Cup Chopped Green Onion
- 1 Cup Fresh Chopped Cilantro
- 2-3 Seeded Chopped Fresh Jalapenos
- 1 Tablespoon Olive Oil
- 1 Tablespoon Fresh Lime Juice
- 3/4 Cup Sugar
- 2-8oz packages of cream cheese softened
- Tortilla Chips

Combine all chopped ingredients into a bowl and mix them together. Add olive oil, lime juice, and sugar to chopped mixture just before serving.

Place cream cheese on a serving dish and top with salsa. Serve with tortilla chips.

### Who, What, Where, & When

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- Editor: Renee Peoples
- Writers: John Jowdy, Chuck Pezzano, Charles Peoples
- Cartoonist: Benjamin Diaz, Walt Steinsiek



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## Chuck Pezzano



### Idle bowling thoughts

... Rules seem to becoming looser and looser in every phase of the game. Much has been done in the tournament area and too much to make it easier for tournaments to secure more entries. Youth and solid no sandbagger suspicion bowlers (using planned methods to keep averages down t receive unwarranted and unrealistic free handicap pins) should be protected with common sense edicts. Strict but fair should be the guideline for every league ad tourney rule.

... High praise is due the top women bowlers who still keep themselves in top bowling form to roll in the few major women's events around since the women's events around since the women's tour ceased regular operations in 2003. But shining beams do burst through the clouds such as when Kelly Kulick won the Tournament of Champions or when Wendy Mapherson won the Japan Women's Open and with her first prize and a bonus for a 300 on television collected some \$157,000 in American money.

... The United States Bowling Congress, with its 2011 electees now numbers 385 members, 254 for their bowling performances 112 in meritorious contributions, and 19 pioneers of the sport. That may seem like a large number, but who can count the number of bowlers who have competed in the sport for the past 120 years and before—five, 10, 100 million?

... Bowling can be a funny game at times, except when the last laugh is at your expense

... Hardly any top bowlers now use a two fingered grip—but more and more are using a no finger grip—preferring some form of palm grip—not easy, but effective in the right hands.

... Bill O'Neill, already one of the leaders for the PBA Player of the Year for the current season, and a major threat for one of the super stars for the next decade is as popular as he is talented. And he enhances his and pro bowling's image when he stops by unannounced at junior bowling tournaments and spends a good amount of time talking to and encouraging the youngsters, offering tips and relating what life on the tour is all about.

... Scott Norton of Costa Mesa, California was a longtime outstanding youth bowler and star—and still looks as though he is the star of a high school or college team. But looks can deceive and a look deeper reveals a sharp attorney who received his degree and passed the bar exam more than a year ago. He passed his bowling star exam many years ago with the help of his highly respected mom, hall of famer Virginia Norton.

... Of the 45 bowlers who made the TV finals of five PBA World Series of Bowling Tournaments, 10 spots were claimed by bowlers representing foreign countries, though a couple of them were repeaters. No surprise there, all have proved they belong.

... Bowling balls have been constructed of hard wood, rubber, combinations of materials called composition balls and all kinds of plastics, but no metals involved. It has been reported that at one time some bowling balls were made of ivory. I recall billiard balls made from the tusks of elephants, but never bowling balls, and never have seen one. Have you?

## Most Prestigious Tournaments In Texas Are Coming to Houston

By Evelyn Peoples

The Senior Queens Classic and the Senior Masters, Bluebonnet Queens and the Texas State Masters, are coming to Houston on January 30-31, 2011 and February 20-21, 2011, respectively. They will be held at AMF Alpha Bowl in Webster, Texas. Entries are limited to 120 for each event.

T-shirts will be sold at the tournament to help commemorate the event and raise additional prize fund. Ebonite is a supporter for all four events. Entry forms can be downloaded at [www.bowlersbuzz.com](http://www.bowlersbuzz.com) and [www.texasbowling.com](http://www.texasbowling.com).

If you want to bowl in the Bluebonnet Queens or Texas State Masters there are some entries still open.

Come out and see some of the best bowlers in Texas! Who knows you might see an old friend or two. Hope to see you all there!

## New PBA Hall of Fame Inductees and Bowlers Journal/WBW Awards

By Jerry Schneider, PBA

The PBA inducted 13-time PBA Tour titlist Randy Pedersen, Senior Tour standout Dale Eagle and former PBA Tour lane maintenance director Len Nicholson into the PBA Hall of Fame during post-Tournament of Champions ceremonies Saturday evening at Red Rock Casino Resort & Spa.

Pedersen, 48, is currently the color analyst for Lumber Liquidators PBA Tour telecasts on ESPN but he earned entry into the Hall based on his accomplishments on the lanes. The Clermont, Fla., resident had a break out year in 1987, winning the PBA National Championship and then winning the Fair Lanes Open the next week.

Called one of bowling's great clutch players by Hall of Fame emcee Nelson Burton Jr., Pedersen had 34 top-five finishes in 561 Tour tournaments during his career, finishing in the top 20 in earnings six times and the top 20 in average eight times. His accomplishments contributed to his ranking of 35th on the PBA's list of 50 greatest bowlers as part of the organization's 50th anniversary celebration in 2009.

"It's been a long time coming, but when you think about it, who would have thought a beach bum from southern California would end up here?" Pedersen said. "As a kid I spent a lot of time on the beach and played basketball, but bowling was always my first passion.

"I owe everything to the sport of bowling and to PBA. The friendships I made, my bowling accomplishments and announcing bowling on television are all thanks to the PBA and you can't put a price on that."

