

Monday, August 24, 1991

Bowler fearless of TV cameras

Nichols bubbles over Stroh Classic title

By Marty Budner
staff writer

Lorrie Nichols is one bowler who knows the value of concentration. She was surrounded by near-blinding television lights, intermittently interrupted by commercial breaks and endlessly applauded by an enthusiastic crowd during Thursday evening's Stroh Light Classic II women's professional bowling championship at Rochester's North Hill Lanes.

And she was unaffected by it all. Nichols, who assembled a sensational four-game series of 1,019 in landing the \$6,000 first-place paycheck, said all the distractions of the made-for-TV finals actually helped her game.

"It (being on television) is advantageous to my game because I have a tendency to go real quick with my feet," said Nichols. "When I'm on television it slows me down a little bit. It helps my concentration."

If that's the case, Nichols should bowl all her games in front of the cameras and crowds.

The fourth-seeded bowler going into the final round, Nichols defeated top-seeded Patty Costello in the deciding match, 244-215.

And that was her lowest score.

NICHOLS rolled consecutive 259 games to defeat both third-year pro Nikki Gianulias, who had a 222, and No. 3 seed Lisa Rathgeber, who rolled a 216. She then guaranteed herself at least a second-place finish by toppling two-time North Hill champion and No. 2 seed Pam Buckner, 257-206.

The match against Costello began with both ladies throwing strikes through the first two frames. However, Nichols, a slender 29-year-old right-hander, threw her first open frame of the night after failing to convert a 2-5 leave in the third frame.

Nichols rebounded to throw six

straight strikes, and then clinched the championship when Costello spared the ninth frame after rolling strikes in the seventh and eighth frames.

Amazingly, Nichols, who averaged 255 through the four games, rolled 37 strikes and had eight spares. At one point she rolled 14 straight strikes.

"I was just trying to hit the pocket and knock down as many pins as possible," said Nichols. "I was real keyed up to bowl, and I just got locked in. It's hard for me to believe that I bowled that well."

"After I had that open frame my main thought was to keep my control, and try to hit the pocket because I was throwing well. I had super concentration out there, and I just told myself to stay down."

IT WAS Nichols' sixth title in nine years on the tour, and it was her best effort in four years of competition at the high-scoring North Hill alleys. Nichols, whose last title came two years ago in Milwaukee, averaged 231 through four days of bowling.

"This is definitely the best I've ever bowled," said Nichols.

"I've been trying to get a little more turn on the ball this year. I had to do that to remain competitive on the tour, and this is the best year I've had as far as consistency is concerned."

Costello was the leader after 42 games of qualifying. The powerful Pennsylvania right-hander earned \$3,000 for second place.

Buckner, who won tournaments at North Hill Lanes in 1976 and 1979, landed \$2,000 for third place. Rathgeber took home \$1,500 for finishing fourth and Gianulias earned \$1,000 for fifth place.

"I was disappointed with my bowling, but Lorrie just bowled super," said Buckner. "She put on a great show."

Bowlers roll high scores at North Hill

There weren't as many perfect games this year, but Bill Srock's North Hill Lanes resoundingly retained its image as a high-scoring house last week in the 1991 Stroh Light Classic II.

Pat Costello of California bowled the lone 300 game in the four days of competition. She registered her perfect during the second round of qualifying Monday afternoon.

Last year there were six perfect games, including back-to-back gems by Pam Buckner of Reno, Nev.

This year, however, there were still some very high scores attained.

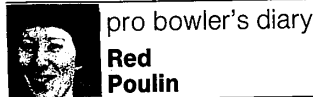
Buckner, who charged into the final five after a very poor start, rolled games of 299 and 290. The bubbly southpaw, who has never finished lower than third at North Hill in four appearances, also had three-game series of 837 and 787.



Lorrie Nichols was just "locked in" to the North Hill alleys during the finals.



Patty Costello of Scranton, Pa., earned \$3,000 for second place in the Stroh Light Classic II tournament last week at North Hill Lanes.



pro bowler's diary

Red
Poulin

'I don't know what happened'

(Editor's note: Red Poulin was among 69 bowlers who competed last week in the \$25,000 Stroh Light Classic II women's professional bowling tournament at Rochester's North Hill Lanes. Poulin bowled the first 18 qualifying games, but failed to advance to further competition and finished out of the money earnings. A free-lance writer from Rochester, Poulin agreed to write a column for the Observer & Eccentric newspapers. This is her second and final installment.)

This week was quite an experience. I don't know what happened, but everything that was supposed to have happened didn't. I didn't keep my head down, or my arm straight or my game together.

But I did bowl as a guest professional with some of the best bowlers in the country.

One such bowler was Donna Adamek. She was always one of my favorites to watch in tournaments. She has a certain command of the game that few people have.

I was petrified when I learned I had to bowl on the same lanes with her. Instantly, I lost my appetite and two nights sleep. I feared the worst — thinking she would laugh at my bowling.

On that fateful Monday, in my first game

against the great Adamek, I rolled a 244.

Whew . . .

But what I thought to be a great start ended up to be a depressing struggle to survive. I watched my game plummet — 244 . . . 172 . . . 163 . . . 152 . . . 04 . . . 139 . . . I felt like a swimmer, out of breath, grasping for some sort of safety.

