

PWBA taking entries for first three standard events, 2019 membership applications

ARLINGTON, Texas – The Professional Women’s Bowling Association is accepting entries for the first three standard events of the 2019 season and applications for 2019 PWBA Tour membership.

The 2019 PWBA Tour season will kick off April 25 with the PWBA Greater Cleveland Open at Yorktown Lanes. In addition to the opening event, registration is open for the PWBA Twin Cities Open (May 2-4) and the PWBA Lincoln Open (May 9-11).

Registration for the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) Queens, the first major event on the 2019 PWBA Tour season, already was underway.

Online registration for each of the four events is available from the PWBA's schedule page.

Competitors also can go online to apply for PWBA membership for the 2019 season. Women must have achieved an average of 190 or higher in a USBC certified league to become a PWBA member. Any international bowler seeking membership must provide proof from their country’s bowling federation that they have achieved a 190 or higher average.

Applicants will be notified of PWBA membership status within 30 days of submitting an application.

PWBA member benefits include:

- \$100 entry-fee discount on PWBA Standard events
- Priority entry for PWBA Standard events
- Discounted practice rates at official PWBA Practice Centers
- Free PWBA award ring for first 300 bowled during PWBA competition
- Right to receive a PWBA champion banner for winning a national PWBA event
- Right to transport equipment on the PWBA Player Services truck (transport fees apply)
- Personalized membership card and five PWBA bag tags
- Right to wear the logo of a pro shop or business they own or operate (subject to PWBA Product Registration rules)
- Right to enter the PWBA Players Championship
- Opportunity to qualify for PWBA Tour Championship
- Name listed on PWBA.com
- Discount on PWBA merchandise through ShopPWBA.com

Non-PWBA members (guests) can compete in all PWBA events, depending on eligibility requirements, but must pay the full entry fee. The entry fee for PWBA standard events is \$400 for non-members and \$300 for PWBA members.

PWBA well-represented on Team USA 2019

ARLINGTON, Texas - The annual United States Bowling Congress Team USA Trials helps welcome a new group of athletes that will represent the United States in international competition, and the 2019 event resulted in a total of 10 Professional Women's Bowling Association members getting the call to wear the red, white and blue.

The 2019 USBC Team USA Trials, which took place Jan. 3-7 at the Gold Coast Bowling Center in Las Vegas, tested competitors over five days and five challenging lane conditions. They bowled six games each day.

PWBA Tour champion Kelly Kulick of Union, New Jersey, proved her strong finish to the 2018 season, which included back-to-back runner-up finishes at the QubicaAMF PWBA Players Championship and PWBA Tour Championship, was a sign of big things to come for 2019 as she claimed the title, recording a total of 49 ranking points for her five rounds and earning a spot on Team USA for the 15th time.

Players in the field at Gold Coast earned points based on their finishing positions in each qualifying round. The top bowler of the block earned one ranking point, second place earned two points, etc., with the lowest total of points determining the champion.

The win means Kulick will have the opportunity to represent Team USA at the 2019 QubicaAMF Bowling World Cup, an event she previously has not competed in and had on her "bucket list." The location of the 2019 World Cup has not been announced.

Kulick's win also tied into another big moment in her career. It was announced earlier on the final day of the Team USA Trials that the six-time major champion had been elected to the USBC Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will take place May 1 in Las Vegas as part of the USBC Convention.

PWBA members joining Kulick on Team USA 2019 include Sydney Brummett of Wichita, Kansas; Josie Barnes of Hermitage, Tennessee; Stefanie Johnson of McKinney, Texas; Liz Kuhlkin of Schenectady, New York; Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York; Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois; Missy Parkin of Laguna Hills, California; Shannon Pluhowsky of Dayton, Ohio; and Jordan Richard of Tecumseh, Michigan.

Brummett was the second-highest PWBA member in the standings, finishing fourth overall with 78 points.

The 22-year-old right-hander has been part of Team USA since 2017 and recently switched back to 15-pound equipment after using 14-pound bowling balls during her 2018 rookie season on the PWBA Tour.

Pluhowsky leads the group in longevity as she makes her 19th consecutive appearance on Team USA. She's followed by Johnson (15 years), O'Keefe (15), Parkin (10), McEwan (eight), Barnes (seven), Kuhlkin (two) and Richard (two).

Also earning spots on Team USA 2019 were Julia Bond of Aurora, Illinois, and Breanna Clemmer of Clover, South Carolina, both collegiate standouts and former members of Junior Team USA.

Bond, who competed for Nebraska, would be considered a front-runner for PWBA Rookie of the Year if she elects to join in 2019. Clemmer, who won the 2019 U.S. Amateur, is a junior at McKendree and a two-time National Tenpins Coaches Association Player of the Year (Division II/III).

Several countries have their national teams predominately made up of PWBA Tour members, including Colombia, Malaysia and Singapore.

The 2019 PWBA Tour season will kick off with the PWBA Greater Cleveland Open at Yorktown Lanes in Parma Heights, Ohio, from April 25-27.

BowlerX.com returns as a title sponsor of PWBA Tour

ARLINGTON, Texas – BowlerX.com, the bowling superstore, will remain a national sponsor on the Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour in 2019 and will be the title sponsor for the event in Orlando, Florida.

The BowlerX.com PWBA Orlando Open is set for Aug. 15-17 at Boardwalk Bowl with the stepladder finals to be televised live on CBS Sports Network.

The 2019 season marks BowlerX.com's second year of sponsorship of the PWBA Tour. Several PWBA members are on the BowlerX.com staff, including Liz Kuhlkin, who won last season's U.S. Women's Open at Boardwalk Bowl, and 2018 PWBA Player of the Year Shannon O'Keefe.

"The entire staff at BowlerX.com is very proud to be able to give back to the sport that we love," said Lee Sandt, who, along with his wife Krista, launched BowlerX more than 12 years ago. "We feel strongly that professional bowling is integral to the future of our sport and are very excited to continue our relationship with the PWBA.

"The PWBA provides a stage where the greatest female bowlers in the world can compete and entertain millions of people who love the sport. Through this platform, these women, who work hard to be the best, can inspire us and set the bar for the next generation. We look forward to another great season and the chance to watch these tremendous competitors at the BowlerX.com PWBA Orlando Open later this year."

BowlerX.com offers a complete selection of bowling balls, bags, shoes and accessories along with pro shop necessities. Their staff of bowlers and United States Bowling Congress certified coaches are more than happy to help with any questions regarding their products..

Visit BowlerX.com for more information.

The 2019 PWBA Tour season starts April 25 with the PWBA Greater Cleveland Open at Yorktown Lanes in Parma Heights, Ohio.

PWBA.com has the complete schedule, plus news, player information and more.

Hulsenberg, Macpherson, Connors elected to PWBA Hall of Fame

ARLINGTON, Texas – Leanne Hulsenberg, Wendy Macpherson and Donna Connors will comprise the first class of the Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) Hall of Fame in 16 years, following their election by the PWBA Hall of Fame committee.

Hulsenberg and Macpherson were elected in the Performance category, while Connors will go into the PWBA Hall of Fame in the Meritorious Service/Builder category.

The 2019 PWBA Hall of Fame induction ceremony will take place May 15 in Wichita, Kansas, in conjunction with the 2019 United States Bowling Congress (USBC) Queens, a major event on the PWBA Tour. Details on the ceremony will be announced later.

Hulsenberg, 51, captured 26 PWBA titles from 1987 through 2002, including the 1999 USBC Queens, and won her second major title at the 2011 U.S. Women's Open. She is third on the PWBA all-time titles list behind Lisa Wagner (32) and Aleta Sill (31), is one of just four competitors to surpass the \$1 million mark in career PWBA earnings and made more than 100 appearances on television.

"I am so honored to be included in the return of the PWBA Hall of Fame and look forward to the ceremony in May," Hulsenberg said. "My entire life has been, and continues to be, dedicated to the great sport of bowling, and to be recognized for that is very sweet. My sincerest gratitude goes out to the people who nominated me, the PWBA and the hall of fame committee."

The 1987 Bowling Digest Rookie of the Year, when she won three titles, Hulsenberg became the first bowler to capture back-to-back PWBA Player of the Year honors in 1990 and 1991. She was selected to the Bowlers Journal International All-American Team 18 times in her career, including 12 selections to the first team, and was named Women's Pro Bowler of the Year three times (1990, 1991, 2002) by Bowling Digest.

She led the PWBA in season average four times and was the PWBA Robby Sportsmanship Award winner in 1990 and 1991. She was inducted into the USBC Hall of Fame in 2008.

Macpherson, 51, was an 18-year-old high school senior in 1986 when she became the youngest bowler to win the U.S. Women's Open, the first of her 20 PWBA titles. She joined the pro tour that summer, claiming PWBA Rookie of the Year honors, and won five more major titles in her career – three USBC Queens (1998, 2000, 2003) and two Sam's Town Invitational (1990, 1999) titles.

"Being selected to the PWBA Hall of Fame is an awesome feeling," Macpherson said. "It is a feeling of being voted in, and added to, the greats of my sport. Bowling was, and still is, my life. I work every day running tournaments for High Roller Inc. and give many lessons and clinics for Storm. Every time I am involved with people in the bowling centers, they always tell me how they watched me on ESPN. I am often reminded of my career through these interactions, and I am honored to now say that I am in the PWBA Hall of Fame."

She was named PWBA Player of the Year four times over a five-year stretch from 1996-2000 and is the PWBA all-time career earnings leader with more than \$1.2 million. In 1997, she posted the highest single-season earnings mark with \$165,425. She was selected to the Bowlers Journal All-American Team 12 times and selected as the publication's Female Bowler of the Decade for the 1990s.

She is the youngest winner of the triple crown, completing the feat when she won the Sam's Town Invitational in 1990 at age 22. She holds the record for most television appearances in a season (15) and was the first player to reach 100 television appearances.

Macpherson also has won 10 titles on the Japanese Professional Bowlers Association Tour. In 2006, she became the first woman to win a USBC Open Championships title with an 812 series in singles. She was inducted into the USBC Hall of Fame in 2009.

Connors, 63, is the founder and executive director of the annual PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles tournament, growing the event from 32 teams in 2000 to its current 160 teams. She always has said the focus is on the players and always ensured she would find a partner for any woman who wanted to bowl in the event.

"When I received the call, I couldn't believe what I was hearing," Connors said. "I'm so deeply honored to be a part of the PWBA Hall of Fame in what it represents in our sport. For me to be speechless is unheard of, to say the least. It absolutely means the world to me."

A USBC Silver coach, she is co-owner of Carol Norman's Pro Shop and has done layouts and ball drillings for numerous PWBA players. She has supported the women's bowling program at Stephen F. Austin with bowling balls and layout advice, and supports Pat Costello's girls high school bowling team in Oviedo, Florida.

Connors is a member of the Houston and Texas Bowling Halls of Fame and has won seven PWBA Regional titles.

The 2019 PWBA Hall of Fame class was selected by the PWBA Hall of Fame committee based on applications received. The committee is comprised of three PWBA Hall of Fame members, three Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA) board members, three USBC board members, and three media members.

The committee also voted to count major titles earned in the USBC Queens and at the U.S. Women's Open during the PWBA's hiatus from 2004-2014 as PWBA Tour titles.

Nominees in the Performance category had to be at least 50 years of age and needed a minimum of 10 PWBA Tour titles or a minimum of five PWBA Tour titles including two majors. Nominees in the Meritorious/Builder category had to show they advanced the PWBA as an organization, promoted the PWBA Tour through media and must show a minimum of five years of support.

The inaugural PWBA Hall of Fame class in 1995 included Donna Adamek, Patty Costello, Dorothy Fothergill, Mildred Ignizio, Marion Ladewig, and Betty Morris in the Performance category, LaVerne Carter, Helen Duvall and Shirley Garms in Pioneer, and Georgia Veatch in the Builder category. With the 2019 class, there are 38 members of the PWBA Hall of Fame – 21 in Performance, 10 in Pioneer and seven in Meritorious Service/Builder.

The 2019 PWBA Tour season will have 14 events, kicking off with the PWBA Greater Cleveland Open on April 25-27 at Yorktown Lanes.

Pepsi, Nationwide are PWBA sponsors for fourth consecutive season

ARLINGTON, Texas – For the fourth consecutive season, Nationwide and Pepsi will be national sponsors of the Professional Women's Bowling Association and the title sponsors of events on the 2019 PWBA Tour.

Nationwide will be the sponsor of the first PWBA stop in 2019, while Pepsi remains the official soft drink of the PWBA and will have its name on a PWBA Elite event.

The Nationwide PWBA Greater Cleveland Open kicks off the 2019 PWBA Tour season, starting April 25 at Yorktown Lanes in Parma Heights, Ohio. The stepladder finals are set for April 27 on BowlTV.

This marks the second consecutive year for Nationwide, based in Columbus, Ohio, to be the title sponsor for an event in its home state. At the 2018 Nationwide PWBA Columbus Open, Liz Johnson opened with nine consecutive strikes in the title match on her way to her 24th professional title.

Bowling fans can visit Nationwide.com/USBC to learn about exclusive offers from Nationwide.

The 2019 Pepsi PWBA Louisville Open will take place Aug. 8-10 at Executive Strike and Spare in Louisville, Kentucky. This will be the second consecutive season the PWBA Tour will make a stop in Louisville.

Pepsi was title sponsor of the 2016 and 2017 PWBA Lincoln Open, and sponsored the 2018 PWBA St. Petersburg-Clearwater Open where Diana Zavjalova rolled to the title as the No. 5 seed.

The Pepsi PWBA Louisville Open will be an elite-field event and the stepladder finals will be televised on CBS Sports Network. The 32-player field at the event will consist of the top 24 players on the 2019 PWBA points list with the remaining players determined through a pre-tournament qualifier.

The PWBA Tour also will have two new apparel partners in 2019 – CoolWick, an online retailer of bowling jerseys and other apparel featuring its CoolWick technology fabric, and Family Affair Customs, which sells custom bowling shoes, apparel, and backpacks.

The two will join returning apparel sponsors Apparel EFX, High 5 Gear, Kameleon Sportswear, Logo Infusion, Rift Apparel, and Vis-Sportswear.

Returning as accessories sponsors are 3G, Dexter, Eileen's Bowling Buddy, Genesis Bowling, Master Industries, Mongoose Products, Real Bowlers Tape, Robby's, Turbo Bowling Accessories, Ultimate Bowling Products, and VISE Grips.

Gold Level sponsors (equipment and logos) in 2019 are 900 Global, Brunswick, Columbia 300, DV8, Hammer, Motiv, Roto Grip and Storm. Silver Level sponsors (equipment only) are Ebonite and Track.

The 2019 PWBA Tour will have 14 events with four majors, including the season-ending PWBA Tour Championship in September.

PWBA to hold five regional events in conjunction with PWBA Tour schedule

ARLINGTON, Texas – The Professional Women's Bowling Association Regional Program will return in 2019 with a minimum of five regional events in conjunction with national events on the 2019 PWBA Tour and a special televised event featuring regional winners.

Each of the one-day PWBA Regional tournaments will take place the Sunday following a national PWBA Tour event. The format will be eight games of qualifying before the field is cut to the top four competitors for a stepladder final.

The winners of the first four scheduled regional events will compete in the Go Bowling! PWBA Regional Showdown, a special made-for-TV event to be taped Aug. 17 in conjunction with the PWBA Orlando Open. The event will air Aug. 24 on CBS Sports Network and the winner will receive \$6,000.

"The PWBA Regionals simply provide another avenue of competition for women bowlers," said PWBA Director of Operations Tennelle Milligan. "With a lower cost, bowlers can see what it takes to compete on challenging conditions and get a glimpse of the PWBA experience."

The PWBA Regional entry fee will be \$100 for PWBA members and \$150 for non-members. Each event has a minimum guaranteed prize fund of \$4,000 with a 1:3 payout ratio.

Competitors must average at least 180 to enter a PWBA regional event and the entry field will be determined by the number of lanes available at each center.

PWBA national champions and PWBA Elite members are not eligible for regional competition. PWBA Elite is designated as any PWBA athlete in the top 24 in points at the end of the previous PWBA season, or in the Elite field for the current season, once that field is set.

Dates for the 2019 PWBA Regional events on the PWBA Tour:

* Sunday, April 28	Yorktown Lanes	Parma Heights, Ohio
* Sunday, May 12	Sun Valley Lanes	Lincoln, Neb.
* Sunday, June 2	Double Decker Lanes	Rohnert Park, Calif.
* Sunday, Aug. 4	Silver Lanes	East Hartford, Conn.
* Sunday, Aug. 18	Aloma Bowl	Orlando, Fla.

All PWBA Regional events will be streamed live on BowlTV. Additional regional events will be scheduled in the offseason.

Visit PWBA.com/Regionals for more information and to register for PWBA Regional events.

Richmond Raceway to host PWBA Tour Championship; QubicaAMF returns as PWBA national sponsor

ARLINGTON, Texas – Richmond Raceway will be the site of the season-ending Professional Women’s Bowling Association (PWBA) Tour Championship for the third consecutive year and national sponsor QubicaAMF once again will be actively involved in the closing events of the PWBA Tour season.

The 2019 PWBA Tour Championship is set for Sept. 15-18 at the Historic Old Dominion Building at the Richmond Raceway Complex as part of Richmond Raceway’s NASCAR Playoff Race Week. QubicaAMF will build four state-of-the-art lanes for the event and CBS Sports Network will have live coverage of the PWBA Tour Championship’s final rounds on Sept. 18.

In addition to building the lanes for the PWBA Tour Championship, QubicaAMF returns as the title sponsor of the season’s third major event.

The 2019 QubicaAMF PWBA Players Championship will take place Sept. 3-8 at Buffaloe Lanes North in Raleigh, North Carolina. The event, only open to PWBA members, is the final event before the season-ending PWBA Tour Championship. Stefanie Johnson won her first major title at last year’s QubicaAMF PWBA Players Championship, held in Plano, Texas.

“The PWBA provides such a tremendous opportunity for competitive women bowlers and QubicaAMF is proud to continue its involvement with the PWBA,” QubicaAMF Chairman Pat Ciniello said. “The PWBA Players Championship was a fantastic event last season and we’re excited to continue our sponsorship of the event. It also was thrilling to be part of the PWBA Tour Championship and build the lanes in a fantastic venue that showcased the outstanding athletes who compete on the tour.”

QubicaAMF is the world’s largest manufacturer of bowling products and has headquarters for its United States division in Richmond, Virginia. It joined the PWBA Tour in 2017 as title sponsor of the QubicaAMF PWBA Sonoma County Open held in Rohnert Park, California.

QubicaAMF will host three demo events during the PWBA Tour season to showcase its Bowler Entertainment System, the BES X. Visit QubicaAMF.com to learn more about the BES X scoring system and other products available from QubicaAMF.

Richmond Raceway first hosted the PWBA Tour Championship in 2017. The 2019 event’s 16-player field will be comprised of PWBA members who win a PWBA Tour event in 2019 with the remaining spots filled through the PWBA points list.

“For the third consecutive year, Richmond Raceway will be the home for the PWBA Tour Championship during the week of our NASCAR Playoff Race Weekend,” said Richmond President Dennis Bickmeier. “We look forward to welcoming the 16 PWBA athletes vying for the PWBA Tour Championship in the Capital City. The world-class PWBA Tour Championship has become a great addition to the fan experience for our NASCAR Playoff Race Weekend.”

Bowling will be represented on the race track, as well, as Go Bowling!, the consumer-facing brand of the bowling industry, will be the title sponsor of the opening race of the NASCAR Xfinity Series Playoffs, the Go Bowling 250 at Richmond Raceway on Friday, Sept. 20.

The race weekend also will have the Federated Auto Parts 400, the second race in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs, on Saturday, Sept. 21 at Richmond Raceway. Visit richmondraceway.com for more information.

Tickets for the PWBA Tour Championship will go on sale to the public on May 31. PWBA Tour Championship tickets will be \$25 for a three-day pass (Sept. 16-18). Individual tickets for the finals of the PWBA Tour Championship, that will be televised on CBS Sports Network on Sept. 18, will be \$20. On Sept. 16-17, there will be two sessions each day with individual tickets \$10 per event. Tickets will be available at the Richmond Ticket Office, via phone at 866-455-7223, or online at richmondracewaycomplex.com.

Visit PWBA.com for the complete 2019 PWBA Tour schedule along with news, player profiles and more.

The Jordan Richard Show

If you were watching the Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour last August, you likely noticed a 22-year-old Arkansas State graduate named Jordan Richard.

In a fierce rookie class in 2018, Richard was flat dominant at times and outdistanced her challengers to capture the PWBA Rookie of the Year award. Her powerful physical game, with a rev rate that demolishes pins and often makes fans stop and stare, was on display when she made her pro debut at the 2018 USBC Queens.

She captured her first title at the PWBA Greater Harrisburg Open in June before stepping into the national television spotlight by qualifying for each of the four shows on CBS Sports Network in August.

While she was not able to grab her second PWBA title during the four-week run of "The Jordan Richard Show" in August, she showed she has the talent to challenge for a title, week in and week out.

But that wasn't always the case.

Richard hails from Tecumseh, Michigan, a relatively small town. For context, it's approximately 25 minutes away from Ann Arbor, home of the Michigan Wolverines, and has a population of about 8,400.

As a youngster, Richard essentially grew up with her twin sister, Haley, in Ten Pin Alley, owned and operated by the Richard family since 1976, and learned the game from her dad, Kenny. She bowled against many of Michigan's best youth players in the Michigan Junior Masters Association, the state's standout youth tour, where she accumulated 16 MJMA titles, fifth all-time in the girls division. She also won two individual state titles for Tecumseh High School.

But, nationally, she had to seek out opportunities to bowl against the best and, during her early teenage years, she flew under the radar on a national level.

"I'm from a small town and I only bowled local events," said Richard, who knew she wanted to become a professional following the relaunch of the PWBA Tour. "There weren't many additional opportunities that I knew of at the time that existed outside of Junior Gold or other events that exist now, like the Storm Youth Championships. I didn't bowl Junior Gold until 2012.

"My parents wouldn't let me bowl certain events until they knew I was ready. They basically told me they would not take me to Junior Gold because I wasn't going to take it seriously and it wouldn't be worth it. So, that drove me to get better because they would take (her twin sister) Haley to tournaments, but they weren't taking me, and it drove me crazy."

Raising twins can be difficult, especially when they possess opposite personalities and are uber competitive. As an example, while Haley often did everything necessary to be prepared both on the lanes and off, Jordan would wait until the last minute to prepare for everything. If the two were practicing, Haley, a right-hander, would practice with her dominant hand, while Jordan, also right-handed, would practice with her left to see what would happen.

As parents, Jody, her mother, and Kenny challenged Jordan by simply not allowing her to compete at events if she wasn't going to take her preparation seriously.

"When Jordan was little, if she didn't throw strikes, she was going to get a different ball," Jody said. "She might have 15 different balls in the settee and still didn't care about shooting spares. So, I told her until she put in the time to be better, I wasn't taking her."

After showing improvement, 16-year-old Jordan feverishly asked if she could attend the 2013 Team USA Trials in Las Vegas. Her parents obliged and the event became sort of a momentous event. She finished 54th overall but it was the experience that made everything click for Jordan.

The "switch flipped" is how she described the experience.

The moment also was eye-opening for Kenny, who realized they were a bit behind in the information department. The talent level of the field, along with items like surface preparation and drilling layouts, were a bit foreign for the daddy/daughter duo in 2013.

"When we got there, we found out we were behind the 8-ball," Kenny said. "We didn't know as much as we thought we did because there were a lot of players with Jordan's capabilities competing when we got there. It was impressive to see her hang with the people she was hanging with. We were both learning on the run, regarding what to do out there. So, it was a great learning experience for both of us."

With the help of some outside coaching, Jordan and Haley saw their games take bigger strides with Jordan making the top 16 at the 2013 Junior Gold Championships.

With their high school careers coming to an end, it was time to look at college options. They looked to follow in the footsteps of their older sister, Kara, who was competing at Central Missouri. But, there was one issue – Jordan was a non-Division I qualifier.

"I hated school," Jordan said. "I didn't take it seriously as a freshman and it ended up costing me. Haley is super smart, and she could've gone anywhere. But, because I didn't qualify, I didn't have many options."

Jordan's high school grades improved vastly after her freshman year, once she began to understand the possibilities that bowling could provide. After a 2.0 grade point average to start, she ended her high school career with GPAs of 3.5 and 3.8, respectively.

Though the early mishaps did have an effect, Jody was right there to make sure Jordan stayed on track.

"Her freshman year was tough," Jody said. "Once we started talking about bowling and going to college, she brought her grades up. It definitely made things difficult early, but for whatever reason that was the path she was supposed to take. I remember talking to Jordan later while in college and telling her I think they both learned a lot of good lessons."

Since Jordan was unable to immediately attend a Division I school, Haley and Jordan decided going to a school together was the best for both and decided on Central Missouri, since Kara was staying around to be a student-teacher as part of her graduate studies. But, once on campus, neither twin thought the fit was right. After a year, they were looking for a different option.

Enter Justin Kostick and Arkansas State. After learning about the program and coaching staff, they took one visit, felt at home in Jonesboro, Arkansas, and committed to Kostick while on campus. And, as they say, the rest is history.

"What drew me to Jordan and Haley was their extreme competitive natures," Kostick said. "You could see they were extremely competitive, especially having to go against each other all the time. When I heard they wanted to transfer, I was pretty much all in."

Jordan, already a National Tenpin Coaches Association Second-Team All-American and a Division II Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year, became a three-time NTCA First-Team All-American with Arkansas State. She earned Division I Player of the Year honors in her final two seasons, which set herself up for success on the PWBA Tour.

Haley, an honorable mention selection at Central Missouri, finished her career at Arkansas State as a two-time Second-Team All-American.

Kostick certainly had a special player in Jordan and described her as being a complete player.

"Jordan has the will to win, combined with extreme power and pretty close to a perfect fundamental game," Kostick said. "She heel-toes every step for footwork. The swing is extremely loose and her ball placement doesn't get behind her as her follow-through is going towards the target.

"A lot of times when someone has that kind of power, they don't have the rest of the physical package. She can also go dead straight, go around it or loft it. She can pretty much do anything with a bowling ball and can do it effectively."

As the saying goes, "blood is thicker than water," and that couldn't be truer when describing Haley and Jordan's relationship. Jordan's journey has been filled with a few obstacles but one variable that hasn't changed has been her relationship with Haley. Their college experience only cemented their bond.

"I loved every second of it," said Jordan, referring to their time together. "People have asked us would we rather have gone our own ways because some people say she's stuck in my shadow. And, I really don't like when people say that because Haley is amazing.

"But I was happy we got to stay together because we got to share all of the success we had. Unfortunately, we never won a national title but I wouldn't trade the four years I had with her in college for anything because our relationship grew because of it. I love how close we are."

The journey for the young phenom will continue as Jordan now looks toward the 2019 PWBA season. Besides a couple of titles, one of her goals is to win the 2019 PWBA Player of the Year.

It would not be surprising to see her win the award and don't be surprised to see Haley helping her celebrate.

Encore

As Shannon O'Keefe enters the 2019 PWBA Tour season, a fair question to ask is, "What are you going to do for an encore?"

In case you're unfamiliar, O'Keefe's 2018 season started with two titles in the first four events of the season, including her second career major at the United States Bowling Congress Queens. She would garner seven top-five finishes and nine top-10s, which helped her secure 2018 PWBA Player of the Year honors at the QubicaAMF PWBA Players Championship.

But, the award didn't come easy for O'Keefe, as Danielle McEwan made a strong push to close the gap in the player-of-the-year race. Had McEwan finished first or second at the PWBA Players Championship, she could've won the award outright at the PWBA Tour Championship.

But O'Keefe, who won her first career major at the 2017 PWBA Tour Championship and had entered the 2018 season with the goal of winning the PWBA Player of the Year award, accomplished her mission.

"Looking back on it, I feel really proud of what I was able to set my mind to while staying focused week in and week out on the things that needed to be done," O'Keefe said. "When you set a goal like that, at times you could set yourself up for failure because I can only control what I'm doing, and I had to stay focused on that knowing I can't control how others perform. So, to be able to fight through all the ups and downs, to still come out successful and win player of the year, was like a dream come true."

O'Keefe has been trending upward since 2015, and it seemed like it was only a matter of time before a PWBA Player of the Year award would be part of her trophy case.

So, how will O'Keefe challenge herself in 2019? If you guess repeating as PWBA Player of the Year, you would be surprising wrong.

"I'd love to win player of the year again," said O'Keefe, who now owns eight career PWBA titles. "I'm not going to call it repeating because, if I am to win player of the year again, it's probably going to look very different than how I was able to accomplish that goal last year. I would really love to win another major and I would love to be at 10 career titles by the end of this season.

"Those are some lofty goals but all I can do is prepare, work hard and be mentally tougher than I was last year to continue to stay focused on the path that's needed in order to set myself up for success."

O'Keefe celebrated her 40th birthday in January, and every athlete will tell you Father Time is a formidable opponent, even for athletes such as O'Keefe, who have strong training regimens.

But the milestone is just another challenge for the busy O'Keefe.

Remember, she's the head women's bowling coach at McKendree, and their season begins in September and ends just prior to the start of the PWBA season. Since she's become a coach, O'Keefe always has sought the proper balance to make sure she's able to prepare for the PWBA season without taking anything away from her "kids", as she affectionally calls her team. That's first and foremost for her.

She's the ultimate competitor and ready to battle Father Time, but she also is aware of how her busy schedule takes a toll on her.

"When it comes to turning 40... in my brain I'm still 25," said O'Keefe, with a laugh. "But, I have to make sure I find the proper balance of working out but also giving myself the proper amount of rest so I don't increase the risk of injury.

"I find that if I haven't worked out or ran in three or four days, I can be a little too hard on myself. So, it's really just trying to forgive myself and know that I'm still putting in the work, whether it's in the gym or on the lanes."

With no thoughts of retirement from Team USA or scaling back on PWBA competition, training for longevity also is key.

"I have been really hard on my body over the course of my athletic career, which included other sports," said O'Keefe, who was a 1998 NCAA First-Team All-American softball selection at Portland State. "I need to also make sure I'm taking care of my body so my career can be as long as it can be. I make sure I see the chiropractor regularly and what I really need to do, and haven't done yet, is start incorporating more yoga and stretching. I'm just trying to listen to my body a little bit more but also continue to push myself and continue to be the athlete I have been."

Visit PWBA.com and follow the PWBA on social media to keep up with the latest news, to see videos of your favorite players and more.

Nationwide PWBA Greater Cleveland Open to kick off the 2019 PWBA Tour

ARLINGTON, Texas – The Buckeye State will have the honor of opening the 2019 Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) Tour season as Yorktown Lanes in Parma Heights, Ohio, will host the greatest women bowlers in the world.

The Nationwide PWBA Greater Cleveland Open, the first of 14 events on this year's PWBA Tour schedule, starts Thursday with the first official practice session of the 2019 season. Nationwide is a national sponsor of the PWBA Tour for the fourth consecutive season.

Competition at the Nationwide PWBA Greater Cleveland Open starts Friday with two eight-game qualifying blocks before the field is cut to 32 players. After eight additional games Saturday morning, the top 12 players will bowl a final six-game block to decide the four players who will compete in the stepladder finals.

BowlTV.com, the exclusive livestreaming home of the PWBA Tour, will have wire-to-wire live coverage of the event, including Saturday's stepladder finals at 5:30 p.m. (Eastern).

It's been 41 years since the PWBA last visited the Cleveland area, when PWBA Hall of Famer Virginia Norton claimed the 1978 Greater Cleveland Classic. Ohio will be well represented in the sold-out field as 14 players with Ohio ties will compete.

"I'm really excited to have the first stop in Cleveland," said four-time PWBA Tour champion and Colombia native Rocio Restrepo, who lives about an hour away in Louisville. "It's pretty cool when you get to see a lot of your family and friends that have seen me grow as a professional athlete here in Northeast Ohio.

"I'm looking forward to seeing all those faces and for them to experience what we go through on tour and how we perform. It will help them appreciate what women's bowling does for the sport and what we do as athletes."

Dayton's Shannon Pluhowsky, a 19-time Team USA member and the 2006 United States Bowling Congress (USBC) Queens champion, and PWBA members Jen Higgins of Westerville and Jodi Woessner of Oregon also will compete.

There will be 10 non-PWBA members in the field: Courtney Brown and Natalie Miskiel of Toledo, Rachael Delserone of North Ridgeville, Tyahana Elder of Hudson, Katelyn Hull of Marysville, Jen Lucyk of Parma, Olivia Phillips of Milan, Nikki Stiteler of Medina, Taylor Sturm of Massillon, and Emily Westfall of Akron.

Yorktown Lanes also will host a PWBA Regional on Sunday. The PWBA will have five regional events in conjunction with national events on the 2019 PWBA Tour schedule. The one-day tournaments will be eight games of qualifying before the field is cut to the top four competitors for a stepladder final.

The first four regional winners will compete in the Go Bowling! PWBA Regional Showdown, a special made-for-TV event that will air Aug. 24 on CBS Sports Network.

In addition to the Nationwide Greater Cleveland Open, BowlTV.com will have live coverage of 13 events, including the stepladder finals of the first six standard events. The platform also offers access to behind-the-scenes content, classic PWBA telecasts, blogs, podcasts and instructional content. Visit BowlTV.com for more information.

CBS Sports Network will televise the stepladder finals of seven events on the 2019 schedule, including all four majors, and will feature three prime-time shows in August. CBS Sports Network's coverage of the PWBA starts May 21 with the USBC Queens, the first major event of the season.

Visit PWBA.com to learn more information and for complete coverage of the 2019 PWBA Tour season.

2019 NATIONWIDE PWBA GREATER CLEVELAND OPEN

(At Yorktown Lanes, Parma Heights, Ohio)

(All times local)

Thursday, April 25

4 p.m. – 90-minute practice session

7 p.m. – Bowl With The Pros

Friday, April 26

9 a.m. – Eight-game qualifying block

5 p.m. – Eight-game qualifying block

(Cut to top 32 players)

Saturday, April 27

9 a.m. – Round of 32 (eight games)

(Cut to top 12 players)

2 p.m. – Round of 12 (six games)

(Cut to top four players for stepladder finals)

5:30 p.m. – Stepladder Finals live on BowlTV

2019 PWBA GREATER CLEVELAND REGIONAL OPEN

(At Yorktown Lanes, Parma Heights, Ohio)

(All times local)

Sunday, April 28

9 a.m. – Eight-game qualifying block

(Cut to top four players for stepladder finals)

2 p.m. – Stepladder Finals live on BowlTV

Team Singapore highlights first round at Nationwide PWBA Greater Cleveland Open

STANDINGS

PARMA HEIGHTS, Ohio - The members of Team Singapore only spend a few weeks each year in the United States competing on the Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour, but their presence always is noticed near the top of the standings.

At the season-opening Nationwide PWBA Greater Cleveland Open, Singapore's Cherie Tan and Bernice Lim each made their way to the top of the standings during Friday's opening qualifying round at Yorktown Lanes.

Tan, a 30-year-old left-hander and champion at the 2016 PWBA Storm Sacramento Open, moved into the overall lead during the final two games of the eight-game block, finishing with a 1,935 total, a 241.8 average.

Lim, a 27-year-old right-hander and winner at the 2016 United States Bowling Congress Queens, started competition with games of 278, 259 and 267 for an 804 series and finished the opening round in second overall with 1,903.

Canada's Caroline Lagrange, a rookie on tour this season, is in third with 1,883, while Erin McCarthy of Omaha, Nebraska, and Lindsay Boomershine of Perry, Utah, round out the top five with 1,857 and 1,855, respectively.

All competitors at the PWBA Greater Cleveland Open will return to Yorktown Lanes on Friday at 5 p.m. Eastern for the final eight-game round of qualifying. After 16 games, the top 32 players will advance to the next round, which will begin Saturday at 9 a.m. Eastern.

Heading into the final qualifying round, Missy Parkin of Laguna Hills, California, is in 32nd place with 1,733, a 216.63 average.

The high-scoring opening round also featured three 300 games from Yorktown Lanes. Lagrange was the first to connect for perfection in Game 4 and was followed in Game 5 by Kristin Nieter of Homewood, Illinois, and Kara Mangiola of Rochester, New York.

Bowlers advancing to Saturday's Round of 32 will bowl an additional eight games to determine which 12 players make the next round. The Round of 12 will consist of six additional games, with total pinfall for 30 games determining the four players advancing to the stepladder finals.

The stepladder finals will take place Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Eastern and be broadcast live on BowlTV.com. BowlTV is providing wire-to-wire coverage of the PWBA Greater Cleveland Open.

Cherie Tan leads qualifying at 2019 PWBA Greater Cleveland Open

STANDINGS

PARMA HEIGHTS, Ohio - Singapore's Cherie Tan continued her dominance Friday at the 2019 Nationwide Professional Women's Bowling Association Greater Cleveland Open and will lead the top 32 bowlers into the next round.

The 30-year-old left-hander led both eight-game rounds at Yorktown Lanes on Friday, posting a 16-game total of 3,886, a 242.8 average.

She's looking to claim her second PWBA Tour title after winning the 2016 PWBA Storm Sacramento Open.

Two-time PWBA Tour champion Josie Barnes of Nashville, Tennessee, moved into second place with 3,715, and Lindsay Boomershine of Perry, Utah, was third with 3,685. Canada's Caroline Lagrange, who rolled the first perfect game of the 2019 season Friday during qualifying, was fourth with 3,685, and Singapore's Bernice Lim was fifth with 3,654.

The top 32 players from the 98-player field advanced to the next round, which starts Saturday at 9 a.m. Eastern. The final player to advance to the Round of 32 was Natalie Cortese of Hoffman Estates, Illinois, who finished qualifying with a 3,473 total, a 217 average.

This week's 47-foot oil pattern yielded four 300 games Friday. Lagrange was joined in the feat by Kristin Nieter of Homewood, Illinois, Kara Mangiola of Rochester, New York, and Singapore's New Hui Fen.

The top 32 players will bowl eight more games Saturday to determine who advances to the Round of 12, which starts at 2 p.m. Eastern. After six additional games, the top four players based on total pinfall will advance to the stepladder finals.

The stepladder finals will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday. BowlTV.com will livestream all the action on Saturday, including the stepladder finals.

BowlTV.com also will livestream the first PWBA Regional event of the season Sunday at Yorktown Lanes. All competitors will bowl eight games of qualifying starting at 9 a.m. Eastern, with the top four advancing to the stepladder finals at 2 p.m. Eastern

Josie Barnes wins Nationwide PWBA Greater Cleveland Open

STANDINGS

PARMA HEIGHTS, Ohio - The 2019 Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour season kicked off in dramatic fashion Saturday as Josie Barnes of Nashville, Tennessee, captured the Nationwide PWBA Greater Cleveland Open title.

Barnes, who now owns three career PWBA Tour titles, defeated Singapore's Cherie Tan in a thrilling finish at Yorktown Lanes, 223-213, to claim the title and \$10,000 top prize.

The stepladder finals were streamed live at BowlTV.com.

