

SPECIAL EDITION

North American

Bowling News

17

Summer 2014



The Inter-Continental Duckpin Bowling Challenge

North American Bowling News

Number 17

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This special edition of the North American Bowling News diverts a bit from the usual magazine format into more of a Program Book for the landmark and historic "Inter-Continental Duckpin Bowling Challenge" between Argentina and the United States.

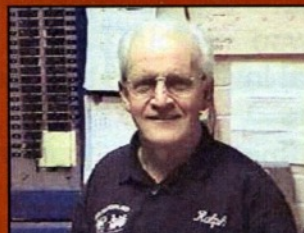
-- Editor, Rod Weaver

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BIENVENIDOS, ARGENTINA !

OFFICIAL INVITATION

The following is the official invitation letter sent to get the ball rolling for the IDBC event in regard to sports visas, and general legalities. The details were mutually agreed upon, by the President of the Metropolitan Bowling Federation of Argentina, and the editor of the North American Bowling News. As the event became finalized, a few changes to the original format and event date resulted.

DATE: January 2, 2014

TO:

Roberto Di Spirito
President
Metropolitan Bowling Federation of Argentina
Argentine Confederation of Master Duckpin Bowling

SUBJECT: Formal Invitation to the Inter-Continental Duckpin Challenge

Greetings Mr. Di Spirito:

On behalf of the sport of duckpin bowling in the United States of America and the North American Bowling News, I extend greetings to you and the members of the Metropolitan Bowling Federation of Argentina and the Argentine Confederation of Master Duckpin Bowling. As a tribute to our glorious sport of duckpin bowling, I hereby invite you and a select group of the best players from your country to participate in a special sports event to be held in the United States in the middle of the year 2014. This special event will be entitled "The Inter-Continental Duckpin Bowling Challenge".

The idea of this landmark sporting event is to promote good will and interest between our two countries in the form of a duckpin bowling challenge match, and hopefully to pave the way for an expanded World Cup of Duckpin Bowling competition, planned for the year 2015 or 2016.

The Inter-Continental Duckpin Challenge will be held at White Oak Bowling Lanes in Silver Spring, Maryland during the dates of June 27, 2014 through July 5, 2014. This special tournament will be an approximate one-week event, involving a maximum of 10 players on each team--8 male and 2 female. Of the 8 male players, there shall be one "youth" player, under 23 years of age. A series of matches will be conducted during the course of the event, which will result in an aggregate champion at the tournament's climax.

The event will be considered an 'exhibition', in which the scores rolled will not be credited towards a bowler's national ranking in his/her respective country. Travel expenses and hotel accommodations are the responsibility of the players participating in the event.

I believe this will be an exciting and important step in generating interest and building a stronger future for the sport of duckpin bowling. I eagerly await your reply. Thank you for your time and have a wonderful new year.

Sincerely,
Rod Weaver

INTRODUCTION

The Inter-Continental Duckpin Bowling Challenge is the product of a plan, mutually agreed upon by representatives of two of the countries that are considered hotbeds for the sport of duckpin bowling. Argentina and the United States have long histories in duckpin bowling. Argentina first started bowling duckpins around the year 1930, while the United States got its start with the game sometime during the turn of the 20th century, right around the year 1900. A lot of great players on the two continents of North and South America have made the game popular in their respective provinces, promoting the game through superior ability and leading the masses of followers through excellence of achievement.

In much the same way in which it is impossible to compare the greatest players of any sport from separate generations, the same holds true when comparing players from separate continents. And in the case of bowling...environment, lane conditions, equipment, and style of play all weigh into the numbers generated, despite equal levels of talent among players across the two jurisdictions.

In October of 2013, there was a meeting of the minds between Argentina and the United States when the president of the Metropolitan Bowling Federation of



Inter-Continental Duckpin Bowling Challenge

Argentina (and one of the bowlers in this year's event), Roberto Di Spirito, spear-headed the ambitious idea of a challenge match by sending out emails to the Internet resources for duckpin bowling on the USA side of the fence. The Pop Whitten Pro Tour's Gary McKinsey was contacted first, followed by an email to the WorldLeagues.net website.

After subsequent coordination, the ball soon got rolling for getting the IDBC event off the ground. The human qualities of patience, diplomacy, and mutual respect and understanding for each country's representatives played a huge role in keeping the project moving forward.

After a few structural changes along the way to the proposed national team rosters, the tournament format became finalized at 10 male players on each squad—8 "Class A" players (pro level), 1 "Class B" player (very near pro level), and 1 youth representative under

the age of 23 years.

The Inter-Continental Duckpin Bowling Challenge is intended as an event that serves two primary purposes. First, it is to be a competition between the top level players between countries. And second, it is also proposed as a 'good will' type of event that is to be an exchange of cultures for the sport of duckpin bowling. Should the event prove to be a high quality and harmonious success, the road will be paved for a projected "World Cup of Duckpins" slated for the year 2016, and involving additional countries.

