

Thursday November 9, 2023

Spare Change

By Johnny Campos

Four to enter Peoria Bowling Association Hall of Fame; WingStop team rallies to win first third of Masters League

The four new members of the Peoria River City USBC Hall of Fame Class will be celebrated during a ceremony at Barrack's Catering Inn on Saturday night.

Gary Robinson and Dan Walker will be inducted in the Outstanding Bowler category, while Corrie Broberg and Anita Oberle were elected in the Meritorious Service category.

Robinson, 60, has plenty of credentials on the lanes to support his induction – 34 perfect games, 10 series of 800 or better and a high average of 231.

Unfortunately, he will not be able to attend the ceremony.

"This is the kids' last year in marching band as seniors (at Morton High School), and the grand nationals are on November 11th in Indianapolis," Robinson said. "So, I think what I'm going to do is record a little segment for this year and then they're going to give me my official party night in 2024.

"It's kind of a bummer, but I can't miss the last band competition."

Walker also has some solid credentials for Outstanding Bowler.

He has rolled 21 perfect games, at least six 800 series, a high average of 231 and a few other memorable performances.

"I had two 300s on two different nights," Walker said. "They have me down for six 800s, but I'm pretty sure I've had more than that. (Robert) Baynard stopped counting there for a while. It took me so long to get in because my wife Sandy had to go back and find a bunch of them. She's the one who put my name in to get nominated."

Walker also is still bowling at a high level at the age of 58.

"I think it's just being athletic, I guess," he said. "I was good at softball and stuff like that. My mom and dad bowled, and I bowled against the Barnwells when I was a kid when Pleasure Island was still open."

Broberg, the Landmark Lanes League Director, has been at the center for more than 35 years.

She has been secretary for multiple leagues for many seasons, is a former Peoria Youth Board Director, has been involved with the In-School Lanes program from the local association and has been a scorekeeper and organizer for many state, local and PBA tournaments that have been held at Landmark over the years.

But she's going into the hall only after years of being asked to submit her name for the nomination.

Thursday November 9, 2023

"They've been talking to me about it for several years," Broberg said. "But I kept saying no. Ann Ogden (the Association Manager) had asked me all these questions at the beginning of summer, and then one day they asked me to come in because somebody had a question for me. And when I went in, she was there along with Ray (Ogden), Terry Markley, Cass and Kathleen Hermacinski, and that's when they told me."

Broberg started working at Landmark in the summer of 1988, and had her first experience working a pro tournament the following year at the True Value Open. She ended up working 11 of the PBA events that were hosted at the center.

She said that she did not plan to stay at Landmark for so many years.

"After I had kids, I was planning on not working and staying home," Broberg said. "But that didn't happen. And it's turned into a career rather than a job."

"Some of the highlights include the pro tournaments because I never knew that bowlers took the game that seriously. And I've come to love the sport just because of seeing all of the tournaments – for the pros, of course, and for our local bowlers in the city, wheelchair tournaments, blind tournaments, Special Olympics, and all of the seniors. It's just a sport that you can do basically from age 3 to 100."

Oberle, who is still bowling at the age of 82, is being recognized for her work on the board of directors for the former women's association and currently on the board that was formed when the two associations merged a few years ago.

"I was on the women's board for about 10 years and have been doing it for about 16 years," she said. "I got started on the women's board because everybody was kind of leaving the board. I knew Esther (Torry, the long-time president of the women's association) and Madeline (Dotta) and somebody came and asked me if I'd join the board."

"I'd been bowling since 1960. I started in high school in Prophetstown in a little eight-lane center. After that I always found a league to bowl on."

During her time on the board, Oberle has chaired the following committees: Ways & Means, Nominating, Budget, Financials, Audit and Tournament.

"I really liked working on the tournaments with Andy (Jason, a former board member who ran association tournaments for a few years)," Oberle said. "I also enjoyed my time on the Ways & Means committee."

But she was still surprised when she was told that she had been elected into the Hall of Fame.

"I just about fainted," Oberle said. "Barb Fuller submitted my resume for outstanding bowler a few years ago, but I hadn't won a tournament, which was one of their prerequisites. I won an all-events title in Pekin, which would have qualified me if I had won it in Peoria."

"But they fooled me when they told me that I was in the Hall of Fame. Kathleen (Hermacinski) told me we were having a committee meeting. So, I walked in and saw that they were all in uniform. I asked if I was supposed to be wearing my jersey. They said, 'No, we lied to you. You're not here for that. You're going into the Hall of Fame.'

"And, of course, I cried!"

There could be more tears at the ceremony on Saturday night.

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First third Masters champions

The only time that the WingStop team of Travis Anderson, Adam Burnette, Bobbie Sweet and David Colburn led the Perfect Angle Pro Shop/Bill Mastronardi Masters League was when it counted.

WingStop went into position-round night at Potter's Alley in Morton trailing the Potter's Alley team by 12 points. WingStop posted a convincing 42-8 decision to claim the title after the first 11 weeks of competition.

Colburn led the way with a 743 series, opening with a 279 and closing with 259. Anderson, the team captain, added a 685, Sweet a 658 and Burnette 645.

Team captain Bob Baker led Potter's with a 668. Gary Robinson added 657, Don Sweet 615 and Eric Lilienthal 591.

WingStop ended up winning the third with 339 points and Potter's ended up second with 317.

Steve Taylor ended up with high average in the first third with a 238.87, while Don Sweet was second at 237.27. Mike McBride was next with 232.15, followed by Travis Anderson at 230.76 and Andre Campos at 230.18.

Adam Burnette and Campos tied for the most individual match points, both going 67-29. Taylor was next at 66-22, followed by Joe Robards (64-32) and Dan Lee (63-33).



Gary Robinson



Dan Walker



Corrie Broberg



Anita Oberle

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Wingstop team (left to right) Travis Anderson, David Colburn, Bobbie Sweet, Adam Burnette