



**CINDI
BLAIR-MCMANUS**
takes on the
"Mini-Bio"

BOWL MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2011

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL AREA USBC ASSOCIATION

**CARE AND MAINTENANCE
OF YOUR PERFORMANCE
BOWLING BALLS**

**BOWLING EQUIPMENT
MANUFACTURERS
AND HOW THEY AFFECT
YOUR PRO SHOP AND YOU**

Oley!

**KHOUNESAVATH WINS FOUR TITLES
AT OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNEY**

**"To win something
local among your peers
is really big for me."**



**"CJ" learns to appreciate
match play on national stage**

OLEY KHOUNESAVATH

In the recent NCAUSBCA Open Championship Tournament conducted at AMF Annandale and AMF Capital Plaza, Phouvilay "Oley" Khounesavath put on one of the greatest performances in the event's 66-year history: He used a 15-pound 900 Global Breakout to score 756 (singles), 754 (doubles), and 765 (team) and tally additional series of 782 and 680 in a second helping of singles & doubles to average a sizzling 249.133 for 15 games and walk away with titles in the scratch team (with Derek Petty, Michael Price, John Fillis, and Steve Hahn), scratch doubles (Price), scratch all events, and regular all events categories.

Khounesavath, who is married and the father of a daughter who turns 13 in July, has worked for the past 20 years as a purchasing

manager at the Sutron Corporation, a satellite company that manufactures weather equipment for tsunami warning stations and flood warning stations. He has rolled over a dozen perfect games and recorded his top series of 827 in a summer league at Bowl America Dranesville in 2003. He recently responded to questions posed by editor Bob Cosgrove.

Where and when did you first enter a bowling center?

I was about 15. I started in California, and I went out with my brother. During that time, you were still keeping score on paper. That was a way to make money while you were in school—you kept score for leagues. It was a little money

for somebody that young; it was good for me. When I went into the military in 1992, I didn't pick a ball back up until like 1995 when I came here with my family to Virginia.

You grew up in California?

Yes, in Los Angeles County.

Do you miss that part of the country?

I do. I still have my family back there; I go and visit. My mom goes back and forth. When the weather gets bad here, she goes back.

Did you go into the military directly out of high school?

Yes, I went into the Army Reserves.

Did you like that?

Not really. I don't think it was for me. It was more of when I got out of high school, I really didn't know what I wanted to do. I wanted to get into the medical field, but financially we couldn't afford it, so it was, *Well, you can go into the military, you can learn....* I did emergency medical technician—EMT work when I went in. That's what I was trying to learn, but when I got out, that deal wasn't for me! My dad was a family practice doctor back in our country—Laos—so I kind of wanted to follow in his footsteps, but it wasn't for me.

When did your family come to the United States?

In 1980. After my dad passed, my mom was like, *Well, let's go start off somewhere new.* We just came through that way.

When did you realize that bowling could be something at which you could excel?

My brother was really good—older brother—so he kind of taught me basically the basics and everything like that. And then when he moved, I mean, I did it more for enjoyment, more than



TOM ALLEN

anything. It was something to get away and get you relaxed and hang out with friends. And once I got here, I met up with my teammates now that we bowl city, state, and nationals together. And that's when I really said, "All right, let's see where this takes us." I enjoy bowling with them because they keep me on track.

Why did you bowl in only one league this season?

I bowled in the Thursday Men & Women at [Bowl America] Dranesville because I just came off of elbow surgery in June of 2010. I just kind of eased myself into it and not come full force.

Why did you need elbow surgery?

I had bone spurs in my right elbow—like five or six one-centimeter pieces, so I had no choice but to have elbow surgery. I probably suffered that in my youth when I played football and all that. It never really affected me until one day in bowling it just ... I guess it got caught in where the joints are, and it was like a real pain, so I'm like, *Oh! I have no choice but to go through [surgery] because every time I tried to bowl, it was really more painful than enjoyment.* And I'm like, *Forget it, I've just got to go and get this done.*

[Due to the] recovery period, I missed the first six to eight weeks of bowling this year on my Thursday league. I usually bowl Mondays at Village Lanes, but I just took on one league.