The first set was over. The only consolation was knowing Pam Buckner, a two-time winner at North Hill, was in the red (under the minimum 200 average the bowlers were required to maintain) too.

There was still time, I thought.

After the second set on Monday my average went to up to 187. It was a definite comeback from my 179 average of the first set, but I knew there was something about this game I didn't understand.

I watched as the pros made a steady jog to the lead. They made it look so easy, banging out the 200s, 230s and 270s.

By the end of the second set, Pam Buckner was in 29th place with a plus-92 (92 pins over the 300 average). Donna Adamek rocketed into 10th place with a plus-241. I treaded water in 61st place.

By the end of the 18 games of qualifying, Pam Buckner (Reno, Nev.) leaped into 11th place, Donna Adamek (Durant, Calif.)

slipped to 13th and I landed hard in 66th.

My part of the tournament was over. I watched and learned how the pros bowled. They never give up. If they should throw a bad ball, or a bad game, they shake it off and make a comeback.

Two other pros that I bowled with — Sharie Langford (Whittier, Calif.) and Sherry Goodfellow (Ormond Beach, Fla.) — also failed to make the cut. Langford was 28th overall with a plus 216, and Goodfellow finished 37th with a plus 32.

Those two women were super in spite of their finishes.

Langford, married with two children, said the main thing is to try and stay relaxed. It didn't bother her to bowl with Adamek because they bowl together in the Midwestern tournaments in California.

Goodfellow, also married, has a 14-month-old daughter. Goodfellow heard North Hill had a fairly easy left-handed shot and she was hoping it would be an easy right-handed shot, too.

Goodfellow didn't find her shot until the last two games of qualifying. She belted out the first seven strikes of each game, only to find out it wasn't good enough to make the cut.

BAC easily takes tennis tourney

The Birmingham Athletic Club junior tennis team grabbed a five-point lead after the initial round of the recent Birmingham-Bloomfield Junior Interclub tennis championships and just kept rolling.

BAC won the title with a 62-point total.

Orchard Lake Country Club took runner-up honors (49), followed by the Bloomfield Open Hunt Club (35), Pine Lake Country Club (33), Oakland Hills Country Club (29) and Birmingham Country Club (15).

Preliminary rounds were hosted by the semifinals and finals.

In girls' singles competition, OLCC's Tracy Cronin defeated Barb Mellick of BOH in the 10-years-old-and-under age division (10-2).

Kristi Lynch of BAC took the 12-and-under honors, blanking BOH's Alexa Irwin (6-0, 6-0).

BAC's Jenny Reason defeated Susan Maentz of OLCC in 14-and-under competition (6-1, 6-1). In 16-and-under action, BAC's Claire Slaughter downed Jennie Gibbons of OLCC (6-2, 6-1), and in 18-and-under competition, Amy Schmidt of PLCC defeated Ann Mazure of BOH (6-2, 6-2).

SCOTT ANDREWS of OHCC defeated BAC's Scott Lynch in 10-and-under boys' singles (10-4) while Steve Herdola of BOH edged BAC's Mike Herb (2-6, 6-1, 6-2) in 12-and-under action.

OLCC's Kurt Streng handled Jeff Ingold of BAC in the 14-and-under division (6-1, 6-1). The 16-and-under winner was Eric Holley of OLCC who defeated BOH's Keith King (6-1, 7-5).

PLCC's Chip Bagley disposed of BAC's Craig Hammond (6-1, 6-2) in the 18-and-under division.

In girls' 10-and-under doubles, Dierdre Keating and Cammy Risk of BAC defeated Tracy Cronin and Lynn Millgard of OLCC (10-7). Kristi Lynch and Joan Strathairn of BOH took the 12-and-under honors, defeating Jennie Catalano and Karyn Aratari of PLCC (6-2, 6-1).

In 14-and-under action, BAC's Jenny Reason and Kristin Fitzpatrick beat Susan Maentz and Sue Linstrom of OLCC (6-4, 7-5). Suzy Dylewski and Suzy Andrews of OLCC lost to BAC's Slaughter and Corie Wayburn in the 16-and-under division (6-2, 6-1).

OLCC's KRISTIN Streng and Martha Glynn beat Ann Mazure and Debbie Wahl of BOH in 18-and-under action (6-1, 6-2).

In boys' doubles, OHCC's Matt Sullivan and Scott Andrews defeated BAC's Scott Lynch and Vaski Nedomansky (10-7) in the 18-and-under event.

Are you facing a new market with an old portfolio?

While trying to appraise the size, shape and extent of the recession, an investor can easily overlook a key phenomenon. Market leadership is changing. Some of the issues that have come to the fore are defensive stocks with good earnings potential for the next two years. And there are other stocks which, although not past favorites, demonstrate excellent value at their present price.

This is precisely why astute investors will use the present to good advantage. We may seem adrift in volatile interest rates, unpredictable foreign relations and inconclusive inflation trends. But there could scarcely be a better time for cool appraisal, upgrading stock holdings and nailing down your future investment strategy. To this end, the Kidder, Peabody *Investment Strategy* report discusses the economic overview, the outlook for the market in general, and some of the specific stocks that seem to be figuring in the new market leadership. For a complimentary copy of the report, just use the coupon.

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