Eagle was the second player elected into the Senior section of the PBA Hall of Fame, following John Handegard, who was inducted in 2009. The Frisco, Texas, resident has 11 career Senior Tour titles which ranks tied for third all-time. Among his titles are four Senior majors – Reno PBA Senior World Invitational (1997); The Villages Senior World Championship (1999); PBA Senior National Championship (2001), and USBC Senior Masters (2003).

Eagle was the PBA Senior Rookie of the Year in 1996 and Senior Player of the Year in 1999. In 171 PBA Senior Tour tournaments he has finished in the top five 40 times. He also won 10 Senior Regional titles and three PBA Tour titles.

"I'd just like to thank everybody from the bottom of my heart. It's been quite a ride," said the 64-year-old Eagle. "Bowling and the PBA have been my life and to be recognized as a great player has made my dream a reality."

Inducted into the meritorious service category, Nicholson's career was devoted to the science of bowling lane maintenance and for more than 20 years the Tucson, Ariz., resident was the PBA Tour's lane maintenance director. Nicholson, 70, gained worldwide industry recognition as one of the foremost experts on the subject of lane maintenance.

Nicholson was instrumental in developing the PBA Lane Maintenance Program in 1971 which is still referred to today. He was a founding member of the Bowling Foundation which was created to find solutions to scoring issues in bowling. An instructor, author of several bowling publications and host of the popular Phantom Internet radio bowling program, he also has served on the technical committee of the World Tenpin Bowling Association. He was a recipient of the bowling industry's Flowers for the Living Award and the John Davis Award in recognition for his contributions to the sport.

"This is absolutely hard to believe and just awesome," said Nicholson. "I made a lot of friends in this sport who had a tremendous influence on me and for that I'm grateful.

"You need friends, family and good co-workers because without their support I would not be here tonight. This is something I never expected but will cherish forever."

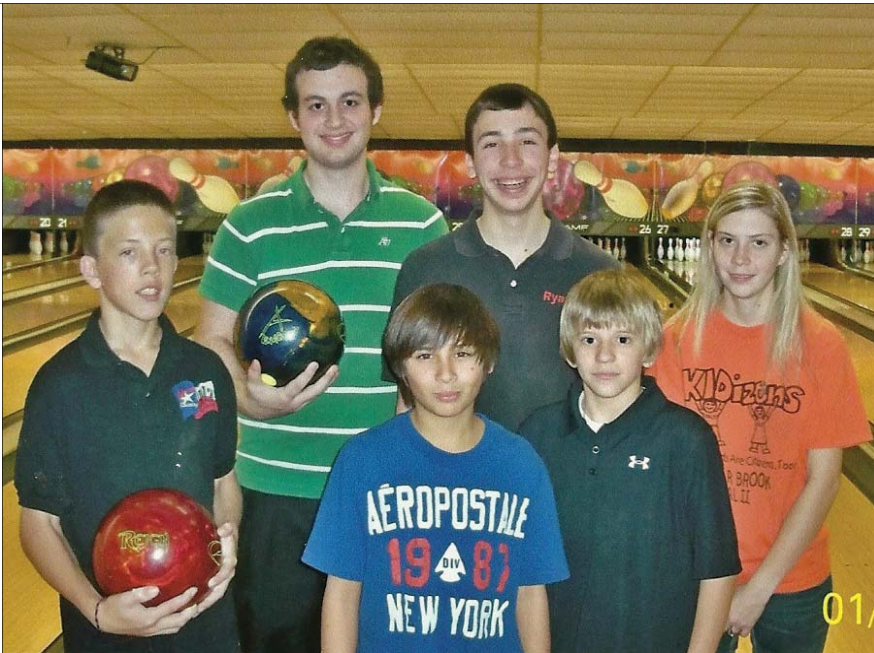
Other awards presented during the ceremonies were the Bowlers Journal Person of the Year, Glenn Allison Hero Award and World Bowling Writers International Bowler of the Year awards to 2010 PBA Tournament of Champions winner Kelly Kulick. Norm Duke also was presented with his Glenn Allison Hero Award for winning a record three consecutive PBA major tournaments over the 2007-'08 and '08-'09 seasons. Bowling writer Bill Vint was the recipient of the World Bowling Writers Golden Quill Award for excellence in bowling journalism.

## New Future Bowler is On the Way

Congratulations to Isaac "Ike" and Sandra Moseby. They are expecting their first baby. We look forward to seeing pictures of our new future bowler!

Congratulations new future mom and dad. They just found out but Ike is so thrilled he wanted everyone to know asap.





Pictured L-R—Back Row: Brent Oestreich, Sean Sadat, Ryan Money, Ashley Lawley  
 Front Row: CJ Driver and Jared Thompson  
 Photo Courtesy Bob Richardson, Conroe 300 Youth Coach

### Conroe Youth Strike Gold

By Bob Richardson, Coach

Conroe 300 Bowl youth program has added Junior Gold to its agenda. Hosting its first handicap open with a Junior Gold qualifier brought in 26 entries including 20 Junior Gold bowlers (13 boys and 7 girls). All youth bowlers bowled a grueling 6-game tournament with handicap based on 90% of 210 and Junior Gold scratch scores.

Jared Thompson beat the field on a 154 average and bowled remarkable scores of 1605 with handicap. Junior Gold bowlers were lead by Sean Sadat. He rolled a scratch score of 1217.