One of the key ingredients that instilled an interest in this proposed challenge match was the effort put forth by one of the members of the current Argentine team, Ezequiel Delfino, who back in 2011 traveled 31 hours from Buenos Aires to Silver Spring, Maryland to compete in a Pop Whitten Pro Tour event held at White Oak Lanes.

According to bowling historian and duckpin hall-of-famer, Jeff Ferrand, the Inter-Continental Duckpin Bowling Challenge marks the first time that an Argentina team will be competing against a USA team on American soil. A World Cup duckpin event did take place in 1983 involving 4 countries including Argentina and the United States, but the competition was held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

The Host of the Inter-Continental Duckpin Bowling Challenge

RALPH CURRY: DEDICATED TO DUCKPINS

During a period in time when the duckpin game is breathing heavily in its fight for survival, there is one man who's doing all he can to keep the sport on its feet. Ralph Curry, the owner and manager of White Oak Lanes in Silver Spring, Maryland, continues to prove himself as one of the hardest working proprietors in the business. Stepping into his 59th year in the bowling business, Ralph recently negotiated a new multi-year contract for the White Oak Bowling Center. With the bowling lanes located in a high-rent business area, it takes an avid duckpin enthusiast and a shrewd businessman to make the operation of a bowling center a worthwhile business venture.

One of the problems that results from contract negotiations is the inevitable unpleasant duty of having to inform the bowling center's patrons and league bowlers that "costs have gone up", making it necessary to increase fees. However, because of the realization of his tireless support for the game of duckpins, and a general 'putting things into perspective', the vast majority of Ralph's members quickly come to accept that this is just a part of life, and they simply pay the price and



White Oak Bowling Lanes proprietor, RALPH CURRY

move on to enjoy the game.

Curry was born and raised in Hagerstown, Maryland. He got his start in the duckpin game in 1956 as a pinboy at the old "Coliseum", a 34-lane bowling establishment in Hagerstown. The bowling center was a split-house, with 14 duckpin and 20 tenpin lanes. Ralph worked there for about a year when in 1957, Hagerstown businessman, Frank Turner, bought and installed 14 automatic pinsetters for the Coliseum. Within the next two years, the entire bowling center had been automated. In 1958, Turner built another establishment, Dual Lanes, and in 1960, Southside Bowl was erected. The duckpin game was beginning to flourish in Hagerstown, and with the opening of Southside Lanes, Curry was hired to work there. Ralph started as an assistant mechanic, and before long, due to his technical aptitude, was

promoted to head mechanic. He worked at Southside for about 10 years, during which time he was a 'jack of all trades' and picked up some management experience by working the counter during his tenure.

In 1970, Ralph became half-owner in Health Center

Lanes in Winchester, Virginia, partnered with Clark "Cisco" Copenhaver. (Copenhaver has the distinction of winning the first duckpin pro tour event ever held.) While working at Health Center Lanes, Curry did just about everything, from being the manager, to performing all the mechanical work, and established a good business rapport in the process.

In 1977, the center in Winchester was sold, and Ralph bought White Oak Lanes in the same year. He became half-owner at the outset, and took over "White Oak" completely in 1989. At that point, the bowling center was completely renovated. The house was originally designed for duckpins, but with the ability to convert over to tenpins, if the duckpin game didn't make a go of it. However, White Oak has been one of the cornerstones for duckpins in the Washington-Metro area and at this time it is still

inconceivable that it would contain anything but the flying ducks. During Ralph's stay at White Oak Lanes, the center has been a mainstay as a host house for the men's and women's tour events.

Curry has had quite a resume in the bowling game throughout his career, hired to do mechanical work in a number of bowling establishments from all over the Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington DC areas, including Hagerstown, Middleburg, Hancock, Berkeley Springs, Williamsport, Frederick, Charlottesville, Fredericksburg, and Shenandoah, as well as many others. Ralph was responsible for changing the semi-automatic pinsetters to Sherman machines in Luray, Virginia. In 1973-1974, Ralph worked at the Martinsburg West Virginia Hospital, which had 4 bowling lanes on the premises and his job was to shorten the existing lanes by 2 feet, and install duckpin machines in place of the existing tenpin units. Curry's expertise has also been employed by Pikeside Lanes in West Virginia.

A few years back, Ralph was contracted for work at Congressional Country Club, and also did a lot of mechanical work in "Leisure World", which is a senior citizens' retirement community in Olney, Maryland.

During his near 60 years in the bowling business, Ralph established a solid

reputation as a bowler as well. At the time he stepped down from league bowling, Curry bowled in the White Oak Major League on Thursday nights, and averaged a solid 136. His most memorable moment in his career was his all-spare 186 game, in which he opened the game with 5 consecutive 2-pinner breaks, and then finished the 2nd half hitting 5 straight single-pin spares—quite an impressive game, to say the least.