The title match came down to the final frame with Tan leading by a single pin. Barnes, finishing the match first, delivered three strikes in the 10th frame to force Tan to do the same to claim her second career title.

Tan, a left-hander who was the top seed at the PWBA Greater Cleveland Open, stepped up and made one of her best shots of the week to start her final frame but was denied by a 9 pin on her first delivery.

"I knew if I didn't strike out, I probably wasn't going to win the match," said Barnes, a 30-year-old right-hander. "I knew Cherie was going to go up and make some great shots, since she's been making them all week. I made sure I stuck to my process, and after I got the third strike I sat down and told myself if it's meant to be, it'll happen.

"As soon as she let it go, I knew it was a great shot. As soon as I saw the 9 pin stand, I just started to cry. I guess it was supposed to be my day, and I'm going to enjoy this one."

The championship match saw Barnes face some transition on the right lane after leaving the 3-6-9-10 and 3-6-8-10 combinations in the third and fifth frames, respectively. She was unable to convert the split in the fifth frame, letting Tan move into the lead.

She made the correct adjustment to strike in the seventh frame and delivered another strong shot in the ninth frame, leaving and converting a 10 pin, to set the stage for the exciting finish.

"I thought I threw it a little slow in the third, so I made a small move off it," said Barnes, who is a seven-time Team USA member. "I thought I threw it really well in the fifth and knew at about 30 feet it wasn't going to hold. At that point, I had to make a gutsy move to give myself a chance. After talking with my ball reps, we decided to make a 3 and 2. Even though I left the 10 pin in the ninth frame, I controlled the pocket and knew that was all I could really do."

Tan led each round this week, and bested the field by more than 220 pins to earn the top seed. She started the title match using a urethane bowling ball, but switched back to a ball with a reactive coverstock in the sixth frame after three consecutive spares.

"Shannon (Pluhowsky of Dayton, Ohio) was using urethane, so I thought I'd give mine a shot," said Tan, who won the 2016 PWBA Storm Sacramento Open. "It was reading really nicely, and my reactive ball was struggling a little in the mids, so I decided to start with urethane. I threw the first shot in the 10th really well, and that's the only thing you can do. I can only control how well I throw it, and the rest is up to the pins, not me. But, it feels really great to bowl well since I was struggling during the second half of last year. I made some changes to my game, so I'm glad they're holding up."

Barnes advanced to the title match after delivering in the 10th frame against Singapore's Jazreel Tan, 234-232.

Jazreel Tan finished the semifinal first, rolling three strikes to force Barnes to fill 26 pins to win. Barnes delivered a double and toppled seven pins on her fill ball to advance.

Jazreel Tan started Saturday's stepladder finals by rolling nine strikes on her way to a 266-225 victory over Pluhowsky.

Competition this week at the Nationwide PWBA Greater Cleveland Open included two eight-game qualifying blocks on Friday to determine the 32 players for Saturday's Round of 32. An additional eight-game block Saturday morning narrowed the field to 12 players, who bowled six additional games to determine the stepladder finalists.

The first PWBA Regional event of the season will take place Sunday at Yorktown Lanes. All competitors will bowl eight games of qualifying starting at 9 a.m. Eastern, with the top four advancing to the stepladder finals at 2 p.m. Eastern. BowlTV.com will provide coverage of both rounds.

The 2019 PWBA Tour season will continue May 2 at the PWBA Twin Cities Open. The event will be held at Cedarvale Lanes in Eagan, Minnesota, with wire-to-wire coverage on BowlTV.

Bolton claims title at 2019 PWBA Greater Cleveland Regional

QUALIFYING STANDINGS STEPLADDER FINALS

PARMA HEIGHTS, Ohio - Elise Bolton of Merritt Island, Florida, captured her first Professional Women's Bowling Association Regional title Sunday at the PWBA Greater Cleveland Regional.

The 26-year-old right-hander defeated Valerie Bercier of Spring Lake, Michigan, at Yorktown Lanes, 237-221, to record the win and earn her spot at the Go Bowling! PWBA Regional Showdown in August.

The qualifying round and stepladder finals of the PWBA Greater Cleveland Regional were broadcast live at BowlTV.com.

The championship match came down to the final frame as Bolton, finishing the match first, delivered three strikes to force Bercier to strike on her first shot of the 10th frame for a chance to claim the \$1,500 top prize.

Bercier, who had struck on her previous four shots, got her ball to the pocket on the first shot but left a 7-10 split to let Bolton claim the win.

"Stepping up in the 10th, I was thinking to just breathe," said Bolton, a five-time Junior Team USA member. "I tend to get really quick, so I was just trying to take my time and breathe before every shot. This win means everything. It actually was my goal. I wanted to bowl well in the main event, but since I didn't make the top 24 last year, I knew this was the year to try and win a regional and get to the Showdown."

Bolton competed at the Nationwide PWBA Greater Cleveland Open earlier in the week at Yorktown Lanes, finishing in 59th place. She wanted to apply what she learned during Friday's qualifying rounds on Sunday and do her best to fill frames.

"I really tried to take what I learned Friday and bring it in today," Bolton said. "I struggled with spares a little bit on Friday, so I was really focused on staying clean all day and staying ahead of the moves."

Bolton earned the top seed for the stepladder finals after leading Sunday's eight-game qualifying round with a 1,951 total, which included a 300 game.

The Greater Cleveland Regional featured a total of 56 players, with the top four qualifiers advancing to the stepladder finals.

Bercier, who finished in seventh place at the PWBA Greater Cleveland Open, advanced to the title match by defeating Giselle Poss of Nashville, Tennessee, 268-243.

Poss had the opportunity to shut out Bercier stepping up in the 10th frame but left a 4-6 split which she was unable to convert. Bercier needed a mark to advance and delivered a strike on her first shot to secure the victory.

Poss won the opening match of the stepladder finals by besting Kara Mangiola of Rochester, New York, 243-234.

The 2019 PWBA Regional schedule includes five stops during the 2019 PWBA Tour season. The next event will be held May 12 in conjunction with the PWBA Lincoln Open at Sun Valley Lanes in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The winners of the first four scheduled regional events will compete in the Go Bowling! PWBA Regional Showdown, a special made-for-TV event to be taped Aug. 17 in conjunction with the PWBA Orlando Open. The event will air Aug. 24 on CBS Sports Network and the winner will receive \$6,000.

Restrepo looking to continue Minnesota success at 2019 PWBA Twin Cities Open

ARLINGTON, Texas – The Professional Women’s Bowling Association (PWBA) Tour heads to Minnesota this week for the PWBA Twin Cities Open, and that’s great news for Rocio Restrepo.

The PWBA Tour returns to Cedarvale Lanes in Eagan, where Restrepo captured her fourth career PWBA title last season. She’s had a successful track record in PWBA events held in Minnesota, qualifying as the No. 1 seed for the 2015 PWBA Minnesota Open held in Welch, though she did fall to Latvia’s Diana Zavjalova in the title match.

Competition at the PWBA Twin Cities Open starts Friday with two eight-game qualifying blocks before the field is cut to 32 players. After eight additional games Saturday morning, the top 12 players will bowl a final six-game block to decide the four players who will compete in the stepladder finals.

BowlTV.com, the exclusive livestreaming home of the PWBA Tour, will have wire-to-wire live coverage of the event, including Saturday’s stepladder finals at 6:30 p.m. (Eastern).

“Last year, I had the opportunity to come away with a title on a pattern I was not expecting to perform as well as I could’ve because it was a shorter pattern,” said Restrepo, a Colombia native who lives in Louisville, Ohio. “However, things happen for a reason and I’ve worked hard to match up on those types of conditions and it paid off.”

Restrepo also is looking forward to seeing the fans who have shown her and the PWBA Tour their support in Minnesota.

“I’m really excited to see the faces that have supported me and see the fans I met last year,” Restrepo said. “While I was there last year, I built some friendships and some relationships and will forever be grateful for the people that have taken care of me and appreciate what I have done for this sport.

“This year is no different. I’m coming to try and defend my title and will give it my all because that’s who I am and what I do.”

The field for the PWBA Twin Cities Open also will have six PWBA members with ties to the Twin Cities.

Apple Valley’s Amanda Vermilyea, a four-time Team USA member, is in the field along with Katie Ann Sopp-Schroeder of White Bear Lake, Trista Kimmes of Eagan, Kayla Pashina of Minnetonka and Sara Ullman of Minneapolis.

The lone non-member from Minnesota in the field is Prior Lake’s Taylor Wratz.

In addition to the PWBA Twin Cities Open, BowlTV.com will have live coverage of this season’s PWBA Tour events, including the stepladder finals of the first six standard events. The platform also offers access to behind-the-scenes content, classic PWBA telecasts, blogs, podcasts and instructional content. Visit BowlTV.com for more information.

CBS Sports Network will televise the stepladder finals of seven events on the 2019 PWBA Tour schedule, including all four majors, and will feature three prime-time shows in August. CBS Sports Network’s coverage of the PWBA starts May 21 with the USBC Queens, the first major event of the season.

Visit PWBA.com to learn more information and for complete coverage of the 2019 PWBA Tour season.

Coté leads opening round at 2019 PWBA Twin Cities Open

STANDINGS

EAGAN, Minn. - Bryanna Coté of Red Rock, Arizona, paced the field after the first round of qualifying Friday at the Professional Women's Bowling Association Twin Cities Open.

Coté, a 33-year-old right-hander, delivered a consistent performance at Cedarvale Lanes on the way to the lead, rolling games of 214, 225, 213, 198, 237, 259, 200 and 233 for an eight-game total of 1,779, a 222.38 average.

Coté, the 2016 PWBA Lexington Open champion, credited a late addition to her bowling ball arsenal after Thursday's official practice session in helping her read this week's 43-foot oil pattern the right way during the first round. She used the same ball throughout the eight-game block.

Coté finished in 18th place at last week's Nationwide PWBA Greater Cleveland Open, the opening event of the 2019 PWBA Tour season.

Singapore's Cherie Tan, who was the runner-up last week at Yorktown Lanes, rolled 278 in her final game to move into second place with 1,740. Ukraine's Dasha Kovalova is third with 1,732, England's Verity Crawley is fourth with 1,724 and Lindsay Boomershine of Perry, Utah, is fifth with 1,721.

All competitors at the PWBA Twin Cities Open will return to Cedarvale Lanes on Friday at 6 p.m. Eastern for the final eight-game round of qualifying. After 16 games, the top 32 players will advance to the next round, which will begin Saturday at 10 a.m. Eastern.

Going into the final qualifying round, Aruba's Thashaina Seraus holds the 32nd spot with a 1,609 total, a 201.13 average.

Bowlers advancing to Saturday's Round of 32 will bowl an additional eight games to determine which 12 players make the next round. The Round of 12 will consist of six additional games, with total pinfall for 30 games determining the four players advancing to the stepladder finals.

The stepladder finals will take place Saturday at 6:30 p.m. Eastern and be broadcast live on BowlTV.com. BowlTV is providing wire-to-wire coverage of the PWBA Twin Cities Open.

O'Keefe leads opening day at 2019 PWBA Twin Cities Open

STANDINGS

EAGAN, Minn. - Reigning Professional Women's Bowling Association Player of the Year Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, moved into the overall lead during Friday's final game at the 2019 PWBA Twin Cities Open.

O'Keefe, a 40-year-old right-hander and eight-time PWBA Tour champion, finished her day at Cedarvale Lanes with a 229 game to get to a 16-game total of 3,466, a 216.63 average.

O'Keefe surpassed Brandi Branka of Belleville, Illinois, who now sits in second place with 3,458. Colombia's Maria José Rodriguez is third with 3,437, opening-round leader Bryanna Coté of Red Rock, Arizona, is fourth with 3,428 and Lindsay Boomershine of Perry, Utah, is fifth with 3,396.

The top 32 players from the 73-player field advanced to the next round, which starts Saturday at 10 a.m. Eastern. The final player to advance to the Round of 32 was Summer Jasmin of Beckley, West Virginia, who finished with a 3,212 total, a 200.75 average.

Defending PWBA Twin Cities Open champion Rocio Restrepo of Colombia dropped out of the cut after rolling 160 in her final game to finish in 33rd place with a 3,201 score.

The top 32 players will bowl eight more games Saturday to determine who advances to the Round of 12, which starts at 3 p.m. Eastern. After six additional games, the top four players based on total pinfall will advance to the stepladder finals.

The stepladder finals will take place at 6:30 p.m. Eastern on Saturday. BowlTV.com will livestream all the action on Saturday, including the stepladder finals.

O'KEEFE CLAIMS TITLE AT 2019 PWBA TWIN CITIES OPEN

EAGAN, Minn. – Reigning Professional Women's Bowling Association Player of the Year Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, collected her first title of 2019 and ninth career victory Saturday at the PWBA Twin Cities Open.

O'Keefe relied on her spare game throughout the week at Cedarvale Lanes to earn the top seed for Saturday's stepladder finals, and she converted a 4 pin and delivered a strike in her final frame to secure a 189-182 win over England's Verity Crawley.

The 40-year-old right-hander claimed the \$10,000 top prize live on BowlTV.com.

"It's incredible," said O'Keefe, a 15-time Team USA member. "When the tour started again, my dream was to win one title. Now, here I am sitting at nine and one step closer to reaching my next goal – 10 titles. It just feels so good with all of the hard work I've put in."

Although O'Keefe's spare shooting was strong throughout competition, it nearly derailed her in the title match. She missed a pair of 3-6-10 combinations on the left lane through the first seven frames, but still maintained a slight advantage in the match.

She had built the lead after Crawley left back-to-back 2-8-10 splits on the left lane earlier in title tilt.

"I just missed them right off my hand," said O'Keefe, who also defeated Crawley in the title match of the 2018 PWBA Sonoma County Open. "I knew it the second it left my hand. As the games progressed through each block, I was quickly moving left and balling down, so I knew I was going to stay committed to what got me here. Every shot I executed well in the title match was really, really good, but each of those 3-6-10s were poorly executed. I just made some bad shots."

O'Keefe stayed clean in the eighth and ninth frames, which gave Crawley, who rolled a strike in the ninth frame, the opportunity to deliver a pair of strikes in the 10th frame for the chance to claim her first career PWBA Tour title.

Crawley got to the pocket on her first shot but was unable to get the 10 pin to fall, putting O'Keefe in the position to mark for victory.

"I was so, so worried that those two spares I missed earlier in the match were going to cost me," O'Keefe said. "When I was looking at the 4 pin in the 10th, I just told myself to make it. I was very happy when I saw my spare shot was on line and there was no doubt I was making it. It definitely was a relief."

Crawley finished as the runner-up for the fourth time in her career, but she's walking away knowing the extra work she's put into preparing for this season is starting to pay off.

"Honestly, I threw both 2-8-10s really well and was happy with them in the moment," Crawley said. "Obviously, the lane said otherwise. If anything, they were a pinch fast, which isn't my tendency, but lately I've been trying to stay a bit more aggressive. I made the decision to move left and actually get around it a little bit more after the second 2-8-10, which looked better but wasn't able to get out the 10 in the 10th frame.

"I'm very positive coming away from this right now, though. I've worked very hard, and right now, I feel like my game is in a very good place. I think this just gives me an extra boost of confidence going into the next couple of weeks."

Crawley advanced to the title match after rolling a double in the final frame to shut out Bryanna Coté of Red Rock, Arizona, 210-196.

In the opening round of Saturday's stepladder, Crawley delivered 11 strikes on the way to victory against Colombia's Maria José Rodriguez, 266-201.

Competition this week at the PWBA Twin Cities Open included two eight-game qualifying blocks on Friday to determine the 32 players for Saturday's Round of 32. An additional eight-game block Saturday morning narrowed the field to 12 players, who bowled six additional games to determine the stepladder finalists.

The 2019 PWBA Tour season will continue May 9 at the PWBA Lincoln Open. The event will be held at Sun Valley Lanes in Lincoln, Nebraska, with wire-to-wire coverage on BowITV.

Go to PWBA.com for more information about the PWBA Tour.

PWBA TWIN CITIES OPEN

At Cedarvale Lanes, Eagan, Minn.

Saturday's Results

- 1, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 189 (one game), \$10,000
- 2, Verity Crawley, England, 658 (three games), \$5,000
- 3, Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 196 (one game), \$3,500
- 4, Maria José Rodriguez, Colombia, 201 (one game), \$3,000

Stepladder results

Match No. 1 – Crawley def. Rodriguez, 266-201

Semifinal – Crawley def. Coté, 210-196

Championship – O'Keefe def. Crawley, 189-182

ROUND OF 12

(30-game totals; top four advance to stepladder finals)

- 1, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 6,478.
- 2, Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 6,394.
- 3, Maria José Rodriguez, Colombia, 6,366.
- 4, Verity Crawley, England, 6,334.

DID NOT ADVANCE

- 5, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 6,274, \$2,000.
- 6, Cherie Tan, Singapore, 6,266, \$1,950.
- 7, Birgit Pöppler, Germany, 6,259, \$1,925.
- 8, Lindsay Boomershine, Perry, Utah, 6,255, \$1,875.
- 9, Shayna Ng, Singapore, 6,231, \$1,800.
- 10, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 6,218, \$1,700.

- 11, Jodi Woessner, Oregon, Ohio, 6,209, \$1,650.
- 12, Brandi Branka, Belleville, Ill., 6,172, \$1,600.

ROUND OF 32

(24-game totals; top 12 advance)

- 1, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 5,269.
- 2, Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 5,130.
- 3, Lindsay Boomershine, Perry, Utah, 5,108.
- 4, Maria José Rodriguez, Colombia, 5,092.
- 5, Verity Crawley, England, 5,088.
- 6, Brandi Branka, Belleville, Ill., 5,055.

- 7, Shayna Ng, Singapore, 5,050.
- 8, Cherie Tan, Singapore, 5,034.
- 9, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 5,018.
- 10, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 5,014.
- 11, Jodi Woessner, Oregon, Ohio, 4,997.
- 12, Birgit Pöppler, Germany, 4,987.

DID NOT ADVANCE

- 13, Jordan Richard, Tecumseh, Mich., 4,982, \$1,300.
- 14, New Hui Fen, Singapore, 4,965, \$1,300.
- 15, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 4,953, \$1,300.
- 16, Kelly Kulick, Union, N.J., 4,949, \$1,300.
- 17, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 4,945, \$1,250.
- 18, Caroline Lagrange, Canada, 4,943, \$1,250.

- 19, Thashaina Seraus (n), Aruba, 4,931, \$1,250.
- 20, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 4,918, \$1,250.
- 21, Jazreel Tan, Singapore, 4,909, \$1,200.
- 22, Giselle Poss, Nashville, Tenn., 4,890, \$1,200.
- 23, Sydney Brummett, Fort Wayne, Ind., 4,872, \$1,200.
- 24, Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 4,850, \$1,200.

25, Gazmine Mason, Cranston, R.I., 4,826, \$1,150. 26, Stephanie Schwartz, Racine, Wis., 4,814, \$1,150. 27, Stephanie Martins, Brazil, 4,783, \$1,150. 28, Ashly Galante, Palm Harbor, Fla., 4,775, \$1,150. 29, Summer Jasmin, Beckley, W.Va., 4,767, \$1,100. 30, Taylor Bulthuis, Coral Springs, Fla., 4,762, \$1,100.

31, Valerie Bercier, Spring Lake, Mich., 4,747, \$1,100. 32, Jodi Gawlik, Schaumburg, Ill., 4,734, \$1,100.

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

QUALIFYING

(16-game totals; top 32 advance)

1, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 3,466. 2, Brandi Branka, Belleville, Ill., 3,458. 3, Maria José Rodriguez, Colombia, 3,437. 4, Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 3,428. 5, Lindsay Boomershine, Perry, Utah, 3,396. 6, Cherie Tan, Singapore, 3,395.

7, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 3,389. 8, Jordan Richard, Tecumseh, Mich., 3,351. 9, Verity Crawley, England, 3,348. 10, Thashaina Seraus (n), Aruba, 3,328. 11, Kelly Kulick, Union, N.J., 3,326. 12, Birgit Pöppler, Germany, 3,323.

13(tie), Jazreel Tan, Singapore, and Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 3,321. 15, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 3,312. 16, Valerie Bercier, Spring Lake, Mich., 3,300. 17, New Hui Fen, Singapore, 3,291. 18, Gazmine Mason, Cranston, R.I., 3,284.

19, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 3,273. 20, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 3,270. 21, Stephanie Martins, Brazil, 3,265. 22, Caroline Lagrange, Canada, 3,261. 23, Sydney Brummett, Fort Wayne, Ind., 3,250. 24(tie), Jodi Woessner, Oregon, Ohio, and Taylor Bulthuis, Coral Springs, Fla., 3,247.

26, Jodi Gawlik, Schaumburg, Ill., 3,244. 27, Shayna Ng, Singapore, 3,242. 28(tie), Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, and Stephanie Schwartz, Racine, Wis., 3,240. 30, Ashly Galante, Palm Harbor, Fla., 3,228.

31, Giselle Poss, Nashville, Tenn., 3,214. 32, Summer Jasmin, Beckley, W.Va., 3,212.

DID NOT ADVANCE

33, Rocio Restrepo, Louisville, Ohio, 3,201. 34, Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, 3,197. 35, Karen Marcano, Venezuela, 3,188. 36, Diandra Asbaty, Chicago, 3,184.

37, Jennifer Russo, Monmouth Junction, N.J., 3,166. 38, Olivia Sandham, Saint Joseph, Mo., 3,164. 39(tie) Amanda Vermilyea, Apple Valley, Minn., and Anneli Blomqvist, Sweden, 3,160. 41, Lilia Robles, Mexico, 3,158. 42, Daphne Tan, Singapore, 3,154.

43, Erin McCarthy, Omaha, Neb., 3,147. 44, Elysia Current, Ephrata, Pa., 3,133. 45, Josie Barnes, Nashville, Tenn., 3,124. 46, Erin Czuprynski, Tinley Park, Ill., 3,101. 47(tie), Emily Eckhoff (n), Denver, and Kamilah Dammers-Naddall, Aruba, 3,094.

49, Kerry Smith, New Holland, Pa., 3,086. 50, Christine Gill, Lebanon, Ill., 3,077. 51, Tannya Roumimper, Indonesia, 3,061. 52, Kayla Pashina, Minnetonka, Minn., 3,058. 53, Katie Ann Sopp-Schroeder, White Bear Lake, Minn., 3,052. 54, Jen Higgins, Westerville, Ohio, 3,051.

55(tie), Angela Nance, Hoover, Ala., and Diana Zavjalova, Latvia, 3,046. 57(tie), Sarah Wille, Hoffman Estates, Ill., and Elise Bolton, Merritt Island, Fla., 3,030. 59, Bernice Lim, Singapore, 3,022. 60, Sandra Gongora, Mexico, 2,997.

61, Haley Richard, Tipton, Mich., 2,983. 62, Daria Pajak, Poland, 2,981. 63, Nichole DePaul-Miller, Baytown, Texas, 2,967. 64, Trista Kimmes, Eagan, Minn., 2,861. 65, Sara Ullman, Minneapolis, 2,817. 66, Jennifer Hocurscak, Orange, Conn., 2,814.

67, Cyndee Poletski, West Richland, Wash., 2,775. 68, Heather Oberstadt (n), Traverse City, Mich., 2,738. 69, Mariah Jacobson (n), Nora Springs, Iowa, 2,722. 70, Rina Sabo, Bennett, Colo., 2,694. 71, Mari Gallegos (n), Chicago, 2,686. 72, Melissa Kading (n), Neenah, Wis., 2,611.

73, Taylor Wratz (n), Prior Lake, Minn., 2,504.

JORDAN RICHARD VICTORIOUS AT 2019 PWBA LINCOLN OPEN

LINCOLN, Neb. – Jordan Richard of Tecumseh, Michigan, claimed her second Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour title with a wire-to-wire victory at the 2019 PWBA Lincoln Open.

The 2018 PWBA Rookie of the Year led every round leading up to the stepladder finals Saturday at Sun Valley Lanes and defeated Mexico's Sandra Gongora in the title match, 215-195, to collect the \$10,000 top prize.

BowlTV.com provided live coverage of the 2019 PWBA Lincoln Open.

Richard gained the early advantage in the finals, striking on three of her first four deliveries to build a 10-pin lead on Gongora, who was looking for her first career PWBA Tour title.

The difference remained close as neither player was able to record a double as they approached the final frame. Richard, finishing the match first, was working on a strike entering the 10th frame and needed to fill 19 pins to shut out Gongora.

The 23-year-old right-hander rolled a strike to record her second double of the finals, and she secured the win and a spot at the season-ending PWBA Tour Championship in Richmond, Virginia, after toppling seven pins on her next shot.

The 2019 PWBA Tour Championship will be held at Richmond Raceway on Sept. 15-18 and invites the top 16 players for the season to compete for the final major championship of the season. Players can earn a spot by winning an event throughout the season or through the season-long points list.

“I’m pretty speechless right now,” said Richard, who won the 2018 PWBA Greater Harrisburg Open. “This is a dream come true, and I’m really excited to head back to Richmond. It was a lot of fun last year, and I’m really glad I get to go back.”

Richard held the top spot in the standings after each round at Sun Valley Lanes this week, and she had no intentions of giving it up after some close calls in the early portion of the 2019 season.

She was in the top four heading into the final game at the season-opening Nationwide PWBA Greater Cleveland Open before finishing in fifth place, and dropped out of the cut during the final game of the Round of 32 at the PWBA Twin Cities Open, finishing in 13th.

“I wanted to build myself a lead,” said Richard, who led qualifying by 65 pins over Gongora. “And then, I wanted to stay up there and avoid getting in the same situation I’ve found myself the past two weeks, just missing cuts by a couple of pins. I talked to my mom and told her I wasn’t going to give those pins away this week. I stayed with it, and once I got there, I just kept moving forward.”

Gongora, a 33-year-old right-hander, was happy to post the best finish of her career after struggling during the first two weeks of the 2019 season. She had finished in 52nd and 60th during the first two events of the season.

Her only other championship-round appearance came at the 2016 PWBA Las Vegas Open, where she finished in third place.

Gongora stayed clean for both of her matches, including a semifinal win over Liz Johnson of Palatine, Illinois, 203-174, but she was unable to record a double in the finals.

“Carry ended up being a little tough for me, and then when I needed to make good shots, I didn’t make it happen,” Gongora said. “Of course, anything can happen in one game, and the right lane was a little funny for me. I needed to be almost perfect to get to the pocket, and that’s why I wasn’t able to strike in those frames.

“But, I’m happy with my performance. Coming from two weeks where I wasn’t very consistent, I came out and developed a plan for this week. Lincoln always has been good to me, and I had to take advantage of this pattern because it played into my A game. I’m not going to rest or stop until I get a title, because that’s my dream.”

In Saturday’s opening match, Johnson stayed clean in a 215-184 victory over Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York.

Competition this week at the PWBA Lincoln Open included two eight-game qualifying blocks on Friday to

determine the 32 players for Saturday's Round of 32. An additional eight-game block Saturday morning narrowed the field to 12 players, who bowled six additional games to determine the stepladder finalists.

The second PWBA Regional event of the season will take place Sunday at Sun Valley Lanes. All competitors will bowl eight games of qualifying starting at 10 a.m. Eastern, with the top four advancing to the stepladder finals at 3 p.m. Eastern. BowlTV.com will provide coverage of both rounds.

The 2019 PWBA Tour season will continue May 15 at the United States Bowling Congress Queens, the first major championship of the season. The event will be held at Northrock Lanes in Wichita, Kansas.

BowlTV will provide live coverage of qualifying and match-play rounds, and the top five competitors at the end of the week will compete for the title live on CBS Sports Network. The finals will take place Tuesday, May 21 at 8 p.m. Eastern.

Go to PWBA.com for more information about the PWBA Tour.

PWBA LINCOLN OPEN

At Sun Valley Lanes, Lincoln, Neb.

Saturday's Results

- 1, Jordan Richard, Tecumseh, Mich., 215 (one game), \$10,000
- 2, Sandra Gongora, Mexico, 398 (two games), \$5,000
- 3, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 389 (two games), \$3,500
- 4, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 184 (one game), \$3,000

Stepladder results

Match No. 1 – Johnson def. McEwan, 215-184

Semifinal – Gongora def. Johnson, 203-174

Championship – Richard def. Gongora, 215-195

ROUND OF 12

(30-game totals; top four advance to stepladder finals)

1, Jordan Richard, Tecumseh, Mich., 6,448. 2, Sandra Gongora, Mexico, 6,383. 3, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 6,225. 4, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 6,183.

DID NOT ADVANCE

5, Cherie Tan, Singapore, 6,182, \$2,000. 6, Julia Bond, Aurora, Ill., 6,171, \$1,950. 7, Valerie Bercier, Spring Lake, Mich., 6,129, \$1,925. 8, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 6,118, \$1,875. 9, Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 6,095, \$1,800. 10, Shayna Ng, Singapore, 6,069, \$1,700.

11, Erin McCarthy, Omaha, Neb., 6,017, \$1,650. 12, Daria Pajak, Poland, 5,959, \$1,600.

ROUND OF 32

(24-game totals; top 12 advance)

1, Jordan Richard, Tecumseh, Mich., 5,162. 2, Sandra Gongora, Mexico, 5,102. 3, Julia Bond, Aurora, Ill., 5,053. 4, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 4,974. 5, Valerie Bercier, Spring Lake, Mich., 4,958. 6, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 4,947.

7, Erin McCarthy, Omaha, Neb., 4,939. 8, Cherie Tan, Singapore, 4,934. 9, Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 4,901. 10, Shayna Ng, Singapore, 4,895. 11, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 4,886. 12, Daria Pajak, Poland, 4,871.

DID NOT ADVANCE

13, Katie Thornton (n), Savannah, Ga., 4,868, \$1,300. 14, Jodi Gawlik, Schaumburg, Ill., 4,867, \$1,300. 15, Verity Crawley, England, 4,857, \$1,300. 16, Sin Li Jane, Malaysia, 4,831, \$1,300. 17, Josie Barnes, Nashville, Tenn., 4,826, \$1,250. 18, Lindsay Boomershine, Perry, Utah, 4,820, \$1,250.

19, Jazreel Tan, Singapore, 4,818, \$1,250. 20, Diandra Asbaty, Chicago, 4,807, \$1,250. 21, Stephanie Schwartz, Racine, Wis., 4,802, \$1,200. 22, Elysia Current, Ephrata, Pa., 4,781, \$1,200. 23, Bernice Lim, Singapore, 4,772, \$1,200. 24, New Hui Fen, Singapore, 4,770, \$1,200.

25, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 4,763, \$1,150. 26, Diana Zavjalova, Latvia, 4,757, \$1,150. 27, Summer Jasmin, Beckley, W.Va., 4,739, \$1,150. 28, Daphne Tan, Singapore, 4,734, \$1,150. 29, Shalin Zulkifli, Malaysia, 4,727, \$1,100. 30, Jodi Woessner, Oregon, Ohio, 4,716, \$1,100.

31, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 4,715, \$1,100. 32, Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 4,690, \$1,100.

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

QUALIFYING

(16-game totals; top 32 advance)

1, Jordan Richard, Tecumseh, Mich., 3,516. 2, Valerie Bercier, Spring Lake, Mich., 3,429. 3, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 3,404. 4, Sandra Gongora, Mexico, 3,387. 5, Erin McCarthy, Omaha, Neb., 3,360. 6, Shayna Ng, Singapore, 3,355.

7, Julia Bond, Aurora, Ill., 3,333. 8, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 3,331. 9, Jazreel Tan, Singapore, 3,296. 10, Verity Crawley, England, 3,295. 11, Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 3,288. 12, Lindsay Boomershine, Perry, Utah, 3,283.

13, Katie Thornton (n), Savannah, Ga., 3,279. 14, Stephanie Schwartz, Racine, Wis., 3,278. 15, Daria Pajak, Poland, 3,277. 16(tie), New Hui Fen, Singapore, and Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 3,275. 18, Josie Barnes, Nashville, Tenn., 3,267.

19, Elysia Current, Ephrata, Pa., 3,255. 20, Diandra Asbaty, Chicago, 3,254. 21(tie), Jodi Gawlik, Schaumburg, Ill., and Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 3,253. 23, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 3,252. 24, Diana Zavjalova, Latvia, 3,249.

25, Bernice Lim, Singapore, 3,247. 26, Sin Li Jane, Malaysia, 3,245. 27, Jodi Woessner, Oregon, Ohio, 3,241. 28, Summer Jasmin, Beckley, W.Va., 3,238. 29, Cherie Tan, Singapore, 3,235. 30, Daphne Tan, Singapore, 3,233.

31, Shalin Zulkifli, Malaysia, 3,226. 32, Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 3,224.

DID NOT ADVANCE

33, Jasmine Snell (n), Papillion, Neb., 3,223. 34, Justyne Falbo, New Stanton, Pa., 3,222. 35, Katie Ann Sopp-Schroeder, White Bear Lake, Minn., 3,217. 36, Olivia Sandham, Saint Joseph, Mo., 3,210.

37, Ashly Galante, Palm Harbor, Fla., 3,204. 38, Rebecca Whiting (n), Australia, 3,198. 39, Shannon Sellens (n), Long Beach, N.Y., 3,197. 40, Karen Marcano, Venezuela, 3,195. 41, Sydney Brummett, Wichita, Kan., 3,173. 42, Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 3,159.

43, Kayla Bandy, Salisbury, Md., 3,154. 44, Danielle Van der Meer, Washington, Ill., 3,147. 45, Samantha Kelly, Waukesha, Wis., 3,146. 46, Elise Bolton, Merritt Island, Fla., 3,143. 47, Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, 3,140. 48, Caroline Lagrange, Canada, 3,139.

49(tie), Siti Rahman, Malaysia, and Jennifer Russo, Monmouth Junction, N.J., 3,132. 51, Amanda Vermilyea, Apple Valley, Minn., 3,130. 52, Christine Gill, Lebanon, Ill., 3,124. 53, Jen Higgins, Westerville, Ohio, 3,115. 54, Stephanie Martins, Brazil, 3,110.

55, Haley Richard, Tipton, Mich., 3,108. 56, Tannya Roumimper, Indonesia, 3,089. 57(tie), Esther Cheah, Malaysia, and Giselle Poss, Nashville, Tenn., 3,088. 59, Linda Walbaum, Brighton, Colo., 3,086. 60, Megan Szczepanski, Lockport, Ill., 3,082.

61(tie), Gazmine Mason, Cranston, R.I., and Kelly Kulick, Union, N.J., 3,071. 63, Kristina Rosberg (n),

Ord, Neb., 3,058. 64, Birgit Pöppler, Germany, 3,057. 65, Kayla Pashina, Minnetonka, Minn., 3,056. 66, Taylor Bulthuis, Coral Springs, Fla., 3,051.

67, Amy Bruce (n), Wichita, Kan., 3,049. 68, Kaleena Henning-Shannon (a), Omaha, Neb., 3,038. 69, Nicole Bower (n), Camp Hill, Pa., 3,019. 70, Nichole DePaul-Miller, Baytown, Texas, 3,012. 71, Erin Czuprynski, Tinley Park, Ill., 2,982. 72, Brooke Bower (n), Harrisburg, Pa., 2,946.

73, Jacqueline Evans, Acton, Mass., 2,941. 74, Rebekah Martin (n), Australia, 2,918. 75, Jennifer Hocurscak, Orange, Conn., 2,843. 76, Rina Sabo, Bennett, Colo., 2,756. 77, Cyndee Poletski, West Richland, Wash., 2,522.

O'KEEFE SET FOR TITLE DEFENSE AT 2019 USBC QUEENS

WICHITA, Kan. – It could be déjà vu for defending United States Bowling Congress Queens champion Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, as she prepares for the 2019 edition of the event starting Wednesday at Northrock Lanes.

The USBC Queens, the first major championship on the 2019 Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour schedule, will welcome nearly 200 of the top bowlers in the world from May 15-21.

BowlTV.com will have live coverage of all qualifying and match-play rounds leading up to the stepladder finals, which will be televised live on CBS Sports Network on May 21 at 8 p.m. Eastern.

O'Keefe captured the Queens title last year with a 221-189 victory over Bryanna Coté of Red Rock, Arizona, at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada. The victory helped propel her to 2018 PWBA Player of the Year honors.

Her run to the coveted award began with a strong start, which included a win at the second stop of 2018 PWBA Tour season, the PWBA Sonoma County Open, before she made her way through the double-elimination match-play bracket at the Queens to claim her second major title.

Her start in 2019 has mirrored that effort, as she claimed her ninth career title earlier in May at the PWBA Twin Cities Open, the second stop of the 2019 PWBA Tour season.

“It's nice that these seasons have started out very similar, because last year was very successful for me,” O'Keefe said. “I'm excited to be back, but I'm not trying to think about repeating. I'm just trying to think about going through the process. The nice thing is I'm guaranteed to be in match play, but there's so much to learn in qualifying. I'm really going to try and embrace that and approach it like any other week.”

As the defending champion, O'Keefe is guaranteed the No. 64 spot in the double-elimination match-play bracket, but she'll have the opportunity to improve her seeding through qualifying.

The Queens also serves as part of Team USA's women's qualifying process for this summer's Pan American Games in Lima, Peru, and the 15-time Team USA member plans to do all she can to earn one of the two women's spots for the event that will take place July 26-Aug. 11.

The Pan American Trials, held in March, accounted for 60 percent of the qualifying process, while the remaining 40 percent comes from the Queens, where Team USA members will earn points based on their

finishes in qualifying and match play.

“The Pan American Games is an event I’ve always wanted to bowl,” said O’Keefe, who sits third in qualifying, behind Stefanie Johnson and Kelly Kulick, through the Pan American Trials. “It’s the closest thing we have to the Olympics, so if I can go out this week and lead qualifying and finish strong in match play to secure my spot in Peru, it would be a big thing for me. I’m at the point in my career where I’m starting to look at things I haven’t done yet, and those become the next items to check off my bucket list.”

O’Keefe will look to rely on her process to put herself in position to make another trip to the stepladder finals, but regardless of the outcome, she’s humbled to be among the list of great players who have worn the coveted tiara awarded to the champion.

“I think the Queens is the hardest major to win because anything can happen in match play,” O’Keefe said. “Last year, I really stuck to my mental process and focused on controlling what I could control and not on what my competitors were doing, which is so tough to do during a match. I’m grateful to have been able to add my name to the list of women who paved the way for me, and having my name associated with this title is an incredible honor.”

All competitors at the 2019 Queens will bowl 15 games of qualifying over three days, starting Thursday at 9 a.m. Eastern, to determine the 63 bowlers who will join O’Keefe in match play.

The match-play bracket will feature three-game matches with total pinfall determining who advances. The five players who make their way through the bracket will advance to the stepladder finals and have the chance to take home the top prize of \$20,000.

For more information on the USBC Queens, visit BOWL.com/Queens.

SINGAPORE’S DAPHNE TAN LEADS FIRST ROUND AT 2019 USBC QUEENS

WICHITA, Kan. – The members of Team Singapore consistently have found success when traveling to the United States to compete, and Daphne Tan became the latest in their six-player contingent to make news after leading the opening round of qualifying at the 2019 United States Bowling Congress Queens.