This year Conroe has added five boys and two girls to its Junior Gold ranks (Brent Oestreich, Kennon Riley, Jacob Schreiner, Tyler Jarvis, Kyle Schmidt, Ashley Raska and Carissa Follis). Tournament final standings are as follows for the handicap tournament: Jared Thompson 1605, Sean Saddat 1499, CJ Diver 1450, Ryan Money 1386, David Meyer 1359, Justen Wren 1356, Charlena Melnyk 1325, Keith Gardner 1308, Nicholas Burgess 1307, Tyler Jarvis 1306, Amanda Boethel 1304, Caitlin Lawley 1302, Jacob Schreiner 1296, Ashley Raska 1284, Evan Griffin 1280, Kyle Schmidt 1238, Sean Osbourn 1235, Jelesa Maryland 1234, Ami Richardson 1228, Ashleigh Calcote 1222, Ashley Lawley 1217, Kennon Riley 1200, and Cariss Follis 1191.

Junior Gold qualifier will see three boys and one girl earn their rights to go to the Junior Gold finals in Las Vegas in July. The Junior Gold Girl winners are: Ashley Lawley 1217, Charlena Melnyk 1170, Jelesa Maryland 1168, Amanda Boethel 1106, Ashley Raska 1032, Ashleigh Calcote 1024, and Carissa Follis 897. Ashley receives the entry and the next two bowlers are alternates.

The Junior Gold Boys: Sean Sadat 1433, Ryan Money 1338, Brent Oestreich 1255, Jacob Schreiner 1242, David Meyer 1227, Evan Griffin 1214, Keith Gardner 1194, Sean Osbourn 1191, Kennon Riley, Nicholas Burgess 1109, Kyle Schmidt 1094, Tyler Jarvis 1090, and Alex Dye 1058. Sean Sadat, Ryan Money, and Brent Oestreich receive entries and the next six places are alternates.

The handicap tournament handed out \$907.40 in scholarships with \$375 going to first place (Jared Thompson) paying top four places in all and Juior Gold entries paid \$800 (three boys and one girl).

The next Junior Gold Tournament is April 3rd at 1:00 p.m. For more info call Bob Richardson at 832.233.1871.

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### Indiana Bowler Rolls 900 Series By Jason Overstreet, USBC

Bob Kammer Jr. of Crown Point, Ind., rolled a perfect 900 series. The series is still pending formal approval by the USBC. Kammer, who would be the 18th bowler in history to roll a USBC-approved 900 series, tossed 36 consecutive strikes in the Saturday Invitational League at Stardust Bowl II in Merrillville, Ind. He would be the first bowler from the state of Indiana to record a certified 900 series.

"It was unbelievable, and I was nervous," said Kammer, a 41-year-old right-hander. "It's not something that happens every day."


Kammer works for Ford Motor Company and may be a local celebrity when he returns to work.

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## Simply Satisfied

By Evelyn Peoples

Omar Arnett's smile says it *all!* He won the first prize purse of \$2500 in the Simply S&B Scratch Tournament on January 16 at AMF Humble Lanes. This is Omar's second time to win the tournament.

Omar said, "I was fortunate to win the tourney before so I wanted to try my luck again. I really like the format of the S&B Tournament." He win the tournament using the Storm Victory Road. He won a brand new Hammer Taboo.



When asked how he liked his new Taboo Omar said, "The new ball is working great. It was one of the balls I used to help me win the Jon Juneau Tournament in Louisiana during the weekend of January 29-30!"

"I want to thank Evelyn and Renee for giving the scratch bowlers something to participate in. Anytime I can support the local tournaments I will."

Thank you and congratulations again, Omar!

James Briles took second place for the second time. He was second place in the last tournament when he bowled against Shawn Maldonado. Maybe next time!

Top 16-man qualifiers in order were as follows: David Tullos, Jason Peery, James Briles, Dustin Ochoa, John Harper, Jacob Heger, Omar Arnett, Tony Capra, Brian Viator, Derrick Woods, Spencer Deville, Larissa Marinelli (the only female in the top 16 qualifiers), Carlos Gonzales, John Wukasch, Jr., Colby White and Bob Richardson.

The second round bowlers were: David Tullos v. Omar Arnett, John Harper v. Carlos Gonzales, Tony Capra v. James Briles, Spencer Deville v. Jason Peery.

The third round competitors were: Omar v. John Harper, James Briles v. Jason Peery.

