Eric Ott Named
League Leader at PINZ

by Fred Eisenhammer

STUDIO CITY – Surprise! It was announced last week that PINZ Bowling Center has a new director of leagues and league operations.

What’s the surprise? The surprise is that PINZ has sported a flourishing array of leagues throughout its 60-year existence. That fact is overshadowed by PINZ’s reputation as one of the most vibrant bowling centers in the country – one that caters to the party and dating crowd and celebrity scene.

But the upscale center tucked inside Jerry’s Deli on Ventura Boulevard in Studio City also has quietly distinguished itself with 16 diverse leagues comprised of about 1,000 bowlers. It’s now the job of Eric Ott to oversee the leagues’ operation.

That might not be too difficult for Ott because he has witnessed the leagues’ popularity firsthand. He once participated in three PINZ leagues in one season and now serves as president of the Tavern Guild Bowling League. Ott, 54, carries a 172 average in the league, one of three gay leagues at PINZ.

PINZ is more than just leagues and celebrity appearances. This month, for example, the bowling center staged the three-day 2017 World Police & Fire Center’s bowling tournament.

Eric Ott named director of leagues and league operations at PINZ Bowling Center in Studio City. Ott averages 172 in PINZ’s Tavern Guild Bowling League.

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It’s difficult to admit never having bowled in the greatest of all tournaments, the American Bowling Congress (ABC) National Championships. But what better way to begin a relationship with this great event than in St. Louis, the bowling capitol of the world.

Flying into St. Louis, one thinks about life in this splendid city – the Gateway Arch, the Mississippi steamboats, the famous breweries. And yet, after an “enlightening” drive up Grand Avenue, one decides that it would be better to stay right where I am in delightful San Diego, thank you.

But what about the real St. Louis – the famed Floriss Lanes, Crossroads Bowl and Arcade Lanes. And Elvin Mesger… would I finally get to meet the greatest bowler of all time?

What? You never heard of Elvin? Well, what he has done in his career overshadows the feats of every professional bowler – even Dick Weber and Earl Anthony. Mesger, of Sullivan, Missouri, has recorded more sanctioned 300’s (27), more 299’s (11), more 298’s (4), and more 800’s (21) than any bowler in the history of the game.

But who is he? Sure, most serious bowlers recognize the name. The fine print of any bowling magazine lists him as the premier 300 shooter. But because Mesger is not seen on Saturday afternoon television shows, many tenpin followers envision him as a one house artist.

Essentially, he is just that. Mesger has rolled his amazing total of perfect games on only ten different pairs of lanes in five different establishments. And his 800’s have been recorded in only two centers. But as a famous bowling writer once said, “even on a no-tilt ball machine, this record would be hard to match.”

After settling in my hotel room, the task of meeting Elvin Mesger began. My first stop was one of the fabled establishments that Elvin has been known to frequent.

Upon entering the doors of this unique looking complex, my wish was that the lanes could speak to me and relate some of the great moments recorded by such bowling masters as Don Carter, Dick Weber, and of course, “The Machine.”

As I approached the control desk, I noticed a rather portly man with years of bowling lines etched upon his face. Having worked in a bowling center most of my life, I felt somewhat concerned about interrupting his endless chore of recording (cash receipts, inventories, etc.).

But my immediate question was one that had been pressing upon me since this trip began some 2,000 miles ago in California.

“Say, have you seen Elvin Mesger bowl here?” I asked.

“Who?” came the inquisitive reply.

“Elvin Mesger,” I said.

“Never heard of him,” responded the veteran of the recording game, as he continued his daily assignments.

“He’s had a few 300’s here. Isn’t this the famed “House of 300’s?”

“Yeh, we’ve had a few 300’s here. I think there was one a couple of nights ago, down on 23 & 24, or 25 & 26.”

Well now, being from a small town in Northern California, where 300’s are supposedly a dime a dozen – this was an amazingly brash statement.

“Hey, ask the desk man down the way. Maybe he can help you find that guy,” said my friend of the recording wars.