Tan paced the 192-player field Thursday at Northrock Lanes, rolling games of 197, 246, 236, 256 and 245 for a 1,180 total, a 236 average.

Kayla Bandy of Salisbury, Maryland, was second with 1,155, and Kerry Smith of New Holland, Pennsylvania, was third with 1,139. Colombia’s Angie Ramirez Perea (1,120) and Canada’s Caroline Lagrange (1,119) rounded out the top five.

Qualifying and match play at the 2019 USBC Queens, the first major of the 2019 Professional Women’s Bowling Association Tour season, will be livestreamed at BowlTV.com, and the finals will be broadcast live on CBS Sports Network on May 21 at 8 p.m. Eastern.

Tan and her teammates – sister Cherie Tan, Bernice Lim, New Hui Fen, Shayna Ng and Jazreel Tan (no

relation) – have been stateside since the start of the 2019 season in April and are scheduled to compete through the next event, the PWBA Sonoma County Open from May 30-June 1.

While life on the road offers its challenges, Tan is happy to see the group’s dedication to the sport show week in and out.

She made her first cut of the season at last week’s PWBA Lincoln Open and was joined in the Round of 32 by all of her teammates. Through three events, the six players have made 14 trips to the Round of 32 and eight appearances in the Round of 12, while Cherie Tan and Jazreel Tan finished in second and third, respectively, at the season-opening Nationwide PWBA Greater Cleveland Open.

“It was great to have all six of us make the cut last week, and our goal is to eventually have all of us make the top 12,” Tan said. “It just shows how well we’ve worked together, and that all of the hard work we’ve put in is worth it.”

Tan bowled on the burn in the opening round, meaning one squad already had bowled on this week’s 39-foot lane condition. She’ll face the fresh in her next two rounds of qualifying, so it was important for her to collect as much information as she could on Thursday.

“The lanes weren’t giving me much of a problem today,” Tan said. “I just tried to stay with my process. I’m going to see what everybody is doing on the next squad, since I’m on the first squad tomorrow. I’m going to keep an open mind, since anything can happen, and just go with the flow.”

Defending champion Shannon O’Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, is 13th after Thursday’s five-game block with a 1,076 total.

O’Keefe, the reigning PWBA Player of the Year, is guaranteed the No. 64 spot in the double-elimination match-play bracket at 2019 Queens, but bowling qualifying will give her a chance to improve her seeding.

Competition will resume Friday at 9 a.m. Eastern with the second round of qualifying.

All bowlers will bowl 15 games of qualifying over three days to determine the 63 bowlers joining O’Keefe in match play.

The match-play bracket will feature three-game matches with total pinfall determining who advances. The five players who make their way through the bracket will advance to the stepladder finals and have the chance to take home the top prize of \$20,000.

For more information on the USBC Queens, visit BOWL.com/Queens.

**2019 USBC Queens
At Northrock Lanes
Wichita, Kan.**

Thursday’s results

**QUALIFYING – ROUND 1
(Top 100; Five games)**

For complete standings, visit BOWL.com/Queens

1, Daphne Tan, Singapore, 1,180. 2, Kayla Bandy, Salisbury, Md., 1,155. 3, Kerry Smith, New Holland, Pa., 1,139. 4, Anggie Ramirez Perea, Colombia, 1,120. 5, Caroline Lagrange, Canada, 1,119. 6, Josie Barnes, Nashville, Tenn., 1,114.

7, Shannon Sellens (n), Long Beach, N.Y., 1,108. 8, Shayna Ng, Singapore, 1,098. 9, Valerie Bercier, Spring Lake, Mich., 1,095. 10, Carolyn Dorin-Ballard, Keller, Texas, 1,092. 11, Natalie Cortese, Hoffman Estates, Ill., 1,090. 12, Jordan Richard, Tipton, Mich., 1,083.

13, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 1,076. 14, Iliana Lomeli, Mexico, 1,075. 15, Ashton Anderson (n), Wichita, Kan., 1,072. 16, Kelly Kulick, Union, N.J., 1,068. 17(tie), Rebecca Whiting (a), Australia, Andrea Petraglia (n), Las Vegas, and Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 1,065.

20, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 1,063. 21, Megan Szczepanski, Lockport, Ill., 1,061. 22(tie), Cherie Tan, Singapore, and Sabrina Groves, Spokane, Wash., 1,060. 24, Anita Arnett (n), Richmond, Texas, 1,058.

25(tie), Hope Gramly (n), Aubrey, Texas, and Jodi Gawlik, Schaumburg, Ill., 1,056. 27, Jennifer Helferstay, O'Fallon, Mo., 1,055. 28, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 1,051. 29(tie), Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., and Johanna Puentes (n), Colombia, 1,049.

31, Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, 1,043. 32, Olivia Sandham, St. Joseph, Mo., 1,042. 33, Juliana Franco (n), Colombia, 1,037. 34, Giselle Poss, Nashville, Tenn., 1,030. 35, Maria José Rodriguez, Colombia, 1,027. 36, Elise Bolton, Merritt Island, Fla., 1,026.

37, Verity Crawley, England, 1,025. 38(tie), Lindsay Boomershine, Perry, Utah, and Stephanie Zavala (a), Downey, Calif., 1,024. 40, Jennifer King, Cold Spring, Ky., 1,022. 41, Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 1,020. 42(tie) Jennifer Russo, Monmouth Junction, N.J., Caitlyn Johnson (n), Lumberton, Texas, and Laura Plazas, Colombia, 1,019.

45, Mariana Ayala, Eules, Texas, 1,018. 46, Courtney Ermisch (n), Big Bend, Wis., 1,017. 47(tie), Terysa Wojnar, New Lenox, Ill., and Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 1,016.

49, Heather D'Errico, Rochester, N.Y., 1,015. 50, Stephanie Schwartz, Racine, Wis., 1,012. 51, Kristin Nieter (n), Homewood, Ill., 1,009. 52, Esther Cheah, Malaysia, 1,004. 53(tie), Cassandra Leuthold, Lincoln, Neb., and Audra Mrenak (n), Dayton, Ohio, 1,003.

55(tie), Diandra Asbaty, Chicago, and Jodi Woessner, Oregon, Ohio, 1,001. 57, Amy Bruce (a), Wichita, Kan., 1,000. 58, Shalin Zulkifli, Malaysia, 999. 59, Katelyn Simpson (n), Emmett, Idaho, 997. 60, Katie Ann Sopp-Schroeder, White Bear Lake, Minn., 996.

61, Diana Zavjalova, Latvia, 994. 62, Jen Higgins, Westerville, Ohio, 993. 63, Gazmine Mason, Cranston, R.I., 991. 64, Rebekah Martin (n), Melbourne, 990. 65(tie), Erin McCarthy, Omaha, Neb., and Britney Brown (n), Chicago, 989.

67(tie), Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., and Karen Marcano, Venezuela, 988. 69, Estefania Cobo (n), Puerto Rico, 987. 70, Taylor Bulthuis, Coral Springs, Fla., 986. 71, Jordan Newham (n), Aurora, Ill., 985. 72, Abby Ragsdale (n), Aurora, Ill., 984.

73, Kayla Pashina, Minnetonka, Minn., 983. 74, Jasmine Snell (n), Papillion, Neb., 982. 75(tie), Bernice Lim, Singapore, Amanda Falk (n), Tucson, Ariz., Debbie Ayers, La Mesa, Calif., Kayla Ovesny (n), Norman, Okla., and Lauren Pate, Inver Grove Heights, Minn., 980.

80, Melissa Garbe (n), Waupaca, Wis., 979. 81(tie), Clara Guerrero, Colombia, and Sierra Kanemoto (n), Riverside, Ohio, 978. 83, Rachael Albright (n), Cleveland, Ohio, 977. 84(tie), Sin Li Jane, Malaysia, and Tish Johnson, Colorado Springs, Colo., 975.

86, Emily Eckhoff (n), Denver, 974. 87(tie), Siti Rahman, Malaysia, Sarah Wille, Hoffman Estates, Ill., and Tammy Hatfield, Fredericksburg, Va., 969. 90, Addison Herzberg (n), Wichita, Kan., 968.

91, Amanda Fry, Antelope, Calif., 965. 92, Aseret Zetter, Mexico, 964. 93, Danaka Heekin, Woodinville, Wash., 959. 94, Mallory Nutting (n), Topsham, Maine, 958. 95(tie), Leanne Hulsenberg, Pleasant View, Utah, Sydney Brummett, Wichita, Kan., Adel Wahner (n), Las Cruces, N.M., and Lorie Schmidt (n), Henderson, Nev., 955.

99, Elysia Current, Ephrata, Pa., 953. 100, Emily Peterson (n), West Fargo, N.D., 952.

POSS ROLLS 300, TAKES LEAD AT 2019 USBC QUEENS

WICHITA, Kan. – Giselle Poss of Nashville, Tennessee, rolled the first 300 game of the 2019 United States Bowling Congress Queens on Friday to take the overall lead after two rounds of qualifying.

The 24-year-old right-hander fired games of 256, 254, 204 and 266 before finishing with 12 consecutive strikes to post a 1,280 total, a 256 average, at Northrock Lanes to bring her 10-game score to 2,310.

Shannon Sellens of Long Beach, New York, is second with 2,295, while two-time USBC Queens champion Liz Johnson of Palatine, Illinois, is third with 2,293. Josie Barnes of Nashville, Tennessee (2,223), and Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York (2,212), also are in the top five.

Qualifying and match play at the 2019 Queens, the first major of the 2019 Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour season, will be livestreamed at BowlTV.com, and the finals will be broadcast live on CBS Sports Network on May 21 at 8 p.m. Eastern.

Poss was in 34th place after the first round and took advantage of her time on the burn, meaning one squad already had bowled on this week's 39-foot oil pattern.

She had a plan of starting where she finished her block on the fresh Thursday, but a pair of adjustments along the way helped her post the third-highest block in the history of the event.

Singapore's Kristin Quah rolled 1,297 at the 2015 Queens in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and USBC Hall of Famer Carolyn Dorin-Ballard of Keller, Texas, posted 1,294 at the 2010 event in El Paso, Texas.

"I kind of started where I finished yesterday but ended up using a weaker ball," said Poss, who finished third at the 2017 PWBA St. Petersburg-Clearwater Open during her rookie season. "It looked good for the first two games, but I needed to take two big steps left after Game 3 and change balls. I also got around it a little more to be sure I could carry the 10, since I was having trouble with that in Game 3, and just chased it from there."

Poss, a two-time National Tenpin Coaches Association (NTCA) All-American at Vanderbilt University, has made sure to focus on a few of the physical aspects of her game throughout the first two rounds at Northrock Lanes.

"I'm trying to keep my pre-shot routine and fundamentals the same," Poss said. "I don't want to get too fast with my feet. I want to make sure my timing isn't late, since that's my tendency. I want to make sure I'm pushing the ball away early enough to get into my swing so it doesn't get away from me at the release point."

With one round left of qualifying before match play, Poss will take the opportunity to try a few different things on the fresh during her block Saturday.

"I might try some different equipment on the fresh," Poss said. "I did OK on Thursday, but you need to be matched up for the bracket. I may try to start farther right than I did yesterday, because it seemed like that's where the girls were putting up the best scores today."

Competition will resume Saturday at 9 a.m. Eastern.

The 192-player field will bowl 15 games of qualifying over three days to determine the 63 bowlers joining defending champion Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, in match play.

Heading into Saturday's final round, Germany's Birgit Pöppler is in 64th place with 2,039.

O'Keefe, who also is the 2018 PWBA Player of the Year, is 16th after 10 games with a 2,168 total.

She is guaranteed the No. 64 spot in the double-elimination match-play bracket at the 2019 Queens, but bowling qualifying will give her a chance to improve her seeding.

The match-play bracket will feature three-game matches with total pinfall determining who advances. The five players who make their way through the bracket will advance to the stepladder finals and have the chance to take home the top prize of \$20,000.

For more information on the USBC Queens, visit BOWL.com/Queens.

2019 USBC Queens At Northrock Lanes Wichita, Kan.

Friday's results

QUALIFYING – ROUND 2 (Top 100; 10 games)

For complete standings, visit BOWL.com/Queens

1, Giselle Poss, Nashville, Tenn., 2,310. 2, Shannon Sellens (n), Long Beach, N.Y., 2,295. 3, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 2,293. 4, Josie Barnes, Nashville, Tenn., 2,223. 5, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 2,212. 6, Caroline Lagrange, Canada, 2,209.

7, Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 2,198. 8(tie), Shayna Ng, Singapore, Kerry Smith, New Holland, Pa., and Daphne Tan, Singapore, 2,190. 11, Maria José Rodriguez, Colombia, 2,189. 12, Cherie Tan, Singapore, 2,186.

13, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 2,184. 14, Carolyn Dorin-Ballard, Keller, Texas, 2,182. 15, Anggie Ramirez Perea (n), Colombia, 2,177. 16, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 2,168. 17, Natalie Cortese, Hoffman Estates, Ill., 2,167. 18, Laura Plazas, Colombia, 2,163.

19, Rebecca Whiting (n), Australia, 2,153. 20, Jordan Richard, Tecumseh, Mich., 2,144. 21, Lindsay Boomershine, Perry, Utah, 2,137. 22, Juliana Franco (n), Colombia, 2,136. 23, Kayla Bandy, Salisbury, Md., 2,129. 24(tie), Jennifer Russo, Monmouth Junction, N.J., and Verity Crawley, England, 2,123.

26, Leanne Hulsenberg, Pleasant View, Utah, 2,106. 27, Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 2,104. 28, Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 2,100. 29, Anita Arnett (n), Richmond, Texas, 2,097. 30, Estefania Cobo (n), Puerto Rico, 2,095.

31, Audra Mrenak (n), Dayton, Ohio, 2,092. 32, Valerie Bercier, Spring Lake, Mich., 2,091. 33, Andrea Petraglia (n), Las Vegas, 2,090. 34, Diandra Asbaty, Chicago, 2,089. 35, Caitlyn Johnson (n), Lumberton, Texas, 2,086. 36, Katie Ann Sopp-Schroeder, White Bear Lake, Minn., 2,082.

37, New Hui Fen, Singapore, 2,080. 38, Kelly Kulick, Union, N.J., 2,079. 39(tie), Jen Higgins, Westerville, Ohio, Heather D'Errico, Rochester, N.Y., and Sabrina Groves, Spokane, Wash., 2,078. 42, Kayla Pashina, Minnetonka, Minn., 2,077.

43, Sandra Gongora, Mexico, 2,076. 44, Tannya Roumimper, Indonesia, 2,075. 45, Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, 2,071. 46, Kristin Nieter (n), Homewood, Ill., 2,069. 47, Rocio Restrepo, Louisville, Ohio, 2,064. 48, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 2,063.

49(tie), Sierra Kanemoto (n), Riverside, Ohio, and Britney Brown (n), Chicago, 2,060. 51, Diana Zavjalova, Latvia, 2,058. 52(tie), Stephanie Schwartz, Racine, Wis., and Courtney Ermisch (n), Big Bend, Wis., 2,055. 54, Taylor Bulthuis, Coral Springs, Fla., 2,053.

55(tie), Bernice Lim, Singapore, and Megan Szczepanski, Lockport, Ill., 2,052. 57, Jennifer Helferstay, O'Fallon, Mo., 2,048. 58, Stephanie Zavala (a), Downey, Calif., 2,047. 59, Addison Herzberg (n), Wichita, Kan., 2,046. 60, Lauren Pate, Inver Grove Heights, Minn., 2,044.

61, Allie Tatrow, Wichita, Kan., 2,042. 62(tie), Tish Johnson, Colorado Springs, Colo., and Rachael Albright (n), Cleveland, 2,041. 64, Birgit Pöppler, Germany, 2,039. 65, Lilia Robles, Mexico, 2,038. 66, Erin McCarthy, Omaha, Neb., 2,037.

67, Sarah Wille, Hoffman Estates, Ill., 2,029. 68, Samantha Knight (n), Richland, Mich., 2,027. 69(tie), Brandi Branka, Belleville, Ill., and Jennifer King, Cold Spring, Ky., 2,019. 71, Sydney Brummett, Wichita, Kan., 2,017. 72, Shalin Zulkifli, Malaysia, 2,010.

73, Iliana Lomeli, Mexico, 2,008. 74(tie), Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., and Jodi Gawlik, Schaumburg, Ill., 2,006. 76, Esther Cheah, Malaysia, 2,004. 77, Kayla Crawford (n), Silvis, Ill., 2,001. 78, Sin Li Jane, Malaysia, 1,999.

79(tie), Kayla Ovesny (n), Norman, Okla., and Cassandra Leuthold, Lincoln, Neb., 1,995. 81, Abby Ragsdale (n), Aurora, Ill., 1,991. 82(tie), Erin Czuprynski, Tinley Park, Ill., and Aseret Zetter, Mexico, 1,989. 84, Johanna Puentes (n), Colombia, 1,988.

85, Elysia Current, Ephrata, Pa., 1,985. 86, Stephanie Martins, Brazil, 1,984. 87, Amy Bruce (a), Wichita, Kan., 1,978. 88, Adel Wahner (n), Las Cruces, N.M., 1,977. 89(tie), Debbie Ayers, La Mesa, Calif., and Ashton Anderson (n), Wichita, Kan., 1,971.

91(tie), Samantha How, Oregon City, Ore., and Christina Kinney (n), Las Vegas, 1,969. 93, Rebekah Martin (n), Melbourne, 1,963. 94, Gazmine Mason, Cranston, R.I., 1,962. 95, Katelyn Simpson (n), Emmett, Idaho, 1,958. 96, Ashly Galante, Palm Harbor, Fla., 1,956.

97, Lara Clevenger (n), Edgewater, Fla., 1,955. 98, Daria Pajak, Poland, 1,952. 99, Summer Jasmin, Beckley, W.Va., 1,949. 100, Jasmine Snell (n), Papillion, Neb., 1,948.

SELLENS ROLLS INTO MATCH PLAY, LIZ JOHNSON LEADS AT 2019 USBC QUEENS

WICHITA, Kan. – At the 2018 United States Bowling Congress Queens, Shannon Sellens of Long Beach, New York, rolled 221 in her final qualifying game to force a three-way tie and roll-off for the final spot into the tournament's double-elimination bracket.

Her final game of qualifying Saturday at the 2019 event was one pin higher, but it's a much different story for the 36-year-old right-hander as she has stayed near the top of the standings this week at Northrock Lanes.

Sellens finished qualifying with a 3,374 total for 15 games and is second overall. USBC Hall of Famer and two-time Queens champion Liz Johnson of Palatine, Illinois, led the 192-player field with a 3,447 total, a 229.8 average.

Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York, qualified third with 3,343, and defending champion Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, is fourth with 3,342. Giselle Poss of Nashville, Tennessee, dropped to fifth place with 3,318 after entering Saturday's competition as the overall leader.

Qualifying and match play at the 2019 Queens, the first major of the Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour season, is being livestreamed at BowlTV.com, and the finals will be broadcast live on CBS Sports Network on May 21 at 8 p.m. Eastern.

Sellens was able to claim one of the two spots available in the roll-off last year at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada, to earn her spot in match play, and she was able to win four matches on the way to finishing tied for 13th place.

She didn't have to worry about sneaking into the bracket in 2019 and was able to get comfortable on the 39-foot oil pattern in play this week.

"I definitely liked the fact I could stay right," said Sellens, who finished in 11th place at last year's U.S. Women's Open. "I didn't really have to get in the mix and get left of the track. I was able to ball down, stay right and be pretty straight through the heads."

She's looking forward to returning to bracket play, which starts with the left side of the bracket Sunday at 10 a.m. Eastern. Sellens is on the right side of the bracket, so her first-round match against the Dominican Republic's Aumi Guerra will start at 12:30 p.m. Eastern.

"I love match play and always have," Sellens said. "This is the one tournament where you really don't want to miss the cut. You can have a bad match and still win or have a great match and lose, but I definitely love the excitement of head-to-head competition."

Johnson has averaged more than 238 for her 10 games on the fresh variation of this week's lane condition, and she feels that her physical game has been getting stronger through each week this season on the PWBA Tour.

"I feel very confident," said Johnson, a three-time PWBA Player of the Year. "Of the four weeks this season, this is the strongest I've felt. So physically and mentally, I feel I can hopefully put it together as well as anybody. I think it's going to be high scoring in match play, but I feel very confident in myself and my game right now."

Johnson will face Brandi Branka of Belleville, Illinois, on Sunday at 10 a.m. Eastern, who earned the final seed in match play with a 3,049 total, a 203.27 average.

The match-play bracket will feature three-game matches with total pinfall determining who advances. The five players who make their way through the bracket will advance to the stepladder finals and have the chance to take home the top prize of \$20,000.

All players in this year's field bowled 15 games of qualifying over three days to determine the 63 competitors joining O'Keefe in match play. O'Keefe, the 2018 PWBA Player of the Year, was guaranteed the No. 64 spot in the bracket but was able to improve her seeding through qualifying.

For more information on the USBC Queens, visit BOWL.com/Queens.

2019 USBC Queens
At Northrock Lanes
Wichita, Kan.

Saturday's results

QUALIFYING – ROUND 3
(Top 100; 15 games)

For seeding purposes, ties are broken by high block.

For complete standings and the double-elimination bracket, visit BOWL.com/Queens.

1, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 3,447. 2, Shannon Sellens (n), Long Beach, N.Y., 3,374. 3, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 3,343. 4, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 3,342. 5, Giselle Poss, Nashville, Tenn., 3,318. 6, Caroline Lagrange, Canada, 3,308.

7, Anggie Ramirez Perea, Colombia, 3,302. 8, Maria José Rodriguez, Colombia, 3,293. 9, Daphne Tan, Singapore, 3,291. 10, Juliana Franco (n), Colombia, 3,290. 11, Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 3,284. 12, Cherie Tan, Singapore, 3,283.

13, Josie Barnes, Nashville, Tenn., 3,257. 14, Shayna Ng, Singapore, 3,253. 15, Kerry Smith, New Holland, Pa., 3,250. 16, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 3,245. 17, Diana Zavjalova, Latvia, 3,236. 18, Rebecca Whiting (n), Australia, 3,232.

19, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 3,229. 20, Jordan Richard, Tecumseh, Mich., 3,228. 21, Lindsay Boomershine, Perry, Utah, 3,222. 22, Carolyn Dorin-Ballard, Keller, Texas, 3,217. 23, Natalie Cortese, Hoffman Estates, Ill., 3,215. 24, Valerie Bercier, Spring Lake, Mich., 3,208.

25, Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 3,207. 26, Diandra Asbaty, Chicago, 3,201. 27, Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, 3,191. 28, Kayla Bandy, Salisbury, Md., 3,177. 29, Kelly Kulick, Union, N.J., 3,169. 30, Leanne Hulsenberg, Pleasant View, Utah, 3,157.

31, Anita Arnett (n), Richmond, Texas, 3,152. 32, Tannya Roumimper, Indonesia, 3,149. 33, Laura Plazas, Colombia, 3,144. 34, New Hui Fen, Singapore, 3,142. 35, Bernice Lim, Singapore, 3,139. 36, Verity Crawley, England, 3,137.

37, Caitlyn Johnson (n), Lumberton, Texas, 3,135. 38, Allie Tatrow, Wichita, Kan., 3,133. 39, Erin McCarthy, Omaha, Neb., 3,131. 40, Katie Ann Sopp-Schroeder, White Bear Lake, Minn., 3,119. 41, Estefania Cobo (n), Puerto Rico, 3,115. 42, Iliana Lomeli, Mexico, 3,114.

43, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 3,111. 44, Stephanie Schwartz, Racine, Wis., 3,110. 45, Andrea Petraglia (n), Las Vegas, 3,109. 46(tie), Debbie Ayers, La Mesa, Calif., and Esther Cheah, Malaysia, 3,105. 48, Jen Higgins, Westerville, Ohio, 3,099.

49(tie), Haley Richard, Tipton, Mich., and Kristin Nieter (n), Homewood, Ill., 3,096. 51, Jennifer Russo, Monmouth Junction, N.J., 3,093. 52, Gazmine Mason, Cranston, R.I., 3,091. 53, Heather D'Errico, Rochester, N.Y., 3,089. 54, Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 3,086.

55, Shalin Zulkifli, Malaysia, 3,083. 56, Britney Brown (n), Chicago, 3,078. 57(tie), Rebekah Martin (n), Melbourne, and Sin Li Jane, Malaysia, 3,077. 59, Jennifer King, Cold Spring, Ky., 3,075. 60, Lauren Pate, Inver Grove Heights, Minn., 3,071.

61, Katelyn Simpson (n), Emmett, Idaho, 3,063. 62, Lilia Robles, Mexico, 3,053. 63, Aumi Guerra, Dominican Republic, 3,051. 64, Brandi Branka, Belleville, Ill., 3,049.

DID NOT ADVANCE

65, Taylor Bulthuis, Coral Springs, Fla., 3,038. 66, Elysia Current, Ephrata, Pa., 3,035.

67, Sydney Brummett, Wichita, Kan., 3,034. 68, Katie Thornton (n), Savannah, Ga., 3,033. 69, Addison Herzberg (n), Wichita, Kan., 3,031. 70(tie), Samantha How, Oregon City, Ore., and Rachael Albright (n), Cleveland, Ohio, 3,029. 72, Sarah Wille, Hoffman Estates, Ill., 3,027.

73(tie), Elise Bolton, Merritt Island, Fla., and Ashly Galante, Palm Harbor, Fla., 3,026. 75, Cassandra Leuthold, Lincoln, Neb., 3,022. 76, Adel Wahner (n), Las Cruces, N.M., 3,017. 77, Aseret Zetter, Mexico, 3,014. 78, Sandra Gongora, Mexico, 3,011.

79, Kayla Pashina, Minnetonka, Minn., 3,010. 80(tie), Pamela Alvarez, Mexico, and Jasmine Snell (n), Papillion, Neb., 3,009. 82, Rocio Restrepo, Louisville, Ohio, 3,002. 83, Lucy Sandelin, Tampa, Fla., 3,000. 84, Johanna Puentes (n), Colombia, 2,999.

85, Emily Peterson (n), West Fargo, N.D., 2,996. 86, Birgit Pöppler, Germany, 2,989. 87, Kayla Crawford (n), Silvis, Ill., 2,988. 88, Jodi Woessner, Oregon, Ohio, 2,987. 89, Sierra Kanemoto (n), Riverside, Ohio, 2,986. 90(tie), Tish Johnson, Colorado Springs, Colo., and Jennifer Helferstay, O'Fallon, Mo., 2,985.

92, Siti Rahman, Malaysia, 2,984. 93, Hope Gramly (n), Aubrey, Texas, 2,983. 94, Jazreel Tan, Singapore, 2,980. 95, Sabrina Groves, Spokane, Wash., 2,979. 96, Jodi Gawlik, Schaumburg, Ill., 2,977.

97(tie), Karen Marcano, Venezuela, and Courtney Ermisch (n), Big Bend, Wis., 2,975. 99, Jacqueline Evans, Acton, Mass., 2,969. 100, Amanda Fry, Antelope, Calif., 2,966.

BRANKA, GUERRA AMONG 16 UNDEFEATED PLAYERS AT 2019 USBC QUEENS

WICHITA, Kan. – Competitors at the United States Bowling Congress Queens will tell you there's no such thing as an easy match once the tournament transitions to bracket play, and anything can happen in a three-game total-pinfall contest.

Brandi Branka of Belleville, Illinois, and the Dominican Republic's Aumi Guerra may have been the final two players to qualify for match play at the 2019 event, but each started fresh Sunday and collected a pair of wins to remain undefeated at Northrock Lanes.

A total of 16 players remain in the winners bracket at the 2019 USBC Queens, and 16 additional players still have their championship hopes intact in the event's double-elimination bracket.

Match play will continue Monday at 10 a.m. Eastern until the five competitors are determined for Tuesday's stepladder finals, which will be broadcast live on CBS Sports Network at 8 p.m. Eastern. The winner will claim the coveted tiara and \$20,000 top prize.

BowlTV.com will livestream the final rounds of match play Monday.

Sunday's road to victory for Branka and Guerra started with strong finishes Saturday during the final round of qualifying. Branka, bowling during the first of the day's three squads, finished with a 268 game to get to a 15-game total of 3,049, while Guerra, bowling on the second squad, fired 279 in her final game to finish with 3,051.

Both players had to patiently wait for the last squad to finish to see if they advanced, but they went about the rest of the day in different ways.

After the final scores were tallied, Branka earned the final spot in the 64-player bracket.

"I was a little nervous," said Branka, who defeated top qualifier Liz Johnson of Palatine, Illinois (679-637), and Colombia's Laura Plazas (721-691) on Sunday. "I didn't want to come back to the bowling alley or look at the scores, so I tried to keep my mind focused on other things. I eventually looked at the scores before the very last game and saw I dropped out. I actually was in my pajamas getting ready to go to bed before my roommate suggested we go back in case there was a tie, so I got dressed and headed over. When they announced I was the number, I was ecstatic."

Guerra was happy with her performance Saturday regardless of the final outcome as she begins to prepare for the Pan American Games, scheduled for July 26-Aug. 11 in Lima, Peru.

"I was so happy yesterday because I had been bowling so bad," said Guerra, who defeated Shannon Sellens of Long Beach, New York (703-662), and Singapore's New Hui Fen (659-654). "My execution wasn't flowing, but I was able to find it on the burn and was happy to shoot a score. So, making it to match play was gravy."

Branka will return to Northrock Lanes on Monday and face the Ukraine's Dasha Kovalova. A new bowling ball helped Branka average more than 233 in her two wins Sunday, and she's feeling confident in continuing her run through the winners bracket.

"During qualifying, I never really found a ball I was comfortable with, so last night we drilled a new ball," said Branka, who finished tied for seventh place at the 2018 Queens. "I came into today with a new mindset and really tried to trust my gut and play to my game. Tomorrow is a new day, though, but I do feel confident about my game after today."

Guerra will take on Malaysia's Esther Cheah on Monday morning, and she's going to start adjusting her outlook heading into the rest of the event. She also took advantage of some new equipment Sunday after struggling with ball reaction earlier in the event.

"The ball reps were kind enough to help me with a new ball that allowed me to find some ball reaction on the fresh," said Guerra, a two-time QubicaAMF World Cup champion. "Now that I've put myself in this position, I think I need to change my mindset. Instead of thinking how I'm happy to be here, I need to start to think that if I continue to execute, I can be a threat the rest of the way."

Joining Branka and Guerra in the winners bracket are Malaysia's Shalin Zulkifli and Colombia's Clara Guerrero, who each rolled perfect games Sunday.

Zulkifli will take on her Team Malaysia teammate, Sin Li Jane, in the next round, and Guerrero will face Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York.

Shannon Pluhowsky of Dayton, Ohio, is the only past champion of the 11 who advanced to match play to remain in the winners bracket. The 2006 winner, Pluhowsky will face Stefanie Johnson of McKinney, Texas.

Past champions still remaining in the elimination bracket include defending champion Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois; Carolyn Dorin-Ballard of Keller, Texas (2001); Latvia's Diana Zavjalova (2013 and 2017); and Colombia's Maria José Rodriguez (2014).

All players in this year's field bowled 15 games of qualifying over three days to determine the 63 bowlers joining O'Keefe in match play.

This week's event is the first major on the 2019 Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour schedule.

For more information on the USBC Queens, visit BOWL.com/Queens.

2019 USBC Queens
At Northrock Lanes
Wichita, Kan.

Sunday's results

MATCH PLAY

Double elimination, three-game matches decided by total pinfall

ROUND 1

(Winners remain in winners bracket. Losers move to elimination bracket).

- (64) Brandi Branka, Belleville, Ill., def. (1) Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 679-637.
- (33) Laura Plazas, Colombia, def. (32) Tannya Roumimper, Indonesia, 583-544.
- (17) Diana Zavjalova, Latvia, def. (48) Jen Higgins, Westerville, Ohio, 649-597.
- (16) Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, def. (49) Haley Richard, Tipton, Mich., 647-582.
- (9) Daphne Tan, Singapore, def. (56) Britney Brown, Chicago, 617-569.
- (24) Valerie Bercier, Spring Lake, Mich., def. (41) Estefania Cobo, Puerto Rico, 616-601.
- (25) Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., def. (40) Katie Ann Sopp-Schroeder, White Bear Lake, Min., 700-645.
- (8) Maria José Rodriguez, Colombia, def. (57) Rebekah Martin, Australia, 630-560.

- (5) Giselle Poss, Nashville, Tenn., def. (60) Lauren Pate, Inver Grove Heights, Minn., 634-633.
- (28) Kayla Bandy, Salisbury, Md., def. (37) Caitlyn Johnson, Lumberton, Texas, 581-491.
- (21) Lindsay Boomershine, Perry, Utah, def. (44) Stephanie Schwartz, Racine, Wis., 638-574.
- (12) Cherie Tan, Singapore, def. (53) Heather D'Errico, Rochester, N.Y., 687-553.
- (13) Josie Barnes, Nashville, Tenn., def. (52) Gazmine Mason, Cranston, R.I., 680-664.
- (45) Andrea Petraglia, Las Vegas, def. (20) Jordan Richard, Tecumseh, Mich., 581-544.
- (36) Verity Crawley, England, def. (29) Kelly Kulick, Union, N.J., 650-609.
- (61) Katelyn Simpson, Emmett, Idaho, def. (4) Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 654-652.

- (3) Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., def. (62) Lilia Robles, Mexico, 709-694.
- (35) Bernice Lim, Singapore, def. (30) Leanne Hulsenberg, Pleasant View, Utah, 699-599.
- (19) Clara Guerrero, Colombia, def. (46) Debbie Ayers, La Mesa, Calif., 686-469.
- (51) Jennifer Russo, Monmouth Junction, N.J., def. (14) Shayna Ng, Singapore, 604-602.
- (11) Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, def. (54) Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 642-559.
- (22) Carolyn Dorin-Ballard, Keller, Texas, def. (43) Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 658-579.
- (27) Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, def. (38) Allie Tatrow, Wichita, Kan., 630-597.
- (59) Jennifer King, Cold Spring, Ky., def. (6) Caroline Lagrange, Canada, 724-677.

- (58) Sin Li Jane, Malaysia, def. (7) Anggie Ramirez Perea, Colombia, 783-513.
- (39) Erin McCarthy, Omaha, Neb., def. (26) Diandra Asbaty, Chicago, 547-501.
- (23) Natalie Cortese, Hoffman Estates, Ill., def. (42) Iliana Lomeli, Mexico, 549-496.
- (55) Shalin Zulkifli, Malaysia, def. (10) Juliana Franco, Colombia, 724-576.
- (50) Kristin Nieter, Homewood, Ill., def. (15) Kerry Smith, New Holland, Pa., 647-592.
- (47) Esther Cheah, Malaysia, def. (18) Rebecca Whiting, Australia, 699-662.
- (34) New Hui Fen, Singapore, def. (31) Anita Arnett, Richmond, Texas, 578-567.
- (63) Aumi Guerra, Dominican Republic, def. (2) Shannon Sellens, Long Beach, N.Y., 703-662.

ROUND 2 – WINNERS BRACKET

Branka def. Plazas, 721-691.
Kovalova def. Zavjalova, 597-596.
D. Tan def. Bercier, 692-480.
Kuhlkin def. Rodriguez, 660-632.
Poss def. Bandy, 726-655.
C. Tan def. Boomershine, 657-619.
Barnes def. Petraglia, 659-643.
Crawley def. Simpson, 654-578.

McEwan def. Lim, 707-539.
Guerrero def. Russo, 753-594.
S. Johnson def. Dorin-Ballard, 683-631.
Pluhowsky def. King, 678-644.
Sin def. McCarthy, 781-650.
Zulkifli def. Cortese, 649-590.
Cheah def. Nieter, 618-543.
Guerra def. New, 659-654.

ROUND 2 – ELIMINATION BRACKET (Losers eliminated, earn \$1,350)

Roumimper def. L. Johnson, 756-648.
Sopp-Schroeder def. Martin, 701-579.
H. Richard def. Higgins, 560-560 (won one-ball roll-off, 10-8).
Brown def. Cobo, 596-536.
C. Johnson def. Pate, 658-614.
O’Keefe def. Kulick, 730-587.
D’Errico def. Schwartz, 599-571.
Mason def. J. Richard, 714-527.

Hulsenberg def. Robles, 602-551.
Lagrange def. Tatrow, 570-568.
Ng def. Ayers, 642-597.
Coté def. Parkin, 723-611.
Ramirez Perea def. Asbaty, 607-539.
Sellens def. Arnett, 661-585.
Franco def. Lomeli, 562-472.
Whiting def. Smith, 642-550.

ROUND 3 – ELIMINATION BRACKET (Losers eliminated, earn \$1,550)

Roumimper def. Russo, 696-540.
Dorin-Ballard def. Sopp-Schroeder, 639-565.
H. Richard def. Lim, 628-622.
King def. Brown, 637-594.
C. Johnson def. Cortese, 685-667.
O’Keefe def. Nieter, 719-706.
McCarthy def. D’Errico, 602-470.
Mason def. New, 732-628.

Zavjalova def. Hulsenberg, 681-623.
Lagrange def. Bercier, 693-590.
Plazas def. Ng, 615-603.
Rodriguez def. Coté, 646-646 (won one-ball roll-off, 10-9).
Ramirez Perea def. Boomershine, 571-552.
Sellens def. Petraglia, 705-562.
Franco def. Bandy, 726-674.
Whiting def. Simpson, 669-626.

KOVALOVA EARNS TOP SEED FOR FINALS AT 2019 USBC QUEENS

WICHITA, Kan. – After completing a successful collegiate career at Wichita State University, the Ukraine's Dasha Kovalova has made her home in The Air Capital of the World and will have the chance to bowl for the title at the 2019 United States Bowling Congress Queens in a familiar venue at Northrock Lanes.

The 24-year-old right-hander defeated Malaysia's Sin Li Jane, 662-636, to remain undefeated in match play at the 2019 USBC Queens and earn the top seed for the stepladder finals, which will be broadcast live Tuesday at 8 p.m. Eastern on CBS Sports Network.

Sin will enter the stepladder as the No. 2 seed, while Colombia's Clara Guerrero, Singapore's Daphne Tan and Indonesia's Tannya Roumimper round out the all-international championship round after advancing from a four-player elimination final Monday.

The USBC Queens is the first major championship of the 2019 Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour season and will award the winner the coveted tiara and \$20,000 top prize.

Kovalova was a standout during her time with the Shockers, earning National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association (NCBCA) All-America honors in each of her four years in the program. Her collegiate career concluded in 2016, and she's now a full-time player on the PWBA Tour.

She'll be searching for her first career PWBA Tour title in a place that's very close to her, and she hopes to be able to share in her success with the community.

"This means a lot to me," said Kovalova, the 2014-2015 NCBCA Player of the Year. "The crowd here has been really strong, and they've been cheering me on. It really shows how important support can be. I graduated from WSU, so this is a tribute and a way for me to give something back for everything the program gave me for four years."

Kovalova kicked off Monday's opening round with a 300 game against Brandi Branka of Belleville, Illinois, and she averaged nearly 230 in her final three wins on the way to the top spot. In all, Kovalova won six matches on the way to the top seed.