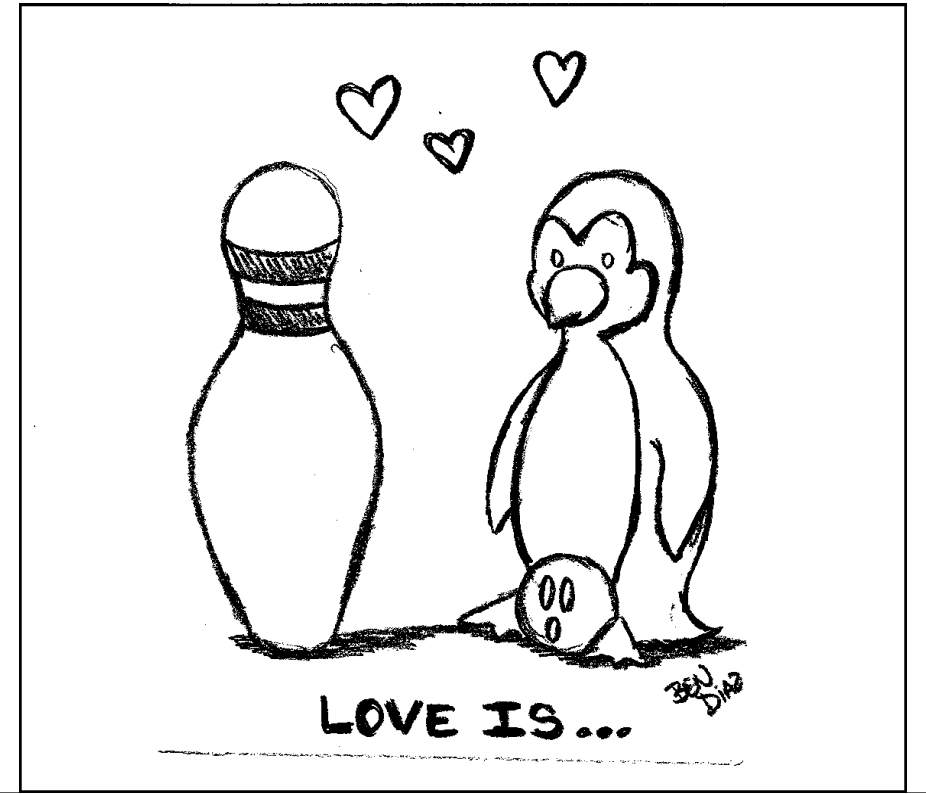
Final round: Omar Arnett v. James Briles

*Thank you to all of the entrants that came to enjoy some of the finest competition around. You are all elite bowlers and confirm yourselves to be just that over and over again.*

*Congratulations to all 16 high qualifiers!*

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Get out and compete! It's how you grow in your skill level. If you are the best house bowler around it doesn't prove a thing. Tournaments prove that you are a fierce competitor—a well-rounded bowler. Stretch yourself and strut your stuff! There's no shame in not winning—there's only shame in not competing. Get out there and make your mark!



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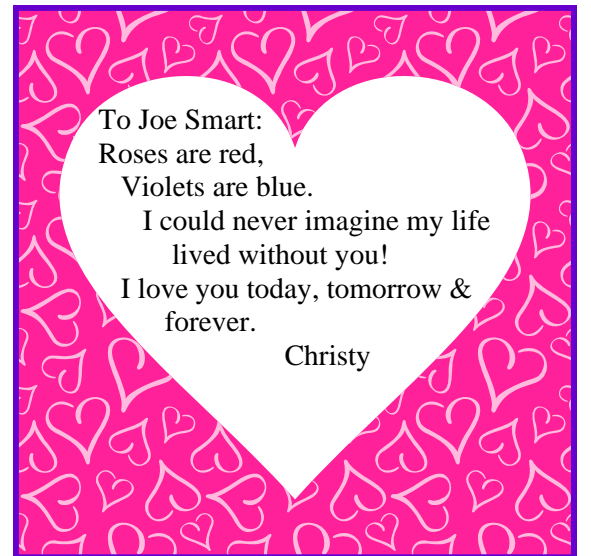
**Welcome New Bowlers!**



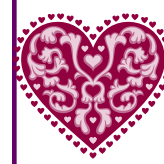
**Damian Joseph Maldonado** was born on November 13, 2010 to Dana Soffes and Tony Maldonado. They are very proud parents and bowlers too! Tony can be seen hugging, kissing, and watching his new son while bowling—a joy to watch. He weighed 8 pounds and 13 ounces and was 21.5 inches long. *Congratulations!*



**Jayson Wayne Heger** was born on December 27 to Rita and Jacob Heger! He weighed 7 pounds and was 19.5 inches. Jacob and Rita have been out and about in bowling centers around Houston with Baby Jayson. They are beaming with pride and joy. *Congratulations!*



To Joe Smart:  
Roses are red,  
Violets are blue.  
I could never imagine my life  
lived without you!  
I love you today, tomorrow &  
forever.  
Christy



*You make the rainy days bright  
and the sunny days brighter.  
I thank God for blessing me with all  
of you—Josh, Pat, Jalen & Lil' J.  
I love you all!*

Mom

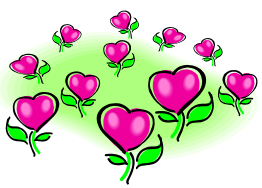
**Happy Valentine's Day**

*Happy Valentine's Day!  
Dana Capra, my wonderful wife—  
You are in my heart.  
You complete me. I love YOU!  
Tony*

**Happy Valentine's Day**

Charlie  
&  
Evelyn

*Happy Valentine's Day, Charlie Peoples!  
33 Years and Still Going Strong. Thank you for loving me just the  
way I am. I Love You From the Tips of My Toes to the Top of My  
Head and Deep Into the Depth of My Soul.  
Evelyn*

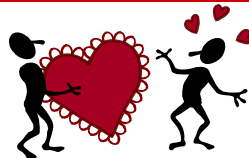


*Happy Valentine's Day!  
Chris Krolczyk  
From Frances Krolczyk—  
Married 26 Years*

**Be My Valentine**

*Landen and Madeline—We  
all love you very very  
much!  
Papa & Mimi  
Mama & Dad*

Happy Valentine's Day! Jason Barta  
Love,  
Kassie Barta



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You—LaDonna Hale!  
Mark Merrill*

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A BNN EXCLUSIVE Sidebar By Marc David and Notes By Jim Goodwin

## Tournament of Champions Event Sidebar & Notes

### SIDEBAR :

Tom Daugherty knows how to keep things in perspective.

After shattering the PBA record for lowest score ever on a television show with 100, Daugherty quipped, "\$500 per pin is the biggest payday in PBA history."