Yes, maybe he might know of the timid tenpin ace who is the peaches of summer in the snow of winter. Elvin Mesger… one of those people who always seems to be passing by on days when the shade is green under tunnels of oaks, and his face shifting with bright snow of winter. Elvin Mesger… one of those people who always seems to be passing by on sunless land.

“We’ve only been working here since September and I’m not a bowler. But I think that fella you’re lookin’ for might bowl on Thursdays, in the Blue-Chip Stamp League.”

Could this be St. Louis, home of the most famous keglers of all time? Was this really the famed “House of 300’s”? Maybe this was all just a dream, and I would awaken to discover the real St. Louis, and “The Machine.”

But then, for Elvin Mesger, the idea of being renowned must be an unknown commodity. Elvin could never be called a boastful man, and yet one seems to realize that his timidity is a preeminent element of his overall nature.

Proving his ability is not a big concern for Mesger. Sure, every bowler dreams of having his picture on the cover of Bowlers Journal, the standard of the bowling world. We all dream these things. But for Elvin, the distortion must be close to insurmountable.

The question of what one must do to attain greatness in the hearts of Americans must truly have entered Mesger’s thoughts at certain moments in his illustrious career – like one memorable day in June of 1967, when he rolled three perfect games (in three different 3 game blocks).

Surely “The Machine” has cast aside the beliefs of an estranged group of idolent fanatics whose all-American teams have become all-PBA teams, primarily due to television.

If you’re a bowler, you spend a good deal of your life gripping a bowling ball, and in the end, it turns out that it was the other way around all the time. For Elvin Mesger, proof of his ability is not of concern, for people do not want to hear about labor pains, they just want to see the baby.

Bowling is a welcome distraction for this unknown “Hall of Fame,” in an otherwise tedious life.

(Elvin Mesger died in 2001. What an incredible change has taken place in the sport of bowling since 1988, and the introduction of Limited Distance Dressing. Perhaps USBC should asterisk Mesger’s records, but that’s a subject for another day.)
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SEPARATE QUALIFYING EACH DAY: (Friday $1000 BONUS)
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$1000 BONUS FOR QUALIFYING FRIDAY SQUAD AND WIN THE EVENT.
SEMI FINALS: Bowl 3 games cut to top 16. Top qualifier sits out
for the final match. Top 15 bowlers will bowl 1 game eliminator format
down to 4 bowlers. Top 4 will bowl 1 game eliminator format
down to last bowler for the championship match.

Oil Pattern: Sport Shot

HANDICAP REQUIREMENT:
1. ANY LOCAL TOURNAMENT AVERAGE WILL BE ACCEPTED AND SUBJECT FOR APPROVAL.
2. HIGHEST USBC COMPOSITE AVERAGE.

TOURNAMENT RULES:
1. NO CURRENT OR FORMER PBA/PWBA ALLOWED.
2. MAXIMUM AVERAGE IS 220. HANDICAP IS BASED ON 90% OF 220.
3. MAXIMUM HANDICAP IS 60 FOR MEN OR WOMEN.
4. SEPARATE QUALIFYING FOR MEN, WOMEN, AND SENIOR.
   WE GUARANTEE 2 WOMEN & 3 SENIORS TO THE FINALS.
5. SOME LOCAL TOURNAMENT AVERAGES ARE SUBJECT FOR APPROVAL.
6. ONLY TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS CAN MAKE DECISIONS AND RATE BOWLERS ANY TIME.