This week's 39-foot lane condition allowed her to show off some of the aspects of her game she's tried to improve upon in preparation for the 2019 season.

"I really liked it because it allowed me to play outside with softer speed," Kovalova said. "It's a thing I was practicing in the offseason, so I'm really happy I was able to put it into play this week. Usually, as my college teammates know, I like to play up 15 and roll it, so I think this shows some of my versatility."

In addition to her added versatility, she's also happy to have found some success in the event's double-elimination bracket. She advanced to match play at the Queens in each of the previous four years, but the 2017 event in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was the only time she won more than one match. She finished tied for ninth place.

"I've struggled at the Queens," Kovalova said. "I really haven't been able to get through the matches, so the fact that I was able to do that today shows how much I've improved and learned."

Sin, the winner of the 2017 PWBA Lincoln Open, posted the highest match-play average in tournament history on the way to earning the No. 2 seed. In six matches, she averaged 248.72, surpassing USBC Hall of Famer Kim Terrell-Kearney's mark of 240 set during the 2002 event.

This year's championship round also marks the second time since 2016 that the stepladder finals at the Queens will feature players from five different countries. Singapore's Bernice Lim claimed the title in 2016, defeating Sweden's Sandra Andersson. Sin also advanced to the stepladder in 2016, finishing in fifth place.

Guerrero earned the No. 3 seed with a 681 series in the special shootout match that included the final four players from the elimination bracket. Tan will be the No. 4 seed after rolling a 671 set and will face Roumimper in the opening match after she finished with 644.

Josie Barnes of Nashville, Tennessee, wasn't able to find a look until the final game of the shootout and finished in sixth place overall after a 550 series.

On her way through the elimination bracket, Roumimper also connected for the highest three-game set ever rolled in match play at the Queens, an 822 series that included, games of 267, 255 and 300 and lifted her past England's Verity Crawley.

A total of 192 bowlers from 17 countries competed in three five-game blocks of qualifying over three days this week to determine the 63 players who joined defending champion Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, in the bracket.

O'Keefe, the 2018 PWBA Player of the Year, made a strong run through the elimination bracket Sunday and Monday, before falling to Shannon Pluhowsky of Dayton, Ohio, 651-566, to finish in ninth place.

Each bracket match leading up to the stepladder included three games, with total pinfall determining which player advanced. The televised portion of the event will feature one-game matches.

All rounds of competition leading up to the stepladder finals were broadcast at BowlTV.com.

For more information on the USBC Queens, visit BOWL.com/Queens.

2019 USBC Queens
At Northrock Lanes
Wichita, Kan.

Monday's results

MATCH PLAY

Double elimination, three-game matches decided by total pinfall

ROUND 3

(Winners remain in winners bracket. Losers move to elimination bracket).

(16) Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, def. (64) Brandi Branka, Belleville, Ill., 624-539.

(9) Daphne Tan, Singapore, def. (25) Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 741-634.

(5) Giselle Poss, Nashville, Tenn., def. (12) Cherie Tan, Singapore, 604-587.

(13) Josie Barnes, Nashville, Tenn., def. (36) Verity Crawley, England, 648-599.

(19) Clara Guerrero, Colombia, def. (3) Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 647-615.

(27) Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, def. (11) Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 678-642.

(58) Sin Li Jane, Malaysia, def. (55) Shalin Zulkifli, Malaysia, 747-557.

(47) Esther Cheah, Malaysia, def. (63) Aumi Guerra, Dominican Republic, 680-563.

ROUND 4 – ELIMINATION BRACKET

(Losers eliminated, earn \$1,700)

(32) Tannya Roumimper, Indonesia, def. (22) Carolyn Dorin-Ballard, Keller, Texas, 629-627.

(59) Jennifer King, Cold Spring, Ky., def. (49) Haley Richard, Tipton, Mich., 620-574.

(4) Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., def. (37) Caitlyn Johnson, Lumberton, Texas, 774-697.

(52) Gazmine Mason, Cranston, R.I., def. (39) Erin McCarthy, Omaha, Neb., 627-611.

(6) Caroline Lagrange, Canada, def. (17) Diana Zavjalova, Latvia, 647-631.

(8) Maria José Rodriguez, Colombia, def. (33) Laura Plazas, Colombia, 559-534.

(7) Anggie Ramirez Perea, Colombia, def. (2) Shannon Sellens, Long Beach, N.Y., 734-550.

(10) Juliana Franco, Colombia, def. (18) Rebecca Whiting, Australia, 680-565.

ROUND 4 – WINNERS BRACKET

Kovalova def. D. Tan 682-668.

Barnes def. Poss, 737-690.

Guerrero def. Pluhowsky, 697-666.
Sin def. Cheah, 769-714.

ROUND 5 – ELIMINATION BRACKET
(Losers eliminated, earn \$2,000)

Roumimper def. C. Tan, 661-540.
Crawley def. King, 646-623.
O’Keefe def. Branka, 713-613.
Mason def. Kuhlkin, 579-566.

Guerra def. Lagrange, 625-623.
Zulkifli def. Rodriguez, 735-624.
S. Johnson def. Ramirez Perea, 630-628.
McEwan def. Franco, 735-626.

ROUND 5 – WINNERS BRACKET

Kovalova def. Barnes, 725-620.
Sin def. Guerrero, 761-701.

ROUND 6 – ELIMINATION BRACKET
(Losers eliminated, earn \$2,300)

Roumimper def. Crawley, 822-624.
O’Keefe def. Mason, 651-582.
Guerra def. Zulkifli, 687-634.
McEwan def. S. Johnson, 679-644.

ROUND 6 – WINNERS BRACKET
(Winner earns No. 1 seed for Tuesday’s CBS Sports Network finals; loser is No. 2 seed)

Kovalova def. Sin, 662-636.

ROUND 7 – ELIMINATION BRACKET
(Losers eliminated, earn \$2,800)

Roumimper def. Cheah, 707-681.
Pluhowsky def. O’Keefe, 651-566.
Poss def. Guerra, 635-606.
D. Tan def. McEwan, 660-608.

ROUND 8 – ELIMINATION BRACKET
(Losers eliminated, earn \$3,350)

Roumimper def. Pluhowsky, 628-602.
D. Tan def. Poss, 636-596.

ROUND 9 – ELIMINATION BRACKET
(Three highest scores advance to CBS Sports Network finals, high score is No. 3 seed, second high is No. 4, third high is No. 5, lowest score is eliminated, earns \$4,200).

Guerrero 681, D. Tan 671, Roumimper 644, Barnes 550.

DASHA KOVALOVA WINS 2019 USBC QUEENS

WICHITA, Kan. – Ukraine’s Dasha Kovalova won her first career Professional Women’s Bowling Association Tour title and major championship Tuesday by delivering a double in her final frame at the 2019 United States Bowling Congress Queens.

The 24-year-old right-hander defeated Malaysia’s Sin Li Jane, 226-216, at Northrock Lanes to claim the tiara and \$20,000 top prize, which was broadcast live on CBS Sports Network.

Kovalova, who garnered the support of the crowd as a former collegiate standout at Wichita State University, grabbed the lead at the halfway point of the match after Sin left and was unable to convert a 6-7 split in the fifth frame.

Kovalova followed Sin’s open frame with her first double of the title match to push the lead to more than 20 pins, and she maintained the advantage by staying clean through the ninth frame.

Working on a strike and finishing the match first, Kovalova needed a strike and nine pins on her first two shots to shut out Sin and rolled a pair of strikes to secure the victory.

In that pressure-packed moment, Kovalova kept everything quick and simple.

“I kept noticing the shot clock,” Kovalova said. “When I get really nervous, I tend to slow everything down, but the clock helped me. When it got to 10 seconds, I knew I had to go. I just focused on that and went to throw the best shot I could.”

Heading into the title match, Kovalova also admitted to being nervous, but her plan to play the lanes farther left than her opponent allowed her to settle in after seeing a similar look during qualifying and match play throughout the week at Northrock Lanes.

“I was freaking out,” said Kovalova, who’s previous best finish in her PWBA career was eighth at the 2018 PWBA Louisville Open. “I wondered what would happen if I wasn’t able to make good shots. But once I stepped up on the approach, I saw a really clear picture and was able to stay focused.

“We talked about keeping everything farther left than everybody else, but to be honest, I felt like I was playing this line during some of qualifying and match play, so I was familiar with it. We also drilled a new bowling ball, so that helped, too.”

Kovalova was a four-time National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association All-American while competing for Wichita State, and she now resides just minutes away from Northrock Lanes.

She helped lead the Shockers to the finals of the Intercollegiate Team Championships at the 48-lane venue in 2016, but the team was unable to win the Helmer Cup, falling to Webber International.

Tuesday’s win serves as some redemption for Kovalova.

“We weren’t able to deliver the title to Wichita State in 2016,” said Kovalova, the 2014-2015 NCBCA Player of the Year. “So, I hope this counts. I wanted to give something back to my coaches, teammates and friends. It feels great. It’s kind of surreal.”

Sin, who was looking for her second career PWBA Tour title, was happy to see her persistence pay off after almost missing the cut into the match play earlier in the week.

The 27-year-old right-hander was out of the number heading into the final round of qualifying but quickly turned things around in match play, posting the highest match-play average in USBC Queens history on the way to the No. 2 seed, averaging 248.72 over six matches.

“Honestly, I’m very happy with my performance,” Sin said. “The scores were low for me during the first two days, so I had to fight really hard to qualify for the top 64. I bowled really well in match play, and it’s anybody’s game in a one-game match. So, no regrets.”

Sin started with eight consecutive strikes on her way to the title match, defeating Colombia’s Clara Guerrero, 267-224. A 4 pin in the ninth frame ended Sin’s run at 300.

Guerrero advanced to the semifinal after recording a thrilling 242-232 win over Indonesia’s Tannya Roumimper.

Guerrero, finishing the match first, had the chance to shut out Roumimper with three strikes in her final frame but left a 10 pin on her final delivery to allow Roumimper the chance to tie with three strikes of her own. Roumimper struck on her first shot but left a 3-6 combination on her second to finish in fourth place.

In Tuesday’s opening match, Roumimper struck on six of her first seven shots in a 231-195 victory over Singapore’s Daphne Tan.

A total of 192 bowlers from 17 countries competed in three five-game blocks of qualifying over three days this week to determine the 63 players who joined defending champion Shannon O’Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, in the bracket.

O’Keefe, the 2018 PWBA Player of the Year, made a strong run through the elimination bracket Sunday and Monday, before falling to Shannon Pluhowsky of Dayton, Ohio, 651-566, to finish in ninth place.

Each bracket match leading up to the stepladder included three games, with total pinfall determining which player advanced.

All rounds of competition leading up to the stepladder finals were broadcast at BowlTV.com.

For more information on the USBC Queens, visit BOWL.com/Queens.

**2019 USBC Queens
At Northrock Lanes
Wichita, Kan.**

Tuesday’s Results

Final standings

- 1, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 226 (one game), \$20,000.
- 2, Sin Li Jane, Malaysia, 483 (two games), \$11,000.
- 3, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 466 (two games), \$8,000.
- 4, Tannya Roumimper, Indonesia, 463 (two games), \$6,500.

5, Daphne Tan, Singapore, 195 (one game), \$5,000.

Stepladder results

Match 1 – Roumimper def. Tan, 231-195.

Match 2 – Guerrero def. Roumimper, 242-232.

Semifinal – Sin def. Guerrero, 267-224.

Championship – Kovalova def. Sin, 226-216.

O'KEEFE LOOKING FOR THIRD CAREER VICTORY AT 2019 PWBA SONOMA COUNTY OPEN

ARLINGTON, Texas – Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, has won nine career titles on the Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) Tour but two of her wins came at the PWBA Sonoma County Open.

This week, the PWBA Tour begins its West Coast swing and Double Decker Lanes in Rohnert Park, California, will host the best women bowlers in the world for the fourth consecutive season.

Competition at the PWBA Sonoma County Open starts Friday with two eight-game qualifying blocks before the field is cut to 32 players. After eight additional games Saturday morning, the top 12 players will bowl a final six-game block to decide the four players who will compete in the stepladder finals.

BowlTV.com, the exclusive livestreaming home of the PWBA Tour, will have wire-to-wire live coverage of the event, including Saturday's stepladder finals at 5:30 p.m. (8:30 p.m. Eastern).

This event always seems to bring out the best in O'Keefe, as she's conquered the difficult lane conditions in 2016 and 2018 with each holding its own spot in her personal history.

The 2016 win was her first singles title on the PWBA Tour after years of struggle and tough losses in previous title matches.

The 2018 event saw a classic title match between O'Keefe and England's Verity Crawley, an unexpectedly high-scoring match based on the scoring conditions of the week. O'Keefe won the match against top-seeded Crawley, 268-266.

"I think the reason it brings out the best in me is because they're really tough," said O'Keefe, referring to the combination of challenging lane conditions and center characteristics of Double Decker Lanes. "I have learned to become very patient and rely on my shot execution and spare shooting, which is what the tournament boils down to."

O'Keefe is familiar with entering an event as the defending champion. Last week, she was the defending champion at the United States Bowling Congress Queens, and despite an early first-round loss, she battled her way to a top-12 finish after making a run in the Contenders bracket.

The McKendree women's bowling coach used her finish as a positive and embraced the results as teachable lessons.

"It was very easy for me to be positive after defeat because I was very proud of my performance," O'Keefe said. "I lost my first match by two pins and I was disappointed at the time, but I was proud of my execution. I worked hard but sometimes the pins just don't fall your way."

"So, if I can't take the positives and learning moments out of every experience, good or bad, how am I going to expect my girls at McKendree to do the same? I'm really trying to live as an example to them that you can still be very proud of your performance, even when you're defeated."

Although her performance left her short of repeating as champion, her Queens week earned her one of two Team USA women's positions for the 2019 Pan American Games to be held July 26 through Aug. 11, with the bowling competition scheduled for July 25-30. O'Keefe earned a spot based on her finish at the Pan American Games Trials and the USBC Queens.

The Queens was the second part of a two-part qualifying process that started in March with the Pan American Games Trials held at the International Training and Research Center in Arlington.

O’Keefe will join her “sister,” longtime friend and teammate, Stefanie Johnson of McKinney, Texas, who earned the first women’s spot on the Pan American Games team. O’Keefe and Johnson were busy “crunching numbers and doing the math” as qualifying was underway, hoping they had each done enough to earn spots.

Held every four years, in the year preceding the Summer Olympics, the Pan American Games is the second largest multi-sport event that brings together the 41 National Olympic Committees that comprise PanamSports.

“Stefanie and I were pretty sure with a block of qualifying to go that I had already qualified,” O’Keefe said. “When I saw her the next morning, we were jumping up and down and we hadn’t even got final confirmation yet. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity – a dream come true. And to be able to do this with my sister... She is the sister I never had but always wanted.

“We started our Team USA journey 15 years ago and every part of our international careers, I feel we’ve done together. It’s so fitting and truly feels like a gift from God that we were able to qualify together. It’s another one of our amazing journeys together and I’m incredibly blessed and humbled by it and I’m ready to go.”

The field for the PWBA Sonoma County Open also will have three players with ties to the Bay Area.

Nichole Hiraoka of Daly City, Kimberly Power-DeFer of Hayward and Karen Rosprim of Albany.

Power-DeFer is a PWBA member, while Hiraoka and Rosprim are non-members. Rosprim finished sixth in the 2017 PWBA Sonoma County Open.

Double Decker Lanes also will host a PWBA Regional on Sunday. The PWBA is holding five regional events in conjunction with national events on the 2019 PWBA Tour schedule. The one-day tournaments will have eight games of qualifying before the field is cut to the top four competitors for a stepladder final.

The first four regional winners (who are PWBA members) will compete in the Go Bowling! PWBA Regional Showdown, a special made-for-TV event that will air Aug. 24 on CBS Sports Network.

Elise Bolton of Merritt Island, Florida, and Julia Bond of Aurora, Illinois, have clinched berths in the event by winning the first two regionals of the season at Yorktown Lanes in Parma Heights, Ohio, and Sun Valley Lanes in Lincoln, Nebraska, respectively.

**2019 PWBA SONOMA COUNTY OPEN
(At Double Decker Lanes, Rohnert Park, Calif.)**

(All times local)

Thursday, May 30

4 p.m. – 90-minute practice session

7 p.m. – Bowl With The Pros

Friday, May 31

9 a.m. – Eight-game qualifying block

5 p.m. – Eight-game qualifying block

(Cut to top 32 players)

Saturday, June 1

9 a.m. – Round of 32 (eight games)

(Cut to top 12 players)

2 p.m. – Round of 12 (six games)

(Cut to top four players for stepladder finals)

5:30 p.m. – Stepladder Finals live on BowlTV

7:30 p.m. – Bowl With The Pros

**2019 PWBA SONOMA COUNTY REGIONAL
(At Double Decker Lanes, Rohnert Park, Calif.)**

Sunday, June 2

(all times local)

9 a.m. – Eight-game qualifying block

(Cut to top four players for stepladder finals)
2 p.m. – Stepladder Finals live on BowITV

NG CATCHES PARKIN TO WIN 2019 PWBA SONOMA COUNTY OPEN

ROHNERT PARK, Calif. – Shayna Ng spent each round of the 2019 Professional Women’s Bowling Association (PWBA) Sonoma County Open trying to catch tournament leader Missy Parkin, without success.

Ng had one last chance as she faced Parkin in Saturday’s title match at Double Decker Lanes and took full advantage of the opportunity by striking on her first seven shots in a 259-237 victory to claim her second PWBA title.

BowITV.com provided live coverage of the event.

Parkin, from Laguna Hills, California, was dominant throughout the event, finishing 288 pins ahead of Ng to take the top seed for the stepladder finals. Ng finished second in each of the four rounds over the last two days,

“Finally, on the last one,” Ng said about catching Parkin. “She bowled great all week and was very, very consistent. I had my ups and downs, but when it comes down to just one final game, it’s really anybody’s game and I was fortunate to have matched up to the lanes better and earlier.”

While Ng was striking on her first seven shots in the title match, Parkin had a 10 pin wiggle, but not fall in the second frame, picked up a 2-8 leave in the fifth and a single-pin spare in the seventh.

“I bowled really well all week long, was happy with my execution, and the last game I threw all the shots really well,” Parkin said. “That’s all you can do. Shayna bowled really well in the stepladder finals and all week long.”

As the No. 2 seed, Ng averaged 263 in her two matches of the stepladder. In the semifinal against No. 3 seed Stefanie Johnson of McKinney, Texas, Ng closed out the match with seven strikes. She was quite aware she was on a run of 14 consecutive strikes over the two matches.

“There were nerves,” said Ng, who won the 2018 PWBA Las Vegas Open. “I was really, really quite nervous. But I guess I managed to overcome it.”

Johnson made the semifinals match with a 227-179 victory over Valerie Bercier of Spring Lake, Michigan. Bercier couldn’t convert a 2-10 split in the second frame and Johnson stayed clean in the victory.

Saturday’s stepladder was the PWBA Tour’s fifth of the season – a total of 21 spots – and once again each of the stepladder participants were making their first finals appearance of the season. No bowler has made two stepladder finals in 2019.

Ng won't have a chance to make another stepladder as she will return to Singapore with the rest of the team. The Singapore national team has been on the PWBA Tour for the last five weeks as part of their training for the Singapore Open.

"It's been a long trip, but it is sweet to go back with this win," Ng said.

Competition at the PWBA Sonoma County Open started with two eight-game qualifying blocks on Friday to determine the 32 players for Saturday's Round of 32. An eight-game block on Saturday morning narrowed the field to 12 players, who bowled six more games with total pinfall from their 30 games determining the stepladder finalists.

On Sunday, the third PWBA Regional event of the season will take place at Double Decker Lanes. All competitors will bowl eight qualifying games and the top will four advance to the stepladder finals. BowITV.com will have live coverage of the PWBA Regional.

The winner of Sunday's PWBA Regional earns a spot in the Go Bowling! PWBA Regional Showdown, a special made-for-TV event to be taped Aug. 17 in conjunction with the PWBA Orlando Open.

The 2019 PWBA Tour now heads to Tucson, Arizona, for the PWBA Tucson Open at Golden Pin Lane, with the action starting June 7, and BowITV.com will have live wire-to-wire coverage of the event.

Visit PWBA.com for the latest news, complete schedule and player biographies.

PWBA SONOMA COUNTY OPEN (At Double Decker Lanes, Rohnert Park, Calif.)

Saturday's Results

- 1, Shayna Ng, Singapore, 526 (two games), \$10,000
- 2, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 237 (one game), \$5,000
- 3, Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 431 (two games), \$3,500
- 4, Valerie Bercier, Spring Lake, Mich., 179 (one game), \$3,000

Stepladder results

Match No. 1 – S. Johnson def. Bercier, 227-179

Semifinal – Ng def. S.Johnson, 267-204

Title match – Ng def. Parkin, 259-237

ROUND OF 12

(30-game totals; top four advance to stepladder finals)

1, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 6,799. 2, Shayna Ng, Singapore, 6,511. 3, Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 6,388. 4, Valerie Bercier, Spring Lake, Mich., 6,370.

DID NOT ADVANCE

5, Giselle Poss, Nashville, Tenn., 6,358, \$2,000. 6, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 6,334, \$1,950. 7, (TIE) Thashaina Seraus (n), Aruba, and Julia Bond, Aurora, Ill., 6,299, \$1,900. 9, Sandra Gongora, Mexico, 6,258, \$1,800. 10, Jen Higgins, Westerville, Ohio, 6,257, \$1,700.

11, Diandra Asbaty, Chicago, Ill., 6,235, \$1,650. 12, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 6,216, \$1,600.

ROUND OF 32

(24-game totals; top 12 advance)

1, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 5,495. 2, Shayna Ng, Singapore, 5,384. 3, Valerie Bercier,

Spring Lake, Mich., 5,211. 4, Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 5,171. 5, Julia Bond, Aurora, Ill., 5,143. 6, Giselle Poss, Nashville, Tenn., 5,141.

7, Thashaina Seraus (n), Aruba, 5,138. 8, Diandra Asbaty, Chicago, Ill., 5,128. 9, Sandra Gongora, Mexico, 5,111. 10, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 5,109. 11, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 5,083. 12, Jen Higgins, Westerville, Ohio, 5,077.

DID NOT ADVANCE

13, Ashly Galante, Palm Harbor, Fla., 5,075, \$1,300. 14, Jordan Richard, Tipton, Mich., 5,070, \$1,300. 15, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 5,050, \$1,300. 16, Kelly Kulick HoF, Union, N.J., 5,037, \$1,300. 17, Daphne Tan, Singapore, 5,035, \$1,250. 18, Jodi Woessner, Oregon, Ohio, 5,028, \$1,250.

19, Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, 5,025, \$1,250. 20, Hui Fen New, Singapore, 5,019, \$1,250. 21, Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 5,017, \$1,200. 22, Diana Zavjalova, Latvia, 5,011, \$1,200. 23, Sydney Brummett, Wichita, Kan., 5,000, \$1,200. 24, Bernice Lim, Singapore, 4,998, \$1,200.

25, Bryanna Cote, Red Rock, Ariz., 4,945, \$1,150. 26, Kamilah Dammers-Naddall, Aruba, 4,929, \$1,150. 27, Cherie Tan, Singapore, 4,927, \$1,150. 28, Kayla Bandy, Salisbury, Md., 4,924, \$1,150. 29, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 4,921, \$1,100. 30, Liz Johnson HoF, Palatine, Ill., 4,903, \$1,100.

31, Karen Rosprim (n), Albany, Calif., 4,831, \$1,100. 32, Ingellimar Beasley, Clarksville, Tenn., 4,821, \$1,100.

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

QUALIFYING

(16-game totals; top 32 advance)

1, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 3,679. 2, Shayna Ng, Singapore, 3,559. 3, Jen Higgins, Westerville, Ohio, 3,513. 4, Valerie Bercier, Spring Lake, Mich., 3,491. 5, Giselle Poss, Nashville, Tenn., 3,440. 6, Sandra Gongora, Mexico, 3,419.

7, Diana Zavjalova, Latvia, 3,416. 8, Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 3,413. 9, (TIE) Julia Bond, Aurora, Ill., and Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 3,409. 11, Daphne Tan, Singapore, 3,402. 12, Sydney Brummett, Wichita, Kan., 3,399.

13, Liz Johnson HoF, Palatine, Ill., 3,393. 14, Diandra Asbaty, Chicago, Ill., 3,380. 15, Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 3,373. 16, (TIE) Jordan Richard, Tipton, Mich., and Jodi Woessner, Oregon, Ohio, 3,365. 18, Bernice Lim, Singapore, 3,358.

19, Kayla Bandy, Salisbury, Md., 3,346. 20, Kelly Kulick HoF, Union, N.J., 3,344. 21, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 3,332. 22, Bryanna Cote, Red Rock, Ariz., 3,328. 23, (TIE) Hui Fen New, Singapore, and Cherie Tan, Singapore, 3,319.

25, Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, 3,315. 26, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 3,307. 27, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 3,291. 28, Ashly Galante, Palm Harbor, Fla., 3,289. 29, Kamilah Dammers-Naddall, Aruba, 3,287. 30, Ingellimar Beasley, Clarksville, Tenn., 3,266.

31, Karen Rosprim (n), Albany, Calif., 3,263. 32, Thashaina Seraus (n), Aruba, 3,262.

DID NOT ADVANCE

33, GG Mason, Cranston, R.I., 3,253. 34, Birgit Poppler, Germany, 3,250. 35, Maria Jose Rodriguez, Colombia, 3,246. 36, Lauren Pate, Inver Grove, Minn., 3,232.

37, Amanda Falk, Tucson, Ariz., 3,229. 38, Daria Pajak, Poland, 3,209. 39, Kimi Rampone (n), Lewisville, Texas, 3,195. 40, Amanda Fry, Antelope, Calif., 3,184. 41, Verity Crawley, England, 3,163. 42, Lindsay Boomershine, Perry, Utah, 3,162.

43, Lilia Robles, Mexico, 3,153. 44, Samantha How, Oregon City, Ore., 3,146. 45, Stephanie Schwartz, Racine, Wis., 3,128. 46, Jennifer Russo, Monmouth Junction, N.J., 3,124. 47, Laura Plazas, Colombia, 3,120. 48, Elise Bolton, Merritt Island, Fla., 3,114.

49, Debbie Ayers, La Mesa, Calif., 3,100. 50, Nichole Hiraoka (n), Daly City, Calif., 3,082. 51, Summer Jasmin, Beckley, W. Va., 3,058. 52, Tannya Roumimper, Indonesia, 3,042. 53, Heather Dettrey (n), Lincoln, Calif., 3,021. 54, Kimberly Power-DeFer, Hayward

San Leandro, Calif., 3,012.

55, Jacqueline Evans, Acton, Mass., 2,987. 56, Felicia Wong, Canada, 2,983. 57, Stephanie Martins, Brazil, 2,949. 58, Danaka Heekin, Woodinville, Wash., 2,937. 59, Jazreel Tan, Singapore, 2,885. 60, Katelyn Simpson, Emmett, Idaho, 2,837.

61, Lara Clevenger (n), Edgewater, Fla., 2,789. 62, Suzette Draper, Dumont, N.J., 2,757. 63, Michelle Lopez, Riverside, Calif., 2,738.

LOCAL STAR COTÉ READY FOR PWBA TUCSON OPEN

ARLINGTON, Texas – Bryanna Coté has many fond memories of competing at Golden Pin Lanes in Tucson, Arizona, the site of this week's Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) Tucson Open.

Now, for the first and final time, she will compete as a professional in the center she's called home.

The PWBA Tour continues its West Coast swing this week at the PWBA Tucson Open. Competition begins Friday with two eight-game qualifying blocks before the field is cut to 32 players. After eight additional games Saturday morning, the top 12 players will bowl a final six-game block to decide the four players who will compete in the stepladder finals.

BowlTV.com, the exclusive livestreaming home of the PWBA Tour, will have wire-to-wire live coverage of the event, including Saturday's stepladder finals at 5:30 p.m. (8:30 p.m. Eastern).

Coté, from Red Rock, Arizona, has looked forward to the opportunity to compete at Golden Pin Lanes for more than a year, when the initial possibility of bringing a PWBA stop to Tucson arose. Coté then began to do her part to encourage all local bowlers and fans to support the stop and even compete in the Bowl With The Pros events.

"When I knew the possibility of Tucson was in the mix, I was doing everything I could to encourage them to have a stop," said Coté, who won the 2016 PWBA Lexington Open. "It will be great not just for the sport, but for the town. We have a lot of residents and senior citizens that love to bowl, and they will come out and watch.

"So, I was really excited when it did hit the schedule and it was announced that I get to bowl at home. I'll have a lot of support this week, getting to bowl in my home center in front of my family and friends."

This week will be different in many ways for Coté, though most of the differences will be positive. She'll get to sleep in her own bed and enjoy the normal routines of being home while bowling an event.

However, she will have many family and friends cheering her on, which sometimes puts too much pressure on a player. Though she's not quite sure if she will be nervous when the event starts, she'll be prepared for everything.

"I think I've prepared myself to treat it like just another event," said Coté, who is a four-time Team USA member. "The job is the same. The task is the same. I'll just have a larger crowd behind me. I

enjoy it when people cheer and root me on. It does help, especially when you get down or have a bad game. It's nice to have people helping you turn things around."

While Coté's excitement to compete is on an infinity level, this week also is bittersweet for the 33-year-old right-hander as Golden Pin Lanes is scheduled to close its doors at the end of June.

While competing in the center at the Arizona State USBC Open Championship a couple weeks ago, it dawned on her that many of those competitors would never again bowl at the center.

But, she's thankful to have at least one more event to create new memories to add to the thousands she's already made. She worked at the center during high school and it's also the place she rolled an 879 series in 2014, that tied the record (since broken) for highest-three game series by a woman.

"I'm really sad to see it go because I've done a lot of great things in this center," Coté said. "When I was a junior bowler, I shot my first 700 series there. I picked up my only 7-10 (split) there. I shot 879 there, too, so to see it close is really sad. I know all good things come to an end eventually, but I just hope I can help it go out in a great way.

"I'm hoping for a good crowd and a good event. And I know they're doing their best to put on a good show for us."

While Coté would love to win, just making the stepladder finals in Golden Pin's final event would be sort of a storybook ending.

"I'm going to take it one round at a time," Coté said. "I would love to make the show. And if I can do that in Golden Pin's final tournament, it would be an awesome accomplishment."

Along with Coté, the PWBA Tucson Open features a field of 76 bowlers with five players with ties to Tucson including PWBA member and former Central Missouri standout Amanda Falk.

Tucson's Kyndle Farrell and Erica Lockhart will compete as non-members along with Amber Harvey of Vail.

2019 PWBA TUCSON OPEN
(At Golden Pin Lanes, Tucson, Ariz.)
(All times local)

Thursday, June 6

4 p.m. – 90-minute practice session

7 p.m. – Bowl With The Pros

Friday, June 7

9 a.m. – Eight-game qualifying block

5 p.m. – Eight-game qualifying block

(Cut to top 32 players)

Saturday, June 8

9 a.m. – Round of 32 (eight games)

(Cut to top 12 players)

2 p.m. – Round of 12 (six games)

(Cut to top four players for stepladder finals)

5:30 p.m. – Stepladder Finals live on BowITV

O'KEEFE CAPTURES HER SECOND TITLE OF SEASON AT PWBA TUCSON OPEN

TUCSON, Ariz. – It's not a secret Shannon O'Keefe sets goals for herself each season. This week, she checked off an item she called a pie-in-the-sky, bucket-list goal.

O'Keefe captured her second title of the season with a 259-195 victory over Colombia's Maria José Rodriguez in the title match of the PWBA Tucson Lanes at Golden Pin Lanes. It marked O'Keefe's 10th career title, a goal she never thought was likely to happen in her bowling career.

"It's a dream," O'Keefe said. "When the tour started, I just wanted to win one. There were 12 years we didn't have a tour and I always wondered, 'If there was one, would I have been able to win a title?' And now I'm sitting at 10."

While the 10 career wins checked off an item on her bucket list, her main goal for the 2019 PWBA Tour season was just getting back to basics. She said the end of the 2018 season had become a grind, as she made a push for PWBA Player of the Year, and realized she needed to focus on the things she can control as a competitor.

"My goal this season was getting back to playing the game and loving it like when I was that 13-year-old girl running around the softball field with my hair on fire, and just doing it because I love the pure competition side of it," O'Keefe said. "That's my goal this season, to be able to do that. It's a lot more fun bowling that way than with putting pressure on yourself."

In Saturday's title match, O'Keefe struck on five of her first six shots against Rodriguez. The strike in the sixth included the 2 pin and 9 pin tripping late, and following a made spare in the seventh, O'Keefe struck out to capture the title.

"I threw every single one of those shots perfect; well, at least that's what it felt like," O'Keefe said. "So, for it to result in a win and title No. 10, it's one I'm going to remember."

Rodriguez made the title match with a 247-216 victory over Liz Kuhlkin of Schenectady, New York. Rodriguez earned the No. 2 seed with a blistering performance on Saturday that included averaging 245 during the Round of 12 to jump from 14th into third.

"You always have a plan when you come into bowl and normally it doesn't work," Rodriguez said. "Then you have to search through bowling balls; that's why we have so many balls. But we had a plan, we had four balls and we just used those four balls."

Kuhlkin also had made some big moves during the day to reach the stepladder and was nearly perfect in the opening match against Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York. The duo matched strikes for the first four frames before McEwan had a 9-count in the fifth.

But Kuhlkin kept striking and threw 11 consecutive strikes before leaving the 9 pin on her final shot in a 299-226 victory.

There were two perfect games rolled during Saturday's competition. Sydney Brummett of Wichita, Kansas, had a 300 in Game 4 of the Round of 32 and Kelly Kulick of Union, New Jersey, had 12 consecutive strikes in the opening game of the Round of 12.

BowITV.com provided live coverage of all rounds of the event.

Competitors at the PWBA Tucson Open bowled two eight-game qualifying blocks on Friday and then the field was cut to the top 32. Another eight-game block on Saturday morning narrowed the field to 12 players, who bowled six more games with the 30-games pinfall total determining the stepladder finalists.

The 2019 PWBA Tour now heads to Fountain Valley, California, for the PWBA Fountain Valley Open at Fountain Bowl. Competition starts June 14, and BowITV.com will have live coverage of all rounds, including the stepladder finals.

Visit PWBA.com for the latest news, complete schedule and player biographies.

PWBA TUCSON OPEN

(At Golden Pin Lanes, Tucson Ariz.)

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

- 1, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 259 (one game), \$10,000
- 2, Maria Jose Rodriguez, Colombia, 442 (two games), \$5,000
- 3, Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 515 (two games), \$3,500
- 4, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 226 (one game), \$3,000

Stepladder results

Match No. 1 – Kuhlkin def. McEwan, 299-226

Semifinal – Rodriguez def. Kuhlkin, 247-216

Title match – O'Keefe def. Rodriguez, 259-195

ROUND OF 12

(30-game totals; top four advance to stepladder finals)

- 1, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 6,793.
- 2, Maria Jose Rodriguez, Colombia, 6,739.
- 3, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 6,687.
- 4, Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 6,571.

DID NOT ADVANCE

- 5, Jordan Richard, Tipton, Mich., 6,551, \$2,000.
- 6, Sydney Brummett, Wichita, Kan., 6,499, \$1,950.
- 7, Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, 6,489, \$1,925.
- 8, Kelly Kulick, Union, N.J., 6,467, \$1,875.
- 9, Katelyn Simpson, Emmett, Idaho, 6,460, \$1,800.
- 10, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 6,455, \$1,700.
- 11, Bryanna Cote, Red Rock, Ariz., 6,452, \$1,650.
- 12, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 6,347, \$1,600.

ROUND OF 32

(24-game totals; top 12 advance)

- 1, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 5,410.
- 2, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 5,372.
- 3, Maria Jose Rodriguez, Colombia, 5,349.
- 4, Jordan Richard, Tipton, Mich., 5,280.
- 5, Sydney Brummett, Wichita, Kan., 5,260.
- 6, Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, 5,197.

- 7, Kelly Kulick HoF, Union, N.J., 5,167.
- 8, Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 5,165.
- 9, Bryanna Cote, Red Rock, Ariz., 5,148.
- 10, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 5,136.
- 11, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 5,130.
- 12, Katelyn Simpson, Emmett, Idaho, 5,129.

DID NOT ADVANCE

- 13, Josie Barnes, Nashville, Tenn., 5,114, \$1,300.
- 14, (TIE) Valerie Bercier, Spring Lake, Mich., and Diana Zavjalova, Latvia, 5,112, \$1,300.
- 16, Laura Plazas, Colombia, 5,056, \$1,300.
- 17, Jen Higgins, Westerville, Ohio, 5,045, \$1,250.
- 18, Daria Pajak, Poland, 5,012, \$1,250.

- 19, Sandra Gongora, Mexico, 5,011, \$1,250.
- 20, Erin McCarthy, Omaha, Neb., 5,000, \$1,250.
- 21,

Ashly Galante, Palm Harbor, Fla., 4,997, \$1,200. 22, Lilia Robles, Mexico, 4,992, \$1,200. 23, Christine Gill, Lebanon, Ill., 4,987, \$1,200. 24, Julia Bond, Aurora, Ill., 4,960, \$1,200.

25, Sandra Andersson, Sweden, 4,956, \$1,150. 26, Birgit Poppler, Germany, 4,927, \$1,150. 27, Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 4,920, \$1,150. 28, Eliisa Hiltunen, Finland, 4,918, \$1,150. 29, Nina Flack, Sweden, 4,909, \$1,100. 30, Lindsay Boomershine, Perry, Utah, 4,905, \$1,100.

31, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 4,832, \$1,100. 32, Jacqueline Evans, Acton, Mass., 4,720, \$1,100 (WD).

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

QUALIFYING

(16-game totals; top 32 advance)

1, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 3,593. 2, Diana Zavjalova, Latvia, 3,521. 3, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 3,510. 4, Sydney Brummett, Wichita, Kan., 3,461. 5, Jordan Richard, Tipton, Mich., 3,459. 6, Josie Barnes, Nashville, Tenn., 3,458.

7, Valerie Bercier, Spring Lake, Mich., 3,442. 8, Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, 3,430. 9, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 3,424. 10, Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 3,410. 11, Erin McCarthy, Omaha, Neb., 3,404. 12, Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 3,402.

13, Katelyn Simpson, Emmett, Idaho, 3,400. 14, Maria Jose Rodriguez, Colombia, 3,384. 15, Sandra Gongora, Mexico, 3,381. 16, Sandra Andersson, Sweden, 3,374. 17, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 3,367. 18, (TIE) Ashly Galante, Palm Harbor, Fla., and

Kelly Kulick, Union, N.J., 3,363. 20, Lilia Robles, Mexico, 3,345. 21, (TIE) Nina Flack, Sweden, and Bryanna Cote, Red Rock, Ariz., 3,341. 23, Julia Bond, Aurora, Ill., 3,339. 24, Jen Higgins, Westerville, Ohio, 3,317.