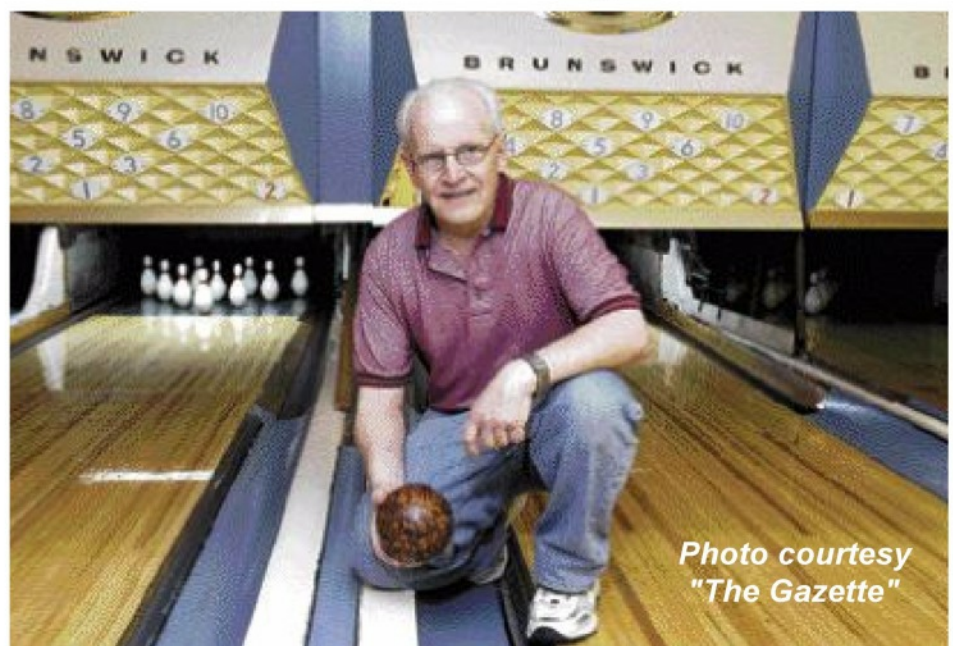
Ralph's most vivid recollections of bowling performances at White Oak Lanes include Pat Rinaldi's 256 game, Bruce Plumb's 261 effort, Paul Mitchell's 600 set, and Tommy Mizell's 603 series.

When asked about what he feels is the reason for the decline in the duckpin game, Ralph believes that there is not just one, but a number of contributing factors. First, the fact that both parents in a household work nowadays is one reason for the drop-off.

Second, the increase in the crime rate is another part of the big picture. And third, the cost involved with bowling. With the birth of businesses like the original Blockbuster Video, and the like, Curry feels that there are many more things to do with the dollar.

Dedication and loyalty to one's profession in today's society are proving to be a lost art. However, there are people who are indeed trying to prove that one person can make a difference. Ralph Curry is a prime example of a bowler and proprietor whose lifetime devotion and love for the sport of duckpins is the force behind his drive to keep the game going strong.

With so much history tied into one man's lifetime of work, it seems only fitting that Curry's establishment, White Oak Lanes, be the gathering place for a meeting between two continents with such an historic background involving the sport of duckpin bowling.



MEET THE PLAYERS FROM ARGENTINA



Alejandro Bianculli

2-time Singles Mar del Plata champion.
National Champion in trios Cup National Cup Cristal.
Campeon Gaspar Sugasua in trios.
High Game: 198

Alberto Borja

National Champion in trios Cristal. Campeon National
Cup National Cup in trios trios Oro. Campeon in Gaspar
Sugasua. Campeon
cup in trios Cup City Cup in Pairs Loberia. Campeon city of Mar
del Plata.
High Game: 196



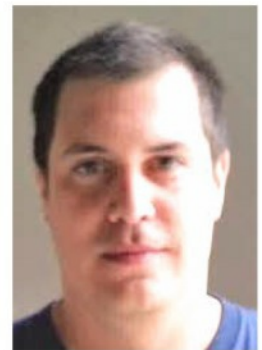
Gerardo Cerezal



Tri City Single Cup champion Pampa. 2-time trios
National champion in National City Olavarria
Campeon Cup Copa Sitas trios.
National Champion in trios eyed Deer City Cup.
Argentine champion in trios.
High Game: 228

Ezequiel Delfino

2-time Youth champion of Argentina, and the
Metropolitan Youth Champion. Strong showing in
2011 Pop Whitten Pro Tour as first Argentine player to compete
in a
professional "Open" duckpin event in the United States.
Current High Game: 214



Roberto Di Spirito



2-time National Champion and Singles record-holder.
2-time Argentine champion (2010 and current 2013 champion)
2-time Argentine Champion Parejas.
2-time Argentine national in Trios and national Quartets Campeon
2-time Campeon in Cristal. Cup trios
National Cup champion in trios in Gaspar Sugasua. ampeon national trios
cup champion Olavarria. Penta city Metropolitan Individual.
High Game: 202

MEET THE PLAYERS FROM ARGENTINA

Alejandro Jurquevicius

Couples Cup Champion in Mar del Plata.
Champion Cup single city of Mar del Plata. Best Line 188 sticks.



