

Sunday September 4, 2022

## Spare Change

By Johnny Campos

### Strong Showing by Seniors in New Bowling Season

Experience on the lanes has paid dividends for a few area players during the first few weeks of the bowling season.

Several senior players have stepped up in league and tournament play, topping a strong group of much younger players.



**Gary Robinson**

Gary Robinson led the way with an area-best third-place finish in the recent Scratch Double Eliminator Tournament at Potter's Alley in Morton.

He qualified eighth out of 32 entries with a 727 series and ended up bowling 11 games in one day, losing twice to eventual champion Justin Aboud in the bracket portion of the event.

Aboud, 20, outlasted Tyler Tornow of Morrison, who had gone undefeated leading up to the title match. Aboud, a member of the strong St. Ambrose University team, beat Tornow twice to win the title.

Robinson, 59, lost to Aboud 266-236 in their first meeting, and then dropped a 220-211 decision to determine who would bowl Tornow for the championship.

"I didn't feel too bad when I was done," said Robinson, who averaged about 240 on the day. "My wrist was a little sore when we started Monday night (in The Perfect Angle Pro Shop/Bill Mastronardi Masters League)."

Robinson has been one of the top players in the area for many years, so it was no surprise that he was the last local standing in the demanding tournament format.

"I have done well in local tournaments when I get a chance to bowl," he said. "I like to think I have a chance any time I bowl."

Robinson also made some recent adjustments in his equipment.

"Dani (Danielle van der Meer) at Perfect Angle did a new thumb for me, and it helped me with some equipment choices," he said. "The 211 last game was my low game of the day, and I only had one open frame all day – a 4-9 split in the first game."

The Masters League began its season the following day at Twin City Lanes in Bloomington, and a relatively new senior bowler, Chad Barnes, had a big first night.

Sunday September 4, 2022



**Chad Barnes**

Barnes, who turned 50 on April 30, led the league with a 779 series on games of 277, 264 and 238 for the Mt. Hawley team.

“I had been throwing the ball OK in the summer sweepers, but just couldn’t ever put multiple good games together,” he said. “The new lanes (at Twin City) matched up well with my game because they seemed to be speed sensitive. My slow ball speed match up well.”

“Tommy Barnwell made a comment early in the first game that he thought I would have a good night because the lanes were pretty slick, and my hand and ball speed would probably be a good match-up.”

Barnes was the ninth player taken in the league draft by team captain Adam Johnson.

Ryan Driskill, one of the team captains, had the second high set of the night with a 747 for Potter’s Alley, followed by Tony DeVita with a 743 for Landmark Lanes.

Andre Campos, who was next with a 735 set, had the high game of the night at 289 for the iAM Bowling team.

On Tuesday night, Larry Lanier, who will turn 59 on Sept. 17, got off to a slow start at Mt. Hawley Bowl in the Peoria Square & Compass Bowling League.

After opening with a 167 game (“with a lot of nine counts”), he closed a 724 series with games of 257 and 300 – his first trey since before the COVID pandemic.

“That was my ninth 300 game, and I haven’t bowled since the Tournament of Champions,” said Lanier, who just missed a trey last year with a 299. “And our team finished second in that event. I felt that I was rolling the ball pretty well at the end of last year.”

“We lost our dog of 15 years in April, and I just think I have a fresh mind now. I am going to cut back to once-a-week bowling and some tournaments.”



**Larry Lanier**

### **Early 300 Leader**

While Matt Kaps is not quite a senior, he has taken the early lead in perfect games this season.

Coming into this season, the 32-year-old had rolled only one career trey – last October at Potter’s Alley on lanes 1-2.

He opened this season with his second career 300 game, also on lanes 1-2 at Potter’s Alley, in the Thursday Night Businessmen League.

Sunday September 4, 2022



**Matt Kaps**

Kaps is apparently working his way across the center. On Thursday night, he rolled his second trey in three weeks in the same league, but this time on lanes 3-4.

His first 11 strikes were all in the 1-3 pocket, but he caught a break on his final ball, which was left off his hand and carried a swishing Brooklyn hit.

Kaps added games of 210 and 222 for a 732 series for the Perfect Angle Pro Shop team, which rolled a 2,844 series. Andre Campos led the team with a 752, Kyle Mauerman added 717 and Laynee Mauerman a 643.