Were you surprised to bowl as well as you did at the recent NCAUSBCA Open Championship Tournament?

No. My teammates have really been working with me since I've got out of surgery. When I came out of surgery, I was really struggling, and I couldn't find the rhythm. I worked with Derek and Steve because they live around where I'm at, and they're always out at the center. They work with me a lot.

The guy that runs the pro shop at Village Lanes and drills my equipment, Jeb [Butler], he worked with me a lot, just to get me back to where I'm at, so that's who I thank most—those guys who really got me back. I had wanted to quit actually after I came out there because I wasn't the same. Coming out of elbow surgery, it's not gonna to be the same. I expected bad, but not that bad! You can't even get into a rhythm, and I start-

Championship Tournaments summaries

The 66th Annual Open Championship Tournament was held at AMF Annandale (team) and AMF Capital Plaza (doubles & singles) in late March and early April. The scheduling of both the Open and Women's tournaments during the same time periods at the same centers was not deemed successful, and thus next year, they will be conducted in different centers at their normal dates.

"Sharp Rollers," a Bowie, Md.-based team, won the team event with a 3,641 total. Members Troy Wells (456 series), Eric Wells (487), Carolyn Tapscott (570), Robert Sharp (601), and Mabel Sharp (680) rolled 2,794 plus a handicap of 847. Meanwhile, "Spares Pro Shop #1" from Potomac Falls, Va., took the scratch team title with a score of 3,412 with members Phouvilay Khounesavath (765), Michael Price (652), Derek Petty (621), John Fillis (683), and Stephen Hahn (691).

Charlotte Herndon (547) and Tyrone Little (616) of Alexandria, Va., won the doubles division with a 1,565 score that included a handicap of 402. Khounesavath (754) and Price (703) captured the scratch doubles title with 1,457.

Fernando Stradford of Upper Marlboro, Md., was victorious in the singles event with 899 (762 scratch). Thomas McLane of Lusby, Md., won the scratch singles with a score of 833.

Khounesavath also took home the all events (2,371) and scratch all events (2,275) crowns after scoring 765 in team, 754 in doubles, and 756 in singles.

During the March 27 opening ceremonies, not one team got through making the 2-3-7-10 pins in the order designated, so no money changed hands.

Hope to see you next year.

– Ray Brothers

OPEN TOURNAMENT PRIZE LIST

WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT PRIZE LIST

In the 66th Annual Women's Championship Tournament, "Quiet Thunder" of District Heights, Md., which consisted of Robin Dorsey (514), Patricia Williams (491), Tracey Jones (533), and Yolanda Lane (520) won the team title in Division I. Meanwhile, "The Village Ladies," with Betty May (506), Laura Heyer (485), Eileen Brown (464), and Jeanne Caldwell (516), scored 2,787 (1,971 + 816) to tie for the Division II team title with "Sassy But Classy Ladies #2" of Fort Washington, Md., with Sharon Deschamps (450), Freda Creek (411), Sherri Copelin (593), and Marie Lomax (457).

The D.C. duo of Nicole Coates (618) and NCAUSBCA Hall of Famer Linda Elmore (723) placed first in the Division I doubles. Linda Dyson (591) and Susan Murrey (486) of Charlotte Hall, Md., totaled 1,428 to take top honors in Division II.

Coates also won the singles event in Division I with 793 (697), while Cecelia Durham of Landover, Md., won Division II with 801 (648).

Bonnie Wei of Ashburn, Va., captured the all events in Division I with a 2,205 (1,800) nine-game total. Ina Ashe of Alexandria, Va., with 2,255 (1,319) won in Division II.

In the optional scratch singles event, Quintina Jefferson of Capitol Heights, Md., was victorious in Division I with 710, and a 590 by Cecelia Durham of Silver Spring, Md., bested Division II competition.

– Ron McGregor

ed to kind of hate bowling, actually. My teammates were like, *We need you, you'll come back*. So they just kind of worked with me.

What other tournaments have you won?

There have been 10-game sweepers at Northside Lanes in Winchester, Va., where I've won a couple of times. I've got more seconds than firsts!

Do you travel to other parts of the country to bowl in tournaments?