Daugherty entered the television round with the best average (225) through 72 games. After bowling what he said was his best tournament game ever in beating Tom Smallwood 258-236 in the position round, Daugherty threw his worst game.

"You can't go out there and try to throw a 100 with seven splits," said Daugherty, who earned \$50,000 for his third-place finish. "One game doesn't take away anything I did this week. I threw 72 great games and one bad game. It happens. I would rather throw my bad game in the 73<sup>rd</sup> game than the 72<sup>nd</sup>. I made the show."

In essence, it didn't matter what Daugherty threw in that 73<sup>rd</sup> game. Champion Mika Koivuniemi was in a zone that few bowlers ever find during the television show. Koivuniemi had a 299, a 10-pin away from a perfect game against Daugherty, and threw 792 for his three games.

"It was over by the fifth frame," Daugherty said. "What are you going to do? Mika was throwing so great it didn't matter what I bowled. I'd rather throw a 100 than a 140."

There was one nervous moment for Daugherty, the 35-year-old from Wesley Chapel, Fla. It came in the 10<sup>th</sup> round when his seventh split 4-7, 6-10 pins. He was two pins away from 100. After converting the 6-10, Daugherty raised his arms above his head and high-fived fans, and then "I got out of Mika's way as fast as I could."

While he called the entire experience "awesome" and "the most fun I ever had," he cringed when he thought about what was ahead.

"I know I'm going to make the top-10 (on ESPN) or get on PTI (Pardon the Interruption)," Daugherty said. "Tony Konheiser is going to drill me."

And, after defending champion Tom Smallwood responded about \$100,000 being a great consolation prize, Daugherty interjected, "I'm the better loser. Not even Mika made as much per pin as I did."

-Marc David-

### NOTES...

We asked PBA COO Tom Clark what was the number one thing that had to happen for this event to be called a success – his response was "There has to be a buzz in the sports world. People have to notice that this was something really significant."

Prior to the final casher's squad, there was a 90 minute delay, caused by the band testing their stage electronics; it blew the circuit feeding the pinsetters; and being all computerized, these systems are very complicated. It wasn't simply a matter of restoring a breaker. One of the bowling center managers said "Maybe we should have a bowling tournament next year instead of a rock concert."

Tom Dougherty's 100 shattered the PBA televised low game record of 129 shot by Steve Jaros in 1992. At the H of F dinner, Mike Jakubowski

joked, "I don't know who's happier tonight – Mika or Jaros"

Because of the low entry count of 175, the advertised million dollar prize fund was reduced to \$963,700. Every PBA official we spoke with said they were "shocked" that the tournament did not draw the 280 entries required to pay out the full million.

Tom Dougherty was tough on his fellow PBA regional members who chose not to support the event. "They should have their PBA cards cancelled," he said.

Kelly Kulick had a tough week compared to last year. She cashed, but in 49<sup>th</sup> place . . . but handled it with style and grace. Her speech at the H of F dinner where she accepted the Bowler of the Year and the Glenn Allison Hero Award from the WBW and Bowlers Journal was by far the best of the night. Funny; from the heart; and five minutes – perfect.

Two other women cashed in the event: Diandra Asbaty, 33<sup>rd</sup>, and Liz Johnson, 35<sup>th</sup>.

In spite of outward appearances, Kulick has to be feeling the pain. On 1-19, she told USA Today writer Bob Velin she thought the defunct PWBA would "never return." She also described the financial situation of the PBA from her perspective as a player – "Every year it gets worse and worse. I hate to say it. We just seem to be surviving by a thread."

Kulick also expressed her dislike of putting so much money in one event. "This tournament used to be \$100,000 for first place, and it has diminished over time. I would've loved to see it distributed more evenly throughout other events." And she made those comments while she was still in the hunt for the big prize.

Velin also sensed the tough times the PBA is facing, and described the T of C as a "Hail Mary pass" for the PBA, to which Tom Clark responded, "He doesn't know that we have a three year contract for this event."

Mika Koivuniemi, known for his sometimes expressionless demeanor, was caught smiling a few times after the win. "I have 250,000 reasons to smile," he told us at the Hall of Fame Dinner.

Mika's reaction to missing the 300 by a single pin took us back to Don Johnson 40 years ago. The only difference was that Johnson fell face down on the approach, and Mika was face up.

Mika admitted that the 12 minute break before the title match helped him calm down after the 299. "Yes. It always takes a while to calm down after a big game. It was nice to have time to recover."

Had he shot 300, the PBA would have given Mika a \$10,000 bonus. Normally, I would be upset at missing that money, but not today," said Mika.

Mike Jakubowski had another great one liner about the missed 300 game. At the Hall of Fame Dinner, he said "We should all thank Mika. If he had shot 300, we would be having a cash bar tonight."

For all you ball buffs – Mika used a 15# Ebonite Mission Domination. That's two in a row in the T of C for the ball ( Kulick won with a Mission last year) and three for Mika – "I've won all three of my majors with Ebonite, so they work well for me," he said.

Timing is everything. Mika said he had not had any breaks on TV in a long time – but "Today was a good time to get them."

It was no shock that Mika did so well. He had more television experience than all of his opponents combined. The Vegas odds makers would have made him a "Heavy" favorite to win.

Mika finally admitted what few players will admit when asked about money. When asked if they ever think of the money while bowling for the title, he said "We try not to, but today, I thought about it twice; but it only lasted about 10 seconds."