Diego Palmisciano

Runner-up Individual. Campeon Argentine
Argentine champion in Federation Cup
2-time champion Mar del Plata Parejas
Argentine Championships Record in best game (207) and
six-game record (933).
High Game: 207

Diego Penoni

4-time champion Individual. 3-time Mar del Plata Argentine Argentine
national individual champion.
Champion Juvenil.
Campeon city in trios national Olavarria.
Doubles Campeon Cup Copa city
Triples Mendoza. Couples Cup champion in sea of the Plata.
High Game: 231.



Franco Soru

2-time Triples youth champion. Champion Argentine
Argentine Argentine national champion Couples Juvenil. Sub
Juvenil. Campeon in trios Lobería City Cup. Best Line 188 sticks.

Gabriel Stefano

champion Argentine Argentine champion in
Parejas. Penta Juvenil. Cuadruple Nacionalen trios Cup
champion Gaspar
national Sugasua. Campeon in trios Cup champion individual
Mar del
Plata Cristal. Bi. Best line 223 sticks.



MEET THE PLAYERS FROM THE UNITED STATES



John Biederman

Orchard Beach, Maryland
5-time Champion on the Pop Whitten Pro Tour
Ranked #2 in the nation in 2011-2012; # 9 ranking in past year
151 average in the Friday Night Pro Doubles League
President of the Baltimore Pro League
High Game: 239

Mark Davis

Jessup, Maryland
Champion in the Bob Wilson Open in 2006
Champion on the Pop Whitten Pro Tour in November 2012
Mark is one of the literal 'giants' of the duckpin game, standing in at close to 6'6"; possess superior mental toughness on lanes; excellent team player
High Game: 241; High 3-game Set: 535 (twice)

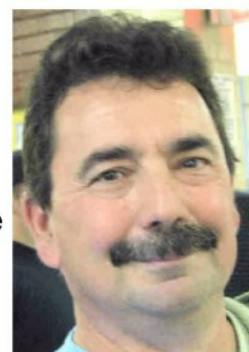


Jeff Gindes

Silver Spring, Maryland
Jeff is fast-riser in the duckpin sport. Although not having competed in many tournaments, Gindes is exceptionally formidable, and has a knack for 'getting hot' in a hurry, and putting up the big numbers when least expected. Earlier in the 2013-2014 season, Jeff pitched an 'off-the-scale' 14-strike effort in the White Oak Major League, and nearly topping his high game on a separate occasion about a week later.
High Game: 198

Kenny Herrell

Germantown, Maryland
Champion in the \$10,000 Turner World Classic in Hagerstown in 2010
Always a crowd pleaser and a fan favorite, Kenny has earned a "Legend of the Game" reputation through excellence on a consistent basis. Herrell came out of the youth leagues in the late 1978 averaging over 140, and has been regarded in the 150 class since the mid-1980s.
High Game: 241; High 3-game Set: 586



Bernie Hipkins

Frederick, Maryland
4-time DPBA Champion; 3-time Pop Whitten Pro Tour champion
8 additional Open tournament wins, including Pinland open, Butch Pryor Open, Bob Wilson Memorial, 3 Hagerstown
"King of the Hill" tourneys, and 2 National Tournament handicap titles.
Single season high average: 152; Nationally ranked as high as #2, with 6 additional top 10 rankings; 9-10 games rolled in the 220s
High Game: 227 (twice); High 3-game Set: 572

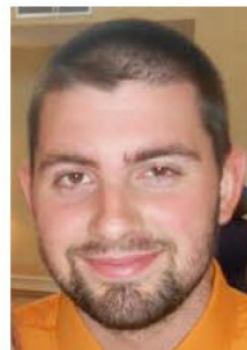
MEET THE PLAYERS FROM THE UNITED STATES

Phil Robinson

Glen Burnie, Maryland

Phil is one of the young superstars in the youth duckpin program for the United States that has earned the respect of his peers and his mentors. For the past 2 consecutive years, Robinson has won the High Game and High 3-game set in the Majors division in the highly regarded annual National Tournament.

High Game: 201, High Set: 488



Steve Rowley

Silver Spring, Maryland

Runner-up in Pop Whitten Pro Tour event; Runner-up in 2013 DPBA tour event at White Oak Lanes

In a most impressive outing at last year's Duckpin Professional Bowlers Association tour event, Steve went undefeated in a gritty series of head-to-head matches, and defeated 2 members of the IDBC U.S. team in the stepladder finals of the event before finally being ousted in the final. A tough mental game and coolness under pressure make Rowley one of the best anchor bowlers in the game today.



Louis Summerville, Jr.