25, Daria Pajak, Poland, 3,312. 26, Christine Gill, Lebanon, Ill., 3,309. 27, Jacqueline Evans, Acton, Mass., 3,301. 28, Eliisa Hiltunen, Finland, 3,277. 29, Laura Plazas, Colombia, 3,256. 30, Birgit Poppler, Germany, 3,247.

31, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 3,238. 32, Lindsay Boomershine, Perry, Utah, 3,227.

DID NOT ADVANCE

33, Nachimi Itakura, Japan, 3,208. 34, Brandi Calderon (n), Mesa, Ariz., 3,207. 35, Haley Richard, Tipton, Mich., 3,202. 36, Lauren Pate, Inver Grove, Minn., 3,198.

37, Ingellimar Beasley, Clarksville, Tenn., 3,192. 38, Jennifer Russo, Monmouth Junction, N.J., 3,191. 39, GG Mason, Cranston, R.I., 3,189. 40, Verity Crawley, England, 3,180. 41, Adrienne Schock (n), Battle Ground, Wash., 3,175. 42, Jodi Woessner, Oregon, Ohio, 3,161.

43, Stephanie Schwartz, Racine, Wis., 3,158. 44, Tannya Roumimper, Indonesia, 3,152. 45, Kayla Bandy, Salisbury, Md., 3,148. 46, Sarah Wille, Hoffman Estates, Ill., 3,122. 47, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 3,120. 48, Erin Czuprynski, Tinley Park, Ill., 3,117.

49, (TIE) Jennifer Dovers (n), Sierra Vista, Ariz., and Mandy Etem (n), Cave Creek, Ariz., 3,108. 51, Amanda Fry, Antelope, Calif., 3,100. 52, Debbie Ayers, La Mesa, Calif., 3,093. 53, Linda Walbaum, Brighton, Colo., 3,091. 54, Elise Bolton, Merritt Island, Fla., 3,085.

55, Summer Jasmin, Beckley, W. Va., 3,079. 56, Giselle Poss, Nashville, Tenn., 3,068. 57, Stephanie Zavala (n), Downey, Calif., 3,045. 58, Anastasia Hurley (n), Peoria, Ariz., 2,961. 59, Stephanie Martins, Brazil, 2,957. 60, Kalyn Arthurs (n), Tucson, Ariz., 2,949.

61, Kalee Tripp (n), Butte, Mont., 2,947. 62, Amanda Falk, Tucson, Ariz., 2,940. 63, Danaka Heekin, Woodinville, Wash., 2,888. 64, Anneli Blomqvist, Sweden, 2,887. 65, Shawna Strause (n), Tucson, Ariz., 2,872. 66, Kyndle Farrell (n), Tucson, Ariz., 2,856.

67, Michelle Lopez, Riverside, Calif., 2,839. 68, Stacey Dault (n), Chandler, Ariz., 2,818. 69, Brooke Carroll (n), Scottsdale, Ariz., 2,801. 70, Rina Sabo, Bennett, Colo., 2,760. 71, Amber Harvey (n), Vail, Ariz., 2,724. 72, Tracie Ball (n), Las Vegas, Nev., 2,715.

73, Darian Miller (n), Hammond, La., 2,627. 74, Erica Lockhart, Tucson, Ariz., 2,557.

MCEWAN SHAKES OFF SLOW START, SET TO DEFEND TITLE AT PWBA FOUNTAIN VALLEY OPEN

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. – At the opening event of the 2019 [Professional Women's Bowling Association](#) Tour season, [Danielle McEwan](#) surprisingly found herself not competing on the second day of the event.

McEwan, who comes into this week's PWBA Fountain Valley Open at Fountain Bowl as the defending champion, didn't exactly get out of the gates well at the start of the season. She failed to advance after two qualifying rounds at the Greater Cleveland Open, the first time in 19 consecutive singles events she failed to earn a check.

The last time that happened was at the 2017 PWBA Greater Detroit Open.

Since then, McEwan's worst finish in five events has been 10th (twice). She made the stepladder finals at both the PWBA Lincoln Open and last weekend's PWBA Tucson Open, finishing fourth in each, and looks to continue that momentum this week at Fountain Bowl, which is playing host to the PWBA Tour for the third consecutive season.

"I would just describe my season as an uphill battle after my start in Cleveland," said McEwan, a four-time PWBA champion from Stony Point, New York. "Going into the season, I had very big goals for myself. I felt I was really prepared both mentally and physically.

"After Week 1, I was forced to cross out some of those goals, which were then unattainable. This was very hard for me to swallow, but it allowed me to write modified goals, and gave me an even bigger challenge than the goals themselves were."

Competition in the PWBA Fountain Valley Open begins Friday with two eight-game qualifying blocks before the field is cut to 32 players. After eight additional games Saturday morning, the top 12 players will bowl a final six-game block to decide the four players who will compete in the stepladder finals.

[BowITV.com](#), the exclusive livestreaming home of the PWBA Tour, will have wire-to-wire live coverage of the event, including Saturday's stepladder finals at 5:30 p.m. (8:30 p.m. Eastern).

A couple of the goals McEwan had to cross off her list included cashing in each event this season and advancing to the Round of 12 in the first six standard events. She's done both now in the last four standard events. Not too shabby for most, but slightly disappointing for one of the best players in the world.

McEwan's mental attitude toward her tough start has been one of the keys to her recent success. It's not surprising a player as talented as McEwan would power through adversity, but it also is a sign of continued growth and maturity from the 27-year-old competitor.

"Some of the best advice that has been given to me over the years is to have a short-term memory when it comes to bowling and to have balance," said McEwan, who is an eight-time Team USA member. "Balance comes into play when I'm trying to evaluate and critique my performance professionally, rather than emotionally, in order to not be too hard on myself.

"After Cleveland, I pinpointed the things that went wrong, I came up with a plan of what I needed to do differently and then I put the short-term memory advice into play and tried to forget that

tournament ever happened. What I've been able to do since Week 1 shows me how much I've matured mentally throughout my career. A few years ago, I don't think I would have been able to bounce back after having such a bad start."

This week's 82-player field includes 11 players with Southern California ties led by 2011 USBC Queens champion and 10-time Team USA member [Missy Parkin](#) of Laguna Hills, California. Parkin was the runner-up two weeks ago at the PWBA Sonoma County Open in Rohnert Park, California. She finished fourth at the 2018 Fountain Valley Open.

Other players include PWBA members Debbie Ayers of La Mesa, and Michelle Lopez of Riverside.

Non-members competing include former Team USA and Junior Team USA member Stephanie Zavala of Downey. Zavala also was a collegiate standout at Sam Houston State. She is joined by Deanna Carrillo of Montebello, Bethany Hudson of Apple Valley, Macy Jimenez of Anaheim, Brittany Kolatzny of San Diego, Adriana Mazyck of Canoga Park, Roberta Vann of Downey, and Virginia Young of Vista.

[BowITV.com](#) will have live coverage of all rounds of the PWBA Fountain Valley Open, including the stepladder finals. [BowITV.com](#) also offers access to behind-the-scenes content, classic PWBA telecasts, blogs, podcasts and instructional content. Visit [BowITV.com](#) for more information.

CBS Sports Network will televise the stepladder finals of seven events on the 2019 PWBA Tour schedule, including all four majors, and will feature three prime-time shows in August. CBS Sports Network's coverage of the PWBA continues June 23 with the U.S. Women's Open, the second major event of the season.

Visit [PWBA.com](#) to learn more information and for complete coverage of the 2019 PWBA Tour season.

2019 PWBA FOUNTAIN VALLEY OPEN
(At Fountain Bowl, Fountain Valley, Calif.)
(All times local)

Thursday, June 13

4 p.m. – 90-minute practice session

Friday, June 14

9 a.m. – Eight-game qualifying block

5 p.m. – Eight-game qualifying block

(Cut to top 32 players)

Saturday, June 15

9 a.m. – Round of 32 (eight games)

(Cut to top 12 players)

2 p.m. – Round of 12 (six games)

(Cut to top four players for stepladder finals)

5:30 p.m. – Stepladder Finals live on BowITV

7 p.m. – Bowl With The Pros

SANDRA ANDERSSON WINS FIRST CAREER TITLE AT 2019 PWBA FOUNTAIN VALLEY OPEN

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. – Sweden's Sandra Andersson won her first career Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour title Saturday in a stunning title match at the 2019 PWBA Fountain Valley Open.

The back-and-forth finale at Fountain Bowl came down to the final shot as Bryanna Coté of Red Rock, Arizona, was unable to strike on her fill ball to force a tie, leaving an 8 pin to allow Andersson to claim a 184-183 victory and \$10,000 top prize.

"This means so much," said Andersson, who earned the top overall seed through 30 games of qualifying this week. "I've been working so hard for the past few years and knew I really, really wanted to win today. I'm just thrilled that I was able to do it."

BowlTV.com provided live coverage of the 2019 PWBA Fountain Valley Open.

Although both players fought to find the best look on this week's 37-foot oil pattern during the title tilt, the match was separated by just three pins, with Andersson having the advantage, heading into the ninth frame.

Andersson, a 27-year-old right-hander, quickly gave the advantage back, leaving a 7-10 split she was unable to convert.

With the open going into the 10th frame, Andersson finished on the left lane, where she had not delivered a strike in her first four attempts, and rolled three strikes to force Coté to strike on her first shot for a chance to win or record a spare and strike for a tie.

"The shot in the ninth wasn't that great, and I wasn't too happy about it," Andersson said. "But I knew to just go and take one pin and see what the scores were. I knew there still was a small chance I could come out as the winner."

Coté, working on a strike in the ninth, left a light-pocket 8 pin and converted the spare to start her 10th frame. Needing a strike to force a one-ball roll-off, Coté delivered a flush pocket hit only to find another 8 pin and second consecutive runner-up finish at the PWBA Fountain Valley Open.

"I literally started crying," said Andersson, who was the runner-up as the top seed at the 2016 United States Bowling Congress Queens. "I'm still a little bit shaky, but I'm really proud I was able to do what I've been practicing for all these years – throw those strikes when it matters."

Coté was the top seed at the 2018 event at Fountain Bowl but fell to Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York, in the title match, 215-182. She was proud to be able to throw one of her best shots of the day when she needed it.

"I can take away a lot from today," said Coté, the 2016 PWBA Lexington Open champion. "I fought myself physically a lot just today. There were some games where I wasn't bowling well, but I kept fighting to make the best shots I could to put myself in position to win.

"Recently, I found myself not making the best shots under pressure, so I think I proved to myself I can handle that pressure and make that shot. I put the ball where it needed to go, but the pins didn't fall my way."

Coté advanced to the title match after defeating Colombia's Clara Guerrero, 209-190. Guerrero held a slight advantage heading into the ninth frame but also was slowed down by a 7-10 split.

Coté, who had rolled strikes in her eighth and ninth frames, secured the win with a nine count on her first delivery in the 10th frame.

In Saturday's first match, Guerrero delivered five consecutive strikes starting in the second frame to outdistance hometown favorite Missy Parkin of nearby Laguna Hills, California, 238-189.

Parkin finished in fourth place at the Fountain Valley Open for the second consecutive season.

Competition this week at the PWBA Fountain Valley Open included two eight-game qualifying blocks on Friday to determine the 32 players for Saturday's Round of 32. An additional eight-game block Saturday morning narrowed the field to 12 players, who bowled six additional games to determine the stepladder finalists.

The 2019 PWBA Tour season will continue Sunday at the U.S. Women's Open, the second major championship of the season. The event will be held at Texas Station in Las Vegas, with competition kicking off Sunday with a pre-tournament qualifier at 4 p.m. Eastern.

The first round of qualifying at the 2019 U.S. Women's Open will begin Tuesday at 11 a.m. Eastern.

BowlTV will provide live coverage of qualifying and match-play rounds, and the top five competitors at the end of the week will compete for the title live on CBS Sports Network. The finals will take place Sunday, June 23 at 5 p.m. Eastern.

Go to PWBA.com for more information about the PWBA Tour.

PWBA FOUNTAIN VALLEY OPEN

At Fountain Bowl, Fountain Valley, Calif.

Saturday's Results

- 1, Sandra Andersson, Sweden, 184 (one game), \$10,000
- 2, Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 392 (two games), \$5,000
- 3, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 428 (two games), \$3,500
- 4, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 189 (one game), \$3,000

Stepladder results

Match No. 1 – Guerrero def. Parkin, 238-189

Semifinal – Coté def. Guerrero, 209-190

Championship – Andersson def. Coté, 184-183

ROUND OF 12

(30-game totals; top four advance to stepladder finals)

- 1, Sandra Andersson, Sweden, 6,386.
- 2, Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 6,372.
- 3, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 6,359.
- 4, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 6,272.

DID NOT ADVANCE

- 5, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 6,258, \$2,000.
- 6, Birgit Pöpller, Germany, 6,237, \$1,950.
- 7, Erin McCarthy, Omaha, Neb., 6,232, \$1,925.
- 8, Sydney Brummett, Wichita, Kan., 6,230, \$1,875.
- 9, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 6,201, \$1,800.
- 10, Gazmine Mason, Cranston, R.I., 6,121, \$1,700.

- 11, Meghan Straub (n), Lincoln, Neb., 6,065, \$1,650.
- 12, Ashly Galante, Palm Harbor, Fla., 6,049, \$1,600.

ROUND OF 32

(24-game totals; top 12 advance)

- 1, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 5,147.
- 2, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 5,135.
- 3, Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 5,122.
- 4, Sandra Andersson, Sweden, 5,088.
- 5, Birgit Pöpller, Germany, 5,050.
- 6, Gazmine Mason, Cranston, R.I., 5,042.

- 7, Sydney Brummett, Wichita, Kan., 5,035.
- 8, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 5,021.
- 9, Ashly Galante, Palm Harbor, Fla., 5,010.
- 10, Meghan Straub (n), Lincoln, Neb., 4,992.
- 11, Erin McCarthy, Omaha, Neb., 4,988.
- 12, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 4,951.

DID NOT ADVANCE

- 13, Rocio Restrepo, Louisville, Ohio, 4,949, \$1,300.
- 14, Jen Higgins, Westerville, Ohio, 4,930, \$1,300.
- 15, Daria Pajak, Poland, 4,929, \$1,300.
- 16, Kelly Kulick, Union, N.J., 4,921, \$1,300.
- 17, Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 4,920, \$1,250.
- 18, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 4,919, \$1,250.

- 19, Haley Richard, Tipton, Mich., 4,917, \$1,250.
- 20, Tannya Roumimper, Indonesia, 4,914, \$1,250.
- 21, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 4,913, \$1,200.
- 22, Maria José Rodriguez, Colombia, 4,875, \$1,200.
- 23, Juliana Franco (n), Colombia, 4,874, \$1,200.
- 24, Laura Plazas, Colombia, 4,862, \$1,200.

25, Urara Himeji, Japan, 4,854, \$1,150. 26, Valerie Bercier, Spring Lake, Mich., 4,845, \$1,150. 27, Lauren Pate, Inver Grove, Minn., 4,809, \$1,150. 28, Josie Barnes, Nashville, Tenn., 4,798, \$1,150. 29, Kayla Bandy, Salisbury, Md., 4,740, \$1,100. 30, Giselle Poss, Nashville, Tenn., 4,702, \$1,100.

31, Nachimi Itakura, Japan, 4,691, \$1,100. 32, Katelyn Simpson, Emmett, Idaho, 4,678, \$1,100.

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

QUALIFYING

(16-game totals; top 32 advance)

1, Erin McCarthy, Omaha, Neb., 3,461. 2, Sandra Andersson, Sweden, 3,456. 3, Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 3,445. 4, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 3,439. 5, Ashly Galante, Palm Harbor, Fla., 3,431. 6, Sydney Brummett, Wichita, Kan., 3,393.

7, Birgit Pöppler, Germany, 3,392. 8, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 3,386. 9, Daria Pajak, Poland, 3,381. 10, Jen Higgins, Westerville, Ohio, 3,373. 11, Gazmine Mason, Cranston, R.I., 3,359. 12, Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 3,350.

13, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 3,334. 14, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 3,328. 15, Tannya Roumimper, Indonesia, 3,303. 16, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 3,294. 17, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 3,288. 18, Valerie Bercier, Spring Lake, Mich., 3,286.

19, Lauren Pate, Inver Grove, Minn., 3,278. 20, Giselle Poss, Nashville, Tenn., 3,273. 21, Juliana Franco (n), Colombia, 3,260. 22, Meghan Straub (n), Lincoln, Neb., 3,252. 23(tie), Kelly Kulick, Union, N.J., and Urara Himeji, Japan, 3,245.

25, Maria José Rodriguez, Colombia, 3,244. 26, Katelyn Simpson, Emmett, Idaho, 3,238. 27, Haley Richard, Tipton, Mich., 3,211. 28, Josie Barnes, Nashville, Tenn., 3,210. 29(tie), Kayla Bandy, Salisbury, Md., Laura Plazas, Colombia, and Rocio Restrepo, Louisville, Ohio, 3,208.

32, Nachimi Itakura, Japan, 3,200.

DID NOT ADVANCE

33, Julia Bond, Aurora, Ill., 3,198. 34, Pamela Alvarez, Mexico, 3,195. 35, Diana Zavjalova, Latvia, 3,193. 36, Elysia Current, Ephrata, Pa., 3,188.

37, Sandra Gongora, Mexico, 3,179. 38, Thashaina Seraus, Aruba, 3,177. 39, Caroline Lagrange, Canada, 3,174. 40, Lilia Robles, Mexico, 3,150. 41, Stephanie Schwartz, Racine, Wis., 3,145. 42, Jordan Richard, Tecumseh, Mich., 3,143.

43, Joline Planefors (n), Sweden, 3,140. 44, Victoria Johansson (n), Sweden, 3,135. 45, Kamilah Dammers-Naddall, Aruba, 3,131. 46, Karen Marcano, Venezuela, 3,126. 47, Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, 3,116. 48, Carolyn Dorin-Ballard, Keller, Texas, 3,105.

49, Virginia Young (n), Vista, Calif., 3,098. 50, Verity Crawley, England, 3,093. 51, Kerry Smith, Lititz, Pa., 3,092. 52, Jodi Woessner, Oregon, Ohio, 3,088. 53, Jacqueline Evans, Acton, Mass., 3,087. 54, Elise Bolton, Merritt Island, Fla., 3,074.

55, Lindsay Boomershine, Perry, Utah, 3,065. 56, Debbie Ayers, La Mesa, Calif., 3,054. 57, Amanda Fry, Antelope, Calif., 3,044. 58, Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 3,035. 59, Nina Flack, Sweden, 3,033. 60, Erin Czuprynski, Tinley Park, Ill., 3,027.

61, Anneli Blomqvist, Sweden, 3,023. 62, Amanda Falk, Tucson, Ariz., 3,010. 63, Stephanie Zavala (n), Downey, Calif., 2,989. 64, Summer Jasmin, Beckley, W.Va., 2,983. 65, Eliisa Hiltunen, Finland, 2,981. 66, Allie Leiendecker (n), Wooster, Ohio, 2,971.

67, Johanna Puentes (n), Colombia, 2,969. 68, Christine Gill, Lebanon, Ill., 2,965. 69, Stephanie Martins, Brazil, 2,949. 70, Angela Nance, Hoover, Ala., 2,913. 71, Kristie Leong (n), Daly City, Calif., 2,905. 72, Adriana Mazyck (n), Canoga Park, Calif., 2,886.

73, Ingellimar Beasley, Clarksville, Tenn., 2,874. 74, Wendy Martinez (n), Chino Hills, Calif., 2,847. 75, Macy Jimenez (n), Anaheim, Calif., 2,842. 76, Suzette Draper, Dumont, N.J., 2,812. 77, Bethany Hudson (n), Apple Valley, Calif., 2,808. 78, Roberta Vann (n), Downey, Calif., 2,795.

79, Danaka Heekin, Woodinville, Wash., 2,748. 80, Deanna Carrillo (n), Montebello, Calif., 2,747. 81, Michelle Lopez, Riverside, Calif., 2,612. 82, Brittany Kolatzny (n), San Diego, 2,225 (WD).

PARKIN LEADS OPENING ROUND AT 2019 U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN

NORTH LAS VEGAS, Nev. – The U.S. Women's Open has been synonymous with challenging conditions and a premium on execution throughout its history, and Tuesday's opening round of qualifying at the 2019 edition proved no different at Texas Star Lanes.

Only 15 of the 108 players in the field for the second major championship of the 2019 Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour season averaged 200 or better on the first of four oil patterns for the week, and Team USA's Missy Parkin of Laguna Hills, California, showed she's ready for the challenge by leading the first eight-game block with a 1,745 total, a 218.13 average.

Parkin edged 2019 United States Bowling Congress Queens champion Dasha Kovalova of Ukraine for the overall lead. Kovalova finished with 1,740.

Stefanie Johnson of McKinney, Texas, is third with 1,734, while Indonesia's Tannya Roumimper and six-time U.S. Women's Open champion Liz Johnson of Palatine, Illinois, round out the top five with scores of 1,682 and 1,670, respectively.

Defending champion Liz Kuhlkin of Schenectady, New York, is 16th after the first round with a 1,594 total.

Parkin's mindset coming into Tuesday's opening round on the flat 37-foot lane condition was to put herself in position to rely on her spare shooting and take advantage when she could. Parkin rolled games of 212, 214, 190, 245, 174, 237, 239 and 234 on her way to the top of the standings.

"I knew coming into today they were going to be really hard," said Parkin, a 10-time Team USA member. "My whole mindset was to get nine and make my spares. That's really what I focused on today. Making sure I was staying consistent and leaving spares I could make."

Bowling on the second of three squads on the day, Parkin was able to adjust her strategy by watching the ball motion of her competitors during Tuesday's first squad.

"I was able to watch A Squad and noticed that playing to the right looked really tricky," said Parkin, the 2011 USBC Queens champion. "Some people could make it work, but it quickly went away. My game plan was to stay away from that and move farther in to start. I was able to stay around the same spot and use the same ball the whole time, while manipulating things a little bit from pair to pair."

Parkin has had a successful stretch leading into this week's event. She's advanced to two of the last three stepladder finals on the PWBA Tour, finishing as the runner-up at the PWBA Sonoma County Open and claiming fourth place at last week's PWBA Fountain Valley Open.

The 37-year-old right-hander isn't in a hurry to get too far ahead of herself this week, though, knowing each day will offer a different obstacle.

Each of the three qualifying rounds at the 2019 U.S. Women's Open will feature a different lane condition, and a fourth oil pattern will be introduced during Friday's cashers' round and be used throughout the duration of the event.

"This definitely is a marathon, not a sprint," Parkin said. "With a new pattern tomorrow, I kind of need to forget about today and regroup to figure out a game plan for tomorrow. I'm going to try and just keep things simple, take it one shot at a time and see what happens."

Players will return to Texas Star Lanes on Wednesday for the second round of qualifying, starting at 11 a.m.

Eastern. Qualifying consists of three-eight game blocks over three days.

After 24 games, the field will be cut to the top 36 players for the cashers' round, which will include an additional eight games to determine the 24 players for round-robin match play.

Match play will begin Friday at 8 p.m. Eastern with the first of three eight-game rounds. Match play resumes Saturday at 1 p.m. Eastern with the final two blocks, including a position round. The five finalists will be determined by total pinfall, including bonus pins, for 56 games.

The stepladder finals will take place Sunday and air live on CBS Sports Network at 5 p.m. Eastern, awarding the champion the \$20,000 top prize and coveted green jacket.

Each round of the 2019 event leading up to the stepladder finals will be broadcast live at BowlTV.com.

For more information on the U.S. Women's Open, visit BOWL.com/USWomensOpen.

2019 U.S. Women's Open
At Texas Star Lanes, North Las Vegas, Nev.
Tuesday's results

ROUND 1 QUALIFYING
(Eight games)

1, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 1,745. 2, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 1,740. 3, Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 1,734. 4, Tannya Roumimper, Indonesia, 1,682. 5, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 1,670. 6, Summer Jasmin, Beckley, W.Va., 1,661.

7, Joline Planefors (n), Sweden, 1,646. 8, Shannon Sellens (n), Long Beach, N.Y., 1,642. 9, Kayla Bandy, Salisbury, Md., 1,632. 10, Thashaina Seraus, Aruba, 1,629. 11, Lindsay Boomershine, Perry, Utah, 1,627. 12, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 1,622.

13, Meghan Straub (n), Lincoln, Neb., 1,619. 14, Julia Bond, Aurora, Ill., 1,606. 15, Diandra Asbaty, Chicago, 1,600. 16, Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 1,594. 17, Jodi Woessner, Oregon, Ohio, 1,592. 18, Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 1,591.

19(tie), Victoria Johansson (n), Sweden, and Carolyn Dorin-Ballard, Keller, Texas, 1,587. 21, Katelyn Simpson, Emmett, Idaho, 1,586. 22, Caitlyn Johnson (n), Lumberton, Texas, 1,584. 23, Caroline Lagrange, Canada, 1,583. 24, Anita Arnett (n), Richmond, Texas, 1,577.

25, Taylor Bulthuis, Coral Springs, Fla., 1,570. 26, Allie Tatrow, Wichita, Kan., 1,569. 27, Diana Zavjalova, Latvia, 1,565. 28, Sierra Kanemoto (n), Riverside, Ohio, 1,562. 29, Cassandra Leuthold, Lincoln, Neb., 1,561. 30, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 1,560.

31(tie), Jordan Richard, Tecumseh, Mich., and Erin Czuprynski, Tinley Park, Ill., 1,557. 33, Jennifer King, Cold Spring, Ky., 1,552. 34, Nina Flack, Sweden, 1,550. 35, Laura Plazas, Colombia, 1,547. 36, Juliana Franco (n), Colombia, 1,540.

37, Lilia Robles, Mexico, 1,534. 38, Erin McCarthy, Omaha, Neb., 1,533. 39, Josie Barnes, Nashville, Tenn., 1,532. 40, Kelly Kulick, Union, N.J., 1,531. 41, Anneli Blomqvist, Sweden, 1,529. 42, Tish Johnson, Colorado Springs, Colo., 1,525.

43, Rocio Restrepo, Louisville, Ohio, 1,524. 44(tie), Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, and Kristin Nieter (n), Homewood, Ill., 1,519. 46, Alexis Neuer (n), Lewisburg, Pa., 1,517. 47(tie), Amanda Fry, Antelope, Calif., and Gazmine Mason, Cranston, R.I., 1,516.

49(tie), Stephanie Schwartz, Racine, Wis., and Nachimi Itakura, Japan, 1,512. 51, Jillian Martin (n), Stow, Ohio, 1,511. 52, Laura Branch (n), Victor, N.Y., 1,506. 53, Elise Bolton, Merritt Island, Fla., 1,505. 54(tie), Maria José Rodriguez, Colombia, and Daria Pajak, Poland, 1,504.

56, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 1,502. 57(tie), Roberta Vann (n), Downey, Calif., and Haley Richard,

Tipton, Mich., 1,499. 59, Eliisa Hiltunen, Finland, 1,498. 60, Johanna Puentes (n), Colombia, 1,496.

61(tie), Lianne Hulsenberg, Pleasant View, Utah, Samantha How (n), Oregon City, Ore., and Urara Himeji, Japan, 1,494. 64, Christina Kinney (n), Las Vegas, 1,490. 65, Amanda Falk, Tucson, Ariz., 1,488. 66, Estefania Cobo (n), Puerto Rico, 1,487.

67, Casey Smith, Chittenango, N.Y., 1,486. 68, Kaitlyn Eder (n), Lithia, Fla., 1,483. 69, Sandra Gongora, Mexico, 1,480. 70, Jen Higgins, Westerville, Ohio, 1,479. 71, Catherine Rawsthorne (a), Federal Way, Wash., 1,475. 72, Kamilah Dammers-Naddall, Aruba, 1,469.

73(tie), Verity Crawley, England, and Sydney Brummett, Wichita, Kan., 1,463. 75, Jacqueline Evans, Acton, Mass., 1,460. 76, Lauren Pate, Inver Grove, Minn., 1,453. 77, Hope Gramly (n), Aubrey, Texas, 1,450. 78, Christine Gill, Lebanon, Ill., 1,449.

79, Andrea Petraglia (n), Las Vegas, 1,444. 80, Mabel Cummins (n), Elburn, Ill., 1,440. 81, Valerie Bercier, Spring Lake, Mich., 1,437. 82, Amanda Vermilyea, Apple Valley, Minn., 1,436. 83, Pamela Alvarez, Mexico, 1,433. 84, Elysia Current, Ephrata, Pa., 1,430.

85, Giselle Poss, Nashville, Tenn., 1,421. 86, Anggie Ramirez Perea, Austin, Texas, 1,420. 87(tie), Andrea Snyder (n), Las Vegas, and Jordan Newham (n), Aurora, Ill., 1,419. 89(tie), Char Hammel (n), Las Vegas, and Danaka Heekin, Woodinville, Wash., 1,417.

91(tie), Sarah Wille, Hoffman Estates, Ill., and Jennifer Russo, Monmouth Junction, N.J., 1,415. 93, Marcia Kloempken (n), Pleasant View, Utah, 1,413. 94, Sandra Andersson, Sweden, 1,412. 95, Allie Leindecker (n), Wooster, Ohio, 1,411. 96(tie), Felicia Wong, Canada, and Ingellimar Beasley, Clarksville, Tenn., 1,408.

98, Stephanie Martins, Brazil, 1,406. 99(tie), Karen Barcal (n), Albuquerque, N.M., and Karen Marcano, Venezuela, 1,401. 101, Ashly Galante, Palm Harbor, Fla., 1,399. 102(tie), Amanda Morgan (n), Killeen, Texas, and Debbie Ayers, La Mesa, Calif., 1,387.

104, Suzette Draper, Dumont, N.J., 1,380. 105, Adrienne Schock (n), Battle Ground, Wash., 1,362. 106, Birgit Pöppler, Germany, 1,354. 107, Janelle Takahata (n), Las Vegas, 1,335. 108, Hailey Collins (n), Springfield, Mo., 1,222.

KOVALOVA TAKES OVER LEAD AT 2019 U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN

NORTH LAS VEGAS, Nev. – Just a month removed from winning the United States Bowling Congress Queens, Ukraine's Dasha Kovalova finds herself back in the spotlight at a major championship after taking the overall lead at the 2019 U.S. Women's Open.

The 24-year-old right-hander moved to the top of the leaderboard Wednesday at Texas Star Lanes and now has a two-round total of 3,414 for 16 games, a 213.38 average.

Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York, sits in second place at the second major of the 2019 Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour season with a 3,404 total, and six-time U.S. Women's Open champion and USBC Hall of Famer Liz Johnson of Palatine, Illinois, is third with 3,384.

Julia Bond of Aurora, Illinois, is fourth with 3,382, and Jordan Richard of Tecumseh, Michigan, is fifth with 3,369. Richard also had the highest eight-game block Wednesday with 1,812, a 226.5 average.

Defending U.S. Women's Open champion Liz Kuhlkin of Schenectady, New York, has maintained her position in the standings and is in 16th place for the second consecutive round, sitting with a 3,250 total.

Kovalova's win at the USBC Queens also served as her first PWBA Tour title, and her overall performance so far this season has vaulted her into the discussion as one of the front-runners for PWBA Player of the Year.

She just missed the stepladder finals at last week's PWBA Fountain Valley Open, finishing in fifth place, and she's continued to show her ability to execute on challenging conditions this week at Texas Star Lanes.

After posting the second-highest block during Tuesday's opening round (1,740) on a 37-foot oil pattern, Kovalova showed her consistency on Wednesday's 40-foot lane condition, rolling games of 238, 214, 226, 175, 214, 190, 213 and 204 for a 1,674 total.

Each of the three qualifying rounds at the 2019 U.S. Women's Open will feature a different lane condition, and a fourth oil pattern will be introduced during Friday's cashers' round and be used throughout the duration of the event.

She credited her patience Wednesday to helping her take over the top spot, and her focus has allowed her to minimize mistakes through two rounds.

"I definitely know that for myself, I have to focus on my target," Kovalova said. "Sometimes, I just like to follow my second step, so it's been really important for me to make sure I'm staring at it. These patterns have been really touchy with how you release the ball and how well you can control your speed, so I'm trying my best to stay really consistent with what I do and where I throw it."

Kovalova now will turn her attention to Thursday's 47-foot condition, which she believes will push her away from her comfort zone.

"I know I'll be forced farther to the right than I'm used to playing," Kovalova said. "I think I'll have to scuff up some bowling balls. I'll just have to try to stay on top of it and point it to the pocket, at least in the beginning. We'll see how the lanes transition from there."

All competitors will return to Texas Star Lanes on Thursday for the final round of qualifying, starting at 11 a.m. Eastern. Qualifying consists of three eight-game blocks over three days.

After 24 games, the field will be cut to the top 36 players for the cashers' round, which will include an additional eight games to determine the 24 players for round-robin match play.

Heading into Thursday's final round, USBC Hall of Famer Carolyn Dorin-Ballard of Keller, Texas, is 36th with a 3,147 total, a 196.69 average.

Match play will begin Friday at 8 p.m. Eastern with the first of three eight-game rounds. Match play resumes Saturday at 1 p.m. Eastern with the final two blocks, including a position round. The five finalists will be determined by total pinfall, including bonus pins, for 56 games.

The stepladder finals will take place Sunday and air live on CBS Sports Network at 5 p.m. Eastern, awarding the champion the \$20,000 top prize and coveted green jacket.

Each round of the 2019 event leading up to the stepladder finals will be broadcast live at BowlTV.com.

For more information on the U.S. Women's Open, visit BOWL.com/USWomensOpen.

2019 U.S. Women's Open
At Texas Star Lanes, North Las Vegas, Nev.
Wednesday's results

ROUND 2 QUALIFYING
(16 games)

1, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 3,414. 2, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 3,404. 3, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 3,384. 4, Julia Bond, Aurora, Ill., 3,382. 5, Jordan Richard, Tecumseh, Mich., 3,369. 6, Anita Arnett (n), Richmond, Texas, 3,353.

7, Summer Jasmin, Beckley, W.Va., 3,344. 8, Tannya Roumimper, Indonesia, 3,330. 9, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 3,325. 10, Thashaina Seraus, Aruba, 3,323. 11, Meghan Straub (n), Lincoln, Neb., 3,322. 12, Shannon Sellens (n), Long Beach, N.Y., 3,317.

13, Joline Planefors (n), Sweden, 3,316. 14, Leanne Hulsenberg, Pleasant View, Utah, 3,300. 15, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 3,278. 16, Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 3,250. 17, Kelly Kulick, Union, N.J., 3,247. 18, Caitlyn Johnson (n), Beaumont, Texas, 3,237.

19, Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 3,220. 20, Diana Zavjalova, Latvia, 3,210. 21, Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 3,197. 22, Gazmine Mason, Cranston, R.I., 3,192. 23, Cassandra Leuthold, Lincoln, Neb., 3,189. 24, Nachimi Itakura, Japan, 3,180.

25, Erin McCarthy, Omaha, Neb., 3,174. 26, Josie Barnes, Nashville, Tenn., 3,173. 27, Estefania Cobo (n), Puerto Rico, 3,171. 28, Laura Plazas, Colombia, 3,170. 29, Lindsay Boomershine, Perry, Utah, 3,169. 30, Urara Himeji, Japan, 3,167.

31, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 3,164. 32, Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, 3,162. 33, Rocio Restrepo, Louisville, Ohio, 3,159. 34, Lilia Robles, Mexico, 3,156. 35, Jillian Martin (n), Stow, Ohio, 3,152. 36, Carolyn Dorin-Ballard, Keller, Texas, 3,147.

37(tie), Jen Higgins, Westerville, Ohio, and Kayla Bandy, Salisbury, Md., 3,145. 39, Jodi Woessner, Oregon, Ohio, 3,140. 40, Juliana Franco (n), Colombia, 3,139. 41(tie) Maria José Rodriguez, Colombia, and Diandra Asbaty, Chicago, 3,138.

43, Sydney Brummett, Wichita, Kan., 3,130. 44, Taylor Bulthuis, Coral Springs, Fla., 3,127. 45, Kaitlyn Eder (n), Lithia, Fla., 3,121. 46, Sierra Kanemoto (n), Riverside, Ohio, 3,120. 47(tie), Amanda Vermilyea, Apple Valley, Minn., and Erin Czuprynski, Tinley Park, Ill., 3,112.

49, Catherine Rawsthorne (n), Federal Way, Wash., 3,106. 50, Alexis Neuer (n), Lewisburg, Pa., 3,103. 51, Kamilah Dammers-Naddall, Aruba, 3,101. 52, Christine Gill, Lebanon, Ill., 3,098. 53, Daria Pajak, Poland, 3,095. 54, Allie Tatrow, Wichita, Kan., 3,091.

55(tie), Elise Bolton, Merritt Island, Fla., and Jennifer King, Cold Spring, Ky., 3,088. 57, Verity Crawley, England, 3,080. 58, Stephanie Schwartz, Racine, Wis., 3,073. 59, Katelyn Simpson, Emmett, Idaho, 3,068. 60, Johanna Puentes (n), Colombia, 3,057.

61, Pamela Alvarez, Mexico, 3,053. 62, Samantha How (n), Oregon City, Ore., 3,050. 63, Victoria Johansson (n), Sweden, 3,041. 64, Casey Smith, Chittenango, N.Y., 3,040. 65(tie), Christina Kinney (n), Las Vegas, and Nina Flack, Sweden, 3,039.

67, Mabel Cummins (n), Elburn, Ill., 3,028. 68, Ingellimar Beasley, Clarksville, Tenn., 3,023. 69, Amanda Falk, Tucson, Ariz., 3,021. 70, Kristin Nieter (n), Homewood, Ill., 3,020. 71, Giselle Poss, Nashville, Tenn., 3,016. 72, Allie Leiendecker (n), Wooster, Ohio, 3,011.

73(tie), Sandra Gongora, Mexico, Roberta Vann (n), Downey, Calif., and Tish Johnson, Colorado Springs, Colo., 3,007. 76, Jordan Newham (n), Aurora, Ill., 2,999. 77, Birgit Pöppler, Germany, 2,994. 78, Amanda Fry, Antelope, Calif., 2,992.

79, Elysia Current, Ephrata, Pa., 2,983. 80, Sandra Andersson, Sweden, 2,980. 81, Haley Richard, Tipton, Mich., 2,979. 82, Andrea Snyder (n), Las Vegas, 2,978. 83(tie), Jacqueline Evans, Acton, Mass., and Anneli Blomqvist, Sweden, 2,977.

85(tie), Karen Marcano, Venezuela, and Stephanie Martins, Brazil, 2,971. 87, Sarah Wille, Hoffman Estates, Ill., 2,970. 88, Hope Gramly (n), Aubrey, Texas, 2,956. 89, Karen Barcal (n), Albuquerque, N.M., 2,952. 90, Ashly Galante, Palm Harbor, Fla., 2,951.

91(tie), Eliisa Hiltunen, Finland, and Caroline Lagrange, Canada, 2,946. 93(tie), Anggie Ramirez Perea, Austin, Texas, and Andrea Petraglia (n), Las Vegas, 2,945. 95, Amanda Morgan (n), Killeen, Texas, 2,932. 96, Adrienne Schock (n), Battle Ground, Wash., 2,925.