4-3-2-1 UP TO 16th PLACE PIN DEDUCTION FOR THIS EVENT

GUARANTEED REGARDLESS OF ENTRIES
1ST Place $3000+$2000 Xframe Bonus+$1000 = $6000
2ND Place $1500+$1000 Xframe Bonus = $2500
3RD Place $750+$500 Xframe Bonus = $1250
4TH Place $375+$250 Xframe Bonus = $625

Optional: Side Pots: $7, Brackets: $5, Match Game 3: $5

ENTRY FEE: $90 RE-ENTRIES: $80, $70 & REDUCED ENTRY:$55 (50% PRIZE OR BONUS)

Optional Xframe Bonus: $30 FULL $15 HALF

QUALIFYING RATIO: MEN 1:6 WOMEN 1:5 AGE FOR SENIORS: MEN @62 AND WOMEN @55
Beatrice Darlene Hoffmann

Beatrice Darlene Hoffmann passed away surrounded by family on August 6, 2017 after an illness brought on from Dementia/Parkin-son’s disease for which she battled for 10 years.

Bea was born in St. Charles, Missouri on July 6, 1937 to Lawrence W. Meyer and Mildred Skinner. Her father commissioned to Marischin Sausalito brought the family to California in 1942. Bea attended grade school in San Anselmo and graduated from Drake High School in 1955. She went to work waiting at Cafe 101 where she met Al Hoffmann. They were married April 26, 1959.

In 1955, she went to work waitressing at Cafe 101 where she met Al Hoffmann. They were married April 26, 1959. She worked at Marie's and Al's Grillery. Her hobbies included art, and any kind of crafts, gardening, spoiling her grandchild and of course bowling. She was a bowling coach to many kids in Marin.

Bea was survived by her husband; Alfred J. Hoffmann, Daughter; Lisa (Mark) Hutchinson and sons Jeffrey and David (Doreen) Hoffmann, Granddaughters; Sarah Hoffmann and Andrea Hoffmann, Great niece Joe Fast and Wil-ly Hudnell. She was preceded in death by her parents Law-rence and Mildred and her younger sister Patricia Hudnell.

The family will be holding a Celebration of her Life at their home on Monday, August 21st from 11am - 3pm or 500 Country Club Dr. Novato. Arrangements were made by her family & Neptune Society of Novato.

Bowling Calendar by Bette Addington

August:
27 – HammerPins Classic Fall Scratch 10-Gamer, Travis Bowl, TravisAFB
27 – GameTime Bowlers Battle 8, 10am, Action Lanes, El Monte

September:
1-3 - PBA George Reyes Memorial, 4th Street Bowl, San Jose
1-2-3 - Xfame Tournament Club, Labor Day Special, West Covina Lanes, West Covina
3-4 - PWBA Tour Championship Season Finale, Richmond Int. Raceway, VA
15-17 - PBA/PBA50 Northwest/West, Ukiah
16 - Xfame Tournament Club, 4pm, 6pm, Cal Bowl, Lakewood
17 - Scratch 6-Gamer, Yosemite Lanes, Modesto, Wayne - 209/524-9161
23-24 - Earl.Anthony’s Memorial Jr. Classic Family Scholarship Tourn., Dbla.-Sat., Singles-Sun., Dublin Bowl, earlantony@dsbowl.com
24 – GameTime Bowlers Battle 9 Finals, 10am, Deer Creek Lanes, Rancho Cucamonga
30-1 - 10th Don Glover Scratch Masters, AMF Southwest Lanes, Bakersfield

October:
1-2 – West Coast Bowling Conv., Coconut Bowl, Sparks, NV, wcbowling.com
5-11-5 – Storm Festival of Bowling Mxd. Tourn., N. Reno, 800/304-2695
6-8 – BPA Black at Oak, Toulumne, CA
9-12 – Senior High Roller, The Orleans, Las Vegas, NV
13-15 – Pam Buckner Open Tourn., N. Reno
14-26 – Stockton USBC’s Open Reno Mxd. Dbls./Singles, Grand Sierra Resort
14-15 – CUSBC CA State Singles, Keystone Lanes, Norwalk, calusbc.com
17-22 – 40th NATB Nationals, SouthPoint, Las Vegas, abbowling.com
21-22 – 48th CSSBA Open Champs., Modesto, (five weekends), 925757-2695
29 – HammerPins Scratch Doubles 8-Gamer, 10am, AMF Rockin Lanes

Bowling Calendar brought to you by California Bowling Writers (www.californiabowlingwriters.org)

July 3 – Part 2

Shake out the cobwebs and get ready for some fast breaks!