Koivuniemi had three words to describe the 11<sup>th</sup> shot in the 299 game – "It was bad!" He later said his thumb didn't clear the ball, causing him to pull the ball inside his target.

On the show, Randy Pedersen made a classic bowling boo boo – after Mika got the first 11, Randy said "I'm going out on a limb and saying he will get the next strike for the 300." . . .we bet he doesn't do that again.

Mika also made it a point to thank one of his long time sponsors and friend Dave Bernhardt, owner of Turbo Bowling Accessories, run by daughter Lori Tessmar. "Dave helped us come to this country and was the first to encourage me to bowl the tour, and I thank him for that." Mika and Leena and family make their home in Michigan, and Mika spends much of his practice time in the Turbo Tech Training Center in Chesterfield.

Mika is so popular in Finland, they may throw a parade for him; but big talent runs in the Koivuniemi family – his sister Paula Koivuniemi is perhaps the most popular singer in Finland.

Tom Smallwood said he was "Not disappointed at all" in finishing second. "I won twice as much as I did for winning the World's Championship last year, so it's hard to be upset. If I threw it away I might feel different, but I didn't. He just beat me."

Andres Gomez looked really cool under the pressure, and gave Mika his biggest challenge, losing 220-224. "I came within a 7 pin of beating him. If I had got by Mika, I like my chances to climb the ladder."

Gomez got good advice from his friend Amleto Monacelli before the show. Amleto told him "Stay calm and make good decisions."

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A BNN EXCLUSIVE By Marc David

## Salvino: "We Were Artists; These Guys are Scientists"



Pictured: Carmen and Ginny Salvino.

Carmen Salvino was in the locker room at Red Rock Lanes in Las Vegas, listening to a conversation between Walter Ray Williams and Johnny Petraglia.

They were discussing how they had to adjust their spans as they got older. Salvino, 77, told them, "I have the same span as I had 40 years ago." And then he bent down and touched his toes.

"We're talking about us humans," Williams reportedly said. Williams, one of the sport's greatest performers, admires Salvino.

"He still loves it," says Williams, who first bowled against Salvino when the lifelong Midwesterner was in his late 40s. "He's still trying to compete. I give him a lot of credit. He takes care of himself. Perhaps more of us should do the same."

Salvino has always been a renaissance man of sorts. Long before anyone studied the science of bowling, the Schaumburg, Illinois, resident who owns 17 PBA Tour titles was turning the sport into a series of equations.

At age 45, he started reading his daughter Corinne's physics book. At the same age, he developed the first of his three patents on dynamic balance sphere. He still has the physics book. Also that same year, Salvino won a tour event in Anaheim.

"To win a title with a hard rubber ball is one of my highlights," the loquacious Salvino says, looking back at his nearly 60-year career. "They had plastic (balls) at the time."

His last major title came when he won the 1984 Senior National Championship, but he continues to compete. And he's still doing what he can to improve his game. In fact, after an early exit from the Tournament of Champions in January he was tinkering with his left shoe so he would have a better feel for the lanes in the upcoming Masters tournament.

"If someone told me I could win the Masters by crawling from here (Red Rock Hotel and Casino) to the (old location of the) Showboat, I would say, 'Excuse me. I'll see you in a couple of weeks' and start crawling," says Salvino, one of the eight original inductees in the PBA Hall of Fame. "I never bowled a tournament to come in second and I am not about to start now."

Salvino may not be a threat to win a tournament, but don't tell him. He will simply block the negative thought and prepare as if he can turn back the clock. Look at him and it is not a stretch.

The fact that he is still competing in about six tournaments annually while the rest of his contemporaries are either retired or deceased speaks volumes about his physical and mental condition.

Standing 6-foot-2, Salvino insists his weight has remained constant at approximately 195 pounds throughout his career. He neither smokes nor drinks. He still works out regularly and can do push-ups with the top of his hands flat on the floor.

"Feel this," Salvino says, beckoning a reporter to feel his toned biceps. "My weight has been between 190 and 200 for 55 years. I weigh myself twice a day. I am disciplined with the food I eat and with exercise."

He is also a student of the game, changing techniques to try and get any edge possible. If it means a new grip or a different balance in one shoe or a change in the way he throws the ball, he is willing to try it.

"The challenge remains," Salvino says. "The game has changed a lot. We had to be more artistic. Now it is more scientific."

"I only had one rubber ball that I used for many years. The sport was a lot simpler in that respect. Now it is more complex. I don't think some of the young guys get enough credit for how scientific they are. There are so many more variables today."

Despite his age and that he grew up during a different era, Salvino is not set in his thinking or when it comes to change for the sake of improvement. And he says he wasn't at all surprised when Kelly Kulick was able to beat the men and win the 2010 Tournament of Champions.

"I predicted that years ago," Salvino says of a woman competing equally with men. "They're getting more physically in shape and getting stronger. A woman learns how to bowl correctly while (some) men simply use their muscle. They have better styles than the men. You bowl with rhythm and develop energy through rhythm."

"Today's bowlers are not just throwers. They are scientists. They study pin deflection. They look at how the ball goes through the pins. They watch the pins fall. They may make a change even after throwing a strike. Here, I am changing my walk two weeks before my next tournament."

The affable Salvino is not as educated as a Walter Ray Williams, but he learned early "you do not need to have a big ego to be a great athlete. I listen to what others have to say. I talk with those that make the cut and watch them to see what they are doing."

When will it finally end for Salvino? He's prepared for that question, invoking his wife of 54 years, Ginny, who is a member of the Chicagoland USBC Association Hall of Fame.