97, Laura Branch (n), Victor, N.Y., 2,917. 98, Jennifer Russo, Monmouth Junction, N.J., 2,901. 99, Lauren Pate, Inver Grove, Minn., 2,897. 100, Felicia Wong, Canada, 2,889. 101, Valerie Bercier, Spring Lake, Mich., 2,881. 102, Danaka Heekin, Woodinville, Wash., 2,879.

103, Debbie Ayers, La Mesa, Calif., 2,836. 104, Marcia Kloempken (n), Pleasant View, Utah, 2,831. 105, Char Hammel (n), Las Vegas, 2,774. 106, Janelle Takahata (n), Las Vegas, 2,746. 107, Suzette Draper, Dumont, N.J., 2,652. 108, Hailey Collins (n), Springfield, Mo., 2,429.

LIZ JOHNSON LEADS QUALIFYING AT 2019 U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN

NORTH LAS VEGAS, Nev. – With three challenging oil patterns and 24 games completed at the 2019 U.S. Women's Open, six-time champion Liz Johnson of Palatine, Illinois, tops the field as qualifying came to a close Thursday at Texas Star Lanes.

The United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer rolled the highest eight-game block among all competitors Thursday (1,761), including the first 300 game of the 2019 event, to finish qualifying with a 5,145 total, a 214.38 average.

The 45-year-old right-hander leads Shannon Sellens of Long Beach, New York, by 128 pins (5,017 total) as the second major championship of the 2019 Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour season makes its first cut.

Jordan Richard of Tecumseh, Michigan (4,999), Julia Bond of Aurora, Illinois (4,988), and Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois (4,983), also finished qualifying in the top five, and defending U.S. Women's Open champion Liz Kuhlkin of Schenectady, New York, continues her title defense with a 4,880 total, which puts her in 14th place.

All 108 players in this week's field rolled 24 games over three days to determine the top 36 players advancing to Friday's cashers' round, which starts at 1 p.m. Eastern.

The final spot in the cashers' round required an additional game to determine as England's Verity Crawley and Sydney Brummett of Fort Wayne, Indiana, tied for the final spot with a 4,749 total, a 197.88 average.

Crawley won a one-game roll-off to move onto the next round, 203-180. Crawley delivered five consecutive strikes starting in the second frame to build a lead as Brummett recorded two opens in her first seven frames.

Johnson has been steady from round to round this week on her way to the top of the leaderboard, gradually improving her overall position each day. She was in fifth place after Round 1 and third at the conclusion of Round 2.

On Thursday's 47-foot lane condition, Johnson focused on matching up her surfaces and finding her rhythm, but she ended up going back and forth between bowling balls during the second half of her block. She rolled games of 245, 213, 216, 205, 215, 175, 300 and 192, noting how crucial her spare shooting was throughout her

eight games.

“Once I got into the warm-up session this morning, I had a couple of different balls in mind and wanted to make sure my surfaces were in order,” said Johnson, a three-time PWBA Player of the Year. “Today, though, was all about my tempo and making good shots.

“The ball I used for the 300 game actually was the same one I used today for the first four games. I ended up making a ball change, and it wasn’t quite the change I needed, so I ended up going back to it. With the way scores were today, shooting 300 was pretty awesome.”

Johnson’s wins at the U.S. Women’s Open have spanned more than 20 years – 1996, 2007, 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

She has seen the sport and tournament evolve over that span, but the U.S. Women’s Open still serves as one of the biggest challenges for competitors each year, testing a player’s ability to execute, maintain focus and exhibit durability over the course of 56 games.

New for 2019, the event has featured three different lane conditions for each of the three qualifying rounds, with a fourth oil pattern being introduced during Friday’s cashers’ round. The fourth pattern will be used for the duration of the event.

Johnson doesn’t mind the new challenge and feels it plays to her favor.

“I like the marathons,” Johnson said. “The U.S. Women’s Open always is challenging and tough, but with no burn patterns this year, I feel it plays to my strengths – making shots and filling frames. Today, I was clean in 77 of 80 frames and made a lot of ugly spares. Hopefully I can continue that throughout the weekend.”

The top 36 bowlers will bowl an additional eight games Friday to determine the 24 players advancing to round-robin match play.

Match play will begin Friday at 8 p.m. Eastern with the first of three eight-game rounds. Match play resumes Saturday at 1 p.m. Eastern with the final two blocks, including a position round. The five finalists will be determined by total pinfall, including bonus pins, for 56 games.

The stepladder finals will take place Sunday and air live on CBS Sports Network at 5 p.m. Eastern, awarding the champion the \$20,000 top prize and coveted green jacket.

Each round of the 2019 event leading up to the stepladder finals will be broadcast live at BowlTV.com.

For more information on the U.S. Women’s Open, visit BOWL.com/USWomensOpen.

2019 U.S. Women's Open
At Texas Star Lanes, North Las Vegas, Nev.
Thursday's results

ROUND 3 QUALIFYING
(24 games)

1, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 5,145. 2, Shannon Sellens (n), Long Beach, N.Y., 5,017. 3, Jordan Richard, Tecumseh, Mich., 4,999. 4, Julia Bond, Aurora, Ill., 4,988. 5, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 4,983. 6, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 4,974.

7, Summer Jasmin, Beckley, W.Va., 4,958. 8, Joline Planefors (n), Sweden, 4,950. 9, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 4,931. 10, Tannya Roumimper, Indonesia, 4,903. 11, Meghan Straub (n), Lincoln, Neb., 4,895. 12, Urara Himeji, Japan, 4,893.

13, Erin McCarthy, Omaha, Neb., 4,888. 14, Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 4,880. 15, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 4,868. 16, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 4,843. 17, Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 4,841. 18, Leanne Hulsenberg, Pleasant View, Utah, 4,837.

19, Diana Zavjalova, Latvia, 4,828. 20, Anita Arnett (n), Richmond, Texas, 4,824. 21, Thashaina Seraus, Aruba, 4,818. 22, Estefania Cobo (n), Puerto Rico, 4,815. 23, Jodi Woessner, Oregon, Ohio, 4,806. 24, Caitlyn Johnson (n), Beaumont, Texas, 4,803.

25, Josie Barnes, Nashville, Tenn., 4,792. 26, Carolyn Dorin-Ballard, Keller, Texas, 4,789. 27(tie), Taylor Bulthuis, Coral Springs, Fla., and Jen Higgins, Westerville, Ohio, 4,775. 29, Lindsay Boomershine, Perry, Utah, 4,772. 30, Diandra Asbaty, Chicago, 4,766.

31, Christine Gill, Lebanon, Ill., 4,763. 32, Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 4,760. 33, Alexis Neuer (n), Lewisburg, Pa., 4,757. 34, Nachimi Itakura, Japan, 4,754. 35, Juliana Franco (n), Colombia, 4,751. 36, Verity Crawley, England, 4,749*.

*Crawley defeated Brummett in a one-game roll-off to break the tie, 203-180.

DID NOT ADVANCE

37, Sydney Brummett, Fort Wayne, Ind., 4,749*. 38(tie), Laura Plazas, Colombia, and Kelly Kulick, Union, N.J., 4,738. 40, Lilia Robles, Mexico, 4,724. 41(tie), Nina Flack, Sweden, and Jillian Martin (n), Stow, Ohio, 4,718.

43, Cassandra Leuthold, Lincoln, Neb., 4,714. 44, Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, 4,703. 45, Kayla Bandy, Salisbury, Md., 4,702. 46, Kaitlyn Eder (n), Lithia, Fla., 4,688. 47, Rocio Restrepo, Louisville, Ohio, 4,683. 48, Samantha How (n), Oregon City, Ore., 4,677.

49, Maria José Rodriguez, Colombia, 4,675. 50, Sandra Gongora, Mexico, 4,669. 51, Erin Czuprynski, Tinley Park, Ill., 4,668. 52, Gazmine Mason, Cranston, R.I., 4,661. 53, Daria Pajak, Poland, 4,653. 54, Catherine Rawsthorne (n), Federal Way, Wash., 4,651.

55, Katelyn Simpson, Emmett, Idaho, 4,645. 56, Kamilah Dammers-Naddall, Aruba, 4,635. 57(tie), Karen Marcano, Venezuela, and Jennifer King, Cold Spring, Ky., 4,631. 59, Kristin Nieter (n), Homewood, Ill., 4,621. 60, Elise Bolton, Merritt Island, Fla., 4,607.

61, Elysia Current, Ephrata, Pa., 4,605. 62, Christina Kinney (n), Las Vegas, 4,602. 63, Pamela Alvarez, Mexico, 4,591. 64, Stephanie Schwartz, Racine, Wis., 4,589. 65, Allie Leienhecker (n), Wooster, Ohio, 4,585. 66(tie), Mabel Cummins (n), Elburn, Ill., and Amanda Vermilyea, Apple Valley, Minn., 4,576.

68, Ingellimar Beasley, Clarksville, Tenn., 4,574. 69, Sierra Kanemoto (n), Riverside, Ohio, 4,573. 70(tie), Angie Ramirez Perea, Austin, Texas, and Jacqueline Evans, Acton, Mass., 4,572. 72, Jordan Newham (n), Aurora, Ill., 4,566.

73, Amanda Fry, Antelope, Calif., 4,562. 74, Eliisa Hiltunen, Finland, 4,557. 75, Victoria Johansson (n), Sweden, 4,547. 76(tie), Giselle Poss, Nashville, Tenn., and Amanda Falk, Tucson, Ariz., 4,542. 78, Allie Tatrow, Wichita, Kan., 4,531.

79, Birgit Pöppler, Germany, 4,526. 80, Casey Smith, Chittenango, N.Y., 4,521. 81, Tish Johnson, Colorado Springs, Colo., 4,514. 82, Andrea Petraglia (n), Las Vegas, 4,496. 83, Valerie Bercier, Spring Lake, Mich., 4,494. 84, Amanda Morgan (n), Killeen, Texas, 4,489.

85(tie), Sarah Wille, Hoffman Estates, Ill., Sandra Andersson, Sweden, and Johanna Puentes (n), Colombia, 4,487. 88, Haley Richard, Tecumseh, Mich., 4,477. 89, Caroline Lagrange, Canada, 4,476. 90, Roberta Vann (n), Downey, Calif., 4,461.

91, Anneli Blomqvist, Sweden, 4,427. 92, Laura Branch (n), Victor, N.Y., 4,422. 93, Stephanie Martins, Brazil, 4,412. 94, Karen Barcal (n), Albuquerque, N.M., 4,409. 95, Hope Gramly (n), Aubrey, Texas, 4,407. 96, Jennifer Russo, Monmouth Junction, N.J., 4,404.

97, Debbie Ayers, La Mesa, Calif., 4,392. 98, Andrea Snyder (n), Las Vegas, 4,385. 99(tie), Adrienne Schock (n), Battle Ground, Wash., and Ashly Galante, Palm Harbor, Fla., 4,383. 101, Lauren Pate, Inver Grove, Minn., 4,359. 102, Felicia Wong, Canada, 4,334.

103, Danaka Heekin, Woodinville, Wash., 4,320. 104, Marcia Kloempken (n), Pleasant View, Utah, 4,250. 105, Char Hammel (n), Las Vegas, 4,158. 106, Suzette Draper, Dumont, N.J., 4,108. 107, Janelle Takahata (n), Las Vegas, 4,097. 108, Hailey Collins (n), Springfield, Mo., 3,743.

LIZ JOHNSON CONTINUES TO LEAD AT 2019 U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN AS FIELD PREPARES FOR MATCH PLAY

NORTH LAS VEGAS, Nev. - Six-time U.S. Women's Open champion Liz Johnson of Palatine, Illinois, still is at the top of the standings at the 2019 event after Friday's cashers' round, but the field has narrowed the gap as the top 24 players prepare for round-robin match play.

The United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer struggled during her first eight-game block on Friday's 42-foot oil pattern at Texas Star Lanes, which will be used for the duration of the event, but she finished with 234 in her final game to reclaim the overall lead with a 6,703 total for 32 games. Johnson finished the cashers' round with a 1,558 score.

Shannon Sellens of Long Beach, New York, briefly held the lead and now sits in second place with 6,683, while Sweden's Joline Planefors moved into third with 6,625.

Latvia's Diana Zavjalova had the top block during the cashers' round (1,778) to jump from 19th place to fourth overall with 6,606, and Julia Bond of Aurora, Illinois, sits in fifth with 6,582.

The field at the 2019 U.S. Women's Open started with 108 players and was cut to the top 36 after three eight-game qualifying rounds. The 36 advancers returned to Texas Star Lanes on Friday for eight additional games to determine the 24 competitors heading to match play.

Puerto Rico's Estefania Cobo rolled 243 in her final game to earn the final spot into match play, finishing with a 6,379 total, a 199.34 average.

Defending U.S. Women's Open champion Liz Kuhlkin of Schenectady, New York, also advanced to match play and is in 22nd place with a 6,434 total.

Match play will begin Friday at 8 p.m. Eastern with the first of three eight-game blocks. Match play resumes Saturday at 1 p.m. Eastern with the final two blocks, including a position round. The five finalists will be determined by total pinfall, including bonus pins, for 56 games.

The stepladder finals will take place Sunday at 5 p.m. Eastern, with the champion claiming the \$20,000 top prize and coveted green jacket.

The U.S. Women's Open is the second major championship on the 2019 Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour schedule, and each round of the 2019 event leading up to the stepladder finals will be broadcast at BowITV.com.

ROUMIMPER MOVES INTO LEAD AT 2019 U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN

NORTH LAS VEGAS, Nev. - On the strength of a 7-1 record during Friday's opening round of match play at the 2019 U.S. Women's Open, Indonesia's Tannya Roumimper has taken the overall lead at Texas Star Lanes.

The 28-year-old right-hander averaged more than 217 during the first of three match-play rounds at the 2019 event to move to the top of the standings with an 8,250 total, including bonus pins.

Roumimper is 113 pins ahead of Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York, who is second with 8,407.

Julia Bond of Aurora, Illinois, is third with 8,381, and Latvia's Diana Zavjalova is fourth with 8,367. Six-time U.S. Women's Open champion and United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer Liz Johnson of Palatine, Illinois, is fifth with 8,362.

Defending U.S. Women's Open champion Liz Kuhlkin of Schenectady, New York, went 5-3 on Friday to jump from 22nd to 10th with an 8,233 total.

Roumimper made the stepladder finals at the USBC Queens last month, finishing in fourth place, and again is looking strong at the second major championship of the 2019 Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour season.

Roumimper felt she was successful at the Queens because she was able to start fresh after every three-game total-pinfall match. Although the U.S. Women's Open rewards the most consistent performers over the course of 56 games, Roumimper is using every frame this week as an opportunity to refocus and restart.

"I'm really focusing on just one frame at a time," Roumimper said. "One frame, and then it's done and time to move on. Pair to pair has been really tough, so I'm trying to stay patient, make my spares and get every single pin I can."

She recently worked with Team USA assistant coach Mark Baker prior to the start of the PWBA Fountain Valley Open to also refresh her physical game, and she believes the combination of that tune-up and a favorable format for her game is showing in the standings.

"It's really hard to work on your game on tour, but you need to because some of the patterns can cause bad habits," Roumimper said. "It was really nice to just go back to basics and refresh my game and fix everything. I don't want to get ahead of myself, because we still have 16 games to go, but I feel like I'm performing well in majors because it's a marathon. I can be patient and like the format, and I think that helps my confidence, too."

The field at the 2019 U.S. Women's Open started with 108 players and was cut to the top 36 after three eight-game qualifying rounds. The 36 advancers returned to Texas Star Lanes on Friday for eight additional games to determine the 24 competitors heading to match play.

Johnson held the lead after 32 games with a 6,703 total. Puerto Rico's Estefania Cobo rolled 243 in her final game to earn the final spot in match play, finishing with a 6,379 total, a 199.34 average.

Match play will resume Saturday at 1 p.m. Eastern with the final two blocks, including a position round. The five finalists will be determined by total pinfall, including bonus pins, for 56 games.

The stepladder finals will take place Sunday at 5 p.m. Eastern, with the champion claiming the \$20,000 top prize and coveted green jacket.

Each round of the 2019 event leading up to the stepladder finals will be broadcast at BowITV.com.

MCEWAN TAKES LEAD HEADING INTO FINAL ROUND OF MATCH PLAY AT 2019 U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN

NORTH LAS VEGAS, Nev. - Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York, won her first six matches Saturday at the 2019 U.S. Women's Open to move into the lead with one round left to go at Texas Star Lanes.

The top five players after 56 games will advance to Sunday's live stepladder finals, which will air on CBS Sports Network at 5 p.m. Eastern. The champion will take home the \$20,000 top prize and iconic green jacket.

McEwan, an eight-time Team USA member and four-time Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour champion, finished the block at 6-2 to bring her overall record to 11-5 and total pinfall, including bonus pins, to 10,318.

Indonesia's Tannya Roumimper dropped to second place with a 10,279 total, and defending U.S. Women's Open champion Liz Kuhlkin of Schenectady, New York, went 7-1 during the second round of match play to move into third with 10,121.

Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, is fourth with 10,087, and Julia Bond of Aurora, Illinois, is fifth with 10,061.

Eight players are within 100 pins of Bond for the final spot in the stepladder finals, including six-time U.S. Women's Open champion and United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer Liz Johnson of Palatine, Illinois, who is in sixth place with 10,046.

The final round of match play will begin Saturday at 8 p.m. Eastern, and the action will be featured live at BowlingTV.com. BowlingTV has provided wire-to-wire coverage of the event, showcasing every pair in play.

The 2019 event started with 108 players before the field was cut to the top 36 bowlers after three eight-game qualifying blocks. The 36 advancers bowled eight additional games to determine the 24 competitors advancing to match play.

The U.S. Women's Open is the second major championship on the 2019 PWBA Tour schedule.

ROUMIMPER EARNS TOP SEED AT 2019 U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN

NORTH LAS VEGAS, Nev. - Needing a mark in the 10th frame of Game 56 to secure the top seed for the stepladder finals at the 2019 U.S. Women's Open, Indonesia's Tannya Roumimper delivered a strike to put herself in position to win her first major championship.

The 28-year-old right-hander will be joined in the stepladder at Texas Star Lanes by Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York; Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois; defending U.S. Women's Open champion Liz Kuhlkin of Schenectady, New York; and Shannon Sellens of Long Beach, New York.

The finals will be televised live on CBS Sports Network on Sunday starting at 5 p.m. Eastern. The champion will take home the iconic green jacket and \$20,000 top prize.

Roumimper went 15-8-1 over 24 games of match play to finish with an overall total of 12,069, including bonus pins, to claim the top spot, but it was her position-round match against McEwan on Saturday that determined the top seed.

Heading into the final game with a four-pin advantage, Roumimper needed to tie or win in the position round to secure the top seed and stayed clean to record a 202-192 victory. McEwan, who finished the match first, could have filled 29 pins in her final frame to shut out Roumimper but left a 2 pin on her first attempt in the 10th. McEwan finished with 12,025 and will be the No. 2 seed.

"I didn't know we were that close until they announced the scores, but I knew I was in a good spot to make the show," Roumimper said. "I just tried to shut my mind off and control what I could control in that moment and focus on one frame at a time. Sometimes you get it, and sometimes you don't, but tonight was my time. I'll do my best to take it forward for tomorrow."

Roumimper will be making her second consecutive trip to CBS Sports Network for a major championship on the Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour schedule after a fourth-place finish last month at the United States Bowling Congress Queens.

She learned a lot from that experience and will focus on making the best shots she can in hopes of winning her first career PWBA Tour title.

"It's crazy and still hasn't sunk in yet," Roumimper said. "Even though I know I have one more game tomorrow, just to be able to finish 56 games and have the chance to bowl for the title is amazing. For me, it'll be really important to keep my mind calm and just have fun. I have one game to bowl and 12 shots to give 100 percent on, and we'll see if I get the green jacket. But, whatever happens tomorrow, I know I'll be really proud of myself."

McEwan will be making her fourth championship-round appearance at the U.S. Women's Open. She finished in fourth place last year at Boardwalk Bowl in Orlando, Florida, and she'll be vying for her second major after winning the 2015 PWBA Tour Championship.

O'Keefe earned the No. 3 seed with an 11,997 total, while Kuhlkin (11,939) and Sellens (11,911) will square off in Sunday's opening match.

O'Keefe is the reigning PWBA Player of the Year and already has collected a pair of titles this season (PWBA Twin Cities Open and PWBA Tucson Open). She's won a major in each of the last two seasons (2017 PWBA Tour Championship and 2018 USBC Queens) and has finished as the runner-up twice at the U.S. Women's Open (2007 and 2015).

O'Keefe finished fifth at the 2018 U.S. Women's Open.

Kuhlkin will look to make a run from the opening match for the second consecutive year at the U.S. Women's Open after winning as the No. 5 seed in 2018. She's been battling an injury this week on the ring finger of her bowling hand, but she'll look to become the fourth player to successfully defend her title at the event and 12th to win the tournament multiple times.

Sellens will be making her CBS Sports Network debut Sunday, but she's been a steady performer at majors as of late, including an 11th-place finish at the 2018 U.S. Women's Open.

All competitors bowled 24 qualifying games over three days to determine the 36 players advancing to a cashers' round. After eight additional games, the field was cut to the top 24 bowlers for round-robin match play.

The five finalists were determined by total pinfall, including bonus pins, for 56 games.

DANIELLE MCEWAN WINS SECOND MAJOR AT 2019 U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN

NORTH LAS VEGAS, Nev. - Needing a double in the 10th frame for the chance to win the 2019 U.S. Women's Open, Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York, delivered a pair of strikes and toppled nine pins to win her second career major championship.

McEwan defeated top seed Tannya Roumimper of Indonesia in the title match, 201-199, to claim the coveted green jacket and \$20,000 top prize for her fifth career Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour title.

The 2019 event was held at Texas Star Lanes, and the stepladder finals was broadcast live on CBS Sports Network.

"This was one of my top goals - to win the U.S. Women's Open," said McEwan, who also won the 2015 PWBA Tour Championship. "When you look at the people who have won this event, they're the best in our sport. To add my name along theirs is amazing."

The tightly contested finale saw both players open toward the end of the match, helping create the dramatic finish.

Roumimper left the 4-6-7-10 split in the eighth frame, while McEwan faltered in the ninth frame as she was unable to convert the 2-4-10 split.

Stepping up first in the 10th frame, Roumimper had the chance to double for the opportunity to shut out McEwan to claim her first career PWBA Tour title but was unable to connect for the second strike, leaving a high-flush 7 pin.

McEwan, who was making her fourth championship-round appearance at the U.S. Women's Open, needed to fill 28 pins

to secure the win and delivered in arguably the biggest moment of her career.

"I've been in that moment so many times in the past and haven't come through," said McEwan, an eight-time Team USA member. "I've spent many, many hours talking with my coaches and ball reps trying to figure out what caused it and how I could do better the next time in that situation. I just tried to build on all I've learned."

Roumimper, who earned the top seed by defeating McEwan in the position round Saturday at Texas Star Lanes, rolled two of her best shots when she needed them and knows she has what it takes to put herself in position to win.

"I was just so numb on that shot because I was so focused inside my own bubble," said Roumimper, who finished fourth last month at the United States Bowling Congress Queens. "I tried to just be happy and smile and control what I could control because my heart (was pounding). There was so much going on in my mind, and I needed to get it all out."

"She threw two really good shots in the 10th, so she deserved it. I just need to believe that everything happens for a reason, and my day will come. It will. I just need to keep believing in that and one day, it will be mine."

McEwan's 229-225 semifinal win against Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, shared the same excitement as the title tilt, with McEwan rolling three strikes in the final frame to advance.

O'Keefe, who was looking for her first win at the U.S. Women's Open after a pair of runner-up finishes, finished the semifinal with two strikes in the 10th frame, which forced McEwan to fill 27 pins to move to the title match.

O'Keefe won her first match Sunday, defeating defending U.S. Women's Open champion Liz Kuhlkin of Schenectady, New York, 233-192.

Kuhlkin, who defeated Shannon Sellens of Long Beach, New York, in the opening match of the stepladder, 213-183, was looking to become the fourth player to successfully defend a title at the event and 12th bowler to win the tournament multiple times.

All competitors bowled 24 qualifying games over three days to determine the 36 players advancing to a cashers' round. After eight additional games, the field was cut to the top 24 bowlers for round-robin match play.

The five finalists were determined by total pinfall, including bonus pins, for 56 games.

Each round of the 2019 U.S. Women's Open leading up to the stepladder finals was broadcast live at BowlTV.com.
Share

2019 U.S. Women's Open **At Texas Star Lanes, North Las Vegas, Nev.** **Sunday's results**

FINAL STANDINGS

- 1, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 430 (two games), \$20,000
- 2, Tannya Roumimper, Indonesia, 199 (one game), \$10,000
- 3, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 458 (two games), \$7,700
- 4, Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 405 (two games), \$6,600
- 5, Shannon Sellens, Long Beach, N.Y., 183 (one game), \$5,600

STEPLADDER RESULTS

Match No. 1 – Kuhlkin def. Sellens, 213-183

Match No. 2 – O'Keefe def. Kuhlkin, 233-192

Semifinal – McEwan def. O'Keefe, 229-225

Championship – McEwan def. Roumimper, 201-199

2020 PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S BOWLING ASSOCIATION SCHEDULE INCLUDES LIVE TV FINALS FROM JUNIOR GOLD

ARLINGTON, Texas – A Junior Gold Championships collaboration, a trip to the Pacific Northwest and a stop at the longtime home of pro women's bowling highlight the 2020 Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) Tour schedule.

The future of the sport will be on hand in Las Vegas in 2020 when the live televised finals of the PWBA Las Vegas Open will be conducted as part of the Junior Gold Opening Ceremony at The Orleans Arena.

The Las Vegas Open will run July 8-12, with preliminary rounds conducted at Sam's Town Hotel and Casino. The Orleans Arena is located inside The Orleans Hotel and Casino and seats approximately 9,000 spectators.

The 2020 PWBA Tour season will open April 23 when the PWBA Tour makes its second consecutive trip to Arizona for the PWBA Tucson Open at Lucky Strike Bowl. The tour then heads to Spokane, Washington, for the first time in PWBA history for the PWBA Spokane Open (April 30-May 2) at Lilac Lanes at Cedar Creek. The PWBA last visited Washington in 1986 for an event in Tacoma.

A familiar venue returns to the schedule as Steve Cook's Fireside Lanes in Sacramento, California, will host the PWBA Sacramento Open (May 7-9), followed by the season's first major, the United States Bowling Congress Queens. The Queens will be in Las Vegas for the first time since 2016, with the South Point Bowling Plaza serving as the venue for the May 13-19 event.

The Midwest swing of the 2020 PWBA Tour schedule begins in Parma Heights, Ohio, where Yorktown Lanes will host the PWBA Greater Cleveland Open (May 28-30) for the second consecutive year.

The tour then returns to its historical roots in Rockford, Illinois, where the PWBA was headquartered through 2003. Cherry Bowl will host a PWBA event for the first time in 16 years when the PWBA Rockford Open is held June 4-6.

The PWBA Tour makes its first visit to Longview, Texas, for the PWBA East Texas Open (June 11-13) at Oil Bowl with the U.S. Women's Open, the second major of the season, to follow June 23-30 at USA Bowl in Dallas.

Following the PWBA Las Vegas Open in July, the PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles once again returns to Copperfield Bowl in Houston on July 23-26. The event is operated by 2019 PWBA Hall of Fame inductee Donna Connors and 1987 U.S. Women's Open champion Carol Norman.

The final leg of the 2020 PWBA Tour will commence with the return of the PWBA Greater Columbus Open on Aug. 6-8 at Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl in Columbus, Ohio, followed by the PWBA Tennessee Open (Aug. 13-15) at Pinnacle Family Entertainment Center in Clarksville, Tennessee.

Seminole Lanes in Seminole, Florida, will play host to the season's third major, the PWBA Players Championship, on Aug. 19-22.

The 2020 PWBA Tour season will conclude with the PWBA Tour Championship, which brings together the top 16 players from the season. The dates and site for the event will be announced later.

2020 PWBA TOUR SCHEDULE

With dates, event, center and location:

April 23-25 – PWBA Tucson Open, Lucky Strike Bowl, Tucson, Ariz.

April 30-May 2 – PWBA Spokane Open, Lilac Lanes At Cedar Creek, Spokane, Wash.

May 7-9 – PWBA Sacramento Open, Steve Cook's Fireside Lanes, Sacramento, Calif.

May 13-19 – USBC Queens, South Point Bowling Plaza, Las Vegas

May 28-30 – PWBA Greater Cleveland Open, Yorktown Lanes, Parma Heights, Ohio

June 4-6 – PWBA Rockford Open, The Cherry Bowl, Rockford, Ill.

June 11-13 – PWBA East Texas Open, Oil Bowl, Longview, Texas

June 23-30 – U.S. Women's Open, USA Bowl, Dallas

July 8-12 – PWBA Las Vegas Open, Sam's Town/The Orleans Arena, Las Vegas

July 23-26 – PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles, Copperfield Bowl, Houston

Aug. 6-8 – PWBA Greater Columbus Open, Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl, Columbus, Ohio

Aug. 13-15 – PWBA Tennessee Open, Pinnacle Family Entertainment Center, Clarksville, Tenn.

Aug. 19-22 – PWBA Players Championship, Seminole Lanes, Seminole, Fla.

TBD – PWBA Tour Championship

O'KEEFE WINS THIRD TITLE OF 2019 AT PWBA EAST HARTFORD OPEN

*[*This link will provide b-roll coverage of the title match to download](#)*

EAST HARTFORD, Conn. – Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, continued her dominance on bowling's biggest stages Saturday after collecting her third title of the 2019 Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour season at the PWBA East Hartford Open.

O'Keefe, the top overall seed, delivered in the ninth and 10th frames at Silver Lanes to secure her 11th career PWBA Tour title, defeating Germany's Birgit Pöppler, 225-203. O'Keefe claimed the \$10,000 top prize with the win, which was broadcast live on CBS Sports Network.

Neither player relented in the championship match, but back-to-back spares in the eighth and ninth frames from Pöppler gave O'Keefe the opportunity to take the title.

After talking with her husband, Bryan, about her pace to the line just moments before her final frames, she made the adjustment she needed to strike in the ninth and first shot of the 10th frame to give herself the opportunity to secure the win. She knocked over nine pins on her next delivery to seal the victory.

"I've had a tendency throughout my career, when I try to slow down my tempo, I can get really mechanical," said O'Keefe, the 2018 PWBA Player of the Year. "After that lucky break in the eighth, I looked at him and he told me to just walk. So, I really felt like those shots in the ninth and 10th were unbelievable shots. I'm so grateful he was there. He knows my game so well and can deliver that kind of message in the heat of the moment."

O'Keefe now finds herself in a familiar position as she increased her lead in the PWBA Player of the Year race, but she's focusing on a different mindset in 2019 as she looks to continue the momentum from another big win last month as part of Team USA.

O'Keefe paired with Stefanie Johnson of McKinney, Texas, to win the gold medal in doubles competition at the 2019 Pan

American Games in Lima, Peru.

"I haven't even looked at the points once this season," said O'Keefe, who's also won the PWBA Twin Cities Open and PWBA Tucson Open. "I can only control what I'm doing. Last year, I got so caught up in what everyone else was doing, and it made me miserable. I needed to change my mindset. I've really wanted to just have fun and soak in every moment this season. It's made everything much more enjoyable, and I'm going to keep doing what I'm doing."

Pöppler put together six consecutive strikes in the middle of her semifinal win to move past 2018 PWBA Rookie of the Year Jordan Richard of Tecumseh, Michigan, 236-207.

Pöppler, the 2017 PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles champion with Jason Sterner, had to earn her spot in the elite field this week through a pre-tournament qualifier (PTQ) on Thursday at Silver Lanes, since she sat outside the top 24 in points heading into competition this week.

She led the 60-player field Thursday and continued her momentum throughout the main event. Her second-place finish also helped her move into the top 24 in points, meaning she will not have to bowl in the PTQ next week at the Pepsi PWBA Louisville Open.

"I started pretty well in the first match, but I knew the second match was going to be tougher because Shannon had moved left with some surface, so I had to jump left," Pöppler said. "When I really needed good shots, I couldn't make them, so I can't blame anyone else.

"I had to bowl the PTQ, and I don't think the pattern seemed that different when we practiced later that day. I felt pretty confident, and I just tried to enjoy the fact that I made it into the field. I'm glad I won't have to bowl the PTQ next week in Louisville."

Richard advanced to the semifinals by delivering in the 10th frame against Colombia's Maria José Rodriguez, 199-182. Working on a strike in the ninth frame, Richard rolled a strike and toppled seven pins to shut out Rodriguez.

Rodriguez bounced back from an early miscue in her opening match against Latvia's Diana Zavjalova to collect a 212-193 victory. Rodriguez missed a 10 pin in the third frame but rolled strikes on five of her next six shots on the way to the win.

A total of 32 players earned spots in this week's main field. The top 24 players on the 2019 PWBA points list (through the U.S. Women's Open) secured automatic spots in the field, while a PTQ held Thursday at Silver Lanes determined the bowlers filling the rest of the field.

Three players in the elite field - Erin McCarthy of Omaha, Nebraska, and Singapore's Shayna Ng and Cherie Tan - did not compete this week, which allowed 11 bowlers to advance from the PTQ.

The main field bowled 16 games Friday to determine the top 12 competitors, which bowled an additional six games Saturday. Total pinfall for 22 games determined the five finalists.

BowlTV.com provided livestream coverage of all rounds leading up to the stepladder finals.

An additional event will take place Sunday at Silver Lanes as a PWBA Regional event will be held at the 52-lane center. Competitors will bowl eight games, starting at 9 a.m. Eastern, to determine the top four players for the stepladder finals, which is scheduled to start at approximately 2 p.m. Eastern. Both rounds Sunday will be broadcast live on BowlTV.

The 2019 season will continue next week as the Pepsi PWBA Louisville Open heads to Executive Strike and Spare in Louisville, Kentucky, from Aug. 8-10. The stepladder finals will air live on CBS Sports Network on Aug. 10 at 5 p.m. Eastern.

For more information on the PWBA, visit PWBA.com.

PWBA EAST HARTFORD OPEN
(At Silver Lanes, East Hartford, Conn.)

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

- 1, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 225 (1 game), \$10,000
- 2, Birgit Pöppler, Germany, 439 (2 games), \$5,000
- 3, Jordan Richard, Tecumseh, Mich., 406 (2 games), \$3,500
- 4, Maria José Rodríguez, Colombia, 394 (2 games), \$3,000
- 5, Diana Zavjalova, Latvia, 193 (1 game), \$2,500

Stepladder results

Match 1 – Rodríguez def. Zavjalova, 212-193

Match 2 – Richard def. Rodríguez, 199-182

Semifinal – Pöppler def. Richard, 236-207

Championship – O'Keefe def. Pöppler, 225-203

MCCARTHY MUST TACKLE PTQ TO DEFEND PEPSI PWBA LOUISVILLE OPEN TITLE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – The Professional Women's Bowling Association will make a stop in Louisville for the second consecutive season, and fifth time in the tour's history, when the Pepsi PWBA Louisville Open takes place at Executive Strike and Spare.

The second elite-field event of August kicks off Thursday with a pre-tournament qualifier to determine the final eight players for the 32-player elite-field event. Two eight-game qualifying rounds will take place Friday, after which the top 12 players will bowl six more games on Saturday to determine the top five players for Saturday's stepladder finals.

CBS Sports Network will have live coverage of the Pepsi PWBA Louisville Open stepladder finals on Saturday at 5 p.m. Eastern.

Louisville is the city of a career-defining moment for defending champion Erin McCarthy of Omaha, Nebraska. Leading up to last season's event, McCarthy had proven she had the talent and skill to eventually become a PWBA champion by making the stepladder finals in two majors, the 2015 United States Bowling Congress Queens and 2017 U.S. Women's Open.

But because she was unsuccessful, McCarthy had developed some "self-doubt" and sometimes questioned herself on where she stood among the tour's best. That changed last season at Fern Valley Strike and Spare when she defeated Colombia's Maria José Rodríguez, 259-210, in the championship match.

But, believe it or not, the win itself was not the most memorable moment from that day.

"I think what I remember most is having my best friend, Josie (Barnes) do the commentating for the final match (on BowlTV) and present me with the trophy," McCarthy said. "It made the moment even more special for me. The final day of that event is kind of a blur. I look back on the event and still can't believe I actually won a professional title.

"After that win, I think it definitely gave me an extra boost of confidence. Something others may not know about me is that I have quite a bit of self-doubt. I get in my own head too easily and it can affect me in the middle of competition. This win allowed me to finally get rid of some of that self-doubt and realize I truly

belong out here with the best of the best.”

McCarthy’s road to a title defense now will include the pre-tournament qualifier, after falling out of the top 24 last weekend. She was unable to compete at last weekend’s PWBA East Hartford Open because of work commitments.

This season, the elite-field of the top 24 will constantly evolve as points are updated each week. Since McCarthy, who was 19th on the PWBA points list entering last weekend, was unable to attend the event, it increased the possibility of players below the cut line moving past her with a great week on the lanes.

And, Germany’s Birgit Pöppler made the biggest jump of all, moving from 33rd to 21st after a runner-up finish, to essentially replace McCarthy. There was some additional movement as USBC Hall of Famer Kelly Kulick went from 25th to 19th, replacing Singapore’s Shayna Ng, who won’t be competing in August.

McCarthy now will need to finish eighth or higher during Thursday morning’s PTQ to advance to the main field.

“Obviously, this week will be a bit different since I have to bowl the PTQ,” McCarthy said. “However, I knew this may happen when the season first started. I knew I wouldn’t be able to attend a few of the regular-season events so I could easily not be a part of the top 24.

“I put myself in this position so I’m going to look at the PTQ as just another qualifying round of the tournament. I’m not going to treat it any differently than I would a normal tournament. I’ll take it one game at a time and hope for the best.”

McCarthy not only is a professional bowler but a full-time nurse at two different hospitals in her native Omaha. It’s why she knows missing an event or two each year always is a possibility and does her best to juggle her nursing and bowling careers.

This is who McCarthy is, bowler and nurse, and said she wouldn’t be the person she is today having not taken the path she’s traveled.

“We self-schedule at both hospitals, so I typically start planning my bowling schedule several months in advance,” McCarthy said. “This allows me to figure out when I need to work at the hospital, which weekends I need to trade with co-workers and when I need to try to request time off. My co-workers often joke that if someone can’t figure out how to make a trade work to just come to me since I’ve become a ‘professional’ at it.

“There are obviously times when I just can’t make my nursing schedule work out with bowling, and that’s okay. I’m beyond thankful for every opportunity I’ve had thus far. Not many people can say they have the best of both worlds at home and on the road.”

Local players scheduled to compete in Thursday’s pre-tournament qualifier include Emma Owens of Louisville. Owens finished as the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Girls singles runner-up as a junior at Ballard High School. The event also was held at Executive Strike and Spare.

