

Monday, August 8, 2022

Spare Change

By Johnny Campos

Three returning bowlers to Masters League are first-round draft selections

Several bowlers who are making return appearances in the Perfect Angle Pro Shop/Bill Mastronardi Masters League turned out to be first-round picks in this year's draft, which was held last Saturday at Landmark Lanes.

Brian Davis made Dustin Hopkins the overall No. 1 pick to kick off the draft. Hopkins said he knew beforehand that Davis was going to select him.



No. 1 draft pick Dustin Hopkins

"I talked to him a couple of hours before the draft, so it wasn't a surprise that I was the No. 1 pick," Hopkins said. He had to sit out last year because of shoulder surgery. "Two years ago, I qualified fifth in average, so I was supposed to be a captain last year," Hopkins said.

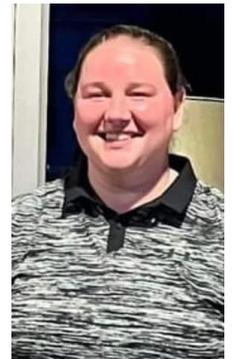
He had a labyrinth tear on his shoulder that led to the surgery. "It feels different and I'm doing well," Hopkins said. "But I've still got to make a few tweaks."

Don Sweet took Andy Stone at No. 2, Vince Pollard drafted Tony Wysinger third, Mike Boogren got Gary Robinson fourth and Ryan Driskill remotely drafted Benny Barnwell fifth.

Then Mike McBride took another league returnee, four-time Team USA bowler Kayla Johnson at No. 6.

She has not bowled in the league since 2016, when she only bowled five weeks because of her wrist surgery.

"I have been working out of Decatur at Cat for the last five years, and just accepted a position back in East Peoria," Johnson said. "That gave me the ability to bowl again."



Kayla Johnson

"I've been having an itch to bowl a little more, and I think this will be a great start."

After Bob Baker drafted Jason Jones of Peoria at No. 7, Travis Anderson tabbed Andre Campos at No. 8.

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Andre Campos

Campos had not bowled in the league in five years because he had been working a job where he worked four 10-hour shifts. That did not allow him the time to make it to many of the centers on the road on Monday nights.

But he recently started a new job that has him working regular hours, Monday through Friday. So, he decided to put his name into this year's draft. "I was curious to see where I would be drafted after not bowling for five years in the league," Campos said. "I am honored to be picked in the first round. The last time I bowled in the league, I was the last pick of the draft."

Adam Johnson then took Chad Barns at No. 9, Gary Strait Jr. got Luke Morris at 10, Steve Taylor drafted Brad Moore 11th, and Tommy Barnwell closed out the first round by taking Timmy Blanch, a member of last year's winning team.

The league starts play with a preseason session on Monday, August 22, at Striketown and starts the regular league sessions on August 29.