- Some of the best women bowlers in the San Gabriel Valley included: JEANNETTE SHERR, MARIE McGUIRE, LUCY DROWISH (Corey’s Mom), LUCY FLOYDES, MARY ALPINE, MARGIE FINLEY and LORIE SCHMIDT.
- BILLY MYERS “Ragtime Doubles” was in its 12th year at LA PUENTE LANES. BILLY brought in the cabbage and coffee. He was “all-in” at CLARK CENTER, CLAIREMONT BOWL in San Diego had KENNY HUBBARD at the helm.
- DON DROOKER started at RIVERSIDE BOWL and Rolling a Jubilee.
- HAL ACUFF (San Diego) became the State Men’s Ass’n President. He was a real likeable guy with a healthy handshake.
- BERNIE EISENHOWER was the first bowler to bow in both the California and Women’s West Coast Elims.
- MARY ANN KING (PARK BOWL) was elected Cal State President. OLA BRAHEME was C.W.B.A. Champion.
- TONY KOWALCZYK was the hot name in ball drilling. His clients were popping 300’s weekly.
- The first 300 game bowled by a woman was in 1929 in Buffalo, New York.
- The 1973 KWIKIE Tournament had 10,008 entries at $20.60 per entry. 50 Squad Organizers made $240,000. Total paid out? $66,625.60. This included pots and early birds. The top pot out $1,000.00 each.
- The hot name in ball drilling was TONY KOWALCZYK. His clients were popping 300’s weekly. He was “all-in” at CLARK CENTER, CLAIREMONT BOWL.
- “Women’s West Coast Elims” was on the check. CONNIE “Are you still wearing that pink shirt?”
- JOHN KLAERES was manager at EAGLE ROCK LAKES. MITZI ANDERSON scheduled bowlers were WONDERFUL DONNY. DON CECIL was G.M. at BAHAMA LAKES.
- DON CECIL was G.M. at BAHAMA LAKES.
- Hal Adkroyd, Bob Lester and Dick Braasch.
- Bobby Lee Jones, Roy James, Tom Chaffee, and ‘nuff said.
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5

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League Fees only $31/week!

Thursdays 7:00pm@ Bowlero ~ Torrance
Meeting Thurs 9/7/17 @6:00pm league starts 7:00pm

Tuesdays 9:00pm @ Gardena Bowl
Meeting Tues 9/12/17 @8:00pm league starts 9:00pm

Pre-registration is HIGHLY recommended to hold a tm spot!

For more info, contact Dewann Clark 310-846-4590 or Necole Johnson 562-728-7210

**League Highlights:**

- Starting times (miss traffic, & finish at a decent time)
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- 100% TNBA membership league – awards & other perks

- 3 Bill Rhodman tourn. entries –men, woman & Sr
- 32 Weeks, 4 round, 8 weeks/round
- Round winners receive bonus $ for each round
- Round winners guaranteed a top 4 position
- Win more rounds, improve your position in roll off
- Top 6 teams roll off for grand finale winner
- Bowl in BOTH leagues and if you WIN BOTH then you will receive a combined total of $20,000*!

* Assumes there are 32 teams in both leagues

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CHARLIE EMMONS: 
Great Bowler - Better Family Man

by Frank Weiler

LAUGHLIN, NV – Many bowlers who bowl in Laughlin consider Charlie Emmons to be the best bowler to ever compete along side the Colorado River. Even “ZAM” admits Charlie is surpassing his honor score numbers. While Charlie’s honor score totals are huge, he has also rolled the highest series (290 - 300 - 278 – 868) ever bowled at Riverside Lanes.

More important though is family. Charlie Emmons is old school or “OLD FASHIONED” when it comes to family. His wife (Jackie) and children (Kayla and Tyler) come first. Charlie has cut back the number of leagues he bowls in to spend more time with the three most important people in his life.

