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Spare Change

By Johnny Campos

Team Radical goes 1-2 in men's race for Peoria River City Association Bowler of the Year; PRC Association names Bowlers of the Year in six divisions along with All-Star teams

The men's race for Peoria River City Association Bowler of the Year came down to the wire, but most of the other divisions had some clear-cut winners.

The local association recently revealed its Bowlers of the Year and All-Star teams in both male and female divisions for youth, senior and non-senior bowlers. The teams represent the bowlers who earned the most points based on the criteria established by the PRC Association for the 2022-23 season.

The closest race was in the men's division, where Pro Shop Tony Schnack edged out Andre Campos by only five points for the honor.

"It was definitely a bit of a surprise to win Bowler of the Year," Schnack said. "According to the point totals, I saw I edged out Andre in the City Tournament all events and the Singles Showdown which catapulted me to the lead."

In the city tournament, Schnack finished second in singles and third in all-events, while Campos won the singles title but finished fifth in all-events."

Campos also had a higher average (232 to 228) which gave him a 35-point advantage. But in the Singles Showdown, Schnack finished fifth for 40 points and Campos was 10th for no points, which made the difference in the men's honor.

"It also made me feel good winning," said Schnack, who had six 300 games to four for Campos last season. "I knew I put myself on the map when I threw my first 300 down here subbing in the fall of 2020. But I really hit my stride this year."

Schnack moved to Peoria from Rockford in 2020 to run the BowlersMart Pro Shop in Landmark Lanes.

Ironically, Campos now helps him in the shop, and both bowlers are members of the Radical Bowling staff.

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Schnack and Campos were on the strong PRC Men's All-Star team along with Travis Anderson, Don Sweet and Steve Taylor.

Jennifer Mauerman earned enough points to earn PRC Women's Bowler of the Year honors. She had the fourth high average (206) among the women, a high game of 280 and high series of 743.

The mother of two young daughters also finished third in singles and fifth in all-events in the Women's City Tournament, while hosting tournaments on a few weekends at various houses around the state during the season.

"I was honestly shocked I earned it this year, seeing as it wasn't one of my best seasons," Mauerman said.

"I'm working on taking a step back from hosting events so I can be back on the lanes more. My kids are beginning to become more involved in activities of their own, so it's only a matter of time before my time is limited again on the lanes."

Other members of the PRC Women's All-Star team were Kathleen Hermacinski, Kayla Johnson, Lynn Kaufmann and Laynee Mauerman, Jennifer's sister-in-law.

Gary Robinson, who recently was selected for the PRCA's Hall of Fame, added to his resume by being selected as the association's Men's Senior Bowler of the Year.

He had the fourth high average among male seniors with a 221, rolled a 300 game during a trios event at Potter's Alley, won the PRC Seniors all-events title and was fourth in singles, and finished runner-up in the Singles Showdown.

"I was actually surprised by the selection," Robinson said. "I can only assume it's because of my Hall of Fame induction. Since I turned 50 (10 years ago) this is the first time I have made the list.

"I'd won the senior all-events for my age group several times and had not made the list before."

Other members of the PRC Senior Men's All-Star team were Mike Boogren, last year's honoree Pete Burdette, Sammy Taylor, and Terry Weisenberger.

For the fourth year in a row, the title of PRC Female Senior Bowler of the Year went to Dawn Guerrero, who had another outstanding season.

She had the highest average among the senior women at 198, had a high game of 258, high set of 683, and finished third in singles in the PRC Seniors Tournament.

"I never dreamed in a million years that I could win this honor four years in a row," she said. "It's been an absolute dream come true.

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“There are so many younger women bowlers that I admire and really look up to. They push me to better myself and keep going. I love the fact that my son (Don Sweet) and daughter-in-law (Bobbie Sweet) inspire me constantly. I love this sport and I’m really looking forward to this next season.”

Joining Guerrero on the Senior Women’s All-Star team were Lisa Feger, Valeria Haynes, Sandy Smith, and Selina Tandy.

Another repeat winner was Jasmine Kaufmann, the PRC’s Youth Girl’s Bowler of the Year.

She had high average among the girls and had the highest game (290) and series (728) last season.

“I certainly didn’t expect to win two years in a row,” she said.

Other members of the PRC Youth Girl’s All-Star team included Katrina Freibohle, Hailey Johnston, Abby Porubcanski and Morgan Robinson.

The Youth Boy’s Bowler of the Year was Rylan Gray, who had the high average among the qualifying boys at 205.

He finished second in all-events and fifth in singles in the PRC Youth Open, won the all-events title in the Illinois State USBC Open, and qualified for Junior Gold.

Other members of the PRC Youth Boy’s All-Star team were Ben Allen, Landon Grayer, Will Hudson and Nick Orzel.



Pro Shop Tony Schnack, Men’s Bowler of the Year.



**Jennifer Mauerman,
Women’s Bowler of the Year.**

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**Gary Robinson,
Men's Senior Bowler of the Year.**



**Dawn Guerrero, four-time
Women's Senior Bowler of the Year.**



**Jasmine Kaufmann, repeat winner as
Youth Girl's Bowler of the Year.**



Rylan Gray, Youth Boy's Bowler of the Year.