Wherever they have tournaments. Me and my buddy tried the U.S. Open about five or six years ago, and we really didn't have any success. But now that I hooked up with my team, like I have Derek Petty and Steve Hahn, they're really good bowlers, so I kind of go with them. Wherever they go, I go.

Do you keep up with all of the changes taking place in bowling equipment or do you just do what others decide is best for you and your game?

We kind of come up with what I need. They suggest the bowling equipment

the moves instead of trailing them every single time."

Is bowling an important part of your life or just an activity?

I really enjoy bowling. There's nothing I'd rather do in my spare time.

What do you do on evenings when you're not bowling?

My daughter—I cater to her more than anything. That's more important than anything, of course. Bowling is second to anything to do with my family.

How would you rate yourself among area bowlers?

I can hold my own. In our area, we have a lot of great bowlers. I think I can hang with the top bowlers in our area.

What area bowlers do you admire the most?

Derek Petty and Steve Hahn—those are my teammates, the guys I look up to. They helped me get to where I'm at, even to bowl. They're the ones that get me up—you know, *We need you!* I think

I think I can hang with the top bowlers in our area.

that I would need to fit my game. If I wanted to replace a ball in my arsenal, I go to my team because we really work toward nationals. We won the city scratch team, The Spares Pro Shop. We work towards trying to get the eagle at nationals, so whatever is going to work, that's what we work towards. I get *Bowling This Month* and *Bowlers Journal [International]*, so I try to keep up with it because it's ever-changing.

What would you say is the strongest part of your bowling game?

I would say my spare-shooting.

What part of your game do you believe is the one you need to work on the most?

I work on [recognizing] lane transitions [quicker] all the time. Before, I was really stubborn. I felt that I could still put the ball in [the pocket] and carry. But [my teammates] are like, "No, you really don't have to do that anymore. You know what you've got in your arsenal. Just make those moves. Just be ahead of

that's the biggest drive for me. They depend on me, and you've gotta step up!

Have you thought about competing in any Professional Bowlers Association events?

Once I get myself at least a little bit more healthy than I am now—as close to 100 percent as possible—that's my goal, to bowl the U.S. Open coming up.

Who are your favorite pro bowlers?

I like Mika [Koivuniemi] and Norm Duke. Mika is just a different bowler—he's not that conventional bowler. And Norm Duke, I've been watching him since I was a youngster, so I've followed him. But Mika is just different.

What's been your biggest thrill in bowling thus far?

Winning the [NCAUSBCA Open Championship Tournament]. Having to come through ... I had knee surgery, I had elbow surgery. To win something local among your peers is really big for me.

When did you have knee surgery?

About three years ago. I tore my ACL and I had ACL reconstruction. I was playing indoor flag football with a bunch of my friends, but once I got hurt, that was it for me. I was trying to do something I shouldn't have been doing anyway. I thought I was still like 21!

Does your recent performance strengthen your confidence for future events?

Oh, yes—definitely. That's what made me want to bowl the U.S. Open. I've just been feeling way better than I have. My teammates said they've never seen me this confident, and we've been bowling together for five years. They notice that I've very confident and comfortable than before. I could still bowl but not like this. I think the equipment really matches up to the way I bowl. It's a perfect match.

What is your next bowling goal?

I want to make it on television at the U.S. Open.

How would you prepare for bowling on such challenging conditions in this area?

At Village Lanes, Jeb Butler, who runs the [pro] shop there, actually runs the center, and he does put out shots that are really difficult for us to practice on. That really helped me, especially going into the city tournament. He says you've got to make sure you're well prepared—it's better to be over-prepared. He puts out conditions that are difficult to score on, and it makes you make a shot. So I think that the accuracy from that really helped me in the city tournament to get lined up really quick verses four-to-five frames in.

Did Jeb Butler hear about your success?

He was the first person I called. He pretty much lays out the equipment I have—everything from talking about it ... "What do you want the ball to do?" or "What are you looking to do with this equipment?" or "What do you need it for—what type of conditions?"

So we go through all the scenarios, and then I run it through Derek and Steve, my buddies, and we kinda like say, "Yeah, that would work for you—that's a good fit." And then we go ahead and punch it up, and pretty much that's it.