Back to the beginning. Bowling has been a big part of Charlie’s life since he was seven years old. Now, twenty-six years later he has only one goal left: bowl 900! His 868 came close, featuring 34 strikes and two solid “taps”. So close to 900.

As a kid Charlie lived behind a bowling center and went bowling regularly with his neighbors. He loved everything about the sport: being with his buddies, the competition, and always trying to score better. In addition to the bowling itself, Charlie was interested in every aspect of center operations. From an early age he knew that the bowling industry was to be his career. Today Charlie is Head Mechanic at Riverside Lanes in Laughlin.

Charlie started with a 10 pound green plastic bowling ball he received as a gift from local league bowlers. The ball was a gift and used by Charlie to win first place at a Arizona State Youth Tournament.

Charlie is a KINGPIN fan. When it comes to bowling movies, Charlie’s favorite flick is KINGPIN. He loves Bill Murray and who can forget the 15 frame game! Hey, we all could average 260 if we had fifteen frames.

So was it Charlie’s secret to scoring? “BE CONSISTENT”. Consistent approach, consistent timing and consistent delivery. Also, you have to learn how to read lane conditions and adjust quickly. Charlie’s consistency has resulted in 30 perfect 300 games and 46 near perfect 800 series.

Who makes the best bowling balls in the world? According to Charlie, Brunswick. Brunswick balls are Charlie’s weapons of choice because they are even rolling and controllable. They have as much consistency and hold up better. Charlie’s favorite ball is the Brunswick Destruction because it has all of the qualities mentioned above and has so much hitting power. Charlie used the Destruction to roll his record setting 868.

As a kid Charlie lived behind a bowling center and went bowling regularly with his neighbors. He loved everything about the sport: being with his buddies, the competition, and always trying to score better. In addition to the bowling itself, Charlie was interested in every aspect of center operations. From an early age he knew that the bowling industry was to be his career. Today Charlie is Head Mechanic at Riverside Lanes in Laughlin.

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What does Charlie not like about bowling? He hates bowling with grumpy bowlers. “GRUMPY OLD MEN”? Yes. And grumpy old women too! Emmons has won several local and state tournaments. He has cashed in PBA Regional Events and follows the PBA on television. His favorite PBA professional is Norm Duke. According to Charlie, Norm has a great personality. He is fan friendly, always willing to chat, listen and sign autographs. At the same time, Norm is among the most CONSISTENT and focused bowlers Charlie has observed. Best of all, Norm is humble.

I have observed Charlie and am happy to say that like Norm Duke he to is a great guy. Charlie is a man of integrity who is friendly, personable and conducts himself with class.

Charlie is a KINGPIN fan. When it comes to bowling movies, Charlie’s favorite flick is KINGPIN. He loves Bill Murray and who can forget the 15 frame game! Hey, we all could average 260 if we had fifteen frames.

Most important of all Charlie is a man of faith. When asked about what is most important in life he quickly responds with GOD, family and country. When asked about those he would like to thank for his successes on the lanes he started with thanking GOD for the talents bestowed on himself. He then followed by saying he was grateful to his parents, his wife and his children for their support. He then concluded with saying he was grateful to all those who voted and supported his induction into the Colorado River USBC Hall of Fame.

I would like to conclude by writing that Charlie Emmons is one of the finest men I have met in the bowling industry. Our sport is lucky to have him and hopefully he will be involved for years to come. Charlie, if you read this, I need you to help me fine tune my game. Finally, thank you to the BOWLING NEWS for supporting our CALIFORNIA and NEVADA bowlers.

PBA continued from page 1 next Saturday and Sunday. The entire tournament will be live streamed on PBA’s online bowling channel, Xtra Frame. For Xtra Frame subscription information, visit xtraframe.tv.