Pikesville, Maryland

Champion in the Pikesville Open

4th in 2013 DPBA event at White Oak Lanes

Always a consummate professional in every sense of the word. Louis had an outstanding year on the DPBA tour in 2013, advancing to the bracket round in the \$10,000.00 Turner Duckpin Classic, and followed a month later with a tremendous ladder performance in the DPBA tour stop at White Oak Lanes

High Game: 242



Billy Thomas

New Carrollton, Maryland

DPBA Champion at Riviera Bowl in 2003

Champion in the 2004 Buddy Creamer Classic; 3-time champion in the Adult Alumni Quintets Challenge Matches; Champion in 1998 Youth Challenge Match, Champion in the "Myra Pyles Doubles" tournament. Averaged over 150 in current season

High Game: 250; High 3-game Set: 593



Buddy Turner

Hyattsville, MD

4-time Champion on Virginia Pro Tour

Runner-up at Pinland Open

National Tournament Overall Champion

Ranked in top 20 bowlers nationwide for 5 years

Secretary of the Baltimore Pro League

High Game: 226



The INTER-CONTINENTAL DUCKPIN BOWLING Challenge Cup

INDIVIDUAL POINTS FOR MOST VALUABLE PLAYER (MVP) AWARD "POINTS SYSTEM"

To establish a tournament "Most Valuable Player (MVP)" award, which will be tabulated and announced at the end of the IDBC event on July 2, 2014, a "Points System" will be adopted that accumulates on each day of the event. Players on each team will earn points at the end of each day, based on his pin total ranking for the day.

There will be one 'National' MVP for EACH TEAM. The National MVP on the winning overall team for the event will be considered the Overall Tournament MVP.

DAILY POINTS RANKING SYSTEM

ARGENTINE Players		UNITED STATES Players	
Ranking	Points	Ranking	Points
1	20	1	20
2	17	2	17
3	14	3	14
4	12	4	12
5	10	5	10
6	9	6	9
7	8	7	8
8	7	8	7
9	6	9	6
10	5	10	5

EACH DAY's pin total is "separate" in regard to the above MVP ranking system. Running totals for pinfall applies to the Aggregate Pinfall category

BONUS POINTS FOR DAY:

- ★ Highest Game for Day among all 20 players: Player earns 2 additional points
- ★ 1st Highest pin total for the day among all 20 players earns 3 additional points
- ★ 2nd Highest pin total for the day among all 20 players earns 2 additional points
- ★ 3rd Highest pin total for the day among all 20 players earns 1 additional point

EXTRA BONUS POINTS:

- ★ Players on each winning team for EACH GAME during competition on Day 3 Quintets/Doubles (Sunday) earn 2 points each. Same Points System will apply for Day 4 - Doubles (Monday), Day 5 - Trios/Singles (Tuesday), and Day 6 - Singles (Wednesday)

AGGREGATE PINFALL GRAND CHAMPION

In addition to the Most Valuable Player award, there will also be an Aggregate Tournament Grand Champion award. This is defined by the bowler on each national team that accumulates the most pinfall throughout the course of Day 2 through Day 6 of the tournament (27 games). To climax the Inter-Continental Duckpin Bowling Challenge, these pinfall leaders for each national team will compete in a 2-game total pinfall match, with the winner being crowned as "Grand Champion", regardless of the accumulated pinfall totals for each player. This final game will be worth 25 points to the bowler's national team.

**** Although the Inter-Continental Duckpin Bowling Challenge is a team-oriented event, the concept of acknowledging the outstanding performances of patriotic individuals via the MVP Award and the Aggregate Pinfall Champion for each national team is designed to generate additional interest for the participants and the spectators of the tournament up until the last ball is rolled.*

**TOURNAMENT
OUTLINE**

The INTER-CONTINENTAL DUCKPIN BOWLING CHALLENGE

White Oak Lanes
Silver Spring, Maryland (USA)

DAY 1: Friday, June 27 - 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm approximate

PRO-AM EVENT

Purpose: This Pro-Am event will benefit the bowling establishment, White Oak Lanes, allowing the bowling center to generate revenue from its patrons.

DAY 2: Saturday, June 28th - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm approximate

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Players roll to accumulate pins and points

DAY 3: Sunday, June 29th - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm approximate

QUINTETS and DOUBLES

DAY 4: Monday, June 30th - 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm approximate

DOUBLES

DAY 5: Tuesday, July 1st - 5:30 pm to 10:30 pm approximate

TRIOS and SINGLES

DAY 6: Wednesday, July 2nd - 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm approximate

SINGLES, BAKER FORMAT GAME, GRAND FINALE and AWARDS PRESENTATION

The INTER-CONTINENTAL DUCKPIN BOWLING CHALLENGE

White Oak Lanes
Silver Spring, Maryland (USA)

DAY 1: Friday, June 27 - 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm approximate

PRO-AM EVENT

Purpose: This Pro-Am event will benefit the bowling establishment, White Oak Lanes, and its loyal patrons, allowing the center's faithful bowlers to participate in a part of history with the best professional players on 2 continents, while at the same time enabling the establishment to generate some revenue.

Explanation:

The PRO-AM is an exhibition for the professional players on the two national teams, and at the same time, a competition for the amateur players on the Argentina team and the United States team. The PRO-AM is a tournament to allow the casual (Amateur) players (CLASS B, CLASS C) who live near White Oak Lanes to participate with the CLASS A players.

The CLASS A players do not pay to participate. The amateur players pay to play in the 3-game tournament.

The CLASS A players will roll 3 games with the amateur players, and the CLASS A scores will be combined with the amateur players who participate in the event, to determine a winner among the amateurs.