"I figure I'm going to live to 95," Salvino says. "I'll be in a tournament and throw 11 strikes in a row and ask for a standing ovation. I'll turn to my wife and tell her to line me up for the 12<sup>th</sup>. I'll make the throw for the 12<sup>th</sup> one and die on the approach."

Strike 12 and he's out! Now that would be perfect.

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## Martha Perez Named MVP at Mid-Winter Classic

Courtesy UMES

Despite the outstanding play of the Hawk senior trio **Martha Perez** (Bogota, Colombia), **Maria Rodriguez** (Ibague Tolima, Colombia) and **Kristina Frahm** (Oswego, Ill.), the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) finished in fourth place in the Mid-Winter Classic with a 7-6 record this past weekend. UMES had continued their hot bowling, not being affected by the time off, on days one and two of the event. The nation's No. 1 ranked team had earned the No. 1 seed heading into the final day and were standing at 7-3 overall in a tough field. They faltered however on that day, giving up three spots with losses to No. 4 Central Missouri (4-2), No. 12 Vanderbilt (4-1) and No. 6 Arkansas State (4-2), all in the best-of-seven Baker format. Fourth-seeded Vanderbilt would go on to win the event, topping Central Missouri for the title. Arkansas State was third.

The Hawks opened the event in four-game Bakers, picking up an 851-739 win over Texas Southern. The Jennies of CMSU then topped UMES 893-866 before the Lady Hawks rebounded for three straight wins. They topped No. 20 Louisiana Tech 891-854, Arkansas State 1051-819 and No. 5 Sam Houston State 1036-908. On day two the Hawks bowled in match games, opening with a pair of losses to No. 3 Nebraska (1063-978) and Vanderbilt (944-933), but rebounded again to rattle off three straight wins. They rolled past No. 13 Valparaiso 983-808, Prairie View A&M 1159-863 and No. 15 Stephen F. Austin 1099-791. Perez was sensational in those games, posting scores of 202, 197, 234, 233 and 269 respectively. The 269 was a season high. Her total pinfall was an 1135 and an amazing average of a 227. That earned her MVP and All-Tournament Team honors.

Rodriguez and Frahm were also sensational, finishing third and fourth respectively in the field of 89 bowlers. Rodriguez posted a pin fall of 1097 while Frahm was just 12 pins behind at 1085. Frahm tallied three 200 plus games including a 257 against Stephen F. Austin while Rodriguez posted four 200 plus games that included a 259 vs. PVAMU.

A BNN EXCLUSIVE By Marc David

## Tournament of Champions Crown Eludes Walter Ray Again; But He Will Carry On



When Walter Ray Williams turned 35 years old, he figured that when he reached 40 he would retire as a professional bowler. After earning his seventh PBA Player of the Year Award in 2010, retirement is on the backburner. While Williams remains supremely confident in his ability, even he admits to surprise about last year. "It was unbelievable," Williams, 51, said. "I was not expecting that to happen. Fortunately, no one had an exceptional year. There were others who had good years."

But nobody had a better all-around year than Williams, the 6-foot-2 Floridian. The PBA and USBC Hall of Famer cashed in all 19 events he entered. He won twice and made five television finals. "I was amazed I was able to get (the seventh player of the year award)," Williams said. "It's definitely special because of my age. It probably won't happen again. There are a lot of young, talented players out there." Age doesn't seem to mean much to Williams. Of his record 47 PBA titles and eight majors, 17 and six have come since he turned 40. He entered 2011 having won at least one title in 17 consecutive years. The only missing hardware in his large trophy case is the Tournament of Champions bowl.

Williams was well aware of that before the recent Tournament of Champions at Red Rock lanes in Las Vegas. He listed it as a major goal. And yet, if he doesn't win a T of C title he will not look back at a career with a void. "It means a lot; there's a lot of money at stake," Williams noted after qualifying for match play in the T of C. "It's going to make someone's year. I'd like to win it. "I have had a great career. If I get it some day, that will be awesome. If it does not happen, I am not going to mope."

It didn't happen in January. Mika Koivuniemi walked away with the biggest prize in bowling history when he earned \$250,000 for winning the title. Still, Williams showed his mettle under pressure during the casher round.

Sitting squarely on the bubble, Williams tossed a 254 to jump into 19<sup>th</sup> place and qualify for match play. "That's not the position you want to be in," said Williams, the only PBA player to exceed \$4 million in career earnings. "Everyone out here likes the pressure. I don't mind it. But I would rather bowl better

and not put myself in that position. I knew I needed to bowl a good last game."

That Williams ever made match play was a bit of a surprise. The Ocala, Fla., right-hander has battled arthritis in his fingertips and hadn't bowled well in the World Series. "The grip hurt so I shortened it," Williams said. "I wasn't sure how it would work. I wasn't 100 percent sure of myself because I didn't bowl well at the World Series."

The grip adjustment worked well enough to get him into match play and the final 24, a week after he finished 72<sup>nd</sup> at the World Series. But Williams came up short in match play.

It isn't the start he envisioned to the year. He was looking to turn it around at the upcoming One a Day Earl Anthony Memorial Classic and Bayer USBC Masters.

"I've always said that if I am not competitive, I don't want to be out here bowling," Williams said. "I have a lot of respect for the sport. I am amazed that I am still semi-competitive."