In addition to this week’s Pepsi PWBA Louisville Open, which runs Thursday through Saturday, next week’s BowlerX.com PWBA Orlando Open (Aug. 15-17) is the remaining elite-field event.

The stepladder finals of each elite event will be televised live every Saturday night on CBS Sports Network. Along with the three elite events, the final two majors of the season, the QubicaAMF PWBA Players Championship (Sept. 3-8), and the season-ending PWBA Tour Championship (Sept. 15-18), also will have live finals on CBS Sports Network.

BowlTV.com, the exclusive online home of the PWBA, will livestream the qualifying rounds for all events leading up to the live televised finals on CBS Sports Network.

PEPSI PWBA LOUISVILLE OPEN
At Executive Strike and Spare, Louisville, Ky.
(All times local)

Thursday, Aug. 8

9 a.m.: Pre-tournament qualifier (eight games)
Top 8 players advance to main field
4 p.m.: 90-minute practice session
7 p.m.: Bowl With The Pros

Friday, Aug. 9

10 a.m.: Eight-game qualifying round
5 p.m.: Eight-game qualifying round
Cut to top 12 players

Saturday, Aug. 10

10 a.m.: Round of 12 (six games)
Cut to top five players for stepladder finals
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.: Fan Fest
5 p.m.: Live CBS Sports Network stepladder finals

KOVALOVA ROLLS 300 GAME TO WIN 2019 PEPSI PWBA LOUISVILLE OPEN

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – Dasha Kovalova of Ukraine became the fourth bowler in Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour history to roll a televised 300 game as she captured the win at the 2019 Pepsi PWBA Louisville Open on Saturday.

Kovalova posted 12 consecutive strikes in the championship match at Executive Strike and Spare to defeat United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer Liz Johnson of Palatine, Illinois, 300-163, to win her second career PWBA Tour title.

The 24-year-old right-hander claimed \$10,000 for the win and an additional \$10,000 for the perfect game on CBS Sports Network from Go Bowling!

"Honestly, I don't remember too much – I had tunnel vision," said Kovalova, who won the 2019 USBC Queens. "I was really nervous, but once I tripped that 4 pin (on the 10th shot) I knew I had to make a move. That's what brought me back. When I'm nervous, it's good for me to go back to basics. I made a one-and-one move, made two shots and it worked."

Kovalova rolled 19 strikes in her two wins Saturday, never missing the pocket, but her look prior to her semifinal match against Colombia's Maria José Rodriguez suggested she may be relying more on her spare shooting to advance.

A jump to the left quickly changed her path on the way to a 226-198 win against Rodriguez, and she didn't lose any momentum against Johnson, who was looking for her 25th career PWBA Tour title.

"In practice, I really didn't have great ball reaction," Kovalova said. "And I was nervous because I saw everybody else's ball reaction. After talking with Chuck (Gardner), I decided to make a really big jump and just go softer with my hand."

Kovalova's breakout season now has her joining reigning PWBA Player of the Year Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, as the only players with multiple wins in 2019.

"It's cool," Kovalova said. "Last season was good, but not that good. I didn't really expect it to be this good. I'm just happy things are going the way they are, and I'm excited for more."

Johnson, who led the event by nearly 100 pins to earn the top seed Saturday, used the same ball throughout the first two days at Executive Strike and Spare but felt she needed to make a change on the championship pair.

Although the final game didn't go as she hoped, she was happy with her overall performance for the week.

"I was feeling like the farther I had to move in, I couldn't get the angle I wanted," said Johnson, who rolled a 300 game in the championship round of the 2001 Paula Carter Classic in Davie, Florida. "I thought the ball I started the finals with was going to give me the angle I wanted on the back part of the lane. It wasn't my best choice, but I wasn't making great shots either, so the combination of the two obviously hurt me. But, I'm incredibly proud of myself for the way I bowled this week."

Rodriguez, who was making her second consecutive championship-round appearance after a fourth-place finish at the PWBA East Hartford Open, advanced to the semifinals by defeating Germany's Birgit Pöppler, 190-181. Pöppler also had made the show in East Hartford, Connecticut, last week, finishing as the runner-up to O'Keefe.

Rodriguez kicked off Saturday's stepladder by edging Missy Parkin of Laguna Hills, California, in a high-scoring match, 248-237. Rodriguez struck on her first delivery in the 10th frame and knocked over nine pins on her second to lock up the victory.

A total of 32 players earned spots in this week's main field. The top 24 players on the 2019 PWBA points list (through the PWBA East Hartford Open) secured automatic spots in the field, while a pre-tournament qualifier (PTQ) held Thursday at Executive Strike and Spare determined the bowlers filling the rest of the field.

Singapore's Cherie Tan was the lone player in the top 24 not to compete this week, which allowed nine bowlers to advance from the PTQ.

Defending PWBA Louisville Open champion Erin McCarthy of Omaha, Nebraska, finished the week in 32nd place.

The elite field bowled 16 games Friday to determine the top 12 competitors, which bowled an additional six games Saturday. Total pinfall for 22 games determined the five finalists.

BowlTV.com provided livestream coverage of all rounds leading up to the stepladder finals.

The 2019 season will continue next week at the BowlerX.com PWBA Orlando Open. The event will take place Aug. 15-17 at Boardwalk Bowl in Orlando, Florida, with the stepladder finals airing live Aug. 17 at 4 p.m. Eastern on CBS Sports Network.

For more information on the PWBA, visit PWBA.com.

PEPSI PWBA LOUISVILLE OPEN
(At Executive Strike and Spare, Louisville, Ky.)

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

- 1, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 526 (2 games), \$10,000
- 2, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 163 (1 game), \$5,000
- 3, Maria José Rodriguez, Colombia, 636 (3 games), \$3,500
- 4, Birgit Pöppler, Germany, 181 (1 game), \$3,000
- 5, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 237 (1 game), \$2,500

Stepladder results

Match 1 – Rodriguez def. Parkin, 248-237

Match 2 – Rodriguez def. Pöppler, 190-181

Semifinal – Kovalova def. Rodriguez, 226-198

Championship – Kovalova def. Johnson, 300-163

BOWLERX.COM PWBA ORLANDO OPEN MARKS PIVOTAL SPOT ON TOUR; REGIONAL SHOWDOWN SET

ORLANDO, Fla. – The Professional Women’s Bowling Association returns to Boardwalk Bowl for the third consecutive season and the BowlerX.com PWBA Orlando Open, which starts Thursday, might prove to be a key stop of the season.

It is the final elite-field event of the 2019 season and could prove to be a key turning point as players fight to earn a position for the rapidly approaching PWBA Tour Championship.

A pre-tournament qualifier (PTQ) at 9 a.m. Eastern on Thursday will determine a minimum of eight bowlers who will advance to the 32-player field. On Friday, a pair of eight-game qualifying rounds will determine the top 12 players for an additional round Saturday morning. After six additional games for the advancers on Saturday morning, the top five players advance to Saturday’s stepladder finals.

CBS Sports Network will have live coverage of the stepladder finals of the BowlerX.com PWBA Orlando Open on Saturday at 4 p.m. Eastern.

The crashing of pins continues after Saturday’s live televised finals as the Go Bowling! PWBA Regional Showdown, a four-player made-for-TV event that will air on CBS Sports Network on Saturday, Aug. 24 at 5 p.m. Eastern, also will take place at Boardwalk Bowl.

The last two events at Boardwalk Bowl provided plenty of excitement for bowling fans, and the 2019 PWBA Orlando Open looks to bring much of the same with the race for the PWBA Tour Championship, along with the PWBA Player and Rookie of the Year races, tightening up.

Stefanie Johnson of McKinney, Texas (2017 PWBA Orlando Open), and Liz Kuhlkin of Schenectady, New York (2018 U.S. Women’s Open), won the titles in the tour’s last two stops to Boardwalk Bowl, and both find themselves in the midst of a tight battle for some of the remaining spots for the season-ending Tour Championship in Richmond, Virginia, from Sept. 15-18.

Only seven players – Josie Barnes, Shannon O’Keefe, Jordan Richard, Dasha Kovalova, Shayna Ng, Sandra Andersson and Danielle McEwan – have secured spots in the 16-player field by winning an event this season, meaning the points list becomes even more crucial heading into Orlando.

Kuhlkin (10th with 52,550 points) and Johnson (12th with 50,607.5 points) are in the cut to start this week. The final spot heading into the PWBA Orlando Open currently belongs to Latvia’s Diana Zavjalova, who’s 14th in points with 46,847.5. Five additional players are within approximately 6,000 points of Zavjalova’s number.

The PWBA Player and Rookie of the Year races each have players with comfortable leads heading into the week, but it certainly doesn’t mean the award has been won just yet.

O'Keefe, the reigning PWBA Player of the Year, is looking to claim the coveted honor in back-to-back seasons and leads the tour with three wins and four championship-round appearances. She's pacing the way with 90,125 points this season and holds the advantage over McEwan (78,685) and Kovalova (74,370).

The Rookie of the Year race is led by Valerie Bercier of Spring Lake, Michigan. Bercier, also a member of Team Canada, has a top finish of fourth this season (PWBA Sonoma County Open) and currently has 43,937.5 points to her credit.

Her closest competitor for the honor is Julia Bond of Aurora, Illinois, who has accumulated 36,550 points after making her debut at the third stop of the season, the PWBA Lincoln Open. Bond's best finish of the season also came at the Lincoln Open, where she finished sixth.

While Bond's rookie campaign will require several strong finishes to catch Bercier, she's been the player to beat on the PWBA Regional circuit in 2019, collecting a pair of wins to earn the top seed for the Go Bowling! PWBA Regional Showdown.

The event will include four of the top performers on the regional tour in 2019 and they will bowl for part of a \$15,000 prize fund and \$6,000 top prize.

The knockout-style championship round will feature Bond taking on Kayla Bandy of Salisbury, Maryland, while the other semifinal match will have Gazmine Mason of Cranston, Rhode Island, taking on Elise Bolton of Merritt Island, Florida.

The winners of the one-game semifinal matches will meet for the title, determined in a two-game total-pinfall contest.

Three of the players earned a spot in the Go Bowling! PWBA Regional Showdown by winning one of four events held in conjunction with national tour stops. Players had to be PWBA Tour members at the time of their victory to advance.

Bond won back-to-back titles at the PWBA Lincoln Regional and PWBA Sonoma County Regional to earn the top seed, while Mason (PWBA East Hartford Regional) and Bolton (PWBA Greater Cleveland Regional) claimed the other titles.

Bandy earned the final spot, which was determined based on prize winnings in regional competition this season. Prize winnings also determined the seeding for the televised event.

Thursday's PTQ will kick off the three days of action at Boardwalk Bowl. Nearly 20 players from Florida, including three from Orlando – Katelyn Jones, Vanessa Rivera and Crystal Schoneman – will take part in the PTQ.

BowlTV.com, the exclusive online home of the PWBA Tour, will livestream each qualifying round leading up to Saturday's televised finals on CBS Sports Network.

In addition to the BowlerX.com PWBA Orlando Open and Go Bowling! PWBA Regional Showdown, an additional event will be held over the weekend in the area. The PWBA Orlando Regional will take place Sunday at nearby Aloma Bowl in Winter Park, Florida.

The single-day event will feature an eight-game qualifying round, starting at 9 a.m. Eastern, with the top four players advancing to the stepladder finals, which is scheduled to start at 2 p.m. Eastern. Both rounds of the regional event will be featured on BowlTV.

BOWLERX.COM PWBA ORLANDO OPEN

At Boardwalk Bowl, Orlando, Fla.

(All times local)

Thursday, Aug. 15

9 a.m.: Pre-tournament qualifier (eight games)

Top eight players advance to main field

4 p.m.: 90-minute practice session

7 p.m.: Bowl With The Pros

Friday, Aug. 16

10 a.m.: Eight-game qualifying round

5 p.m.: Eight-game qualifying round

Cut to top 12 players

Saturday, Aug. 17

10 a.m.: Round of 12 (six games)

Cut to top five players for stepladder finals

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.: Fan Fest

4 p.m.: Live CBS Sports Network stepladder finals

7 p.m.: Go Bowling! PWBA Regional Showdown (taped)

O'KEEFE WINS FOURTH TITLE OF 2019

AT BOWLERX.COM PWBA ORLANDO OPEN

Note: Results from the Go Bowling! PWBA Regional Showdown, which airs Saturday, Aug. 24 on CBS Sports Network, are included in this news release.

ORLANDO, Fla. – Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, became the first player in nearly 20 years to claim four titles in a Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour season by winning the 2019 BowlerX.com PWBA Orlando Open at Boardwalk Bowl.

O'Keefe, the reigning PWBA Player of the Year, edged Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York, in the championship match Saturday, 207-202, to record her 12th career PWBA Tour title and take home the \$10,000 top prize.

The stepladder finals of the BowlerX.com PWBA Orlando Open aired live on CBS Sport Network.

"I don't know if there are words to describe it," O'Keefe said. "I'm very proud of my season, proud of how I'm competing and proud of how I've been mentally approaching it. This season, more than any other, has just been so vivid to me."

O'Keefe and McEwan have been at the top of the PWBA points list the last two seasons, and the title tilt lived up to expectations, as both players entered their respective final frame with the chance to secure the win.

O'Keefe, who finished the match first, had made a ball change on the left lane in the eighth frame but elected to switch back to the ball she used throughout the stepladder finals after making a bad shot and leaving a 3 pin, which she converted.

"We decided to be a little gutsy in the eighth frame," O'Keefe said. "I threw that ball in the fill the previous game, and it read the lane so well. We were trying to strike on that lane, and I just threw a bad shot."

With a strike in the ninth frame, she needed to roll two strikes in the 10th for the chance to shut out McEwan. After recording the first strike, she left a 4 pin on her second shot to give McEwan an opportunity to lock up her second win of 2019.

"The left lane was just a little tricky," O'Keefe said. "It had a little wiggle spot, but if you got it going up the lane, it wanted to hook. I was really making sure my hand was soft through the bottom and to stay down on my shots. I told myself to just execute and be proud of my execution. I threw the first one in the 10th so good, but I twirled the second one just a bit."

McEwan's first delivery in the 10th frame was left of target, resulting in a 6-10 combination.

O'Keefe's run of success since the relaunch of the PWBA Tour in 2015 is apparent, but her ability to keep putting herself in position to win now has her name being mentioned with great bowlers from different eras.

The last time a player won at least four titles in a season on the PWBA Tour was 2001, when future United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famers Carolyn Dorin-Ballard (seven wins) and Liz Johnson (four wins) and Australia's Cara Honeychurch (four wins) each accomplished the feat.

The 2001 season featured 23 events, while O'Keefe claimed her fourth title in the 12th event of the season.

The PWBA ceased operations during the 2003 season before the relaunch in 2015.

"As I get older and my career progresses, it's very cool to hear your name mentioned in the same sentence as the people you've looked up to," O'Keefe said. "To be able to achieve something like that is very humbling for me."

O'Keefe was the No. 2 seed for Saturday's championship round after a miscue in her final frame during the Round of 12 earlier in the day cost her the chance to tie for the top seed and force a one-game roll-off with McEwan.

Needing a double in the 10th frame to secure the top spot outright or a strike and spare to tie McEwan, O'Keefe delivered the first strike but left and missed a 10 pin to finish the frame and fall one pin short of McEwan's overall qualifying total of 4,788 for 22 games.

McEwan admitted to not making the shots she needed in the title match, but she's still seeing improvement in her game as the 2019 season nears completion.

"It wasn't a good shot (in the 10th frame), and I had too many bad shots against the greatest player on the planet in Shannon O'Keefe," said McEwan, a five-time PWBA Tour champion and the 2019 U.S. Women's Open winner. "That's just something you can't do."

"I ended up holding onto a spot on the show, though, which is an improvement from last week. I'm happy to still be seeing small improvements in my game from week to week, especially at this point of the season."

In Saturday's semifinal, O'Keefe rolled four consecutive strikes, starting in the fourth frame, to jump ahead of Colombia's Rocio Restrepo and never looked back, earning her spot in the title match with a 226-201 win. Restrepo, a four-time PWBA Tour champion who has been fighting injuries all season, was making her first championship-round appearance of the year.

Restrepo advanced to the semifinals by staying clean in a 197-179 win over Liz Kuhlkin of Schenectady, New York. Kuhlkin won the 2018 U.S. Women's Open at Boardwalk Bowl, winning four consecutive matches on her way to the title.

In Saturday's opening match, Kuhlkin rolled eight strikes on the way to a 228-194 victory over Katelyn Simpson of Emmett, Idaho. Simpson was making her first career championship-round appearance.

A total of 32 players earned spots in this week's main field. The top 24 players on the 2019 PWBA points list (through the Pepsi PWBA Louisville Open) secured automatic spots in the field, while a pre-tournament qualifier (PTQ) held Thursday at Boardwalk Bowl determined the bowlers filling the rest of the field.

Singapore's Cherie Tan was the lone player in the top 24 not to compete this week, which allowed nine bowlers to

advance from the PTQ.

The elite field bowled 16 games Friday to determine the top 12 competitors, who advanced to bowl an additional six games Saturday. Total pinfall for 22 games determined the five finalists.

BowlTV.com provided livestream coverage of all rounds leading up to the stepladder.

A second event was taped for broadcast Saturday at Boardwalk Bowl after the conclusion of the BowlerX.com PWBA Orlando Open.

The Go Bowling! PWBA Regional Showdown, a made-for-TV event showcasing the top PWBA regional players of the 2019 season, also will be shown on CBS Sports Network, airing on Saturday, Aug. 24 at 5 p.m. Eastern.

Julia Bond of Aurora, Illinois, was able to record the win and claim the \$6,000 top prize, besting former University of Nebraska teammate Gazmine Mason of Cranston, Rhode Island, in the two-game total-pinfall match, 441-420.

Bond, the winner of two PWBA regional events this season, advanced to the finals by defeating Kayla Bandy of Salisbury, Maryland, 214-204. Mason, the winner of the PWBA East Hartford Regional, defeated PWBA Greater Cleveland Regional champion Elise Bolton of Merritt Island, Florida, 217-214, to earn her spot in the finals.

For more information on the PWBA, visit PWBA.com.

BOWLERX.COM PWBA ORLANDO OPEN (At Boardwalk Bowl, Orlando, Fla.)

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

- 1, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 433 (2 games), \$10,000
- 2, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 202 (1 game), \$5,000
- 3, Rocio Restrepo, Colombia, 398 (2 games), \$3,500
- 4, Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 407 (2 games), \$3,000
- 5, Katelyn Simpson, Emmett, Idaho, 194 (1 game), \$2,500

Stepladder results

Match 1 – Kuhlkin def. Simpson, 228-194

Match 2 – Restrepo def. Kuhlkin, 197-179

Semifinal – O'Keefe def. Restrepo, 226-201

Championship – O'Keefe def. McEwan, 207-202

JULIA BOND WINS GO BOWLING! PWBA REGIONAL SHOWDOWN

ORLANDO, Fla. - Julia Bond of Aurora, Illinois, capped off outstanding performances on the Professional Women's Bowling Association regional tour in 2019 by capturing the Go Bowling! PWBA Regional Showdown title.

The Go Bowling! PWBA Regional Showdown was taped at Boardwalk Bowl on Aug. 17 and aired Saturday on CBS Sports Network.

Bond defeated former collegiate teammate Gazmine Mason of Cranston, Rhode Island, 441-420, in the two-game total-pinfall contest to claim the \$6,000 top prize in the made-for-TV event showcasing the top performers on the PWBA regional tour. Mason received \$4,000 for the runner-up finish.

"I think this is a very positive end to my rookie season," said Bond, who's in the running for PWBA Rookie of the Year for the 2019 season. "I felt like I had a lot of good moments this year, but there were disappointments, too. I feel like this

regional win sets a nice, positive tone for the future of my career."

Bond, who teamed with Mason to help the University of Nebraska capture the 2015 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Women's Bowling Championship, grabbed the early lead in the two-game match by taking Game 1, 247-233.

Despite the flurry of strikes in the opening game, both players made a ball change heading into the final game.

"I wasn't in love with my ball reaction," said Bond, a three-time Team USA member. "I know sometimes you can get into trouble trying to chase the perfect ball reaction, but I felt that ball was going a little too long and I had less and less room. Looking at Gazmine's ball reaction, I felt like if I could get closer to that I would like to. I made the ball change in the 10th frame and finally saw the pocket open up a little bit for me."

Bond would open two of the first four frames in Game 2, including a missed 5 pin in the fourth frame, allowing Mason to take the overall lead. The 23-year-old right-hander responded to the slow start with three consecutive strikes starting in the fifth frame, while Mason left splits in the sixth and seventh frames she was unable to convert.

Bond sealed the victory with a strike to start her 10th frame.

"After the missed 5 pin, I was very frustrated for a couple of seconds," Bond said. "But, we were only halfway through the game. I still had five frames to go, and I knew I had to keep pushing and mentally buckle down."

Including the Go Bowling! PWBA Regional Showdown, Bond captured the top spot in each of the three PWBA regional events she was part of in the 2019 season. She was victorious at the PWBA Lincoln Regional and PWBA Sonoma County Regional to earn her place in the Regional Showdown.

Mason, who won the PWBA East Hartford Regional, advanced to the finals by defeating Elise Bolton of Merritt Island, Florida, in the knockout-style championship round, 217-214.

Mason bounced back from a pair of open frames to deliver the final six strikes to shut out Bolton. Bolton had earned her spot at the Regional Showdown by winning the PWBA Greater Cleveland Regional in April.

Bond, the top overall seed for the event, managed to hang onto a 214-204 win against Kayla Bandy of Salisbury, Maryland, to advance to the championship round. Bond could have shut out Bandy with a strike on her fill ball, but an eight count gave Bandy a window.

Bandy, needing three strikes in the 10th to win by a pin, delivered the first strike before leaving a 10 pin on her second offering. Bandy earned the final spot in the Regional Showdown based on her accumulated prize winnings in PWBA regional competition in 2019.

Bolton and Bandy each received \$2,500 for their semifinal appearance.

The four spots for the Go Bowling! PWBA Regional Showdown were determined through four regional events throughout the 2019 PWBA Tour season - PWBA Greater Cleveland Regional, PWBA Lincoln Regional, PWBA Sonoma County Regional, PWBA East Hartford Regional.

Spots were reserved for the winners of each event (players had to be PWBA Tour members at the time of victory to be eligible), and additional spots were determined through prize winnings, which also determined the seeding for the event.

STEFANIE JOHNSON READY TO DEFEND TITLE AT QUBICAAMF PWBA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

RALEIGH, N.C. – Stefanie Johnson of McKinney, Texas, broke through for her first major on the Professional Women’s Bowling Association Tour at the 2018 QubicaAMF PWBA Players Championship, and she’s hoping to parlay a successful summer on Team USA into another long run at the event starting this week at Buffaloe Lanes North.

The third major championship of the 2019 PWBA Tour season will begin Wednesday at 8 a.m. Eastern with the first of three six-game qualifying rounds. After the third round, 18-game totals will determine the 18 players advancing to round-robin match play. Match play will begin Thursday at 1 p.m. Eastern and continue through Friday, with 36-game pinfall totals, including bonus pins, determining the five players advancing to Sunday’s stepladder finals.

CBS Sports Network will have live coverage of the stepladder finals of the QubicaAMF PWBA Players Championship on Sunday at 4 p.m. Eastern.

Before her win at last season’s event, Johnson had been one of the most consistent performers at majors this decade, having advanced to the championship round in each of the four majors – United States Bowling Congress Queens, U.S. Women’s Open, PWBA Players Championship and PWBA Tour Championship – and recorded a pair of runner-up finishes (2015 Tour Championship and 2018 U.S. Women’s Open).

She claimed the top seed for the 2018 Players Championship in front of family and friends at Plano Super Bowl in Plano, Texas, and delivered a strike to start her final frame against USBC Hall of Famer Kelly Kulick of Union, New Jersey, to secure the title, 230-200.

“The fact that I was able to capture my first major on my home turf, in front of family and friends, was absolutely incredible,” said Johnson, who works at Plano Super Bowl. “I couldn’t have painted a better picture for it.”

Johnson’s canvas leading into her title defense in 2019 has included plenty of red, white and blue, as she has been busy representing the United States on the lanes between tour stops. The 15-time Team USA member competed at the Pan American Games in Lima, Peru, in July, earning the gold medal in doubles with reigning PWBA Player of the Year Shannon O’Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, and she just returned from Las Vegas as part of the six-player contingent for the United States at the World Bowling Women’s Championships.

Johnson helped Team USA to the bronze medal in team competition last week in Las Vegas as part of a record-tying performance during qualifying to earn the top seed. Team USA dropped their semifinal match to eventual champion Colombia, 2-1.

Johnson believes her time at the World Women’s Championships served as a great tune-up for her trip to Buffaloe Lanes North, noting it often felt like a PWBA Tour stop with more than 30 members and many of the top players from across the globe representing their countries.

Despite the success with Team USA, Johnson describes her 2019 PWBA Tour season as “all right” with a top finish of third place at the PWBA Sonoma County Open.

Johnson’s currently in the cut for the season-ending Tour Championship, sitting 12th in the season-long points list, but she doesn’t plan to let that affect her process. Entering the Players Championship, Latvia’s Diana

Zavjalova holds the final spot from the points list in 14th place.

“I feel like there have been more lows than highs overall this season, but I certainly can’t complain with where I’m sitting right now,” said Johnson, a three-time PWBA Tour champion. “I do have higher expectations of myself. I feel like I haven’t matched up well the past few weeks on tour, so it’s something I know I need to work on in the offseason.

“I’m not necessarily someone who watches points, because I’m going to bowl my best no matter what. If it happens to be enough, then that’s great. The fact that I’m the defending champion or in the cut doesn’t change my approach at the Players Championship. I’m just going to take it one shot at a time and do what I have to do.”

The Players Championship also will determine the final roster for the Tour Championship, which is scheduled from Sept. 15-18 in Richmond, Virginia. Seven players already have secured their spots at the Tour Championship by winning events this season – O’Keefe; Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York; Ukraine’s Dasha Kovalova; Jordan Richard of Tecumseh, Michigan; Josie Barnes of Nashville, Tennessee; Singapore’s Shayna Ng; and Sweden’s Sandra Andersson.

The winner of the Players Championship will be added to the list (if a new champion for 2019), and the rest of the field will be filled by the top performers on the PWBA points list.

BowlTV.com, the exclusive online home of the PWBA Tour, will livestream each qualifying round leading up to Sunday’s televised finals on CBS Sports Network.

QUBICAAMF PWBA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP
At Buffaloe Lanes North, Raleigh, N.C.
(All times local)

Tuesday, Sept. 3

2 p.m.: Two-hour practice session

Wednesday, Sept. 4

8 a.m.: Six-game qualifying round

1 p.m.: Six-game qualifying round

Thursday, Sept. 5

8 a.m.: Six-game qualifying round

Cut to the top 18 players for match play

1 p.m.: Match play (six games)

Friday, Sept. 6

8 a.m.: Match play (six games)

1 p.m.: Match play (six games)

Cut to top five players for stepladder finals

Saturday, Sept. 7

1 p.m.: Bowl with the Pros

6 p.m.: Bowl with the Pros

Sunday, Sept. 8

1 p.m. - 3 p.m.: Fan Fest

4 p.m.: Live CBS Sports Network stepladder finals

CHERIE TAN LEADS AFTER TWO ROUNDS AT QUBICAAMF PWBA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

RALEIGH, N.C. – Just days removed from winning a gold medal for Singapore at the World Bowling Women’s Championships, Cherie Tan continued her roll Wednesday as she cruised to the top of the standings at the QubicaAMF Professional Women’s Bowling Association Players Championship.

The 31-year-old left-hander averaged 251 in her final six-game block at Buffaloe Lanes North to finish the day with a 12-game total of 2,900, a 241.67 average. Tan holds a 137-pin lead on fellow left-hander Shannon Pluhowsky of Dayton, Ohio, who sits in second with 2,763.

United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer Liz Johnson of Palatine, Illinois, is third with 2,734, Colombia’s Clara Guerrero is fourth with 2,680 and Liz Kuhlkin of Schenectady, New York, is fifth with 2,669.

The PWBA Players Championship, the third major of the 2019 season, will have one additional qualifying round, which starts Thursday at 8 a.m. Eastern, to determine the 18 players advancing to round-robin match play.

After two rounds, Lindsay Boomershine of Perry, Utah, is in 18th place with a 2,560 total, a 213.33 average.

Tan captured her first gold medal at the World Women’s Championships last week in Las Vegas by winning the Masters portion of the event, which brought together bowlers from 34 countries.

Although Tan was disappointed that Singapore’s team performance resulted in a seventh-place finish, she felt her strong finish at the South Point Bowling Plaza helped her moving into the Players Championship.

“It was really disappointing, because we didn’t get the team gold we went there for,” said Tan, the 2016 PWBA Storm Sacramento Open champion. “But, I was able to get the Masters, which felt great. It really helped me get ready for this week.”

Tan saw better shape in her ball reaction during her second round Wednesday, which resulted in a 112-pin improvement from her opening block (1,394). She’s not going to get too far ahead of herself, though, looking ahead to the rest of the event.

“I had some problems with corner pins in the morning,” said Tan, the runner-up at the 2019 Nationwide PWBA Greater Cleveland Open. “I had better ball motion in the afternoon. I had a few 9 pins that stood on me, but not as many corner pins.

“I can’t focus on the outcome. I only can focus on what’s in front of me. I will take tomorrow one shot at a time and see what comes of it.”

Competitors advancing to match play will bowl an additional 18 games, which starts Thursday at 1 p.m. Eastern. Match play will continue into Friday, with 36-game pinfall totals, including bonus pins, determining the five players advancing to the stepladder finals.

The finals of the 2019 QubicaAMF PWBA Players Championship will be broadcast live on Sunday at 4 p.m. Eastern on CBS Sports Network.

BowlTV.com is providing livestream coverage of all rounds leading up to the stepladder finals.

For more information on the PWBA, visit PWBA.com.

QUBICAAMF PWBA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Buffaloe Lanes North, Raleigh, N.C.

Wednesday's Qualifying Results

1, Cherie Tan, Singapore, 2,900. 2, Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, 2,763. 3, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 2,734. 4, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 2,680. 5, Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 2,669. 6, Birgit Pöppler, Germany, 2,656.

7, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 2,654. 8, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 2,649. 9, Daria Pajak, Poland, 2,642. 10, Elise Bolton, Merritt Island, Fla., 2,640. 11, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 2,618. 12, Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 2,610.

13, Valerie Bercier, Spring Lake, Mich., 2,604. 14, Sydney Brummett, Wichita, Kan., 2,581. 15, Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 2,571. 16, Rocio Restrepo, Louisville, Ohio, 2,566. 17, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 2,562. 18, Lindsay Boomershine, Perry, Utah, 2,560.

19, Nicole Trudell, Bridgeport, Conn., 2,526. 20, Ashly Galante, Palm Harbor, Fla., 2,521. 21, Diana Zavjalova, Latvia, 2,516. 22, Summer Jasmin, Beckley, W.Va., 2,504. 23, Tannya Roumimper, Indonesia, 2,496. 24, Haley Richard, Tipton, Mich., 2,479.

25(tie), Katelyn Simpson, Emmett, Idaho, Gazmine Mason, Cranston, R.I., and Jen Higgins, Westerville, Ohio, 2,475. 28, Jordan Richard, Tecumseh, Mich., 2,457. 29, Daphne Tan, Singapore, 2,456. 30, Kelly Kulick, Union, N.J., 2,455.

31, Jazreel Tan, Singapore, 2,444. 32, Sandra Gongora, Mexico, 2,440. 33, New Hui Fen, Singapore, 2,430. 34(tie) Pamela Alvarez, Mexico, and Jodi Woessner, Oregon, Ohio, 2,411. 36, Maria José Rodriguez, Colombia, 2,410.

37(tie), Verity Crawley, England, and Taylor Bulthuis, Coral Springs, Fla., 2,409. 39, Julia Bond, Aurora, Ill., 2,407. 40, Sarah Wille, Hoffman Estates, Ill., 2,397. 41, Bernice Lim, Singapore, 2,391. 42, Stephanie Martins, Brazil, 2,386.

43, Christine Johnston, Canada, 2,367. 44, Shayna Ng, Singapore, 2,365. 45, Christine Gill, Lebanon, Ill., 2,346. 46, Kayla Bandy, Salisbury, Md., 2,322. 47, Kerry Smith, New Holland, Pa., 2,314. 48, Tiffany Taylor, Raleigh, N.C., 2,280.

49, Giselle Poss, Nashville, Tenn., 2,265. 50, Jennifer Hocurscak, Orange, Conn., 2,102.

TAN CONTINUES TO LEAD, BRUMMETT MAKES MOVE AT QUBICAAMF PWBA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

RALEIGH, N.C. – The transition into match play at the QubicaAMF Professional Women’s Bowling Association Players Championship on Thursday proved beneficial to Sydney Brummett of Fort Wayne, Indiana, as she jumped 10 spots and into contention for Sunday’s televised finals.

Brummett went 6-0 in the opening round of match play at Buffaloe Lanes North to move into seventh place, though Singapore’s Cherie Tan and Shannon Pluhowsky of Dayton, Ohio, the lone left-handers competing this week, have built a sizeable lead on the rest of the field.

Tan dropped to second, behind Pluhowsky, after the morning’s final qualifying round but rebounded with a 4-2 mark in match play and leads through 24 games with a 5,742 pinfall total, including bonus pins. Pluhowsky went 3-3 in match play and stands second with a 5,633 total.

Ukraine’s Dasha Kovalova is 150 pins behind Pluhowsky with 5,483, and Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York (5,444), and Germany’s Birgit Pöppler (5,358) round out the top five.

Competitors will return to Buffaloe Lanes North on Friday at 9 a.m. Eastern for two additional rounds of match play, including a position round. Pinfall totals for 36 games, including bonus pins, will determine the five players advancing to the stepladder finals.

The finals of the PWBA Players Championship, the third major of the 2019 season, will be broadcast live on Sunday at 4 p.m. Eastern on CBS Sports Network.

Brummett started match play 199 pins outside the top five, but she quickly cut the deficit to 54 pins entering Friday’s final rounds on the strength of her unscathed record.

“For me, match play is no different than qualifying,” Brummett said. “I can’t do anything about what the other person does. She’s going to make her best shots, and I’m going to make mine. I just hope my score is higher than hers at the end of the match.”

Qualifying provided a late spark for the 23-year-old right-hander, however, as she found herself out of the cut and one of seven players within 15 pins of the number heading into the final game.

She rolled 258 to pass eight players, finishing qualifying with an 18-game score of 3,813. Nicole Trudell of Bridgeport, Connecticut, finished 18th to grab the final spot into match play with 3,807, and Pluhowsky was the qualifying leader with a 4,265 total.

“Lately, I’ve been doing a lot of what I call discipline days in practice,” Brummett said. “I’ve kind of revamped my game over the last year and a half, and in those last few shots of qualifying, I made a ball change and told myself it’s just like discipline day – just do what you’re supposed to do, post your shot and the pins will fall down. Thankfully, they did.”

Brummett will continue to focus on her process as she hopes to make a run at her first career championship-round appearance on the PWBA Tour.

“I need to make sure I’m mentally prepared for tomorrow,” Brummett said. “I had a really great day, but I want to be just as process-oriented and see how far up the ladder I can go.”

All competitors at the 2019 PWBA Players Championship rolled 18 games of qualifying over two days at Buffaloe Lanes North to determine the top 18 for round-robin match play.

BowlTV.com is providing livestream coverage of all rounds leading up to the stepladder finals.

For more information on the PWBA, visit PWBA.com.

QUBICAAMF PWBA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Buffaloe Lanes North, Raleigh, N.C.

Thursday's Results

MATCH PLAY

(24-game totals, including bonus pins)

1, Cherie Tan, Singapore, 4-2-0, 5,742. 2, Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, 3-3-0, 5,633. 3, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 3-3-0, 5,483. 4, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 6-0-0, 5,444. 5, Birgit Pöppler, Germany, 3-3-0, 5,358. 6, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 2-4-0, 5,311.

7, Sydney Brummett, Wichita, Kan., 6-0-0, 5,304. 8, Elise Bolton, Merritt Island, Fla., 4-2-0, 5,286. 9(tie), Rocio Restrepo, Louisville, Ohio, 3-3-0, and Daria Pajak, Poland, 3-3-0, 5,284. 11, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 2-4-0, 5,282. 12, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 3-3-0, 5,277.

13, Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 2-4-0, 5,274. 14, Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 3-3-0, 5,193. 15, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 2-4-0, 5,175. 16, Ashly Galante, Palm Harbor, Fla., 2-4-0, 5,102. 17, Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 1-5-0, 5,091. 18, Nicole Trudell, Bridgeport, Conn., 2-4-0, 5,059.

QUALIFYING

(18-game totals)

1, Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, 4,265. 2, Cherie Tan, Singapore, 4,242. 3, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 4,141. 4, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 4,020. 5, Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 4,012. 6, Birgit Pöppler, Germany, 3,992.

7, Rocio Restrepo, Louisville, Ohio, 3,982. 8, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 3,973. 9, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 3,935. 10, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 3,920. 11, Daria Pajak, Poland, 3,907. 12, Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 3,882.

13, Elise Bolton, Merritt Island, Fla., 3,879. 14, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 3,874. 15, Ashly Galante, Palm Harbor, Fla., 3,860. 16, Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 3,834. 17, Sydney Brummett, Wichita, Kan., 3,813. 18, Nicole Trudell, Bridgeport, Conn., 3,807.

DID NOT ADVANCE

19, Diana Zavjalova, Latvia, 3,791, \$1,100. 20, Jen Higgins, Westerville, Ohio, 3,789, \$1,100. 21, Valerie Bercier, Spring Lake, Mich., 3,778, \$1,100. 22, Daphne Tan, Singapore, 3,769, \$1,100. 23, Kelly Kulick, Union, N.J., 3,768, \$1,100. 24, Jordan Richard, Tecumseh, Mich., 3,762, \$1,100.

25, Lindsay Boomershine, Perry, Utah, 3,750, \$1,100. 26, Haley Richard, Tipton, Mich., 3,739, \$1,100. 27, Verity Crawley, England, 3,731, \$1,100. 28, Tannya Roumimper, Indonesia, 3,717, \$1,100. 29, Sandra Gongora, Mexico, 3,704, \$1,100. 30, Maria José Rodriguez, Colombia, 3,698, \$1,100.

31, Summer Jasmin, Beckley, W.Va., 3,684, \$1,100. 32, New Hui Fen, Singapore, 3,671, \$1,100. 33, Taylor Bulthuis, Coral Springs, Fla., 3,652. 34(tie), Jodi Woessner, Oregon, Ohio, and Gazmine Mason, Cranston, R.I., 3,649. 36, Kerry Smith, New Holland, Pa., 3,642.

37, Jazreel Tan, Singapore, 3,627. 38, Katelyn Simpson, Emmett, Idaho, 3,625. 39, Sarah Wille, Hoffman Estates, Ill., 3,620. 40, Bernice Lim, Singapore, 3,609. 41, Giselle Poss, Nashville, Tenn., 3,586. 42, Shayna Ng, Singapore, 3,579.