EACH NATIONAL TEAM WILL CONSIST OF 8 CLASS "A" (Pro-level) PLAYERS, 1 CLASS "B" (Very near pro), and 1 YOUTH PLAYER (under age 23)

*** As an added bonus to the kick-off event, an up-and-coming star for Argentina duckpin bowling. Lautaro Penoni, will be pace bowling on a selected pair of lanes during the Pro-Am event. Lautaro is the son of one of the visiting Argentine professionals, Diego Penoni.

The INTER-CONTINENTAL DUCKPIN BOWLING CHALLENGE

DAY 2: Saturday, June 28 - 10:00 am (6 games)

DAY 2 Objective: Competition - **OPENING CEREMONY/PHOTOSHOOT
and PRELIMINARY ROUND**

Explanation:

First Part of Day 3 (Games 1, 2, and 3) - **QUINTETS**. The highest 5 Argentine players ranked by total pinfall, based on Saturday's play, will be assigned to ARGENTINE LEVEL 1 QUINTET. The lowest 5 Argentine players will be assigned to ARGENTINE LEVEL 2 QUINTET. Same applies for UNITED STATES QUINTETS. ARGENTINE LEVEL 1 QUINTET will play against UNITED STATES LEVEL 1 QUINTET. ARGENTINE LEVEL 2 QUINTET will play against UNITED STATES LEVEL 2 QUINTET. Teams will play 3 games. **Winning team for each game gets 3 points. Highest pinfall total for all 3 games in each Quintet match gets 6 additional points.**

Second Segment of Day 3 (Games 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8) - **DOUBLES**. Due to the length of time it takes to roll at "Quintets" pace, and with days and lane availability being limited at times throughout the course of this event, as well as U.S. player work schedules to consider, it's desirable to introduce a DOUBLES (COUPLES) format to begin on Sunday, and extend into Monday evening. This will allow more games to be rolled by all participants in the tournament.

5 rounds of DOUBLES matches will begin after the 3 games of QUINTETS competition. The DOUBLES format also enables each national player to be teamed up at least once with a fellow countryman, as well as allowing for competing against each member of the opposing 10-man squad at least once during the DOUBLES portion of the tournament.

Each DOUBLES game of Day 3 will be worth 2 points for the winning team.

The INTER-CONTINENTAL DUCKPIN BOWLING CHALLENGE

DAY 3: Sunday, June 29 - 10:00 am (8 games)

DAY 3 Objective: Competition - **QUINTETS and DOUBLES**

Explanation:

First Part of Day 3 (Games 1, 2, and 3) - **QUINTETS**. The highest 5 Argentine players ranked by total pinfall, based on Saturday's play, will be assigned to ARGENTINE LEVEL 1 QUINTET. The lowest 5 Argentine players will be assigned to ARGENTINE LEVEL 2 QUINTET. Same applies for UNITED STATES QUINTETS. ARGENTINE LEVEL 1 QUINTET will play against UNITED STATES LEVEL 1 QUINTET. ARGENTINE LEVEL 2 QUINTET will play against UNITED STATES LEVEL 2 QUINTET. Teams will play 3 games. **Highest pinfall total for all 3 games combined in each Quintet Level match is declared the winner and receives 15 team points.** Individuals on the winning Quintets teams each receive 6 points.

Second Segment of Day 3 (Games 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8) - **DOUBLES**. Due to the length of time it takes to roll at "Quintets" pace, and with days and lane availability being limited at times throughout the course of this event, it's desirable to introduce a DOUBLES (COUPLES) format to begin on Sunday, and extend into Monday evening. This will allow more games to be rolled by all participants in the tournament.

5 rounds of DOUBLES matches will begin after the 3 games of QUINTETS competition. The DOUBLES format also enables each national player to be teamed up at least once with a fellow countryman, as well as allowing for competing against each member of the opposing 10-man squad at least once during the DOUBLES portion of the tournament.

Each DOUBLES game of Day 3 will be worth 2 points for the winning team.

The INTER-CONTINENTAL DUCKPIN BOWLING CHALLENGE

DAY 4: Monday, June 30 - 6:00 pm (4 rounds, 5 matches per round)

DAY 4 Objective: **DOUBLES (continued)**

Explanation:

Closing out the DOUBLES portion of the event with the remaining 4 rounds of the DOUBLES schedule. The participants will roll a reduced number of games after a busy weekend. Work schedules of the U.S. players make it necessary for a lighter schedule in the early part of the week.

Each DOUBLES game of Day 4 will be worth 2 points to the winning team

The INTER-CONTINENTAL DUCKPIN BOWLING Challenge Cup

DAY 5: Tuesday, July 1 - 5:30 pm (5 rounds, 4 matches per round)

DAY 5 Objective: **TRIOS and SINGLES**

Explanation:

With lane availability being limited, the schedule is to be adjusted. There will be 2 trios matches between the national teams, along with 2 singles matches, per round. 2 players will receive a 'bye' per round. This format accommodates the limited number of available lanes and it allows bowlers to stay within their work schedules, both early and late.