PBA XTRA FRAME GENE CARTER’S PRO SHOP CLASSIC
Mid-County Bowling and Entertainment Center, Middletown, Del., Sunday

Final Standings:
1, Sean Rash, Montegomery, Ill., $15,000.
2, EJ Tackett, Huntington, Ind., $7,800.
3, Andrew Anderson, Holly, Mich., $4,000.
4, Alex Cavagnaro, Massapequa, N.Y., $2,500.

Stepladder Results:
Match One – Tackett def. Cavagnaro, 206-204.

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Inside Winnetka Bowl 818.340.5198 Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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THE PRO ZONE
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818 365-2050
24122 Vanowen St., Winnetka CA 91306
Inside Winnetka Bowl 818.340.5198 Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
The title match saw Johnson and Poppler match strike for strike in the opening frames, before Johnson left the 4-9 split in the fourth frame and failed to convert it. A 7-10 split for Poppler in the fifth frame allowed Johnson to get right back in the game.

In the eighth frame, Poppler left the 3-4-6-7-9-10 combination, getting only three more for her second open frame, and Johnson took advantage with back-to-back spares. She would step up in the 10th frame needing just eight pins for the title.

“It was the lowest scoring of the matches, but I love having to be up and know what I need to do,” Johnson said. “I knew at that point, if I got count, I was OK. Having it in your hands is more special to me, because you are holding your fate.”

As the No. 4 qualifier, Johnson opened the stepladder finals against two-time reigning PWBA Player of the Year Liz Johnson of Deerfield, Illinois, who was coming off her sixth U.S. Women’s Open title. Strikes in frames five through nine allowed Stefanie to advance with a 210-176 victory.

Her next match against Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York, was close through the first seven frames. While McEwan would close with back-to-back strikes, a spare and nine-count, Johnson rolled five consecutive strikes to win, 245-216, and advance to the title match.

Johnson said the finals were a great opportunity to showcase the PWBA to her friends. “My support here (at Plano Super Bowl) goes beyond my family,” said Johnson, who earned a spot in the 16-player Smithfield PWBA Tour Championship field with her victory. “It’s just exciting to be able to perform at that level in front of them, so they can see first-hand how it actually is. I’m glad they got to sit under the lights, see the emotion, the back and forth, the tension – all the factors.”

Competition at the 2017 PWBA Orlando Open included two six-game qualifying blocks to determine the 32 players for the six-game cashers’ round. The top 12 players then advanced to round-robin match play based in their 18-game pinfall totals.

The final round of the Orlando Open was one of three PWBA standard-event finals taped for broadcast at Plano Super Bowl in conjunction with the U.S. Women’s Open.

The PWBA St. Petersburg-Clearwater Open will air Tuesday, Aug. 22, at 11:30 p.m., and the Nationwide PWBA Rochester Open will be televised on Tuesday, Aug. 29, at 11 p.m., both on CBS Sports Network.

Qualifying and match-play rounds of PWBA Tour events are broadcast on Xtra Frame, the exclusive online bowling channel for the Professional Bowlers Association.

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** PWBA ORLANDO OPEN **

Final standings
1. Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 644 (three games), $10,000
2. Birgit Poppler, Germany, 184 (one game), $5,000
3. Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 216 (one game), $3,500
4. Liz Johnson, Deerfield, Ill., 176 (one game), $3,000

Stepladder results
Match One – S. Johnson def. L. Johnson, 210-176
Semifinal – S. Johnson def. McEwan, 245-216
Championship – S. Johnson def. Poppler, 189-184
Journey to PBA50 Player of the Year
Became a Nail-Biter for Brian LeClair

New York native finally realizes potential as PBA50 Tour resurrects 52-year-old’s professional career

CHICAGO – For Brian LeClair, the quest to winning 2017 PBA50 Player of the Year honors turned from a relatively sure thing into one of those “I can’t bear to watch” moments that characterized his earlier PBA Tour career.