43, Christine Gill, Lebanon, Ill., 3,573. 44, Julia Bond, Aurora, Ill., 3,553. 45, Pamela Alvarez, Mexico, 3,542. 46, Stephanie Martins, Brazil, 3,533. 47, Tiffany Taylor, Raleigh, N.C., 3,527. 48, Christine Johnston,

Canada, 3,512.

49, Kayla Bandy, Salisbury, Md., 3,448. 50, Jennifer Hocurscak, Orange, Conn., 3,194.

CHERIE TAN FINISHES STRONG TO EARN TOP SEED AT 2019 QUBICAAMF PWBA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

RALEIGH, N.C. – Singapore’s Cherie Tan delivered 10 strikes in her final game Friday at the 2019 QubicaAMF Professional Women’s Bowling Association Players Championship to secure the top seed for Sunday’s stepladder finals at Buffalo Lanes North.

The 31-year-old left-hander battled fellow southpaw Shannon Pluhowsky of Dayton, Ohio, all week for the lead, and Tan posted a 268-247 win in the position round to seal her spot at the top of the standings.

Joining Tan and Pluhowsky in the stepladder finals are United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer Liz Johnson of Palatine, Illinois, Ukraine’s Dasha Kovalova and Shannon O’Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois.

The finals of the PWBA Players Championship, the third major of the 2019 season, will be broadcast live on Sunday at 4 p.m. Eastern on CBS Sports Network.

With the win in the position round, Tan finished match play with a 12-5-1 record to finish with an overall total of 8,744, including bonus pins. Pluhowsky earned the No. 2 seed with an 8,663 score.

Tan held a 30-pin advantage over Pluhowsky heading into Friday’s position round and needed to record a win or tie to remain in the lead. Pluhowsky struck on six of her first seven shots, but back-to-back single pins in her eighth and ninth frames handed the advantage to Tan.

Pluhowsky rolled three strikes in her final frame to force Tan to strike on her first shot for the chance to win outright. A nine count from Tan, plus a spare and strike on her fill ball, would have left them tied at 247.

Tan struck out to complete her run to the top of the stepladder.

“Well, I was a little nervous going into the final match,” said Tan, the 2016 PWBA Storm Sacramento Open champion. “I knew I just needed to put the ball in the pocket and make shots. Whether the pins fell or not, that’s on them, not me. I’m glad they fell my way.”

Tan, who recently won a gold medal in Masters competition at the World Bowling Women’s Championships in Las Vegas, said she had used reactive resin for most of match play but made the change to urethane for her final match against Pluhowsky.

Her strategy behind that move is the same plan she’ll look to implement in the title match Sunday to claim her first major championship on the PWBA Tour and \$20,000 top prize.

“I’ll take it one shot at a time on Sunday and let the lane tell me what to do,” said Tan, the runner-up at the 2019 Nationwide PWBA Greater Cleveland Open. “It would mean a lot to win, because this is the most prestigious tour for women’s bowling. To be able to come out on top is something I’d really be proud of.”

Pluhowsky, who was the qualifying leader through 18 games this week at Buffalo Lanes North, will be looking for her second major title after winning the 2006 USBC Queens.

Johnson, who earned the No. 3 seed with an 8,288 total, will be looking for her third career win at the Players Championship after recording victories at the 2001 and 2017 events. A win on Sunday also would be her 11th major and 25th career PWBA Tour title.

Kovalova, the No. 4 seed with 8,216, is looking for her third title of the 2019 season and second major. She broke through for her first career win at the USBC Queens in May and rolled 300 in the title match against Johnson to win the Pepsi PWBA Louisville Open in August.

O'Keefe, who will face Kovalova in Sunday's opening match as the No. 5 seed with 8,170, is the reigning PWBA Player of the Year and leads the tour in 2019 with four wins. She'll be looking for her third career major title.

O'Keefe went 5-1 in match play during her final round Friday, including a 207-194 win over Sydney Brummett of Fort Wayne, Indiana, in the position round, to hold onto the final spot.

All competitors at the 2019 PWBA Players Championship rolled 18 games of qualifying over two days at Buffalo Lanes North to determine the 18 players advancing to round-robin match play.

Advancers bowled an additional 18 games in match play on Thursday and Friday, including a position round, and 36-game pinfall totals determined the five players moving onto Sunday's stepladder finals.

BowlTV.com provided livestream coverage of all rounds leading up to the stepladder finals.

For more information on the PWBA, visit PWBA.com.

QUBICAAMF PWBA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Buffalo Lanes North, Raleigh, N.C.

Friday's Results

MATCH PLAY

(36-game totals, including bonus pins)

1, Cherie Tan, Singapore, 12-5-1, 8,744. 2, Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, 11-7-0, 8,663. 3, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 13-5-0, 8,288. 4, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 7-11-0, 8,216. 5, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 9-9-0, 8,170.

TELEVISED STEPLADDER FINALS

(Will be live Sunday on CBS Sports Network at 4 p.m. Eastern)

Match No. 1: Dasha Kovalova vs. Shannon O'Keefe

Match No. 2: Liz Johnson vs. Match No. 1 winner

Semifinal: Shannon Pluhowsky vs. Match No. 2 winner

Final: Cherie Tan vs. semifinal winner

DID NOT ADVANCE

6, Daria Pajak, Poland, 11-7-0, 8,157, \$3,000. 7, Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 13-5-0, 8,130,

\$2,800. 8, Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 9-9-0, 8,106, \$2,700. 9, Sydney Brummett, Fort Wayne, Ind., 12-6-0, 8,105, \$2,600. 10, Birgit Pöppler, Germany, 9-9-0, 8,088, \$2,500. 11, Rocio Restrepo, Louisville, Ohio, 8-10-0, 8,025, \$2,400. 12, Clara Guerrero, Colombia, 7-11-0, 7,873, \$2,300.

13, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 7-10-1, 7,865, \$2,100. 14, Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 8-10-0, 7,814, \$2,000. 15, Nicole Trudell, Bridgeport, Conn., 7-10-1, 7,731, \$1,900. 16, Elise Bolton, Merritt Island, Fla., 6-11-1, 7,723, \$1,800. 17, Ashly Galante, Palm Harbor, Fla., 6-12-0, 7,640, \$1,700. 18, Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 5-13-0, 7,562, \$1,600.

BERCIER WINS 2019 PWBA ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD

ARLINGTON, Texas – Valerie Bercier of Spring Lake, Michigan, planned to bowl just the first four events of the 2019 Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour season, but a strong start encouraged her to continue and she now has won the PWBA Rookie of the Year award.

The 28-year-old right-hander paced all rookies in points during the 2019 PWBA Tour season, which determines the PWBA Rookie of the Year. Her 21st-place finish at the QubicaAMF PWBA Players Championship in Raleigh, North Carolina, helped her secure the honor.

"To be mentioned alongside the players who have won this award and to be a part of history is pretty incredible," Bercier said. "Knowing my name will be announced next year, and in five years, for being the 2019 PWBA Rookie of the Year is an amazing feeling."

Bercier started her 2019 campaign with seventh-place finishes at the Nationwide PWBA Greater Cleveland Open and PWBA Lincoln Open, and she posted her best showing of the season at the PWBA Sonoma County Open, advancing to the stepladder finals and recording a fourth-place finish.

Her 2019 campaign did come to a close at the PWBA Players Championship, as she fell short of advancing to the season-ending PWBA Tour Championship.

"My expectations were to just bowl those events and see what happens," said Bercier, who made the televised finals at the 2017 U.S. Women's Open as a non-member, finishing in fourth place. "As soon as I decided to commit to the rest of the season, I set my sights on rookie of the year. I felt it was a pretty good season, but I'm sad I didn't give myself enough of a chance to make the top 16 because I struggled at the majors. I'm looking forward, though, and know the things I have to work on for next season."

Bercier made the decision to join the tour season after establishing her business, Berberry Health & Wellness, in 2017. Bercier, a registered dietitian and certified health coach, managed the challenging lane conditions and responsibilities of work from week to week throughout the season, and she hopes she can inspire others through her efforts in both.

"I started my business in April of 2017, and we moved to Michigan in November that year," Bercier said. "I felt last year wasn't the right time to come out on tour, because I wanted to get that off the ground and create a solid foundation. It was a lot to manage both, but I love it. I want to help people get healthy, so if I'm able to come out here and bowl and create inspiration for others to take their health seriously, that's my mission."

Bercier has represented Canada in international competition since 2013 and was part of the junior team from 2008-2010. She also was a collegiate standout for the University of Nebraska, helping the Cornhuskers win the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Women's Bowling Championship.

Since the relaunch of the PWBA Tour in 2015, the honor of PWBA Rookie of the Year has been awarded to Stefanie Johnson of McKinney, Texas (2015); Singapore's New Hui Fen (2016); Poland's Daria Pajak (2017); and Jordan Richard of Tecumseh, Michigan (2018).

CHERIE TAN WINS 2019 QUBICAAMF PWBA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

****NOTE: This Dropbox [link](#) contains b-roll of the title match and interview with Cherie Tan***

RALEIGH, N.C. – Singapore's Cherie Tan capped a dominating performance at the 2019 QubicaAMF Professional Women's Bowling Association Players Championship by winning her first career major championship Sunday at Buffalo Lanes North.

The 31-year-old left-hander was the player to beat throughout the week at the third major of the 2019 PWBA Tour season and delivered nine strikes in the title match to post a 245-204 victory over Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois. Tan collected \$20,000 for the win.

The championship round of the 2019 PWBA Players Championship was broadcast live on CBS Sports Network.

"It's really awesome to come away with back-to-back wins, because it's something everyone wants but is so hard to achieve," said Tan, who won a gold medal (Masters) during her final event last weekend at the World Bowling Women's Championships in Las Vegas. "I'm really pleased with the results."

Tan, the top seed, struck on six of her first seven deliveries to take advantage of a missed 10 pin and 3-6-10 combination from O'Keefe to start the match.

Tan missed a 10 pin of her own, however, in the eighth frame to open a window for O'Keefe, who responded with strikes on five of her next seven shots. O'Keefe's run came to an end after she left a 9 pin to start her final frame, giving Tan the opportunity to clinch her second PWBA Tour title with five pins on her first delivery of the 10th frame. Tan rolled a strike to seal the win.

Tan had switched between reactive resin and urethane throughout the week at Buffalo Lanes North, and she elected to go with reactive resin in the title match.

"The lanes were picking up really early, especially the left one," said Tan, who won her first title at the 2016 PWBA Storm Sacramento Open. "So, I decided to bring up the surface on my resin ball and play in that area of the lane."

Sunday's victory also helped Tan earn an invitation to the season-ending PWBA Tour Championship, which will take place in Richmond, Virginia, from Sept. 15-18.

Tan needed to win to earn the final spot at the Tour Championship. If she would have lost the title match, the final spot would have gone to Indonesia's Tannya Roumimper based on her spot on the points list.

"I was thinking about it, but I didn't focus too much on it," said Tan, who was the runner-up earlier this season at the Nationwide PWBA Greater Cleveland Open. "I can't control the outcome, but it's a bonus for me. It's something I've only done once, so I'm really, really happy to be going back."

O'Keefe won three games on Sunday to earn her spot in the title match, averaging more than 236 to get there. She was in search of her fifth title of the 2019 season and third career major.

She fought the left lane during her semifinal win against Shannon Pluhowsky of Dayton, Ohio, and against Tan, and noted the missed spares to start the championship match were inexcusable.

"I was playing the left lane, at minimum, three or four more than the right lane the whole day," said O'Keefe, who made her sixth championship-round appearance of the season. "I only made a three and three on the right lane, but it was more like a six and five on the left lane before it started to hook too early and I made the ball change."

O'Keefe's bounce back at the Players Championship after missing the cut at the 2018 event was a credit to her resilience, though, as she also locked up the PWBA Player of the Year award for the second consecutive season.

"I don't let the past negatively affect me," O'Keefe said. "I learn what I can from it and continue to move forward. I think that's what has made me mentally tough over the last few years. I don't let bad things hold me back. I learn and move on."

She defeated Pluhowsky in the semifinal, 231-191. Pluhowsky was looking for her second career PWBA Tour title and first win since the relaunch of the tour in 2015.

O'Keefe moved onto the semifinal by besting United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer Liz Johnson of Palatine, Illinois, 257-213. Johnson was in search of her third win at the Players Championship after claiming the 2001 and 2017 titles.

O'Keefe rolled strikes on eight of her first nine deliveries to win Sunday's opening match against Ukraine's Dasha Kovalova, 222-195. Kovalova was looking for her third title of 2019 and second major after winning the USBC Queens.

The 16 finalists for the Tour Championship also are set with the conclusion of the Players Championship.

Joining Tan, O'Keefe, Pluhowsky, Johnson and Kovalova in Richmond will be Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York; Jordan Richard of Tecumseh, Michigan; Missy Parkin of Laguna Hills, California; Clara Guerrero of Colombia; Liz Kuhlkin of Schenectady, New York; defending champion Maria José Rodríguez of Colombia; Bryanna Coté of Red Rock, Arizona; Stefanie Johnson of McKinney, Texas; Josie Barnes of Nashville, Tennessee; Shayna Ng of Singapore; and Sandra Andersson of Sweden.

All competitors at the 2019 PWBA Players Championship rolled 18 games of qualifying over two days to determine the 18 players advancing to round-robin match play.

Advancers bowled an additional 18 games in match play, including a position round, and 36-game totals, including bonus pins, determined the five players moving onto the stepladder finals.

BowlTV.com provided livestream coverage of all rounds leading up to the stepladder finals.

For more information on the PWBA, visit PWBA.com.

QUBICAAMF PWBA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP (At Buffalo Lanes North, Raleigh, N.C.)

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

- 1, Cherie Tan, Singapore, 245 (1 game), \$20,000
- 2, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 914 (4 games), \$10,000
- 3, Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, 191 (1 game), \$6,000
- 4, Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 213 (1 game), \$5,000
- 5, Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, 195 (1 game), \$4,000

Stepladder results

Match 1 – O'Keefe def. Kovalova, 222-195

Match 2 – O'Keefe def. Johnson, 257-213

Semifinal – O'Keefe def. Pluhowsky, 231-191

Championship – Tan def. O'Keefe, 245-204

DEFENDING CHAMPION RODRIGUEZ AMONG FIELD OF 16 FOR SEASON-ENDING PWBA TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

RICHMOND, Va. – The top 16 athletes on the 2019 Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour will compete in the season-ending PWBA Tour Championship and each seeks to find a way to victory lane as the event celebrates its third consecutive trip to Richmond Raceway.

The PWBA Tour Championship runs Sept. 15-18 in the Old Dominion Building at Richmond Raceway, bringing together every title winner in 2019 with the remainder of the field filled through the season-points list.

Players will compete in a single-elimination best-of-five match-play bracket to determine two of the four competitors for the finals, which will be broadcast live on CBS Sports Network on Wednesday, Sept. 18, at 8 p.m. Eastern.

BowlTV.com, the official livestream home of the PWBA Tour, will provide live coverage of all rounds leading up to the televised finals on CBS Sports Network.

Colombia's Maria José Rodríguez, the defending champion, is back in the field after claiming the No. 9 seed via the PWBA points list. She will face No. 12 seed Stefanie Johnson of McKinney, Texas, who also qualified through points, in her opening match.

Making the PWBA Tour Championship field was the "No. 1 goal" for Rodríguez, as it is for every player, and, to her, that means she's had a successful season.

Before taking last year's title, Rodríguez hadn't won a single match in appearances at the 2016 and 2017 PWBA Tour Championship at Richmond. In 2018, as the No. 13 seed, her three matches leading up to the TV show each went to a deciding fifth game and, in the match to make the TV show, she came back from an 0-2 deficit to beat Latvia's Diana Zavjalova.

"Heading into last season's Tour Championship I was zero for Richmond, so my goal was to win one game," Rodríguez said. "Once I did, I felt like a weight had been lifted off my shoulders. Every match was pressure packed, but it was nothing compared to the feeling of trying to win that first game.

"I focused on my ball motion with Nathan (Bohr) and we worked each shot independent of the situation of the match. To be one of only four to win this event is amazing, but I can't wait to have a chance to become the first player to win the event twice. Defending my title just means I had a good tournament last season. This year is a new mindset and a new set of challenges. I cannot wait to start."

The 30-year-old right-hander has improved each season on the PWBA Tour after doubling her championship-round appearance total this season to four compared to 2018. In the first three seasons of the relaunched PWBA, Rodríguez made just one championship-round appearance in each of those seasons.

Her improvements began late last season, when she made a tactical change that helped her win last season and has continued to pay dividends in 2019.

"Toward the end of last season, I made a decision to be more aggressive in my approach to PWBA Tour events," Rodríguez said. "I was confident in my ability to put shots on line and control the pocket, so I focused on trying to find a way to strike more. This little change in tactics has made all the difference when it comes down to the end of the events.

"Before, I was making a lot of cuts, a lot of top 12s, but not making shows. I have made fewer top 12s this season, but more shows, and had more chances to win. It's a tradeoff, but I am happy with my progress."

While excited to compete this week, Rodríguez is nursing a toe injury sustained two weeks ago following her five-medal performance at the World Bowling Women's Championships at South Point Bowling Plaza in Las Vegas. Rodríguez's week included the coveted team gold medal she helped Colombia earn.

Following the conclusion of competition, a bowling ball fell on her right big toe, causing a non-displaced fracture. She competed at last week's QubicaAMF PWBA Players Championship to solidify her position on the points list, but the injury limited her.

Rodriguez describes coming off an emotional high after helping Colombia to the team gold medal on the final day of competition and then thrusting into a painful situation.

"The pressure of the world championships was so intense," Rodriguez said. "I woke up the Saturday after the shows finally feeling like I didn't have to struggle to breathe. That feeling lasted about two hours. Once the ball fell on my foot, I was right back to feeling like I was drowning. Last week was rough. Perhaps more than the pain, I was not able to get into my last step the same way, which definitely affected my performance.

"I've been slowly trying to work more and more normal movement into my daily activities to try and get the feeling as right as I can for Richmond. Hopefully, I do not have to manage my toe that much at all because I'll be at 100 percent, but right now I would say I'm about 60 percent, up from about 20 percent in Raleigh."

Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, the 2018 and 2019 PWBA Player of the Year, and Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York, already have earned their spots on the TV show, as they receive byes into the semifinals as the No. 1 and 2 seeds, respectively, for the second consecutive season.

Both are past champions of the event with McEwan taking the title in 2015 and O'Keefe winning in epic fashion in 2017. Neither player has won as the No. 1 or No. 2 seeds, with winning as No. 5 seeds.

O'Keefe has won four titles this season – PWBA Twin Cities Open, PWBA Tucson Open, PWBA East Hartford Open, BowlerX.com PWBA Orlando Open – and now owns 12 PWBA Tour titles. She not only leads the tour in points, but also in earnings, average, cashes and championship-round appearances.

She put together an impressive run in six championship-round appearances this season, averaging more than 225 and posting a 9-2 record.

McEwan, 28, won her second career major title at the U.S. Women's Open, continuing a streak of winning at least one title each season since the tour's relaunch in 2015. She currently shares the streak with O'Keefe. McEwan will make her fifth championship-round appearance in 2018.

Ukraine's Dasha Kovalova, who captured her first career major at the USBC Queens and rolled a 300 game in the finals to win the Pepsi PWBA Louisville Open, settled into the No. 3 seed after a career season.

She's earned a first-round bye and will await the winner of Monday night's first-round match between No. 10 Shannon Pluhowsky of Dayton, Ohio, and No. 11 Bryanna Coté of Red Rock, Arizona.

Liz Johnson seeks a trifecta this week in Richmond – her first title of the season, 11th career major championship and 25th career PWBA title – when she hits the lanes in Round 2 as the No. 4 seed. It's the second consecutive season Johnson has been the No. 4 seed following the previous three seasons as the No. 1 seed.

She'll take on the winner of the Rodriguez-Stefanie Johnson match.

The rest of Monday's first-round matchups, with how they qualified in parenthesis:

* No. 5 Jordan Richard (PWBA Lincoln Open winner) vs. No. 16 Sandra Andersson (PWBA Fountain Valley Open)

* No. 7 Clara Guerrero (points) vs. No. 14 Josie Barnes (Nationwide PWBA Greater Cleveland Open winner)

* No. 6 Missy Parkin (points) vs. No. 15 Shayna Ng (PWBA Sonoma County Open)

* No. 8 Liz Kuhlkin (points) vs. No. 13 Cherie Tan (QubicaAMF PWBA Players Championship winner).

The lanes are being specially installed inside the Old Dominion Building by QubicaAMF, the official supplier of bowling equipment for the 2019 PWBA Tour Championship.

Visit PWBA.com to view the official PWBA Tour Championship bracket.

To purchase PWBA Tour Championship tickets online, please click here. For all things PWBA Tour Championship related leading up to the event, follow the PWBA social channels including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

PWBA TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP
At Richmond Raceway, Richmond, Virginia
(All times Eastern)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.: Practice Session for Matches 1,2,3 and seeded athletes

4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.: Practice Session for Matches 4,5,6 and seeded athletes

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Noon: Matches 1 and 2

3 p.m.: Matches 3 and 4

6 p.m.: Matches 5 and 6

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Noon: Matches 7 and 8

3 p.m.: Matches 9 and 10

6 p.m.: Matches 11 and 12

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

8 p.m.: Live finals on CBS Sports Network

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Noon - 5 p.m.: Fan Fun Friday in the Old Dominion Building Bowl with some of your favorite PWBA players!

SIX PLAYERS CONTINUE TO NEXT ROUND AT 2019 PWBA TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

RICHMOND, Va. – Six players at the 2019 Professional Women’s Bowling Association Tour Championship were able to navigate through the opening round of match play Monday at the Old Dominion Building inside Richmond Raceway and continue their run at the fourth major title of the season.

Colombia’s Clara Guerrero, Singapore’s Cherie Tan and Shayna Ng, Sweden’s Sandra Andersson, Stefanie Johnson of McKinney, Texas, and Bryanna Coté of Red Rock, Arizona, each advanced in the best-of-five single-elimination format and will return to the season-ending event Tuesday, starting at noon Eastern.

The 2019 PWBA Tour Championship brings together the top 16 players of the season, with the finals being broadcast live on Wednesday at 8 p.m. Eastern on CBS Sports Network.

Guerrero was the only player to sweep her opening-round match, besting Josie Barnes of Nashville, Tennessee, 3-0. Each of those games came down to the final frame, however, with Guerrero sneaking by with wins of 208-207, 202-200 and 201-196.

Guerrero survived the first game as Barnes was unable to deliver a strike on her first shot of the 10th frame, but Guerrero took the second game by striking out in the final frame.

In Game 3, Guerrero doubled to force Barnes into a must-strike situation to win. Barnes also could have tied the game by knocking over nine pins on her first shot, followed by a spare and strike, but left a 2-8 combination on her first delivery.

“I just happened to be the one that won this match, but it was pretty rough,” said Guerrero, the 2016 PWBA Players Championship winner. “The scoring pace was a little lower, and I was trying to stay patient. But, I love it. Those are the moments I train for. I’m very happy I was able to perform like that when I needed it.”

Guerrero now will face Andersson during Tuesday’s opening round. Andersson started strong in her Tour Championship debut, delivering in the final frame of Game 1 to claim a 268-257 win over Jordan Richard of Tecumseh, Michigan, on her way to a 3-1 victory.

Tan arguably has been on the best run of any bowler in the world the last several weeks, first winning a gold medal in Masters competition at the World Bowling Women’s Championships at the end of August before earning her spot at the Tour Championship by winning her first career major at the QubicaAMF PWBA Players Championship to start September.

The 31-year-old left-hander once again looked dominant with wins of 278-230 and 229-157 to start her match against Liz Kuhlkin of Schenectady, New York, but Kuhlkin bounced back with wins of 199-190 and 269-191 to force a deciding game.

As Kuhlkin started striking in Game 4, Tan made a ball change as she started to lose her look. The switch helped her win Game 5, 256-219.

“Things went pretty well for me the first two games, but then I lost my look with urethane,” said Tan, who owns two career PWBA Tour titles. “I spent all of the fourth game with my reactive ball and found something the last few frames, then it all came together the last game. My urethane was picking up too soon, and I moved right

and it pushed. I got into a pearl symmetric because the other balls I tried had a nice shape but a flat reaction at the pocket, which wasn't going to cut it. The pearl had a great motion and carry, too."

Tan now will face Ng on Tuesday at 3 p.m. Eastern. Ng also went the distance in her match against Missy Parkin of Laguna Hills, California, winning the final two games for a 3-2 victory.

"Shayna and I know each other's games really well," said Tan, who was the runner-up to Singapore's New Hui Fen at the 2016 Tour Championship. "It's great for Singapore because at least one of us is going to make it to the next round, but just one of us."

Joining Guerrero and Andersson during Tuesday's first of three rounds will be Stefanie Johnson and United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer Liz Johnson of Palatine, Illinois. Stefanie Johnson defeated defending champion Maria José Rodriguez of Colombia, 3-1, to set up the second-round match with Liz Johnson.

Liz Johnson received a first-round bye by moving into fourth place on the season-long points list.

Tan and Ng will be joined at 3 p.m. Eastern by Coté and Ukraine's Dasha Kovalova. Coté won her final two games against Shannon Pluhowsky of Dayton, Ohio, to advance, 3-2.

Kovalova also received a bye in the first round and is the No. 3 seed this week in Richmond.

The winners in Tuesday's first two rounds will return to the Old Dominion Building at 6 p.m. Eastern in hopes of earning a spot in Wednesday's knockout-style championship round.

Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, and Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York, already have secured their spots in the semifinals as the top two players on the 2019 points list.

The 16-player field at the Tour Championship included all of this year's eligible PWBA Tour champions, and the final spots in the bracket were filled in using the 2019 PWBA points list.

Four lanes once again were specially installed inside the Old Dominion Building by QubicaAMF, the official supplier of bowling equipment for the 2019 PWBA Tour Championship.

All rounds leading up to the championship round will be broadcast live on BowITV.com.

Go to PWBA.com for more information about the PWBA Tour.

2019 PWBA TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP
At Old Dominion Building, Richmond Raceway
Richmond, Va.
Monday's results

MATCH PLAY
Single-elimination, best-of-five matches

ROUND 1

(Winners advance; Losers eliminated, earn \$2,000)

(12) Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, def. (9) Maria José Rodriguez, Colombia, 3-1 (213-185, 227-220, 212-234, 246-237).

(16) Sandra Andersson, Sweden, def. (5) Jordan Richard, Tecumseh, Mich., 3-1 (268-257, 197-190, 216-256,

200-187).

(7) Clara Guerrero, Colombia, def. (14) Josie Barnes, Nashville, Tenn., 3-0 (208-207, 202-200, 201-196).

(11) Shayna Ng, Singapore, def. (6) Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 3-2 (247-198, 199-235, 171-224, 253-187, 237-193).

(13) Cherie Tan, Singapore, def. (8) Liz Kuhlkin, Schenectady, N.Y., 3-2 (278-230, 229-157, 190-199, 191-269, 256-219).

(11) Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., def. (10) Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, 3-2 (257-204, 191-235, 202-258, 224-183, 213-169).

SEMIFINALISTS SET AT 2019 PWBA TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

RICHMOND, Va. – The finalists now are set at the 2019 Professional Women’s Bowling Association Tour Championship, and four players will return to the Old Dominion Building at Richmond Raceway on Wednesday to compete for the final major of the season.

Shannon O’Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, and Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York, were automatically seeded into the semifinals this week based on their rankings in the season-long points list, and they’ll be joined by Stefanie Johnson of McKinney, Texas, and Ukraine’s Dasha Kovalova after each completed their run through match play on Tuesday.

The knockout-style championship round, which will feature O’Keefe taking on Johnson and McEwan against Kovalova, will be broadcast live on Wednesday at 8 p.m. Eastern on CBS Sports Network. The winner of the season-ending event will take home \$20,000.

O’Keefe earned the top seed after putting together a season that already includes four wins and a second consecutive PWBA Player of the Year award.

The 40-year-old right-hander won her first career major at the 2017 Tour Championship and also was the top seed at the 2018 event. She plans to rely on the same mental approach that has helped her throughout the season as she competes against a close friend and longtime Team USA teammate in Johnson.

“The number one thing I’m taking into the show is to keep doing what I’ve been doing,” said O’Keefe, who will be looking for her third major and 13th career PWBA Tour title. “I’m going to focus on what I can control and execute to the best of my ability. It’s what I’ve done all year and has been my formula for success this season. All you can do is put yourself in position to win, and we’ve both done that this week. I’m proud of her, and even though we’re competing against each other, we’re really competing against the lane. I’m just going to try and pay attention to what I’m seeing, make quick moves and listen to my gut.”

Much like O’Keefe, McEwan also is seeded onto the show for the second consecutive season. She’s already claimed a major in 2019 after winning the U.S. Women’s Open, and she was the inaugural winner of the Tour Championship in 2015.

The 28-year-old right-hander has seen some changes since her first opportunity to practice on this week’s 40-foot oil pattern on Sunday, and she’s going to try to keep her angles in front of her against Kovalova.

“There definitely is a defined spot that everyone who has been winning was playing,” said McEwan, who’s in search of her sixth career PWBA Tour title. “It looks like they’ve changed quite a bit from practice day, when

they were a bit drier and forced everyone left. Now, they've tightened up. My game plan will be to find the bowling ball that will allow me to keep it in front of me without hooking too much."

Johnson had the longest journey of the four players advancing to the semifinals, entering the event as the No. 12 seed. She defeated defending champion Maria José Rodríguez of Colombia on Monday in the best-of-five format, 3-1, and recorded wins on Tuesday against United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer Liz Johnson of Palatine, Illinois (3-1), and Colombia's Clara Guerrero (3-2) to earn her spot in the championship round.

The 35-year-old right-hander was down 2-1 against Guerrero but bounced back with wins of 257-203 and 227-213 to advance to face O'Keefe. She'll be looking for her second career major championship and fourth career PWBA Tour title on Wednesday.

"None of my matches were easy, and the match against Clara was the only one that went five games," said Johnson, the runner-up at the 2015 Tour Championship. "I had to dig deep, make great shots and hope my carry would be better than hers. The journey to get to this point was a little overwhelming, but it shows that all of my hard work paid off. I love Shannon, and she's a fierce competitor. It's going to be a tough match, but I won't approach it any differently. I'll fight the lanes and make the best shots I can."

Kovalova received a first-round bye as the No. 3 seed and eliminated Bryanna Coté of Red Rock, Arizona, in her first match Tuesday, 3-1. She then won a back-and-forth match against Singapore's Shayna Ng, 3-2, to make her third championship-round appearance in a major this season.

The 24-year-old right-hander won her first career title in May at the USBC Queens and recorded a fifth-place finish at the QubicaAMF PWBA Players Championship to start September.

Kovalova noted her ability to make quick changes to try and carry the corner pins in her match against Ng, and she'll again adapt to her environment in her fourth championship-round appearance of 2019.

"There were ups and downs with carry," said Kovalova, who also won the 2019 Pepsi PWBA Louisville Open. "I had to stay patient, and I did. I made five ball changes in five games. I only missed the pocket four or five times today but kept leaving 7 and 10 pins. I had to trust what Chuck (Gardner) was putting in my hands and that it would help my ball reaction and carry, and it did. I'll see what's out there tomorrow, adapt and take what comes to me."

The 16-player field at the Tour Championship included all of this year's eligible PWBA Tour champions, and the final spots in the bracket were filled in using the 2019 PWBA points list.

Four lanes once again were specially installed inside the Old Dominion Building by QubicaAMF, the official supplier of bowling equipment for the 2019 PWBA Tour Championship.

All rounds leading up to the championship round were broadcast live on BowlTV.com.

Go to PWBA.com for more information about the PWBA Tour.

2019 PWBA TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP
At Old Dominion Building, Richmond Raceway
Richmond, Va.
Tuesday's results

MATCH PLAY
Single-elimination, best-of-five matches

ROUND 2

(Losers eliminated, earn \$2,500)

(12) Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, def. (4) Liz Johnson, Palatine, Ill., 3-1 (224-168, 227-288, 279-194, 219-185).

(7) Clara Guerrero, Colombia, def. (16) Sandra Andersson, Sweden, 3-2 (189-201, 244-182, 266-235, 213-266, 246-197).

(15) Shayna Ng, Singapore, def. (13) Cherie Tan, Singapore, 3-0 (233-216, 226-224, 252-216).

(3) Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, def. (11) Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 3-1 (198-247, 257-216, 279-235, 226-195).

ROUND 3

(Losers eliminated, earn \$3,000; Winners advance to TV)

S. Johnson def. Guerrero, 3-2 (248-211, 199-214, 201-256, 257-203, 227-213).

Kovalova def. Ng, 3-2 (226-196, 205-224, 248-199, 216-237, 248-204).

WEDNESDAY'S SEMIFINALS

(Championship round will be televised live at 8 p.m. Eastern on CBS Sports Network; winners meet for the title)

(1) Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill. vs. (12) Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas

(2) Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y. vs. (3) Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine

O'KEEFE CAPS BANNER YEAR WITH WIN AT 2019 PWBA TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

RICHMOND, Va. – Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, put the finishing touches on a dream season by winning her second career Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour Championship on Wednesday.

O'Keefe rolled eight consecutive strikes on her way to a 268-179 win over Ukraine's Dasha Kovalova in the title match to claim the \$20,000 top prize and her third major championship.

The 2019 PWBA Tour Championship was held inside the Old Dominion Building at Richmond Raceway, and Wednesday's knockout-style championship round was broadcast live on CBS Sports Network.

The 40-year-old right-hander won her fifth title of 2019, after securing her second consecutive PWBA Player of the Year award earlier in September. She made seven championship-round appearances in 13 events and finished the season with an 11-2 record in those appearances.

"This is beyond any of my wildest dreams," said O'Keefe, who won the 2017 Tour Championship. "To have a season like this – to win five titles, come back to Richmond Raceway, where I won my first major, and be able

to win again, to be player of the year – it’s mind boggling to me, and I’m so humbled and grateful.”

After delivering in a must-strike situation to defeat Stefanie Johnson of McKinney, Texas, in her semifinal match, 234-223, O’Keefe elected to make a ball change heading into the title tilt against Kovalova.

O’Keefe’s first shot against Kovalova crept high on the head pin, leaving a 4-7 combination, which resulted in a spare. Her adjustment from the first frame helped her quickly distance herself from Kovalova, who opened twice in her first seven frames.

“Going off the first match, Dasha’s ball motion was really good and her ball was hitting like a ton of bricks,” said O’Keefe, who now owns 13 career PWBA Tour titles. “We felt like I could shoot 220 with the ball I used in the semifinals, but it was starting to get lazy downlane. We thought the other ball, with a little surface, would still retain through the front part of the lane and still come off it. The first shot was really good, so I made a one-and-one move on both lanes, and it was such a good choice.”

Wednesday’s victory also was amplified for O’Keefe as she celebrated the win with her husband, Bryan, on their 15th wedding anniversary.

“He’s been in the fire with me, and it’s so awesome to be able to share moments like this with him,” O’Keefe said. “I wouldn’t be the player I am today without him, and to win this on our anniversary is very special.”

Kovalova was dominant in her semifinal win against Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York, delivering 11 strikes to record a 279-230 victory.

Kovalova started the game with four consecutive strikes, but she found herself trailing as McEwan began with six consecutive strikes. Kovalova took the lead after back-to-back spares from McEwan in the seventh and eighth frames and found herself in the driver’s seat after McEwan was unable to convert the 1-2-4-6-10 in the ninth frame.

Kovalova had a breakout year on the PWBA Tour in 2019, winning her first career title at the United States Bowling Congress Queens to earn her first trip to the Tour Championship. She followed the major victory with a perfect game in the championship match of the Pepsi PWBA Louisville Open to claim her second title of the season.

“No, I didn’t expect this,” Kovalova said. “I wanted to make one show this season. I made four and won two of them.

“In the title match, I knew I needed to make a ball change, but I was just stubborn. It’s OK. I’m going to take a little break and heal some of the aches and pains and come back stronger next year.”

O’Keefe and McEwan were automatically seeded into the semifinals based on their ranking on the season-long points list, which determined seeding for this week’s bracket.

Kovalova and Johnson each had to make their way through best-of-five matches to advance to Wednesday’s championship round. The Tour Championship is a single-elimination event.

The 16-player field at the Tour Championship included all of this year’s eligible PWBA Tour champions, and the final spots in the bracket were filled in using the 2019 PWBA points list.

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2019 PWBA TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP
At Old Dominion Building, Richmond Raceway
Richmond, Va.
Wednesday's results

SEMIFINALS
(Losers eliminated, earn \$6,000)

Dasha Kovalova, Ukraine, def. Danielle McEwan, Stony Point, N.Y., 279-230
Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., def. Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 234-223

CHAMPIONSHIP
(Winner earns \$20,000; Loser earns \$10,000)

O'Keefe def. Kovalova, 268-179

NOMINATIONS NOW ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE 2020 PWBA HALL OF FAME

ARLINGTON, Texas – Nominations now are being accepted for the Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) Hall of Fame class of 2020.

The 2020 PWBA Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held in May in conjunction with the United States Bowling Congress Queens, a major event on the PWBA Tour. Details will be announced later.

Nomination forms are available at PWBA.com and will be accepted through Jan. 1, 2020. The categories and eligibility criteria for each category are:

* Performance – A minimum of 10 PWBA Tour titles or a minimum of five PWBA Tour titles that include two majors. Nominee must be at least 50 years of age as of Jan. 1, 2020.

* Ambassador – At least one PWBA Tour title and has made major contributions as an industry veteran or someone who has had a pioneering impact on the PWBA Tour's growth or influence. Minimum age is 50 as of Jan. 1, 2020.

* Meritorious/Builder – Advanced the PWBA as an organization, promoted the PWBA Tour through media and must show a minimum of five years of support.

The PWBA Hall of Fame committee will review and vote on all submitted nominees. The committee is comprised of PWBA Hall of Fame members, bowling media members, and appointed board of directors from the USBC and the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America.

In 2019, the PWBA Hall of Fame inducted its first class in 16 years. Leanne Hulsenberg and Wendy Macpherson were inducted in the Performance category and Donna Connors joined the PWBA Hall of Fame in the Meritorious Service/Builder category.

Donna Adamek, Patty Costello, Dorothy Fothergill, Mildred Ignizio, Marion Ladewig and Betty Morris in the Performance category, LaVerne Carter, Helen Duval and Shirley Garms in Pioneer, and Georgia Veatch in the Builder category comprised the inaugural PWBA Hall of Fame class in 1995.

Through 2019, there are 38 members in the PWBA Hall of Fame – 21 in Performance, 11 in Pioneer and six in Builder.

For more information on the PWBA Hall of Fame and for nomination forms, visit PWBA.com/HallofFame.

The 2020 PWBA Tour season will have 14 events, kicking off with the PWBA Tucson Open on April 23-25 at Lucky Strike Bowl. Visit PWBA.com for the complete schedule, news, players bios and more.