Each TRIOS game of Day 5 will be worth 4 points

Each SINGLES game of Day 5 will be worth 2 points

The INTER-CONTINENTAL DUCKPIN BOWLING CHALLENGE

DAY 6: Sunday, June 29 - 10:00 am (8 games)

DAY 6 Objective: Competition - **SINGLES, BAKER TEAM GAME, GRAND FINALE and AWARDS PRESENTATION**

Explanation:

The closing day of the week-long event will feature a series of 5 rounds of **SINGLES** matches. **Winning player in EACH GAME earns 2 points for his national team, and 2 points individually.** Singles matches are divided into two brackets (5 players in each bracket), based on overall pin total for Days 2 through 5 of the competition.

After the Singles matches, and if time permits, a special BAKER FORMAT game will be played between the 2 teams. Each player will roll one frame for his team. Since there are 10 players on each team, a complete game can be rolled by all 10 bowlers per squad. The BAKER FORMAT game will be worth 5 points for the winning team. No individual points will be awarded to any players for the BAKER FORMAT contest.

After the BAKER FORMAT game, one final match will be rolled that will be worth 25 points for the winning player's team. The contest will be between the highest pin total Argentine player for the 27 games of the event, against the highest United States player, based on pinfall for the 27 games. The final contest will be a 'best of 3 games' contest. The winner of this game will be crowned GRAND CHAMPION for the IDBC event, regardless of the 2 finalists' 27-game total.

AWARDS PRESENTATION to follow the grand finale contest.

DUCKPINS IN ARGENTINA

Travelin' Man Makes 2-Continent Trek to Compete in Pro Event

Much has been said about the Canadian integration into the Duckpin Professional Bowlers Association (DPBA), but the Pop Whitten pro duckpin tour has laid its own claim on international duckpin hospitality, as a new face from 'south of the border' recently emerged to partake in competition on the PWPT.

One of the amazing stories of 2011 came about at White Oak Lanes on August 20th in the Pop Whitten Tour when Argentina's Ezequiel Delfino, made the long trek from his South American homeland to participate in the pro duckpin event. Delfino, a resident of Coronel Pringles, which is approximately 400 miles from Buenos Aires, is an avid duckpinner. In this historic debut for a Latin American competing in a North American duckpin pro event, the 34-year old Argentine—a husky, likable, good-natured fellow—made quite an



The Travelin' Man, and One of the Class "A" players in the IDBC, EZEQUIEL DELFINO

impressive showing in the tour, scoring a solid 814 for 6 games 'on foreign soil'.

Leading up to his superb performance in representing the South American continent, one of the astonishing things about Ezequiel's story is that his trip to participate in the Pop Whitten pro event took him a grueling 31 hours in travel time. The flight from Buenos Aires to Miami was an 11-hour plane ride, and from

there, he and his lady companion spent 20 hours driving up the east coast to Silver Spring, Maryland. Delfino, a 20-year veteran of the duckpin game, says

that there really aren't any bowling leagues in Argentina, but they do have tournaments. There's one big tour event annually, and there are around 6 to 7 other yearly events for the competitive players. With the absence of bowling leagues, it's difficult for Delfino to precisely assess what his average is, but based on the scores he's rolled in tournaments on his continent, he feels his average would lie somewhere around 134 to 136. Ezequiel's single high game is 214, and his best 3 consecutive games add up to somewhere in the 480+ range.

The scoring is tougher in Argentina. Sideboard action is drastically less than what is experienced in the United States. Delfino states that the balls are a little bigger down in South America, (probably around 5-1/8" in diameter—to be more precise, 131 millimeters, as opposed to the United States maximum ball diameter of 5" (127 millimeters). Ball weights are the same as the U.S. version of duckpin bowling. This coincides with what duckpin historian and hall-of-famer, Jeff Ferrand described about equipment in the Philippines from an earlier issue of the North American Bowling News).

Delfino estimates that there are approximately 200 duckpin centers in Argentina, most of them being small houses made up of 4 to 6



Duckpin Bowling is still alive and well in Argentina. Shown here: One of the small but tasteful bowling centers of South America

lanes each. According to Ezequiel, about 50% of the lanes utilize 'pinboys', while the other 50% employ string machines—but there are no automatic pinsetters. Generally, the South American bowling centers still use wood surfaces for the duckpin lanes, rather than the synthetics.

The players in South America take their bowling seriously, as you can easily tell if you watch any of the videos of Argentina duckpin bowling on "YouTube"

Besides the use of pinboys, one particular difference between 'here and there' is that the players bowl 'ball for ball'. This naturally expedites the bowling experience, which has to be a positive point for the bowling establishments as well as the spectators.

Delfino did exceedingly well in his 6-game block at the Pop Whitten Pro event, with scores of 140, 104, 128, 157, 147, and 138.

Ezequiel's effort was especially impressive when you consider the fact that he

was bowling in a strange geographic environment for the first time. With no familiar faces around him, he was in an unfamiliar bowling alley, rolling at a pace in which he was

unaccustomed (having to conform to the bowling courtesy of the Maryland area), and using a smaller ball than what he normally uses, not to mention rolling on lanes which utilize the synthetic playing surface.

