

Saturday, August 27, 2022

Spare Change

By Johnny Campos

Peoria River City USBC Association Honors Bowlers of the Year, All-Star Teams

Bowling in his first full season as a senior bowler, Pete Burdette earned a rare distinction of being the only double honoree among the six Peoria River City USBC Association Bowlers of the Year and all-star teams for the 2021-22 season.

The local association honored both male and female bowlers, ranging from youth to seniors, with a few repeat bowlers from last year's squads. The teams represent the bowlers who have earned the most points based on the criteria established by the PRC Association.



Pete Burdette

Burdette was honored as the Men's Senior Bowler of the Year and was a member of the men's all-star team in the standard division.

"I had no clue I was going to make either team," he said. "I did not think I was even going to be on the senior All-Star team. It made me feel really good."

Highlights in Burdette's season included a couple of perfect games and back-to-back 800 series during the senior city tournament. He rolled an 806 series in doubles and backed it up with an 835 set in singles.

Burdette and Eric Zueck also finished second in the senior state tournament with a 1,449-scratch set.

But what really got Burdette's season going was when he started coaching the Morton Junior High bowling team. "They started asking me questions, pushing me and reenergized me," he said. "That got me more excited, watching them and seeing them do things for the first time. Helping them out made me want to bowl again."

The other members of the men's senior all-star team were Mike Boogren, Tony Wysinger, Zueck and Gary Strait.

Joining Burdette on the men's non-senior all-star team were repeat Bowler of the Year Bob Baker, Don Sweet, Tommy Barnwell, Kenny Shockency and Kevin Tockes.

"I knew I had a pretty good year," Baker said. "In the city tournament I just about swept everything. Going into the last weekend I was first in every event."

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“I also had four or five 300s, a couple of 800s and a lot of games over 290. So, I knew I was going to be close. There are a lot of big points in the city tournament, so I knew I had a pretty good chance.”

Baker’s team also won the title in The Perfect Angle Pro Shop/Bill Mastronardi Masters League, claimed the doubles and team titles at the Central Illinois Tournament in Springfield, and was among the top averages in the Masters.

But the entire season was not all good for Baker.

“Mom passed away in March, so it was a pretty tough year,” he said.

“Bowling was a nice distraction. She did not get to come to too many events, because she used to watch us bowl just about everything.

“She got to watch the city tournament, where me and my brother (Mike) bowled really well. And she got to watch a 300 this year, so that was cool.”

Sweet, who bowls doubles with Baker, was part of a family that had three generations of honorees.

His mother, Dawn Guerrero, was the Senior Woman Bowler of the Year, and his daughter, Alivia Sweet, was a member of the youth girls’ all-star team.

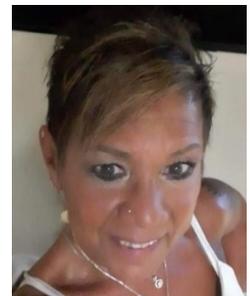
It was the third straight Bowler of the Year honor for Guerrero, who has averaged in the mid-190s during that span. She also claimed the handicap singles title in the PRC Mixed Doubles tournament.

“I’m incredibly proud to still be at the level of bowling and competitiveness that I’m at,” she said.

“I have worked very hard the last five years in making my game better. My son was a huge inspiration and pushed to get me back in the game. And credit to him for always helping me with my game when I need it. “As far as my longevity, the younger women that I bowl with in league and in tournaments are such a huge inspiration. They push me to make me better, whether they realize it or not. They totally inspire me. Now I look forward to another great year.”



Bob Baker



Dawn Guerrero

The rest of the Senior Women's All-Star team were Val Petty Haynes, Wendy Cameron Haste, Diane Lane, and Cynthia Harris Jordan.

It was the second straight year for Alivia Sweet to earn all-star honors.

“I am super proud of Alivia,” Guerrero said. “It really is something special. I love watching her and getting my two cents in when I can.”

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Jasmine Kaufmann

Other members of the youth girls' all-star team were Bowler of the Year Jasmine Kaufmann, Grace Liening, Morgan Robinson (last year's girls' Bowler of the Year), and Hailey Johnston.

"I was a little surprised that I was named Bowler of the Year," Kaufmann said. "I felt like I was a little off during the season. But I started getting more 200 games, and my average was going up. But even though my average was going up, I just did not feel like I was bowling as good as I could be. I thought other girls were pretty good too."

Kaufmann, 16, is a junior at Washington Community High School. She has been bowling since she was 3 and comes from a bowling family that includes her grandmother Elaine Kaufmann, her aunt Lynn Kaufmann, and her dad Mark Kaufmann.

Three siblings from the Robinson family all earned spots among the youth honorees.

Joining Morgan on all-star teams were her brothers, twins Matt and Michael Robinson. Matt was the Youth Bowler of the Year for the second straight season, while Michael joined him on the all-star team for the first time.



Matt Robinson

"I'm sure that the recent Youth Around Town Tournament helped me a lot," said Matt Robinson, who finished second in the handicap event and posted the high scratch score by 211 pins over 16 games. "And I just bowled pretty good in leagues overall, averaging around 189. I felt great when I heard that I was Bowler of the Year again. I have gotten better, and can only get better from here, I hope."

He added that while he and his siblings like to egg each other on when they are on the lanes, they are all supportive of each other. "It's all fun and games out there, but we want all of us to do well,"

Robinson said. "We want all of us to make good shots and I am happy that both of them also made the all-star teams."

The other members of the boys' all-star team were Preston Jones, who has already rolled a pair of 300 games this year, Braden Collins, and Will Hudson.

Jade Frost, a former, Youth Girls Bowler of the Year, has now graduated to become the Women's Bowler of the Year.

She was a 2020 honoree as a youth bowler but took the top spot among the women this year after putting up some great numbers this past season.

Frost rolled her first career 300 game on January 11 at Mt. Hawley Bowl and followed that up with her second trey and 802 series at Landmark Lanes on January 26.

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“I also bowled a four-person team tournament at Landmark at the end of 2021 and went 1,296 for five games (1 259.2 average),” she said. “Our team ended up winning.”

Frost also won the handicap singles title in the women’s city tournament with an actual 731 series (handicap 785) and finished second in handicap all-events with 2,154.



Jade Frost

“I think that a great season comes from the people I am surrounded by,” she said. “I love all the people I bowl with, and they make it a great time, even if I bowl bad. We always push each other to be better.”

The rest of the women’s all-star team included Jennifer Mauerman, Lori Chase, Nicole Hartseil and Hailey Jepson, the Women’s Bowler of the Year for the past two season.