He is obviously more than "semi-competitive." Fellow Hall of Famer Carmen Salvino marvels at the bowlers who have been around a while and have been able to make adjustments to remain competitive. "I am so impressed with a bowler like Walter Ray," Salvino said. "Guys like him, (Mike) Scroggins and (Johnny) Petraglia have been around through a multitude of changes (in the sport) and they have been able to remain competitive. When I was winning, you had to beat 15 guys. Now these guys have to beat 100 because there is so much more talent out there."

Williams is one in the 50-plus crowd that is still putting up good numbers. He made his PBA Seniors debut last year and won his first tournament, the Miller High Life Senior Classic. One month later, he had the opportunity to become the second bowler to win the USBC Masters and USBC Senior Masters in a career, and first to do it in the same season. He made the three-game final before falling to fellow PBA Hall of Famer Wayne Webb.

The six-time former Men's World Horseshoe Pitching champion is still among the top bowlers in the world and remains one of the sport's most popular personalities. The "Male Bowler of the Decade" for the first 10 years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Williams was recognized as the No. 2 bowler all-time behind Earl Anthony in the "50 greatest players of the last 50 years." Still, Williams has no plans to continue when he feels he is no longer competitive. So he will tinker and work and practice as he looks to regain his form from the 2009-10 season.

"I'm still enjoying myself," Williams said. "Basically, I take things two years at a time and re-view to see how I am doing. If I am competitive, I will keep bowling."

## Ryan Ciminelli Wins One A Day Earl Anthony Memorial

By Jerry Schneider, Story and Photo Courtesy PBA

In his fourth season competing on the Lumber Liquidators Professional Bowlers Association Tour, Ryan Ciminelli of Cheektowaga, New York, broke through to win his first title Sunday in the PBA One A Day Earl Anthony Memorial at Earl Anthony's Dublin Bowl. In a battle of lefthanders in the championship match, the 24-year-old Ciminelli defeated Tour veteran and 13-time Tour titlist Patrick Allen of Wesley Chapel, Florida, 237-215, to win the \$20,000 first prize.

Ciminelli's previous best Tour finishes were second in the 2009 PBA Cheetah and Viper Championships and third in the 2010 United States Bowling Congress Masters. "Even though I didn't win last year I had a good year and just didn't want to go back into a slump," Ciminelli said. "Sometimes I think you have to go through the losing part first to prepare yourself to win."

As the top seed for the tournament, Ciminelli felt this was his best opportunity to win a title and as a result lost a lot of sleep the night before the finals. "I probably only got four or five hours of sleep last night," Ciminelli said. "But every time I closed my eyes I visualized a lot of scenarios and hoped this would be the outcome so I'm extremely relieved."

"I was bowling against one of my heroes in a tournament named after one of the greatest bowlers of all-time so it was even more than I could ask for."

In the semifinal match Allen defeated PBA Hall of Famer and 35-time Tour titlist Pete Weber who finished third, 212-206, to advance to the final. Even though Allen had to settle for second he was encouraged by his finish. "Ryan got off to a strong start and I just couldn't catch him," Allen said. "He bowled great and I'm happy for him."

"I haven't bowled well since late last year so this was a confidence booster for me. I bowled well against Tommy (Jones) in the first match but was probably lucky to win against Pete but overall it was a good tournament for me."



## Kulick Named BWAA Women's Bowler Of The Year

After a year filled with major victories, Team USA's Kelly Kulick has been named the 2010 World Bowling Writers Women's Bowler of the Year. The seven-time Team USA member became the first woman to win a Lumber Liquidators PBA Tour title last January. She defeated Chris Barnes, 265-190, to win the Tournament of Champions. "I'm thrilled by all the accolades I've received for last year's performances, and to be named the best bowler in the world is a tremendous accomplishment," Kulick said.

"It's like 2010 hasn't ended yet for me. I'm constantly reminded of what I accomplished." Kulick also won both women's bowling majors in 2010. She claimed the USBC Queens title in April and the U.S. Women's Open in May. She was the first woman to win both events in the same year.

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| 13<br>Man Day<br>Madly In Love With Me Day<br>Grammy Awards Day                                    | 14<br> Go On! Hug Somebody!<br>Happy Valentines Day! | 15<br>Susan B. Anthony Day<br>Nat'l Gum Drop Day   | 16<br> Kyoto Protocol Day | 17<br>My Way Day<br>World Human Spirit Day   | 18<br>Battery Day<br>Pluto Day   | 19<br>No Taps AMF Humble<br>Reserve Your Spot By 6:00.<br>Sign up in Pro Shop,<br>Bowl 7:30 p.m.<br>Reservations: 713-253-1582<br>Iwo Jima Day (Landing)<br>Chocolate Mint Day |
| 20<br>Love Your Pet Day<br>Northern Hemisphere Hoodie Hoo Day<br>Daytona 500                       | 21<br>President's Day   | 22<br>Single Tasking Day<br>George Washington's Birthday   | 23<br>Iwo Jima Day (Flag Raised)<br>Inconvenience Yourself Day   | 24<br> National Chili Day<br>American Birkenbeider Race | 25   | 26<br>Open That Bottle Night<br>For Pete's Sake Day<br>Levi Strauss Day  |
| 27<br>Nat'l Tooth Fairy Day<br>68th Lumber Liquidators U.S. Open<br>4:00 p.m.                      | 28<br>Floral Design Day<br>Purim  | MARCH 1  | 2  | 3  | 4<br>                                 | 5<br>Super No Taps AMF Humble<br>Reserve Your Spot By 6:00.<br>Sign up in Pro Shop,<br>Bowl 7:30 p.m.<br>Reservations: 713-253-1582  |

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