Although Ezequiel Delfino is the first resident of a South American country to venture forward, putting up his money to compete in a pro-style duckpin event, he isn't the first Latin player to achieve success in American duckpin tournaments. Just to mention a couple of bilingual U.S. citizens—Julio Feliciano, an occasional member of the DPBA, and a 'regular' on the Pop Whitten circuit, has



An oddity in bowling: a 5-lane bowling center

year 2003, when he qualified for the Sunday finals with a solid 1081 total for 7 games in the open (scratch) tourney.

And yes...they have Cosmic Bowling in Buenos Aires, just like in the U.S. Ezequiel's home house is a 6-lane bowling center in Coronel Pringles called "Mister Pin". Even though the duckpin centers are without automatic pinsetters, the establishment is well equipped with the on-demand, state-of-the-art, beautiful lighting extravaganza commonly known in this country as 'cosmic bowling'.

From the videos this editor has viewed on YouTube, there are many really accomplished bowlers in South America who would easily be considered 'buzzsaws' if you ever had to face them in a one-on-one bowling contest.

In 1997, this editor had the opportunity and privilege to communicate with one of the high rollers of Argentina, Nestor Nicolini, who provided a lot of interesting info on the state of duckpin bowling 'down south'. Delfino says



The spectacular light shows of Cosmic Bowling aren't just in North America. Here's a South American establishment with a modern recreational appeal

enjoyed a good deal of success on the PWPT. A few years back, another Latin player, Frank Ortiz, made a splash at the Buddy Creamer Classic event around the



From 1997: On left, Nestor Nicolini with 2 of the members of the Argentina National team

that Nicolini is still one of the heralded players on the South America continent.

Referring back to historian Jeff Ferrand as he drew upon his vivid memory of the 1983 World Cup, he recalled one of the extremely impressive players from Argentina who competed in the Small Ball World

Cup Championships, held above the U.S. border in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Ferrand recalls the name, Tomas Guzman, who was distinct not only by a menacing appearance, with jet black hair and full black mustache, but also a tremendous talent in the duckpin game. Although the Argentines didn't come away with the duckpin 'gold medal' back then, Guzman successfully led his team to the Fivepin segment of the small ball championships.

A LITTLE MORE ABOUT EZEQUIEL DELFINO

Ezequiel Delfino is no stranger to unfamiliar surroundings. And he is quite proficient in his line of work—Delfino is a lane installer. With an impressive collection of projects under his belt, Delfino has been all over, from as far west as Orange County, California to the state of Virginia on the other side of the country, and numerous other countries, including Iceland, Kuwait, and the Ukraine. Ezequiel does a lot of work in regard to modernizing the tenpin game. But duckpin lanes are no problem for him either. Last September, Delfino installed a



Ezequiel Delfino, hard at work

series of duckpin lanes in Vietnam. His current project has taken him to Arlington, Texas, as he has another tenpin installation to do, but Delfino interrupted his work to travel here in Silver Spring to compete in the Inter-Continental Duckpin Bowling Challenge.

In summation, with the

Canadian contingent fitting in so well with the U.S. duckpin events, and now with the intrepid efforts of one of Argentina's finest, the prospect of another World Cup event similar to the one held in 1983, is now a real possibility—just a little legwork from one of the organizations could make such a dream materialize.

Ezequiel Delfino is a prime example of a true bowling explorer setting sail for a new world. Courage and confidence in his ability to compete with total strangers in an unfamiliar environment has allowed him to etch his name into a page of bowling history.

A Couple of Samples of Delfino's Work



The Iceland Project



Closer to White Oak, a Virginia renovation

ACKNOWLEDGING THE CONTRIBUTORS

The Inter-Continental is a landmark event in the history of duckpin bowling. Since October of 2013, a lot of planning and development went into the successful launch of this tournament. What seemed like a high mountain to climb is now an event that is in focus and directly in front of us. This 'dream turned reality' could not have been accomplished without the help of some very special people who were instrumental in the birth of the tournament, and the event is now continually assisted by others who are unselfishly cultivating the event.

Special thanks go out to the staff at White Oak Lanes who went the extra mile including Bob Goldfarb, Steve Rowley, Dorothy "Diz" Pettit, Evan Turner, Rosie Carnahan, and Dave Sheffer. Also, a lot of behind-the-scenes technical and video work is being performed by Bob Curry and Ray Weaver.

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Approximately 120 separate matches will have taken place by the close of the Inter-Continental Duckpin Bowling Challenge, and footage from several of the matches can be viewed on YouTube (search for "2014 IDBC", about a week after the final day, which is July 2, 2014. Updates and info on the IDBC tournament can be seen at <http://www.NorthAmericanBowling.com>.

We wish a safe and pleasant trip back home to our friends from Argentina!

Rod Weaver
North American Bowling News
13954 Mar Penn Avenue
Waynesboro, PA 17268
Phone: 717-762-3762