LeClair, the 2017 season’s only two-time winner, held off challenges by two of the PBA50’s all-time greats – Norm Duke and Parker Bohn III – who took the PBA50 Player of the Year race into the stepladder finals of the DeHayes Insurance Group Championship presented by Pro Bowl West and Ebonite in Fort Wayne, Ind., the final PBA50 Tour event of the season.

“I honestly thought they were going to do it,” LeClair said, referring to Duke and Bohn’s late-season challenge for the crown. “I thought the handwriting was on the wall for another disappointment in my career. I didn’t even stay for the finals to find out what happened.”

LeClair, from Delmar, N.Y., spent nearly two decades competing regularly on the PBA Tour without a win but his lengthy career was finally rewarded when he won PBA50 Player of the Year honors on the strength of his wins in the Pasco County Florida Open and Johnny Petraglia BVL Open presented by Brunswick, and a runner-up finish in the Suncoast PBA Senior U.S. Open presented by Storm.

“The best thing about it is I finally have my name on something,” LeClair said. “I’m just as happy for my friends and family who supported me because I think they wanted it as bad as I did.”

Heading into the DeHayes Insurance Group Championship, LeClair held a substantial lead in player of the year points but because of the PBA50’s point structure which awards points for both qualifying and final finishing position, Bohn and Duke still had a chance to catch LeClair. It was a tall order for the pair of hall of famers because one-or-the-other needed to win and qualify either first or second. If Bohn had won, LeClair would have to finish second to clinch the crown. If Duke had won, LeClair would have had to finish third.

LeClair left the door open when he finished seventh in the tournament and 19th in qualifying. But in the end, Bohn finished fourth, losing to Duke in the second stepladder match, 224-217, and Duke’s chances were then dashed when he lost to fellow hall of famer Pete Weber in the title match, 279-255.

“I was concerned heading into Fort Wayne because I was going to have to make the show at a center I really didn’t have a good handle on if I wanted to clinch it,” LeClair said. “Every time I bowled (in Fort Wayne) it seemed like I would come out of the gate just killing it in every round but then I’d lose it in the middle of the round. I could never figure it out.”

Competing on the PBA Tour has resulted in a resurgence of LeClair’s career. A big weight was lifted off his shoulders in his rookie season in 2015 when he won his first PBA national title in the PBA50 Fountain Valley Open. He had another quality season in 2016, without a title, but he was back in the winner’s circle right away in 2017.

“What makes winning (PBA50) player of the year so rewarding was doing it an era when so many of bowling’s all-time greats are competing,” said LeClair, who now owns three PBA50 Tour titles. “Just look at the finals in Fort Wayne as an example – Pete, Norm, Parker, Walter Ray (Williams Jr.) and Amleto (Monacelli) – and then all the other great bowlers who bowl week-in and week-out. I think that’s what means the most to me.”

Five-time PBA Tour winner Michael Haugen Jr. of Phoenix earned PBA50 Rookie of the Year honors. Haugen won the Senior U.S. Open defeating LeClair, 173-158, in the title match. He had three other top-five finishes including a third in the PBA50 Players Championship.

Ron Mohr of Las Vegas successfully defended his PBA60 Player of the Year crown, winning the PBA50 South Shore Open for his first win against the 50-and-older generation in five years as well as winning USBC’s Super Senior Classic for 60-and-older players. He had three other PBA50 top-five finishes during the season and a second in the PBA60 Killer ‘B’ Open.

Finishing in the top eight in PBA50 competition points were LeClair, Duke, Bohn, Bob Lamb Jr., Williams, Haugen, Monacelli and Mohr who earned the opportunity to compete in the PBA50 Challenge which will be held in conjunction with GECICO PBA World Series of Bowling IX presented by Eldorado Reno Properties this November in Reno, Nev.

All eight also earned paid entries into WSOB IX.

PBA50 players will vote on the Dick Weber Sportsmanship award at a later date.

EDITOR’S NOTE: The top 20 in earnings, averages and competition points are listed in the attached Word document. Complete stats can be found by clicking on https://www.pba.com/SeasonStats/Total/Winnings/106

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